



The Bullytin

Valley City Branch 36

The Royal Canadian Legion

February - 2025

2024 Remembrance Day Parade Marchpast



Stan Hicks, former Branch 36 President, takes the salute from the Branch 36 Colour Party, a unit in the 2024 Remembrance Day Parade



Phone: (905) 627-7221 Email: rclbr36@cogeco.net

<http://www.br36dundas.org>

President's Report

Welcome back and Happy New Year Comrades. Hoping you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



**Janice Mancini
President**

The year 2024 was an exciting year at the Legion! Somehow, we managed to run 2 successful Catch the Ace Lotteries back-to-back allowing us to donate over \$450,000 back into the community.

This year I am working on doing some further upgrades around the Legion.

I hope you have all driven by and seen our new electronic sign.

We've also installed a 2nd Automatic Door Opener into the lobby as requested by a member, a new pop cooler for the Banquet Hall, all new baseboard heaters throughout, 2 new cash registers with debit. They will be up and running after the tax situation ends on the 14th February.

There will be lots more improvements happening in 2025 such as an updated patio, (the awning blew away), a new BBQ....we wore out the old one! Also looking at new flooring, and a 2nd air conditioner for the Canteen.

Much needed repairs to the exterior of the building itself are at the top of the list. A new look for the garden is also in the works.

I am so excited to be able to take part in upgrading Branch 36. Anyone with an interest in helping is more than welcome. Volunteers are hard to find and we are wearing out some of the existing ones!! Please feel free to pop in and sign up to be a Volunteer.

Janice Mancini - President

Youth Education Report

Once again, local students submitted essays, poems and posters for the Royal Canadian Legion's Remembrance Literary and Poster contests. The first-place winners of ten categories were submitted to the Youth Education Zone Commander. Recently I was informed of the following results for our student entries from the Zone B6 judging results.



**Tony
Bratschitsch
Youth
Education
Chair**

Black and White Poster Contest

- Two first place winners (Junior and Senior)
- One second place winner (Primary)
- One third place winner (Intermediate)

Colour Poster Contest

- One first place winner (Senior)
- One second place winner (Junior)
- Two third place winners (Primary and Intermediate)

Essay Contest

- One first place winner (Intermediate)

Poem Contest

- One first place winner (Senior)

This means that one-half of our ten branch winners have earned 1st Place standing at the Zone B6 level. Nine of our ten Branch winners placed in the top three of their categories. The five first place Zone B6 winning entries have been sent to the District for the next round of judging. After that, any of those winners would be sent on to the Provincial and Dominion levels of judging.

We also plan on having a 2nd Awards ceremony in our Branch this year to host the many students who have participated in this contest.

Tony Bratschitsch - Youth Education Chair

Poppy Fund Report

Very generous donations have been made in the memory of: John Hutchinson, Mike Lupal, Len Chetwyl, Audrey McMurray and Bryan "Doc" White



**Poppy Fund
Chair**

On Remembrance Day cheques were issued to the following:

2865 Army Cadets \$2,000.00
735 Firebird Squadron \$2,000.00
Navy League of Dundas \$5,000.00

On 27th November a number of Food Basics Gift Cards were purchased on behalf of the Service Officer to provide funding to a Veteran in need. The total expended was \$1,200.00 and was to help for 3 months of groceries.

During the month of December, a total of 121 Poinsettias were delivered to our Veterans/Widows in area Nursing & Retirement Homes. I'd like to thank Greg Sherring and Stan Sklepowicz for helping in getting them delivered.

At the January General Meeting we are requesting 2 Special Use Form expenditures:

- R.C.L. Branch 36 – Handicapped door opener - \$2,804.77
- St. Joseph's Villa – replacement bath - \$20,824.77

For those who always wonder how well we did during the Poppy Campaign, it looks like this year we managed to collect \$76,000.00 to aid our Veterans & Widows.

Although our current balance may appear very high, the postal strike meant that the amount we owe to Ontario Provincial Command does not include the cost of our poppies and wreaths.

The current balance of the Poppy Fund as of 31st December is:
\$126,194.14

James Byron - Poppy Fund Chair (905-578-2758)

Notice to all Branch 36 members

**We are going GREEN. While in the Branch please recycle.
We want to be garbage free.**

Canteen / Banquet Hall Report

Firstly, welcome to our latest hire. Connor Broadbent has accepted the position of Bar Steward. He will be working in the Banquet Hall and the Canteen as a part time student. He will also be available to help with hall set ups and other small jobs as needed. Welcome to the team Connor!



