



The Bullytin

Valley City Branch 36

The Royal Canadian Legion
February – 2017



Jim Byron, Branch 36 Poppy Fund Chair, looks on while Mary Jane McHugh, Joan Alkerton, Jill Zess, Marie Kobylinski, Wendy Torresin, Joy Sharpe, Mary Sharpe, Barb Parker and Pat Risk remove and count Poppy Fund contributions from contribution boxes. Volunteers like these help make our Branch 36 Poppy Fund campaign so very successful.

Picture courtesy Helaine Ortmann



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

<http://www.br36dundas.org>

President's Report

Happy New Year everyone! 2016 was a good year for our branch. We celebrated our 90th anniversary with a great celebration dance attended by a fabulous group of members. I heard wonderful feedback after the event! We are sailing full speed into 2017 with a great history behind us!



**Gord Sharpe
President**

We are starting out the year with lots to do. The Leagues are back in action after the winter break and there are lots of tournaments coming up to take part in. Be sure to check out the bulletin boards, website and newsletter. You won't want to miss out on all of our regular weekly and monthly events as well as all of the special events that our wonderful entertainment committee have planned for you starting with our annual Valentine Dance with Peter and the Elegants! Be sure to get your tickets early as we have had a sell-out crowd for the last two years!

Please keep in mind that the branch is open all day every day, not just for special events. It is a great place to drop in, warm up, and meet up with old friends or even make some new ones! A lot of exciting and interesting conversations take place in the warm legion clubroom on a cold wintry afternoon!

I would like to thank my Executive and all of the other volunteers who work so hard to keep our branch running smoothly. It certainly makes my job easier! We continue to look for a member to take on the position of branch secretary. This position entails coming to the meetings to take minutes and also some correspondence. For more information on this position, or if you would like to volunteer to help out in other areas, please call Dale in the branch office at 905-627-7221, or feel free to contact me at 905-628-2393. Thank you.

On a final note I would like to add a word of caution. It is winter again and as you have seen we have been having quite a mixed bag of weather this year. We do our best to keep the walks and parking lot clear of ice and snow but the weather can be very unpredictable! Please tread carefully in all outside areas! Your safety is important to us! Thank you.

Don't forget to come to the General Meeting on March 21st !!!

Gord Sharpe - President Branch 36

Bursary Report

Applications for the Belec Bursary for 2017 are now closed.

The Ontario Command Bursary is open until 1st March, 2017. If you have any questions please feel free to call me - 905-628-2822 (my home number).



Mike Alkerton
Bursary
Chair

Mike Alkerton - Bursary Chair

The No. 2 Construction Battalion

At the start of the First World War, many Black Canadians were eager to fight for their country but faced prejudice and outright rejection. In 1916 in response to protests, militia officials created the No. 2 Construction Battalion, a segregated unit that assisted the Canadian Forestry Corps in France with the arduous work of harvesting and milling timber. Their product was shipped to the front, where it was used to build trenches, camps and railways.

As members of the Battalion, Black Canadians were able to serve their country with pride and determination - some even making the ultimate sacrifice in its defence.

The Battalion was disbanded when the First World War ended, but their determined, dedicated service helped break down racial barriers, paving the way for Black Canadians to freely enlist during the Second World War and subsequent conflicts.

Canada Post issued the stamp pictured above to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the creation of the No. 2 Construction Battalion.



Poppy Fund Report

The Poppy Fund was very successful during our last campaign and I'm extremely pleased to thank all the people who gave so generously of their time and money.

Thanks to their efforts I'm pleased to announce that so far we've raised \$85,529.00 which will be used to help our veterans and their widows.

Starting on December 7th I was able to distribute 205 poinsettias to the Nursing and Retirement Homes in Ancaster, Dundas and Hamilton.

Our Veterans Dinner took place on December 7th and we had 21 Veterans and 18 caregivers in attendance.

Jim Byron - Poppy Chair (905-578-2758)



Jim Bryden
Poppy Fund
Chair

Membership Report

To the 452 Members who were "Early Birds" I thank you for your support this past year.

