



Branch 138 Royal Canadian Legion

Fall 2010

NEWS LETTER

THE MERRITTONIAN



Royal Canadian Legion Branch # 138 Merritton on Parade Labour Day 2010

#### THE MERRITTONIAN

Welcome Comrades. As Public Relations Officer for Branch #138 RCL, I find it one of my duties to produce a means of communication to all on what has been happening, what is happening and what will be happening at our Legion branch, with the Legion in general and in the great community of Merritton.

While General meetings were adjourned during the summer months so that the membership could bask in the warmth of the season, your elected Branch #138 Executive still met in order to conduct the all important and demanding branch business that a successfully run organization demands.

The following are Legion Branch #138's Operating Personnel for the 2010 - 2011

President - Mike Gander  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Bob Weir  
Secretary - Roger Allan  
Membership - Ron Tuckwell

Immediate Past President - Jack Gemmell  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - George Goff  
Treasurer- - Karen Downes  
Sgt - At - Arms - Mary Novarro

#### Committee Officers

Jack Gemmell - Veterans Service Officer, & Charitable Foundations  
Bob Weir - Co Canteen  
Barbara Finch - Honours & Awards, Bursaries, Youth Education  
Stuart (Stu) Murray - Sick & Visiting, Legion Seniors  
Barb Finch- Poppy Chair  
Bill Borden - Building & Property  
Brian Tibbs - Public Relations  
Frances Cowan - Co Canteen, & Sports  
Gail Barclay- Hall Rental  
Sharon Richards - Ways & Means  
Reverend Elliston Bridger - Br.#138 Padre

#### Non Executive ( but equally important) Committees Chairs

Arnie Hartnett, Wayne Huard - Grounds Keepers    Reno Planning - Bill Borden  
Trish( Patricia) Gander - Hall Renovation Fund Raising - Dawn Locke - Wake  
Committee

Any organization, both large or small can only survive as long as it has people of high standards and dedication to the cause who stand for Committees and volunteer to shoulder the responsibilities of leadership dedicated to that organization. I think you, as members of RCL Branch #138 would have to agree from the list above THIS BRANCH IS IN GOOD HANDS.

HARD WORK SPOTLIGHTS THE CHARACTER OF PEOPLE.  
SOME TURN UP THEIR SLEEVES  
SOME TURN UP THEIR NOSES  
AND SOME DON'T TURN UP AT ALL

Author unknown

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From Our President Mike Gander-

Comrades!

I hope that all had a very happy and safe summer. A number of events were held at the branch over the last couple of months. Those being the branch "family day/picnic", a visit by Branch 396, Chippawa, on their annual poker run, the Hall Reno Book and Bake Sale, the Niagara Regional Police Retiree's picnic, our annual Street Dance and, of course, our annual Labour Day party. All events helped greatly in what normally is a slow summer. The branch seemed to be quite busy all summer.

A busy autumn awaits us with the following events; Eldon McNiven Memorial Golf Tournament, Gall Reno "Ride for Reno", our Branch Poker Run with visits to Branches 71, 396, 4 and 613, Neil Diamond Tribute and our Miss Branch 138 "Not -So-Beauty" Contest, just to name a few. I have also heard "rumours, (I get inside info), on another Bingo Bowling evening in the new year.

Speaking of New Year, we are planning a New Years Eve dinner and dance in the hall. Comrade Leeson, who has organized these events, successfully, in the past, is putting together this year's event. More to come on that later.

Most importantly, our Poppy Campaign will be starting on October, 29<sup>th</sup>. with our kick-off parade at the Pen Centre Oct.30<sup>th</sup>, 10:30AM, form up at the Zellers entrance to the Pen. Branch Church Parade Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, times to be posted in the Legion. Armistice Dinner and Remembrance Day Service and Parade.

Fish Frys have started. Our Sunday Brunch will start in October. We welcome back all of our dart and cribbage teams. Euchre will be starting again on Thursday nights in October.

