

January—March 2012

QUARTERLY EDITION

EDITOR: ROBERT MUSSELL



ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 138

THE MERRITTONIAN 2011/2012

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM MERRITTON LEGION BRANCH 138

YOUR EXECUTIVE

OF MERRITTON LEGION BRANCH 138

*WOULD LIKE TO WISH EACH AND EVERY
MEMBER*

*A HAPPY, PROSPEROUS AND HEALTHY
NEW YEAR 2012*

*LETS WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE 2012 THE
BEST YEAR EVER!*

THE MERRITTONIA



She was named after William Hamilton Merritt, in a contest won by Merritton's own Florence Nelson Sheppard. The modification having been suggested by the town council. Commissioned at Quebec City on November 10, 1944, she arrived at Halifax in mid December and sailed to Bermuda for a months workups. On her return Merrittonia was assigned to EG C-7 and left St John's on February 7 to meet the group which was westbound with convoy ON.283 from Britain.

Thereafter continuously employed on North Atlantic convoy duty, she left Londonderry for the final time at he beginning of June, 1945.

She was paid off on July 11 and laid up at Sorel for disposal. Purchased by K.C. Irving Ltd, Moncton on November 16,1945, she was wrecked on the Nova Scotia coast on November 30.

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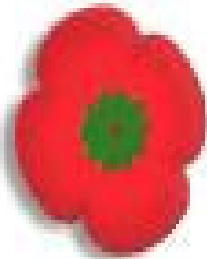


ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 138

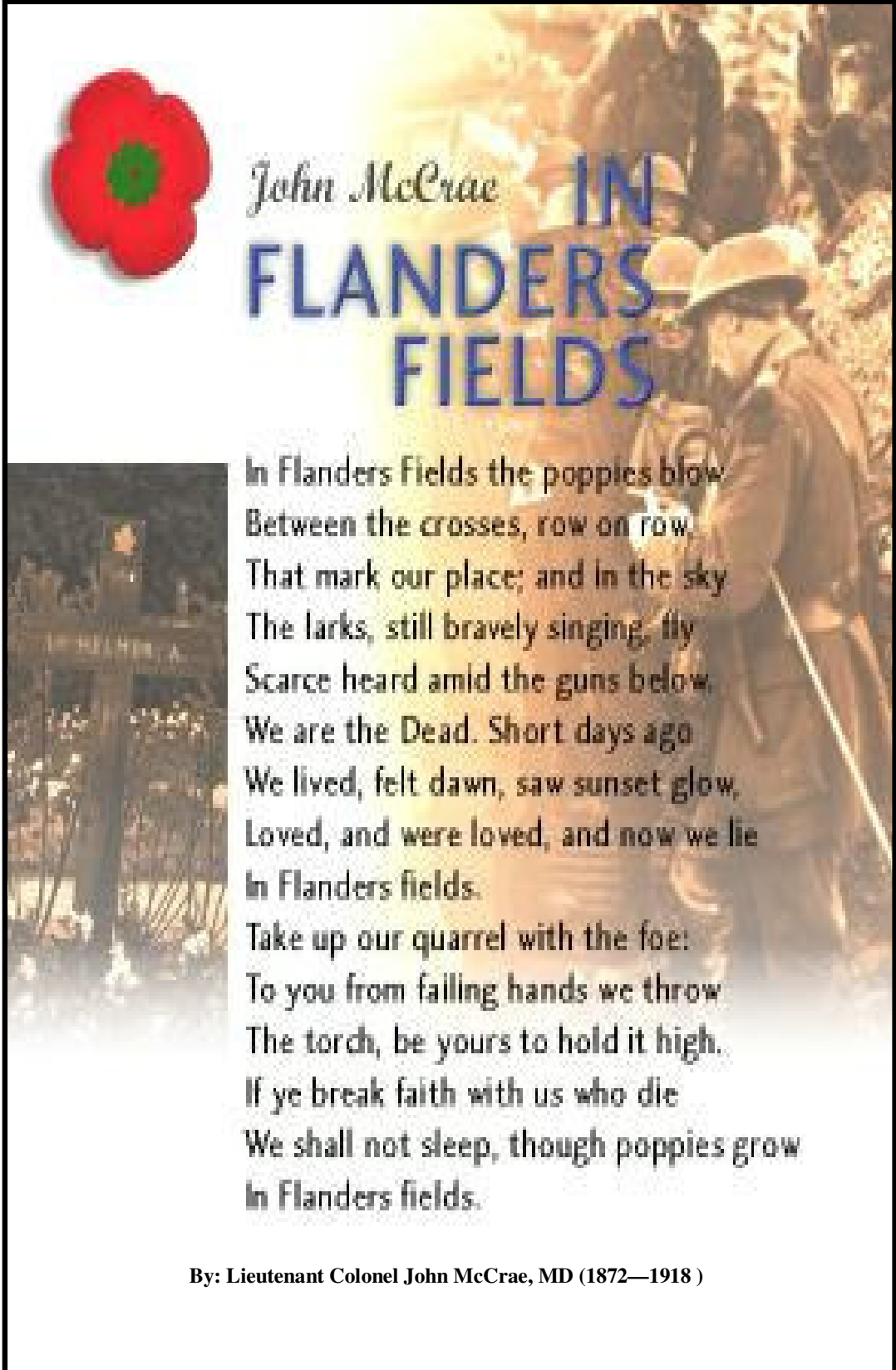
THE MERRITTONIAN

2011/2012

FLANDERS FIELDS



John McCrae IN FLANDERS FIELDS

A sepia-toned photograph of World War I soldiers in a trench. They are wearing gas masks and carrying equipment. The scene is hazy, suggesting a battlefield environment.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from falling hands we throw
The torch, be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872—1918)

Your 2011/2012 EXECUTIVE

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PRESIDENT: BOB WEIR

PAST PRESIDENT/SPORTS/PUBLIC RELATIONS/LA LIASON:

MIKE GANDER

1 ST VICE PRESIDENT/POPPY/SICK & VISITING: WAYNE HASLAM

2 ND VICE PRESIDENT/CANTEEN/NEVADA: GEORGE GOFF

MEMBERSHIP/HONORS & AWARDS: RON TUCKWELL

TREASURER: PATRICIA MCCABE

SERGEANT AT ARMS/CADET LIASON: MARY NEVARRO

BILL BORDEN : BUILDING & PROPERTY

SERVICE OFFICER /LEGION SENIORS/CHARITABLE FOUNDATION:

JACK GEMMELL

SECRETARY/BURSERIES:MARLENE GEMMELL

BULLETIN EDITOR:ROBERT MUSSELL

PADRE: REV ELLISTON BRIDGER

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO CONGRATULATE YOUR NEW OPERATING
PERSONNEL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THANK YOU TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PAST EXECUTIVE

YOUR EXECUTIVE IS STILL HOPING TO RECRUIT A FEW MORE
PEOPLE

WAYS & MEANS

GENERAL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS ARE STILL NEEDED

INTERESTED? SPEAK TO AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER

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LADIES AUXILIARY

BRANCH 138 MERRITTON LADIES AUXILIARY

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| PRESIDENT: | PATRICIA DICKENSON |
| 1 ST VICE : | PATRICIA McCABE |
| 2 ND VICE : | VERA STRICKLAND |
| SECRETARY: | COLLEEN BRADSHAW |
| TREASURER : | ANGIE REID |
| SPORTS OFFECIER: | LINDSEY BUTT |
| SGT. AT ARMS: | MARY NOVARO |

EXECUTIVE

SUSAN MEREDITH
KATHIE BRADSHAW
KRISTEN CORCORAN

MARLENE WATSON
CHARLOTTE BROADLEY
AMANDA HANCOCK

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

January—March 2012

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EDITOR: ROBERT MUSSELL

I would like to thank our Executive and Staff for all their hard work all year.