**Janice
Mancini
Canteen
Chair**

We have introduced some new drinks this year. Crafty Elk is supplying us with coolers that are Gluten Free, Vegan and Sugar Free. Try one out next time you're in! Our ice machine has seen the end of its life. In the meantime, we will still have ice available and are looking for a replacement.

Have you checked out the new cooler in the Banquet Hall? It's provided the much-needed space for cold drinks, more drinks and some overflow space. No more running out of your favorite brands! We are also looking into sliding glass doors to replace the existing cooler doors both upstairs and down.

Janice Mancini - President and Canteen Chair

Veterans Services Report

Comrades, as your Branch Service Officer I can best assist the Veterans of our branch by identifying those with unmet health needs and possible benefits from Veterans Affairs Canada(VAC) and all referrals are kept confidential. To take the first step to your possible VAC benefits contact the Branch for an appointment.



**Rick Valois
Veterans
Services Chair**

I have been contacted by 6 people since the beginning of December. Of these 3 required assistance with paperwork. The other 3 required money for food as they were starving. It's sad to see this happening in 2025. If you know of any Veterans in need, please reach out to us so we can be of assistance.

Rick Valois - Veterans Services Chair

Banquet Hall and Wentworth Room Rental

The Banquet Hall is available for rental at a cost of \$650.00. This includes the Bar Steward, glasses, tables and chairs. The Hall can seat up to 160 people with a capacity of 295. For details, please email the Legion office at rclbr36@cogeco.net

The Wentworth Room is available at no charge for all Branch 36 Members in good standing.(current membership). Non-members will pay a fee of \$200.00.

The Wentworth Room will accommodate up to 70 people. For details, please email the Legion office at rclbr36@cogeco.net

Please note: No outside alcohol, pop, juice or water are allowed. Anyone bringing any of these liquids into the building will be asked to leave the premises immediately. This includes prize packages containing any alcohol products. Any alcohol used for games such as a Toonie Toss. Liquids need to be substituted or can be handed out after your event off Branch 36 property.

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Special Events Report

The November 11th, 2024 Remembrance Day Parade was again a big hit.

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of our Royal Canadian Air Force, the Hamilton Air Force Association and 735 Firebird Air Cadet Squadron led the military contingent on their anniversary.



Greg Sherring
Special Events
Chair

There are many organizations and people to thank for their part in getting the event to happen. I'm hoping that I haven't forgotten anyone, but here is a list of ones to thank, so if you meet them on the street, please give them a handshake or a "Thank You".

R.C.L. Branch 36, Dundas - President Janice Mancini, Legion Padre - Jim Sandilands. Golf Cart Crew - Bill Grisdale, Paul Penny, Denny Moyer, Charlie Parsons, Brett Taylor, Paul Zimmerman. Sound System - Don Genrick. Flag Operator - Stan Sklepowicz. Controller at Legion and Cenotaph - Wayne O'Connor. Security - Rob Mueller, Brian Holme.

City of Hamilton: Veterans Association - Chris Redford, S.E.A.T. Team - Vanessa Sarjeant. Hamilton Police Service - Sgt. Keith Malone, the two officers with the Escort Service. Parks West - Supervisors Fred Delguidice / Andrew Stephenson w/Parks West Crew.

Meyer Chiropractic Clinic: 247 King Street West, Dundas.

Royal Canadian Forces:

11th Field Artillery Regiment - 2Lt. David Tsai, Thomas Kozechenko, 2Lt Mike Smith, Sgt. Adam Suthers.

RCSCC Dundas Sea Cadets - SLt.(N) Michael Sweika, SLt.(N) Michael Harris.

2865 Hamilton Wentworth Artillery Army Cadets - Capt. Nelson Vieira.

735 Firebird Squadron Air Cadets - Capt. Sean MacNamara.

Hamilton Air Force Association - President Ross Wilson, Parade Marshall - John David.

Continued next page....

My personal "Thank You" goes out to the Veterans Association for making sure that the parade was intact in all of its requirements, right down to making sure that the stage on site for which I am very grateful.

Greg Sherring - Special Events Chair

Food Bank Contributions well received

Thank you for your many contributions to our Food Bank Drive over the Christmas season.

Everything was given to the Dundas Salvation Army for distribution.

Your ongoing generosity shows that Branch 36 members assist their fellow citizens and it is greatly appreciated.

Colour Party Report

The Colour Party members are having to deal with health issues and for a time cannot perform their duties.