Don't forget that our early bird membership campaign is up coming.

It seems that this branch, or our volunteers, never sleep anymore. I would like to thank all of our volunteers who have made and will make these events successful. Without our valued volunteers, the branch would not be able to provide the activities that make Branch 138 "the place to be"!

Mike

## LEGION FOR MERRITTON

### Ground Work for Establishing a Branch Will Start at Once.

Yuppers, boys and girls... you read it right ... The Town of Merritton will be getting a brand new Legion. "What"? ... This is the first you have heard of it? Well, its true if you were reading of this event in the Standard of November 16<sup>th</sup> 1928.

It was a few days after the 1928 Remembrance Day Parade and Service in the Town that ex-service men (WW1) after holding their meetings in such places as the Town Hall, the basement of the Town Library, St. Andrews and St. James Churches basements decided they needed a permanent home.

The Merritton segment in The Standard of November 23, 1928 proclaimed - "MERRITTON IS ORGANIZED. Branch of Canadian Legion Formally Established Last Night." The article listed the first Ex. Officers of the branch - President - Comrade D. Cameron, Vice - Pres. - Comrade - K.B. McLaughlin, Secretary/ Treasurer- Comrade A. Brisson and Executive Committee - Comrades A. Mills, T. Niles and D. Jeffery. Thus, was laid the groundwork for the establishment of our branch; as we know it to-day.

The above information was gleaned from newspaper articles pertaining to Merritton and found on microfilm at the Main Library of St. Catharines by a "Good Old Boy" of our town (Merritton) Mike Johnson.

Mike has compiled nine thick docketts of the most interesting material regarding Merritton between the years 1925 to 1955. Between their covers will be found a lot of local news and other events of local history, names of people of former times who made Merritton what it is to-day; some who's names now grace our towns streets. It's a historians dream and an interesting way to spend an afternoon at the branch turning the pages of time.

Mike Johnson has kindly donated these tomes of historical knowledge to the branch. They are being catalogued and will be shortly available to Br. 138 membership to enjoy and research.



RCL Br. #138

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

### **Bragging about old times**

Two men were boasting to each other about their old army days.

"Why, my outfit was so well drilled," declared one, "that when they presented arms all you could hear was slap, slap, click."

"Very good," conceded the other, "but when my company presented arms you'd just hear slap, slap, jingle."

"What was the jingle?" asked the first. "Oh," replied the other offhand, "just our medals."

### **Giving very odd excuses**

The General went out to find that none of his soldiers were there. One finally ran up, panting heavily.

"Sorry, sir! I can explain, you see I had a date and it ran a little late. I ran to the bus but missed it, I hailed a cab but it broke down, found a farm, bought a horse but it dropped dead, ran 10 miles, and now I'm here."

The General was very sceptical about this explanation but at least he was here so he let the soldier go. Moments later, eight more men of the RCRs came up to the general panting, he asked them why they were late.

"Sorry, sir! I had a date and it ran a little late, I ran to the bus but missed it, I hailed a cab but it broke down, found a farm, bought a horse but it dropped dead, ran 10 miles, and now I'm here."

The General eyed them, again feeling very sceptical but since he let the first guy go, he let them go, too. A ninth man jogged up to the General, panting heavily.

"Sorry, sir! I had a date and it ran a little late, I ran to the bus but missed it, I hailed a cab but..."

"Let me guess," the General interrupted, "it broke down."

"No," said the Private., "there were so many dead horses in the road, it took forever to get around them."