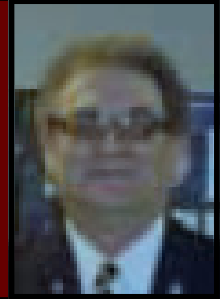
Although the summer was quiet, our Membership supported the many events, Canada Day, Labour Day, and our Annual turkey Roll. Many thanks.

Our Executive would like to welcome Branch 138 Ladies Auxiliary. Our Special Committee, What can we say about them. Their hard work shows. Between the Fund Raising, and The Trillium Grant, our Handicap Lift and washrooms are almost completed.

Members should look forward to the New Year, start talking about remodeling the Upstairs, A very Big Job indeed.

On behalf of your Executive and Staff, we wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bob Weir: President Branch 138



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Branch Membership as of December 15, 2011

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| LIFE: | 5 | ORDINARY: | 74 |
| ASSOCIATE: | 313 | AFFILIATE VOTING: | 116 |
| AFFILIATE NON VOTING: | 2 | | |

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP TO DATE: 510

**KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT WANT TO BE A MEMBER?
BRING THEM OUT, INTRODUCE THEM**

Ron Tuckwell, Membership Chair

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POPPY CHAIR REPORT

I would like to thank my committee and all those that helped out with our poppy campaign this year.

To those that went beyond just doing your commitment as a member of Branch 138, I send a sincere congratulation to each and every one of you. If I started to name each of you, and missed even one, it would be unforgiving of me, so to all that went the extra mile with your volunteer time and dedication to the oath you made as a member of the Royal Canadian Legion (active participation in poppy campaigns), I say job well done.

When the economy of all Ontario and especially Niagara Region has been hit hard and we still generate over \$27,000.00 ; it is a credit to all that helped out and to our community for supporting us and recognizing how important our Legion is, as a stand out organization in Merriton.

Our veterans take great comfort in knowing that we are truly carrying the torch that has been passed on to us and we are teaching the next generation coming, how to be outstanding Legionaires.

Sick and Visiting....

Some many things have changed in the medical and hospital practices in the last few years. Not to long ago a patient stayed in the hospital and friends and relatives had time to visit and wish speedy recovery, but now being sent home to mend and recover is the way they seem to be doing it.

Therefore we count on our membership at the Legion to let us know if you find out someone is sick and needs a visit or a signed card from Branch 138. If we all pass on our information to other executive or to our bar stewards, then hopefully we can stay on top of things and try not to miss a member that is ill.

Have a healthy 2012.

Wayne Haslam
Poppy Chairman,
Sick and Visiting Officer



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

January—March 2012

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First off I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you a Happy Healthy New Year. 2011 was good and hopefully 2012 will be even better.

So far, its been fun putting our Bulletin together for your reading entertainment.

I hope I have kept you informed on what's happening around the branch and have given a few chuckles to some with the emails and jokes. Its tough keeping everyone happy but I am doing the best I can.

Like I've said in the past issues:

The Merrittonian comes out every 3 months.

Anything you would like to see in YOUR BULLETIN, please let me know so I can get it in the next issue.

Want your Bulletin via email? Let me know

Give me a note or send me an email at:

themerrittonian@hotmail.com

Robert (Bob) Mussell: Bulletin Editor



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THE MERRITTONIAN 2011/2012

WHATS HAPPENING

JANUARY 2012

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

FEBRUARY 2012

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | |

MARCH 2012

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

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EUCHRE EVERY THURSDAY 7:00 PM
TOONEY DRAW EVERY FRIDAY AT 6:00 PM
FISH FRY FRIDAYS EVERY 2ND AND 4TH FRIDAY
3:00 PM TIL 7:00 PM

MEAT DRAWS EVERY SATURDAY
LADIES AUXILLIARY MEETING 1 ST WEDNESDAY OF MONTH
EXECUTIVE MEETING 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