The "Early Bird" winners - dues paid by 30th November are: #72 - Cheryl Watkins, #436 - Jean Kirby, #194 - Elenor Southern and #35 - John Matthie.

As of this issue of The Bullytin there are still 150 members who are in arrears - You are no longer in good standing after 31st January, 2017. To make our job easier I would urge you to pay your 2017 dues as soon as possible at the Branch in person by cash, cheque or debit card or by cheque by mail.

Our numbers have dropped over the past year so we are in a position where we must recruit. Bring your friends in and let them have a look at us. If you have any questions please call me. 905-628-2822 (my home number).

Mike Alkerton - Membership Chair "Just Bring One"



Mike
Alkerton
Membership
Chair

Public Relations Report

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back Paul Wright who was a sponsor of The Bullytin for many years.

Paul Wright has resumed his sponsorship with "Paul Wright Photography". I hope you visit his web site at paul@pwright.photo and view his many photographs featuring the best of the surrounding area's wildlife and landscapes, most of which have been taken within 15km of Dundas.



Peter Whittaker
Public
Relations Chair

Sponsorships help to defray the costs of printing and distributing this newsletter to all Branch 36 members. I hope you will take note of our sponsors and if need be take business to them in appreciation of their sponsorship of this newsletter. Anyone can become a sponsor for a small fee for each issue.

Peter Whittaker - Public Relations Chair

Colour Party Report

Our Colour Party always has openings for new members. A few extra members would make it easier in case of illness or unavailability. Training and help getting uniforms will be provided. At the moment Dundas has an Award winning unit and we'd like to make sure we keep it that way.

Our next practices will be:

Tuesday evening February 14th at 7:00 pm.

Tuesday evening March 14th at 7:00 pm.

Tuesday evening April 11th at 7:00 pm.

Tuesday evening May 9th at 7:00 pm.



James Byron
Colour
Party
Commander

Jim Byron - Colour Party Commander - 905-578-2758

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

Rick Valois - Veterans Services Chair

Banquet Hall Rental

The Banquet Hall is available for rental.

For details call the office at (905) 627-7221.

The Wentworth Room downstairs is available at no charge for use on a first come basis and will accommodate from 5-65 people. It is used for memorial services, meetings, birthdays, retirement parties, and any other party you can think of. Just call the office for information (905) 627-7221.

Paul Wright Photography

pwright.photo

905-928-2087
paul@pwright.photo

Ladies Auxiliary Report

I hope this finds everyone recovering nicely after the holiday season and enjoying a good 2017 so far. Now it's back to business as usual. At our meeting last tuesday (January 10) we welcomed Carly Arnold, and also welcomed back Barb Smith into our happy little group.

All reports from our Christmas fund raiser have been very favorable and have been distributed to all local seniors and families that needed a boost to their Christmas spirits.



Debbie Cooley
Ladies
Auxiliary
President

Sports: We played Cribbage yesterday (January 15) and our team came in 2nd. Congratulations to my teammates Dana Dilabbio, Sue Sklepowicz and Barb Smith. We are hosting Team Darts on February 12th here at the branch. Good luck to all participants.

Beef Nights are back again starting January 27th, and again on February 24th.

Ladies (for those who missed January's meeting), . It would normally be the 14th, but some of us would like to spend Valentine's with our loved ones so it has been rescheduled. The 8th February is a Wednesday, but was the closest to our normal date for the majority of us.

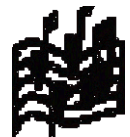
Again – all the best for 2017 to you and yours.

Debbie Cooley - Branch 36 Ladies Auxiliary President



Valentine Dance - Saturday,
11th February, 2017 with music from
Little Peter and the Elegants

Tickets \$25.00 - available at the bar.



Entertainment Report

The Valentine Dance tickets are at the bar and going fast! Each ticket is \$25 and includes a late night dinner, as the amazing performance of Little Peter and the Elegants. Once the tickets are gone, they are gone, so first come first served.

After that will be the St Patty's dance in the clubroom, Friday March 17th. Come dressed in green and dance the night away with a DJ. This is a free event and is open to the public so please tell your friends, and bring them all with you!