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 138  
2 CHESTNUT STREET, E MERRITTON  
(905) 227-1821  
FISH FRY SCHEDULE 2010

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

ROYAL CANADIAN BRANCH 138  
2 CHESTNUT STREET E, MERRITTON  
(905) 227-1821

SUNDAY BRUNCH SCHEDULE  
2010

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2010  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2010  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2010  
2011  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2011  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2011  
SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2011  
SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2011  
SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2011 (MOTHER'S DAY)

BOOK & BAKE SALE AUGUST 2010



Book Sale Volunteer Kevin Cornelius keeping customers happy



Rosie O Brian & Carole Allister hard at work behind the Bake Sale Table





**Book Sale Volunteer Ron Tuckwell haggling a price?**



**Bill Borden serving up another Great tasting Bugger**

Street Dance & Corn Roast August 2010



Some of the crowd gathered to hear the music and enjoy the evening.



Entrance Fee - A can goods donation to Community Care

## **MILITARY TRIVIA**

Taken from various internet sources.

### **1. Who is Canada's most decorated war hero?**

Pilot - Billy Bishop

Soldier - Audie Murphy

Sailor - Jack Tar

pilot - William Barker

2. "Pro Patria" ("For Country") is the motto of what Canadian infantry regiment?

3. While most Commonwealth regiments stand when drinking the sovereign's health, why doesn't the Royal Navy?

4. A red, white and blue lanyard was worn by what World War II combined Canadian-American airborne commando unit?

5. What were the shredded pieces of aluminum, dropped by Allied aircraft in World War II to confuse enemy radar?

6. Every combat serviceman of what World War II Allied nation was a volunteer?

7. During what war did German U-boat U-220 lay mines in Canada's St. John's harbour entrance?

8. What Case-built knife was preferred and most commonly carried by members of the World War II US/Canadian 1st Special Service Force?

9. What popular American movie star's name was given to the inflatable life vest used in World War II?

10. What emblem is found on the wing, fuselage and tail section of West German aircraft?

**MERRITTON LEGION BRNCH 138 HALL RENTAL**

**Large Hall for every occasion**

**WEDDINGS - STAG & DOE**

**SPORTS BANQUETS - PARTYS**

**MIKE GANDER - 905-227-1821**

**KNOW SOMEONE THAT MEETS THE CRITERIA FOR  
MEMBERSHIP IN THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION  
PROUD OF YOUR BRANCH? IS IT A GREAT PLACE TO MEET  
AND SOCIALIZE? ENJOY THE FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT  
AND ALL THE AMENITIES OF BEING A LEGIONNAIRE ?  
IF SO, TELL YOUR FRIENDS. EVEN BETTER INVITE THEM TO  
THE BRANCH SO THEY CAN SEE FOR THEMSELVES WHAT A  
GREAT PLACE IT IS.  
BE A SPONSOR TO A NEW MEMBER.**

It takes a lot both in time and money to run and maintain your Legion. Work Parties are always needed and volunteers greatly appreciated. Don't let Churchill's famous words "*Never have so many owed so much to so few.*" be the saying in our branch. Stand up ...roll up the sleeves and be counted as a proud member of Branch #138 Merritton.

## Answers to Military Trivia Page

1. Lieutenant Colonel William Barker.

Gallantry awards won by the prairie farmer's son from Dauphin, Manitoba, are: The Victoria Cross; the Distinguished Service Order and Bar; the Military Cross and Two Bars; the French Croix-de-Guerre; two Italian Silver Medals for Valour, plus three Mentions-in- Despatches. The Canadian Daily Record of the Overseas Military Forces of Canada once wrote that Barker "the third Canadian airman to win the VC...holds the record among Canadians for fighting decorations won during the war."

In all, Barker was recognized 12 times for gallantry while flying with Britain's Royal Flying Corps and later with the Royal Air Force. This number of awards probably makes him the most decorated military hero in what was the British Empire.

2. Royal Canadian Regt.

3. Because in days of sail, to stand in the Wardroom would entail knocking one's head on the ship's timbers.

4. "Devil's Brigade" (1st Special Service Force)

5. chaff

6. Canada

7. World War II

8. Case V-42

9. "Mae-West"

10. Black iron crosses