SUNDAY JANUARY 1, 2012 HAPPY NEW YEAR

EUCHRE EVERY THURSDAY 7:00 PM
TOONEY DRAW EVERY FRIDAY AT 6:00 PM
FISH FRY FRIDAYS EVERY 2ND AND 4TH FRIDAY
3:00 PM TIL 7:00 PM

MEAT DRAWS EVERY SATURDAY
LADIES AUXILLIARY MEETING 1 ST WEDNESDAY OF MONTH
EXECUTIVE MEETING 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2012 GROUNDHOG DAY
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2012 VALENTINES DAY
MONDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2012 FAMILY DAY

EUCHRE EVERY THURSDAY 7:00 PM
TOONEY DRAW EVERY FRIDAY AT 6:00 PM
FISH FRY FRIDAYS EVERY 2ND AND 4TH FRIDAY
3:00 PM TIL 7:00 PM

MEAT DRAWS EVERY SATURDAY
LADIES AUXILLIARY MEETING 1 ST WEDNESDAY OF MONTH
EXECUTIVE MEETING 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

SATURDAY MARCH 17, 2012 ST PATRICKS DAY

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EMAIL WORTH SHARING

A Different Christmas Poem

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light, I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest, My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.
Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,
Transforming the yard to a winter delight. The sparkling lights in the tree I believe,
Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve. My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,
Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep. In perfect contentment, or so it would seem,
So slumbered I, perhaps I started to dream. The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,
But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear. Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know
Then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.
My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear, And I crept to the door just to see who was near.
Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night, A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.
A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old, Perhaps a Trooper, huddled here in the cold.
Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled, Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.
"What are you doing?" I asked without fear, "Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!
Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve, You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"
For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift, Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts.
To the window that danced with a warm fire's light Then he sighed and he said "Its really all right, I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night." "It's my duty to stand at the front of the line, That separates you from the darkest of times. No one had to ask or beg or implore me, I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me. My Gramps died in Europe on a day in December,"
Then he sighed,
That's a Christmas 'Gram always remembers."
I've not seen my own son in more than a while, But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile.
Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag, The red and the white ... A Canadian flag.
I can live through the cold and the being alone, Away from my family, my house and my home.
I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet, I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.
I can carry the weight of killing another, Or lay down my life with my sister and brother.
Who stand at the front against any and all, To ensure for all time that this flag will not fall."
"So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright, Your family is waiting and I'll be all right."
"But isn't there something I can do, at the least, "Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast?
It seems all too little for all that you've done, For being away from your wife and your son." Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret, "Just tell us you love us, and never forget.
To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone, To stand your own watch, no matter how long. For when we come home, either standing or dead, To know you remember we fought and we bled.
Is payment enough, and with that we will trust, That we mattered to you as you mattered to us."

NEWS AND EVENTS FROM AROUND THE ZONE

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Port Colborne Legion Br. 56 9-12a.m. every month starting Sunday Oct.30th \$4.50 includes bacon or sausage, 2 eggs, homefries, toast, coffee, juice. Legion hall upstairs. all welcome

NEWS & EVENTS

Branch 24 Legion Church St St Catharines Fish Fry's every Friday
Everyone Welcome 3:00 PM—7:00 PM

Port Dalhousie Legion Br. 350 Fish Fry every Friday .
Always Entertainment Saturdays and Sundays.
Everyone Welcome

REMEMBRANCE DAY IN OTTAWA



Leigh Ann Clocherty, Jo-Ann Clocherty, Joanne{Lamothe} Duquette R.C.A.F.

Along with friend Maryanne Hipfner from Br. 479

A few of our members spent REMEBRANCE DAY in Ottawa,

What a fantastic way to honor our Vets past and present.

Joanne Duquette is getting ready to head back to Afghanistan to bring more of our Troops home.

