

JULY—SEPTEMBER EDITION

QUARTERLY EDITION

EDITOR: ROBERT MUSSELL



ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 138

# THE MERRITTONIAN 2011/2012

## ANOTHER EXECUTIVE ELECTED

Once again Merritton Legion Branch 138 Membership has elected their New Branch Executive for 2011-2012. A couple of Old (returning ) faces and a couple of New (yet familiar) faces have returned to your executive.

PRESIDENT: BOB WEIR

PAST PRESIDENT/SPORTS/PUBLIC RELATIONS: MIKE GANDER

1 ST VICE PRESIDENT/POPPY: WAYNE HASLAM

2 ND VICE PRESIDENT/CANTEEN: GEORGE GOFF

MEMBERSHIP: RON TUCKWELL

TREASURER: PATRICIA MCCABE

SERGEANT AT ARMS/CADET LIASON: MARY NEVARRO

BILL BORDEN : BUILDING & PROPERTY

JACK GEMMELL: SERVICE OFFICER /LEGION SENIORS

MARLENE GEMMELL: SECRETARY

ROBERT MUSSELL: BULLETIN EDITOR

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

THANK YOU TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PAST EXECUTIVE

### 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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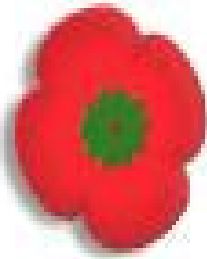


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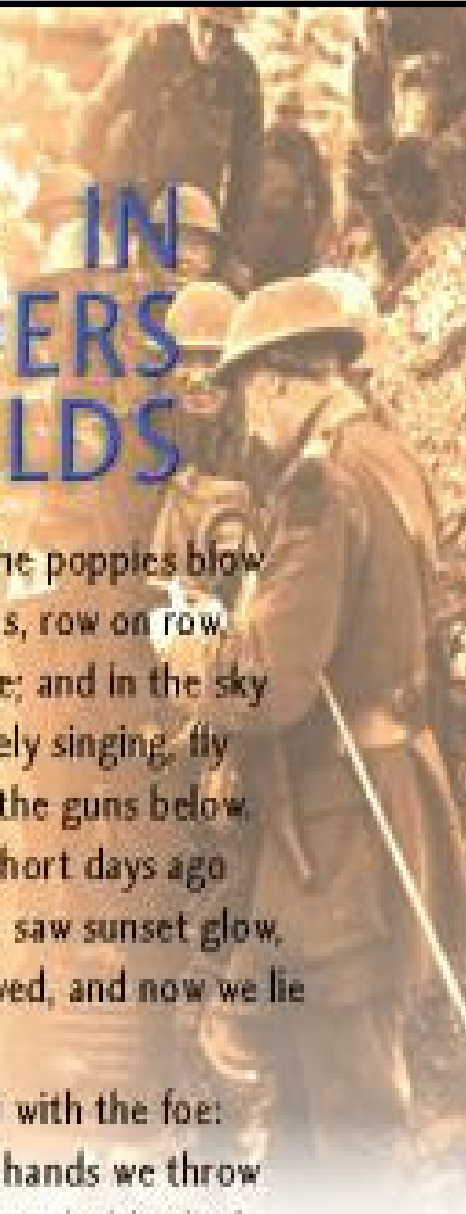
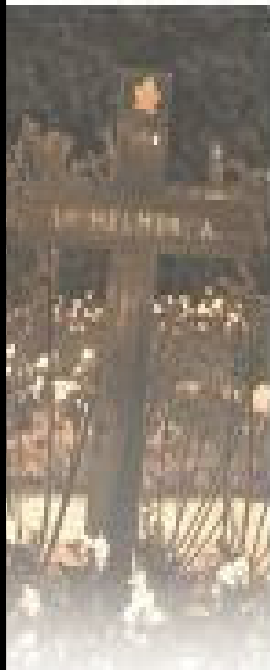
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# FLANDERS FIELDS



## John McCrae IN FLANDERS FIELDS



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)

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to say THANKS to our members for having the confidence in myself for the next year as your President.

This term, your Executive are going to put on different venues like Canada Day celebrations in our yard.

We can only put on different venues with you, The Membership support.

It takes time, planning and money for these venues to happen.

You, as members are the Backbone of the Branch, we as Executive will try, so help us out, come out and support these venues.

If not, it will be a very quiet year.

Enjoy your summer, Thanks

Bob Weir, President

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Branch Membership as of June 22, 2011

LIFE:	5	ORDINARY:	74
ASSOCIATE:	293	AFFILIATE VOTING:	108
AFFILIATE NON VOTING:	2		
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP TO DATE:		482	

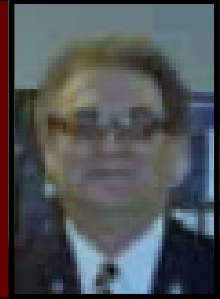
**KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT WANT TO BE A MEMBER?  
BRING THEM OUT, INTRODUCE THEM**

Ron Tuckwell, Membership Chair

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# SERVICE OFFICERS REPORT

Comrades,

Over the past few years, when we have our District Conventions, I have requested that the Branch donate Poppy Funds to a couple of causes sponsored by District B . One of these is the Charitable Foundation and the second is the Hospital Fund. At this time I feel I should explain what the funds are for.