As always, the Trivia continues after the Fish Fry nights until the Summer. \$5 per person and teams of up to 6. Prizes for the top 3 teams, and all those in attendance get to hang out with Bob and I free of charge.

Lastly, the LA is talking about starting a Euchre Night after Beef on a Bun night. Watch the website or join our Facebook page to get details as they become available.

Chris Turner - Entertainment Co-Chair

Youth Education Report Annual Literary & Poster Contest

The Branch 36 2016 Remembrance Poster & Literary Contest had 103 entries from Grades 1-12 students. The majority of the submissions were from younger students from Grades 1-9 with posters being more popular than essays or poems.

The next level of judging is at the Zone level with, hopefully, some of our students' work proceeding to the District, Provincial and Dominion levels.

Every year, new schools are getting involved and with a fortunate supply of judges, the branch's Annual Poster & Literary contest continues to make inroads with the community and with the students.

Tony Bratschitch - Youth Education Chair



Chris Turner
&



**Bob
Turner**
Entertainment
Co-Chairs



**Tony
Bratschitch**
Youth
Education
Chair

Sick Report

October - 2016

13th - Larry Shea at St.Joe's

15th - Ross Covert at home

November - 2016

1st - Joe Freelove at General

5th - Erie Brown at home - broken bone

5th - Mike Doherty at St.Joe's - test

7th - visited Joe Freelove at General

9th - visited Mike Doherty at General

9th - Joe Freelove at home

21st - Bill Williamson had surgery and home

24th - Jim Thornton at home

25th - Fred Scargall moved to St.Pete's Rehab.



**Stan Hicks
Sick and Last
Post Chair**

December - 2016

3rd - Mike O'Connor had surgery

3rd - Paul Penney at General - Thumb

4th - Paul Penney had surgery on thumb and home

4th - visited Fred Scargall at St.Pete's

5th - visited Paul Penney at home

5th - Grant Rumley at Juravinski - broken hip

9th - Grant Rumley had surgery on hip

13th - Joe Whittaker had heart surgery - bypass

22nd - Visited Grant Rumley at Juravinski

Stan Hicks - Sick and Last Post Chair

Last Post
Fred Jackson - 18th October, 2016
We Will Remember Them

Honours and Awards Report

The Branch 36 Honours and Awards Banquet will be held this year on the afternoon of Sunday, 5th March, 2017 at 1pm. A list will be posted in the second week of February, 2017 of Branch 36 members who are eligible to receive updated Legion Years of Service pins.

You should come and enjoy the meal and receive your updated Years of Service pins.



**Bill Ralston
Honours &
Awards Chair**

Attention All Members: At the Banquet we present Legion Certificates of Merit and Legion Certificates of Appreciation to those who help Branch 36 in some way that should be appreciated. You, the membership of Branch 36, are invited to nominate people for these certificates and also to nominate someone for the Legionnaire of the Year award.

Bill Ralston – 2nd Vice President and Honours and Awards Chair

Banquet Hall Report

The Banquet Hall and the Wentworth Room still have some available openings.

If you are considering an event, from an intimate gathering to a larger function such as a Stag and Doe or large party, please contact the office at 905-627-7221 for more information on rentals and availability.



**Doug
Rivers
Banquet Hall
Chair**

Doug Rivers - 1st Vice President and Banquet Hall Chair

Christmas Food Contributions from Branch 36 well received

Thank you for your contributions of food to our Christmas Food Drive. They were given to the Salvation Army for distribution. Your generosity shows that Branch 36 members assist their fellow citizens and it was greatly appreciated.

Enjoying Christmas Eve Open House at Branch 36



The above is a picture taken over the DJ's shoulder of members celebrating Christmas. Every year Branch 36 holds an Open House on the afternoon of Christmas Eve, with members singing songs, and Christmas carol singing contests between teams.