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BRANCH HAPPENINGS

ANGIE NEWBOLD POKER RUN

Angie Newbold has just become my new favorite when it comes to organization.

Angie put together a Poker Run for

Saturday October 15, 2011. Talk about fun, talk about good time, no, great time.! The bus was full and not even on the road when the fun began. I never participated in a Poker Run before and I tell you, this will not be my last.



Visits to 4 different branches in our zone, each with their own personalities and atmospheres. After a little comradeship at each, we received a playing card and headed back to the bus for the next branch excursion. More carrying on in the bus, more fun and another card at the next branch. Did I mention food ? Buffets of sandwiches, crackers and pickles, and Ridgeway's Award Winning Chili

At the end of the day, after fun filled visits to the other branches and the comradeship, we headed back to our Home Branch. A couple slices of pizza, a few more bebies and prizes

A fun filled, fantastic day was had by all who participated.

To those of you who signed up and then decided to back out, you missed a fantastic time..... Maybe next time!

Winners were:

Tracy Maddox, Pat Anderson, Don Perry, Deanna Mussell, Glen Williams, Lu-Anne Williams, Linda Bialowis, Doris Weir

Congratulations to Angie for a Very Well Organized Day of Fun



BRANCH HAPPENINGS

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TOONEY DRAW LARGEST IN A LONG TIME

The weekly Tooney Draw sure drew a punch this time. A New or Near New Record amount was finally won by Michael Coakley.

Week after week, the canteen filled with hopeful members hoping to be the one name drawn to take the prize cash award home just before Christmas.

His share, about \$ 2600.00, What a great win just before Christmas. And Yes, He rang the Bell. Congratulations and Thank You Michael.

Looks like the New Handicap Lift is finally taking shape. Its been a long process in getting to this point, but we can all see results now.

Congratulations to the entire Renovation Committee for a job well done.

CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY !

Childrens Christmas Party was held Sunday Dec. 11. There must have been 60 kids plus Parents , Grandparents and yeah , even Great Grandparents all welcoming the Jolly ole Fat Guy. SANTA CLAUS. Kids laughing, Kids crying and screaming, (ok that was my Grandkids) but they all seemed to have a great time once the puppet show got under way. And then when Santa arrived with all those gifts. Well that was it, Smiles all around. And no one went away hungry as there were Hot Dogs, Cookies, etc for everyone to enjoy.



The Annual Christmas party was once again a HUGE success. Thank you to all those volunteers who helped put this together.

And a special Thanks to those Ladies who purchased and wrapped all those Christmas Gifts..

What's
Happening

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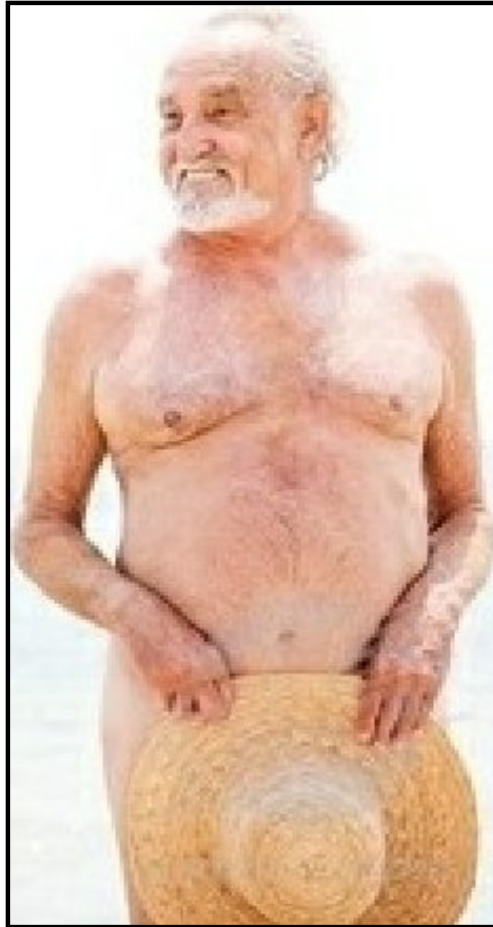
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JUST CLOWNING AROUND

(I DON'T WRITE THEM, I JUST PASS THEM ALONG)

Got to love older people!