The Charitable Fund is a registered charity of Ontario Command. Branches and their Ladies Auxiliaries fund the foundation through poppy Funds, Nevada, Raffles, etc.. This allows the Legion to fund projects that would be beyond the financial means of individual branches.. The Foundation uses these funds for the following:

- Operation of the Service Bureau
- Veterans Welfare
- Medical Research and Equipment in th e Community
- Provincial Disasters
- Other purposes of a Charitable Nature

Hospitals, Clinics, Fire Departments, and other Not For Profit organizations involved in health care may make application for. Since 1996, the Charitable Foundation has donated \$ 174,809.00 to Hospitals, Linhaven Nursing Home and the Children's Center in St Catharines.

The second cause is the Hospital Fund. The money donated to this fund is used for facilities and equipment for Sunnybrook Veterans Hospital in Toronto and Parkwood Veterans Hospital in London. These funds are spent to ensure that the Veterans living at these two Hospitals get the care and comfort they require and deserve. Whether it be better living accommodations, a new television for their lounges or a week at camp at Lake Joseph, the Legion makes sure that their needs are taken care of.

Comrades, I have always and will continue to feel that these two causes are worthy of our donations and I fervently hope that Branch 138 will always support them.

Jack Gemmell, Service Officer / Legion Seniors

# A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

## I'm Back !!

First off I would like to thank Bob Weir for nominating me back onto the Executive of Merritton Legion Branch 138.

I am back as Editor of your Legion Bulletin, something we have been missing for a couple of Terms. Without a Bulletin, Members have little way of knowing what is going on within the bowels of the Branch or what events might be coming up in our, or other branches for that matter.

I will try, like I did prior, to keep you up to date on Branch events and other Legion activities, be it sports, parades, etc.. I will try to get at least 4 Editions of our bulletin out this term. I will once again have a Section: Stirring The Pot for those of you whom would like to voice an opinion on Branch activities, etc.

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

Give me a note or send me an email at:

[themerrittonian@hotmail.com](mailto:themerrittonian@hotmail.com)

Robert Mussell: Bulletin Editor

**MERRITTON BRANCH 138  
LADIES AUXILIARY NOW FORMING**

**CHARTER OFFICIAL JULY 6, 2011**

**LADIES INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED**

**CONTACT: PAT McCABE**

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## July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					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						

## August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	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			

## September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				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	

**July 1:** CANADA DAY—PARTY ON THE PATIO  
1:00 PM TO 11:00 PM LIVE MUSIC WITH  
LAST MINUTE MAHEM FROM 2:00 PM TO 6:00 PM

**JULY 31:** ANNUAL BERNIE OLSEN GOLF TOURNAMENT  
SIGN UP SHEETS IN THE BRANCH

TOONEY DRAW EVERY FRIDAY AT 6:00 PM  
MEAT DRAWS EVERY SATURDAY

EXECUTIVE MEETING 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

**AUG 1 :** CIVIC HOLIDAY

**AUG 27:** CASINO SLOT TOURNAMENT TRIP—WOODBINE  
WATCH THE BULLETIN BOARD FOR SIGN UP  
ANNUAL STREET DANCE AND CORN ROAST  
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

WATCH YOUR BULLETIN BOARDS  
FOOD DONATIONS FOR COMMUNITY CARE  
AFGAHNATAN VETS AND FAMILY APPRECIATION DAY  
TENTATIVE DATE AUGUST 20, 2011  
TOONEY DRAW EVERY FRIDAY AT 6:00 PM  
MEAT DRAWS EVERY SATURDAY  
EXECUTIVE MEETING 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

**SEPT 5:** LABOUR DAY PARTY ON THE PATIO  
BEST LABOUR DAY PARTY OUR SIDE OF THE MERRITTON  
SKYWAY

**SEPT 11:** RIDE FOR RENO'S

TOONEY DRAW EVERY FRIDAY AT 6:00 PM  
MEAT DRAWS EVERY SATURDAY

EXECUTIVE MEETING 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 4 TH WEDNESDAY OF THE  
MONTH

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## JUST CLOWNING AROUND

A blonde pushes her BMW into a gas station. She tells the mechanic it died. After he works on it for a few minutes, it is idling smoothly. She says, 'What's the story?'  
He replies, 'Just crap in the carburetor'  
She asks, 'How often do I have to do that?'

My apologies to any blondes or those who want to be!

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Sally was driving home from one of her business trips in Northern Arizona when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of the road. As the trip was a long and quiet one, she stopped the car and asked the Navajo woman if she would like a ride. With a silent nod of thanks, the woman got into the car.

Resuming the journey, Sally tried in vain to make a bit of small talk with the Navajo woman. The old woman just sat silently, looking intently at everything she saw, studying every little detail, until she noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Sally.