Picture courtesy Peter Whittaker



Kim Place
CARPENTRY

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House and Grounds Report

Well comrades I don't have a lot to write about this time, basically a big thank you to all who attended our Fall Work Party: Mike Alkerton, Pat Dumayne, Hugh Graham, Fred Haddock, Doug Harvey, Dave Hawthorne, Sandra Hicks, Stan Hicks, Brian Holme, Geoff Hodgson, Marie Kobylinski, Bill Leckie, Janice Mancini, Peter Martin, Jack Murnaghan, Paul Penney, Doug Rivers, Linda Rivers, Caitlin Robinson, Leanne Robinson, Helmut Schiller, Leo Shaidle, Gord Sharpe, Greg Sherring, Jim Sherring, Dave Steele and Bryan(Doc) White - it was a great success.



Paul Penney
Grounds
Chair

I give a special shout out to Jack Murnaghan and Denny Moyer for the use of their trailers, it's quite a cost saving. As always we had a nice lunch provided by Peter Martin, Marie Kobylinski and Sandra Hicks.

After all the talking we have done, the upstairs lobby and stairs to the Banquet hall have had new flooring installed. I would like to say THANK YOU to comrades Gord Sharpe for taking control of the flooring job, and with the assistance of Ken Ingram they have completed the stairs and the flooring outside the Banquet hall. Please take notice the next time you go up to the Banquet hall, it's made quite a difference.

We also have had an inspection on our heating system by Archie Horne and Son per a request from our insurance company. We had a clean bill of health and it was suggested we install a single stage controller to better control the heat. This will save money on the gas bill.

At this time we don't have much more going on mechanically. Anyway I think we all love our club and we'll always survive because of all those who volunteer their time and energy to keep our costs down - THANK YOU !!!

Paul Penney - House Chair

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Sports Report

Legion inter-branch Sports Season kicked off early this year in November with a Branch 36 team qualifying for District Team Darts. The team consisted of Ray Gubbins, Bill Leckie, Peter Martin and Stan Sklepowicz.



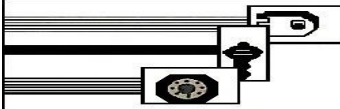
**Stan
Sklepowicz
Sports
Chair**

Early in January Branch 36 hosted the Zone and District Snooker Tournaments. The team of Joe MacDonald, Nick Siefert, Mark Johnston and Dan Glumick qualified for District. In January Branch 36 teams competed in Cribbage and Senior Darts. February has District Team Darts, Senior Darts, Youth Darts and Cribbage. March will have Zone Euchre and Mixed Team Darts. April and May will have District and Provincial Sports Tournaments.

When summer arrives we will see competition in Washer Toss, Horseshoes and Golf.

If you have any interest in any of these sports, keep an eye on the Sports board next to the side door, or contact me.

Stan Sklepowicz - Sports Chair



**DUNDAS
LOCK & KEY**

RICHARD DIX

DIAL 905-627-7985 / 905-527-166 / 1-800-659-4197

Apology for Errors

In the printed version of the November issue of The Bullytin three surnames were misspelled. I apologize to the late Gerry Belec, Stan Sklepowicz and Sue Sklepowicz for these errors. They have been corrected in the online version of The Bullytin.

Peter Whittaker - editor of The Bullytin

Special Events Report

90th Anniversary Dance: Nov. 4th - Thanks to Gord Sharpe and Doug Rivers for helping to organize and run the dance. Doug did an amazing job on the decorations. Food was outstanding thanks to Marie Kobylinski, Marilyn Latchford and the girls. The dance was well attended. Thanks to those who continue to support Legion events. Door prize was provided by SHED Brewery. Peter and the Elegants put on a great show. They will be returning for the Valentine's dance - Make sure you get your tickets early!



**Dave
Hawthorne
Special
Events Chair**

Remembrance Day Service: Nov. 11th - Thanks to the many people, groups, and attendees who made our 2016 Remembrance Day Ceremony a success. It takes a number of committed volunteers to ensure that our veterans - both living and deceased are properly honoured as they should be. Attendance at Remembrance Day Ceremonies has been increasing yearly - this was clearly evident by the large crowd at the Dundas service. It is especially inspiring to see many school children and young people present. At the branch afterwards, Dundas Central School grade 1 and 2 students dropped off art work and letters of thanks to our Veterans that brought laughter and tears to many.