A man was sunbathing naked at the beach. For the sake of civility, and to keep it from getting sunburned, he had a hat over his private parts.

A woman walks past and says, snickering, "If you were a gentleman you'd lift your hat."

He raised an eyebrow and replied, "If you were better looking it would lift itself."

JUST CLOWNING AROUND

(I DON'T WRITE THEM, I JUST PASS THEM ALONG)

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Once again this year, I've had requests for my **Tequila Christmas Cake recipe**, so here goes:
(Please keep in your files as I am beginning to get tired of typing this up every year!)

1 cup sugar
1 tsp baking powder
1 cup water
1 tsp. salt
1 cup brown sugar
Lemon juice
4 large eggs
Nuts
1 bottle tequila
2 cups dried fruit

Sample the tequila to check quality. Take a large bowl, check the tequila again to be sure it is of the highest quality.

Repeat.

Turn on the electric mixer. Beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl.

Add 1 teaspoon of sugar. Beat again.

At this point, it is best to make sure the tequila is still OK.

Try another cup just in case.

Turn off the mixerer thingy.

Break 2 eegs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit.

Pick the fruit up off the floor.

Mix on the turner.

If the fried druit gets stuck in the beaterers, just pry it loose with a drewscriver.

Sample the tequila to test for tonsisticity.

Next, sift 2 cups of salt, or something.

Check the tequila. Now shift the lemon juice and strain your nuts.

Add one table. Add a spoon of sugar, or somefink. Whatever you can find.

Greash the oven.

Turn the cake tin 360 degrees and try not to fall over.

Don't forget to beat off the turner.

Finally, throw the bowl through the window.

Finish the tequila and wipe the counter with the cat.

Cherry Mistmas

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For those who fought for our freedom
LAST POST

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 138

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LAST POST



LIFE:

ORDINARY: **Ronald Muir** **November 4, 2011**

ASSOCIATE: **Ozzie Vanderwal** **October 4, 2011**

Eleanor (Edna) Shaw **October 31, 2010**

AFFILIATE:

**All Canadian Soldiers from all conflicts past and present who
have lost their lives for the benefit of us and others.**

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



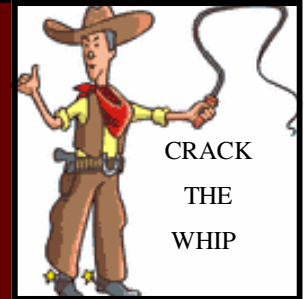
COMMENTS . SUGGESTIONS

WORK WITH YOUR EXECUTIVE—NOT AGAINST THEM

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Ways and Means and your Executive Committee try to put on many Branch Events.

Street Dance and Music Trivia are just 2 of them

The Ways and Means and Executive Committee are always open to suggestions.

Have an Event Idea ? Let us Know ! Write it Down

Merritton Legion Branch 138

Having a party? Stag & Doe? Let us know !!!!!

Merritton Branch 138 Upstairs hall is available for Functions

Contact the Branch to check for availability and bookings

Ph: 905-227-1821

Please don't discourage our Volunteers

They are all doing the best they can

IF YOU CAN DO BETTER

PROVE IT AND VOLUNTEER FOR SOMETHING

CANT VOLUNTEER, DON'T COMPLAIN

Volunteer Sign Up Sheet

Events and Branch Happenings are always in need of Volunteers.

You don't have to volunteer for everything!

If you can spare a couple of hours to help at Branch Event or 2

Never mind saying " No one asked"

You' re Being Asked Now!

Fill this out and give it to any of your Executive Committee

Name: _____

Event: _____

Watch for Sign Up Sheets on Branch Bulletin Board

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