'What in bag?' asked the old woman. Sally looked down at the brown bag and said, 'It's a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband.'

The Navajo woman was silent for another moment or two. Then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder, she said, 'Good trade.'

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A man and his wife walked into a dentist's office. The man said to the dentist, "Doc, I'm in a hurry. I have two buddies sitting out in my **car** waiting for us to go play golf, so forget about the anesthetic and just pull the tooth and be done with it. We have a 10:00 AM tee time at the best golf course in town and its 9:30 already. I don't have time to wait for the anesthetic to work!"

The dentist thought to himself, my goodness, this is surely a very brave man asking to have his tooth pulled without using anything to kill the pain. So the dentist asked him, "Which tooth is it, sir?"

The man turned to his wife and said:

"Open your mouth, honey, and show him."

That's it for now, don't want to spoil you all too quickly..



# AFGHAN SOLDIERS MEMORIAL MURAL

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## The Story Behind the Mural

The Portraits of Honour mural stretches 10 feet tall by 40 feet wide and features the faces of the 156 Canadian soldiers, sailors and aircrew who have lost their lives in Afghanistan.

Originally started in artist Dave Sopha's home, it quickly took up too much space and was moved into the basement space of Kin Canada's headquarters located in Cambridge, Ontario.

Since he began in December of 2008, Dave has painted an average of 16 hours a day, 7 days a week. Despite efforts to have him slow down, Dave cannot seem to tear himself away from his mural. He feels an overwhelming obligation to each soldier, sailor and aircrew, and to each of their families to make each portrait perfect.

And he has. In fact, if you point a newer model digital camera at any portrait, it will "ask you" if you want red-eye reduction as it is tricked into recognizing a human face.

Dave will continue to paint until our mission is completed and our troops return home.

The Mural showed up at Port Dalhousie Legion on June 20, 2011. The mural visited St Catharines in honour of Warrant Officer Dennis Brown who was killed during his tour in Afghanistan.



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## 2011/2012

## EMAIL WORTH SHARING

**This email was sent to me, I'm not making it up**

**This is really hard to believe...  
it's amazing....**

**This just goes to prove that a Disability  
does not have to make you disabled.**

**He lived at Rose Haven Nursing Home ( Roseburg , OR ) for years. Paul  
Smith, the man with extraordinary talent was born in Philadelphia on  
September 21, 1921 with severe cerebral palsy.**

**Not only had Paul beaten the odds of a life with spastic cerebral palsy, a dis-  
ability that impeded his speech and mobility but also taught himself to be-  
come a master artist as well as a terrific chess player even after being devoid  
of a formal education as a child.**

**"When typing, Paul used his left hand to steady his right one. Since he could-  
n't press two keys at the same time, he almost always locked the shift key  
down and made his pictures using the symbols at the top of the number keys.  
In other words, his pictures were based on these characters.....**

**Across seven decades, Paul created hundreds of pictures. He often gave the  
originals away. Sometimes, but not always, he kept or received a copy  
for his own records. As his mastery of the typewriter grew, he developed  
techniques to create shadings, colors, and textures that made his work re-  
semble pencil or charcoal drawings."**

**This great artist passed away on June 25, 2007,  
but left behind a collection of his amazing artwork  
that will be an inspiration for many.**

**These pictures are unbelievable.  
Strange we should just now be hearing about him.  
Hope you enjoy them as much as I did.**

**Take a look at these pictures and just feel the awe and emotion that I felt  
when looking at them.**

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MY FRIEND'S OLD BARN IN OKOON

typewriter art by Paul Smith  
5-15-1987

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For those who fought for our freedom  
**LAST POST**

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 138

**THE MERRITTONIAN**

**2011/2012**

# LAST POST



**LIFE:**

**Barb Finch**

**June 6, 2011**

**ORDINARY:**

**ASSOCIATE:**

**Alan Cowan**

**June 24, 2011**

**AFFILIATE:**

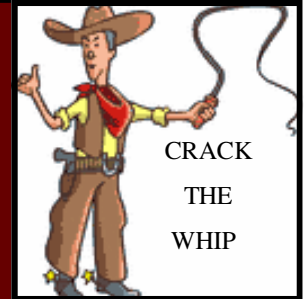
**WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**

# COMMENTS . SUGGESTIONS

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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

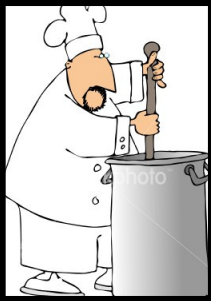
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## STIRRING THE POT MEMBERS COMPLAINT PAGE

This is YOUR page.

There is no use sitting in the canteen complaining at the bar or sitting and stewing amongst yourselves about what you don't like around the Branch.

Don't like the entertainment, or lack of.... Write it down and submit it to your Executive.

**DO IT RIGHT, DO IT HERE**

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**Please feel free to submit a complaint  
Let YOUR Executive know what you don't like**

**There is a Right and Wrong way to complain**

**LETS DO IT RIGHT**