If anyone is interested in checking out just what the Colour Party does and their duties come by on most Tuesday evenings at 7pm at the Legion. Have a talk with the members and watch or maybe join in on a practice in the upstairs Banquet Hall while we get ready to march for indoor events and outdoor parades.



**Greg Sherring
Colour Party
Commander**

We are a great group of members and have a fun time out in the public when we parade carrying the flags of our country and also our military.

Call or inquire at the Branch (905-627-7221) or Greg Sherring (905-537-5995).

Greg Sherring - Colour Party Commander

In March the Veteran's and Honours and Awards Luncheon has been POSTPONED due to unforeseen circumstances.

We hope to reschedule in the near future.

Membership Report

Welcome, comrades, to a new year. Membership renewal has been going extremely well so far, but the dues have to go up. Dominion Command has increased their portion of the dues so we will have to increase them to keep up. The new price of dues will be \$60 as of 1st February, 2025.



**Charlie
Parsons
Membership
and Bursary
Chair**

Provincial Command meets in the summer, so we have yet to hear from them about their portion of the dues. I will let you know when that happens.

Charlie Parsons - Membership Chair

Bursary Report

The Gerry Belec Bursaries are finished as of January, but you have till the end of March to get the application in for the Royal Canadian Legion Bursaries.

Charlie Parsons - Bursary Chair

To the membership

Please be reminded that 2025 dues are now due. You are no longer in good standing if your dues are not paid by January 31, 2025.

You can send a dues cheque for \$60.00 to the Branch by mail, or drop it in our mail box, or pay online (go to Legion.ca web site and follow the guide for paying dues).

If you know someone who was in the armed forces or RCMP they can get 1 year membership "free". Go to Veteran Welcome program at Legion.ca.

Any questions call Charlie at 905-407-3314.

Charlie Parsons - Membership Chair

Ladies Auxiliary Report

As we enter 2025, may your year be filled with health and happiness. Our LA continues to work hard to support our Legion, Veterans and Community.



Sue Sklepowicz
Ladies
Auxiliary
President

Recent Events

- Our Christmas Draw held Friday, 6th December in conjunction with the Legion Turkey Roll was a huge success. Thank you to all who donated and participated in the annual event.
- A variety of Christmas Gifts were donated to St Joseph's Villa for their Veteran residents.
- A donation was made to the Salvation Army to support a family in need at Christmas with food and presents for each family member.

Ongoing Events

- Beef Nights: 4th Friday of the month, January through May - 5:30-7:30pm
- Friday night Euchre after Beef Night, 4th Friday of the month, registration at 7:00pm
- Afternoon Euchre: 1st and 3rd Thursday 1:00 pm.

Upcoming Events

- Our Spring Market and Tea House will be moving to a one-day event. This year it will take place on Saturday, 10th May, 2025 from 10-4. **We are currently looking for Vendors.** If you are interested or know of someone else who might be interested, please contact Sue Sklepowicz 905 537-7862 for more information.

Events Still to Be Planned

- Purse Campaign
- Tupperware Bingo
- Next Paint Night
- Spring BBQ raffle

Sue Sklepowicz - President Ladies Auxiliary - 905 537-7862

Entertainment Report

Wednesday, 12th February - Mike Woods –
5:30-8:30pm - Catch the Ace pre-party.
\$3.00 cheeseburgers, prizes. Join in the fun
leading up to CATCH THE ACE 3.0.

Saturday, 15th February - Valentine Dance –
Little Peter and the Elegants. \$30.00 per ticket
available at the bar. Doors open at 7:00pm –
dance starts at 8:00pm. Snacks provided.

Saturday, 15th March – St. Paddy's Day Dance. Get your green
on! \$5.00 at the door or bring canned goods for the Food Bank!!




Janice Mancini
Entertainment
Chair


Janice Mancini - Entertainment Chair


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2024 - Remembrance Day Reception



Janice Mancini Branch 36 President with Leo Shaidle our oldest Branch 36 Veteran at Remembrance Day Reception.

Paul Wright Photography

pwright.photo

905-928-2087

paul@pwright.photo

Public Relations Report

You can help Branch 36, like other members, by Volunteering to help run Branch events.

If interested, you can talk with any Branch 36 Executive member about helping in the running of Branch 36.

Come to the Branch 36 elections on Wednesday, 7th May, 2025.

If you wish you could become an Executive member. You can also ask questions and make suggestions about the Branch.

Peter Whittaker - Public Relations Co-Chair



**Peter
Whittaker
Public
Relations
Co-Chair**

Ways and Means Report

Comrades,

Our second Dundas Catch the Ace lasted 17 weeks with sales well in excess of our first one resulting in us raising \$170,000. As you are aware our beneficiaries this time, in addition to Dundas Legion, are St Joseph's Villa and Margaret's Place Hospice.