Special thanks are in order to: The senior Branch 36 Vets who attended: Joe Freelove, Dorothy Foord, Stan Rankine, Alec Hunter, Bruce DeLottenville, Flip Floyd, Murray Floyd, Bill Hyslop. Drivers Paul Penny and Stan Hicks. Golf cart supplier for the event was Glen Burgess at Skyway Lawn Equipment.

The following also should be thanked for making this event a success: Branch President Gord Sharpe for his inspiring words, Mike Alkerton and Bryan White for organizing the wreath presentation, Jim Byron Colour Party Commander and the Colour Party, Parade Commander Master Warrant Officer Mike Coit, Archdeacon Jim Sandilands for his words of comfort, Mr. Todd Smith and the Dundas Valley Secondary School Band with extra thanks to Derek DeGelder who stepped in at the last minute to provide the Last Post and Reveille, Dan McLean for the sound system, Bev Brooks representing the Silver Cross Mothers, Dundas Pipes and Drums, 11th Field battery, 735 Firebird Squadron Air Cadets, RCSCC Dundas - Sea Cadet Corps, 2865 Battalion Army Cadet Corps, all Cadet groups who provided the overnight vigil on the 10th/11th November, Wayne Peters - Flag attendant, City of Hamilton Roads, Parks, and Recreation departments, Arlene Vanderbeek - City Councillor, Ted McMeeckin - MPP, Marie Kobylinski, Terri Kobylinski, Marilyn Latchford, Judy Wilson, Sandra Hicks, and Bev Westoby for the excellent food and the Hamilton Police Service.

Dave Hawthorne - 3rd Vice President and Special Events Chair

Branch 36 - Upcoming Events

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

6 chances to win every week

Weekly Meat Draw - Every Saturday - 4:30pm

2 chances to win every week - put your Looney in an envelope at the Bar with your name and phone number

February 2017 Events

Wednesday - 8th February - Branch 36 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting - 7:00pm
(Above L.A. meeting was rescheduled from 14th February)

Friday - 10th February - **Fish Fry** - 4:30-7:00pm

Friday - 10th February - **Trivia Night** - 7:30pm

Saturday - 11th February - **Valentine Dance - Little Peter and the Elegants.**

Tickets \$25 - available at the bar. Late night snack included.

Public is Welcome. Doors Open at 7pm music at 8pm.

Tuesday - 14th February - Branch 36 Colour Party Practice - 7:00pm

Tuesday - 21st February - **Monthly General Meeting** - 8:00pm

Friday - 24th February - **Beef on a Bun** - 5:30-7:30pm

March 2017 Events

Sunday - 5th March - **Honours & Awards and Ladies Auxiliary Presentations**

Open - 12:30pm Dinner - 1:00pm Tickets on sale at the bar

Friday - 10th March - **Fish Fry** - 4:30-7:00pm

Friday - 10th March - **Trivia Night** - 7:30pm

Tuesday - 14th March - Branch 36 Colour Party Practice - 7:00pm

Tuesday - 14th March - Branch 36 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting - 7:00pm

Friday - 17th March - **St.Patrick's Day Celebration** - 7:30pm

with music from DJ - Open to the Public and admission is Free.

Tuesday - 21st March - Bi-Annual General Meeting upstairs - 8:00pm

Friday - 24th March - **Beef on a Bun** - 5:30-7:30pm

April 2017 Events

Friday - 7th April - **Fish Fry** - 4:30-7:00pm

Friday - 7th April - **Trivia Night** - 7:30pm

Tuesday - 11th April - Branch 36 Colour Party Practice - 7:00pm

Tuesday - 11th April - Branch 36 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting - 7:00pm

Friday - 14th April - **Good Friday - BRANCH CLOSED**

Saturday - 15th April - **6th Annual Easter Egg Hunt** - 8:30am

Sunday - 16th April - **Easter Sunday - BRANCH CLOSED**

Monday - 17th April - **Easter Monday - BRANCH CLOSED**

Friday - 21st April - **Beef on a Bun** - 5:30-7:30pm

Invite your friends and relatives to Legion events !

New Legion Members are Always Welcome

Call or visit the Branch for more information