

The Merrittonia

Newsletter of Branch 138
Royal Canadian Legion

Summer - Volume 2 - Issue 2



ADDRESS ✉ 2 Chestnut Street East, St. C, ON, L2T 1G5
WEB 🌐 people.beacon.org/~rcl138
PHONE 📞 905-227-1821
EMAIL ✉ legionbranch138@hotmail.com
FACEBOOK f [groups/759242447552](https://www.facebook.com/groups/759242447552)
Merritton Legion Branch 138

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President's Message

By Kevin Froats

Congratulations again to you all that were successful in our election process. Thank you to those of you that accepted your appointments or offered to step into your current volunteer positions. Good luck during your term and let's continue on with the good work that the previous Executive has done.

*It is early in this term and we already have a major event behind us - that being the Decoration Day Parade.
(continued page 3)*





ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – BR. 138 MERRITTON - EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 2019-2020

(REVISED June, 2019)

PRESIDENT, LEADERSHIP, DEVELOPMENT	KEVIN FROATS	C 905-932-7933	inukshuk0759@gmail.com
PAST PRESIDENT, HALL RENTALS & TREASURER	TRISH GANDER	H 905-684-0352 C 905-964-7910	patriciagander@yahoo.ca
SPORTS,	(TBD)		
1ST VICE-PRESIDENT & CANTEEN, DRAWS	BOB WEIR	H 905-680-8364	none
2ND VICE-PRESIDENT, GROUNDS, L.A. LIAISON, POPPY	ALEX VERDILE	H 905-341-4769 C 905-348-9525	none
SGT AT ARMS	MIKE ALLAN	C 289241-0322	lockethomas68@gmail.com
SERVICE OFFICER, PRO, VETERANS SERVICES,	MIKE GANDER	H 905-684-0352	mgander72@hotmail.com
CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS	(TBD)		
MEMBERSHIP, SENIORS, HONOURS & AWARDS	VELMA RUTKA	H 905-682-4120	velrich_2000@yahoo.com
SECRETARY	COLLEEN BRADSHAW	H 905-934-0137 C 289-969-0137	cbradshaw10@cogeco.ca
POPPY & BURSARIES	PATRICIA DICKINSON	C 289-501-7665	cbradshaw10@cogeco.ca
CADET LIAISON	(TBD)		
YOUTH & ED	MARLENE SZABO	905-964-5323	montana13m@hotmail.com
WAYS & MEANS	MARLENE GEMMELL	905-327-6410	magemmell@msn.com
SICK & VISITING	EVELYN FROATS	905-687-6610	enjfroats288@gmail.com
NEVADA	JIM FROATS	905-687-6610	enjfroats288@gmail.com
HOUSE	(TBD)		
NEWSLETTER	ANTHONY PERCIVAL	905-687-8879	anthonyrpercival@hotmail.com

[Photo are the living Past Presidents of Branch 138 along with the RCL Ontario President and District B Commander]

Presidents Message (continued page 1)

We were fortunate to have a beautiful sunny day for our parade. There are many people to thank for their assistance in having a great ceremony & parade. The first & most deserving is Comrade Mike GANDER for spending many hours setting up this event, as well as bringing me up to speed on several issues. In addition, Comrades Ken HEATH & Bill McINTOSH were helping out behind the scenes with the wreaths, and Comrade Mary NOVARRO lead the parade as Sgt at Arms.

The summer months are on us now and we will be hosting a few more events. We will once again be

celebrating Canada Day in the yard as well as Labour Day. There will be music and plenty of food & drinks for everyone.

Decoration Day, 2019

Thanks to our Immediate Past President -Trish our liquor licence now covers our entire yard, not just the patio. Trish poured her heart & soul into that project and presented it to City Council (June 10th) in a manner that convinced them we deserved this extension. It will be nice to see our members attending and enjoying themselves. So get a spot in the yard, kick off your shoes and enjoy the backyard. Keep checking the Notice Boards in the Branch for upcoming events.

We have started our Friday night BBQs with hotdogs, burgers and sausage patties at a reasonable price. Please join us and have a meal with your fellow Comrades.