**Peter Howard
Ways and
Means Chair**

As always, I would like to thank all the hard work of the CTA team Janice, Bill and Stan, our in-house selling team of Tammy, Bev and Dorothy, and especially our colleagues from St. Joseph's Villa who, in addition to helping with sales at the Legion and at the Villa and spearheading the marketing program, provided the Wednesday evening food offerings, which helped to make our Wednesdays such a success.

We are in the process of applying for the license for Catch the Ace 3.0 and anticipate that this will commence in March.

Peter Howard - Ways and Means Chair

Last Post

- Sara Joanne Lenard - 15th January, 2024
- Bryan (Doc) White - 11th November, 2024
- Ron Laufman - 22nd November, 2024
- Glenn McMurray - 25th November, 2024
- William Buist - 15th January, 2025



Bill Ralston
Last Post
Chair

We Will Remember Them

Note: “Thanks” to all Legion members who show up and take part in Legion Services held for our Veteran members who have passed.

**Have you moved recently?
Changed your phone number or email address ?
Need a ceiling tile in the Canteen updated ?
Lost a loved one ?**

Let us know so we can update our records.

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Branch 36 gets a new sign



WELCOME

280 King St. West

You can now see our new sign at the front of Branch 36 on King Street. It now has electrical power and in the near future Branch events will start appearing on the sign.

With the sign, Branch 36 members and people in the community will be more aware of events taking place at Branch 36 that they can attend.



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Branch 36 Upcoming Events

President's Meat Draw - Every Saturday - 3-4pm

Weekly Meat Draw - Every Saturday - 4:30pm

February 2025

Thursday - 6th - "Progressive Euchre" - Sign up/Start 1:30pm

Wednesday - 12th - PRE-CATCH THE ACE PARTY - 5:30-8:30PM

\$3.00 cheeseburgers, door prizes

Friday - 14th - Fish Fry - 4:30pm-6:30pm - Eat In / Take Out

Saturday - 15th - Valentine Dance - Door opens 7pm - Music at 8pm

Monday - 17th - Family Day - BRANCH CLOSED

Thursday - 20th - "Progressive Euchre" - Sign up/Start 1:30pm

Friday - 21st - Trivia Night - Sign up 7:00pm - Start 7:30pm

Friday - 28th - Beef on a Bun - 5:30pm-7:30pm

Friday - 28th - Progressive Euchre - 7:15pm

March 2025

Thursday - 6th - "Progressive Euchre" - Sign up/Start 1:30pm

Friday - 14th - Fish Fry - 4:30pm-6:30pm - Eat In / Take Out

Saturday - 15th - St.Paddy's Day Celebration - 8pm

Wear some Green - Canned good for Food Bank or \$5.00 at the door.

Thursday - 20th - "Progressive Euchre" - Sign up/Start 1:30pm

Friday - 21st - Trivia Night - Sign up 7:00pm - Start 7:30pm

Friday - 28th - Beef on a Bun - 5:30pm-7:30pm

Friday - 28th - Progressive Euchre - Register 6:30pm - Play at 7pm

April 2025

Thursday - 3rd - "Progressive Euchre" - Sign up/Start 1:30pm

Friday - 11th - Fish Fry - 4:30pm-6:30pm - Eat In / Take Out

Trivia Night – Date to be announced at March Trivia Night

Thursday - 17th - "Progressive Euchre" - Sign up/Start 1:30pm

Friday - 18th - Good Friday - BRANCH CLOSED

Sunday - 20th - Easter Sunday - BRANCH CLOSED

Monday - 21st - Easter Monday - BRANCH CLOSED

Friday - 25th - Beef on a Bun - 5:30pm-7:30pm

Friday - 25th - Progressive Euchre - Register 6:30pm - Play at 7pm

May 2025

Thursday - 1st - "Progressive Euchre" - Sign up/Start 1:30pm

Wednesday - 7th - Branch Elections - All Members must Vote - 8pm

Friday - 9th - Fish Fry - 4:30pm-6:30pm - Eat In / Take Out

Saturday - 10th - L.A. Spring Market and Tea House 10am-4pm

Thursday - 15th - "Progressive Euchre" - Sign up/Start 1:30pm

Friday - 16th - Trivia Night - Sign up 7:00pm - Start 7:30pm

New Legion members are always Welcome

Call or visit the Branch for more information