Always remember that this is your Legion Branch, please feel free to approach me or anyone on the Executive (use the “Stir The Pot” form if you wish) with fresh/new ideas. We are the elected & appointed volunteers that will work hard to try and keep this Branch a fun & enjoyable place to attend. There will be a seminar for anyone interested in attending to learn about the positions of President and Vice Presidents at a date & time to be set in July.

The transition to President has been relatively smooth with the never ending assistance of Comrade Trish GANDER.

Stay safe and let’s all have a great summer.

Yours in Comradeship



“A Winner”

(from the desk Eric Jensen)

Project yourself with winning communications to others. Take 100% of the responsibility for sending and receiving. Listen to the whole person. Make other say, “You know, I’m glad I talked to you” and “I like me best when I am with you”. Look your best at all times because a total winner is putting yourself together as a total person.

Remember...this is not scrimmage...it’s not a drill...there’s no reply...because the psychology of winning is a way of life. It’s playing the game to win and it’s got to be your Super Bowl every single day.



Believe it or not, you can read it.

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn’t mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frsit and lsat ltter be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzaning huh?





The L.A. has been busy with the 90th Anniversary of branch 138 doing their dinner which was well attended. We have had several celebration of life. Then we had the honor of doing the Ontario Provincial Command President's Dinner which was attended by our Branch President and Our Sargent at arm's along with many more important guests and Provincial officers. The Ladies Auxiliary attended the convention to help do registration and to scrutineer the days of elections also did the meet and greet night for the Provincial President's Sharon McKeown and we are very proud to have done this honor and proud to honor our branch too. In the upcoming months we are catering a wedding in June and have several other functions to do. Also there is a team of four Ladies Auxiliary going on to Pembroke for Provincial Cribbage.

The L.A. has their birthday coming up in July and also we do a strawberry and shortcake on the July 1st we also have been tossing around maybe a rib BBQ in August depends on the girls and the cook lol.

We also had our election the L.A. president is Patricia Dickinson. The 1st Vice is Sharon Sowrey .2nd vice is Audrea Frizell. secretary/treasurer is Angie Reid. Sports officer is Debbie Mondor .membership and honors and awards is Colleen Bradshaw Executive members are Dawn Locke. Marlene Daganis. Susan Merrith. Kimmy Cosgrove. Linda Clugston and we all work together as a team

Respectfully on Behalf of Br 138 Ladies Auxiliary
Patricia Dickenson



Youth & Ed

By Kevin Froats & Marlene Gemmell

Over the previous term I've enjoyed working with Comrade Marlene GEMMELL on the Youth Education committee. I was fortunate that Marlene shared her knowledge and took me under her wing as we dealt with nine Elementary & Secondary schools.

There were a few submissions from the schools in the Literary & Poster contests to be judged. The submissions were judged by the Branch membership and the following were the winners;

1st Place Sr. Poem - Athena LIU (Sir Winston Sec. School)

2nd Place Sr. Poem - Jana BATAINEH (Sir Winston Sec. School)

1st Place Intermed. Poem - Jorja BOCCINFUSO (Burleigh Hill PS)

1st Place Intermed. Blk & Whi Poster - Jorja BOCCINFUSO (Burleigh Hill PS)

1st Place Jr. Blk & Whi Poster - Alexia Gillespie (Applewood PS)

2nd Place Jr. Blk & Whi Poster - Crystal CHEN-KIT (Applewood PS)

3rd Place Jr. Blk & Whi Poster - Matthew COTTON (Applewood PS)

There is a break in duties for this committee, the reigns have been turned over to our new Youth Education Chair - Comrade Marlene SZABO. She and her committee will travel to the schools to promote the Literary & Poster Programs to the teachers in an effort to educate them & the students.

We shall encourage & support the new team as they venture out to the schools



Past President

By Trish Gander

It has been a very busy 2 years but it has passed quickly. I want to thank those members who have supported me throughout my tenure as President whether it was answering the call when I needed assistance, offering support or, just a kind smile that said you can do it Trish. Three years ago we were in bad financial shape. Today we have money in the bank. We have not only managed to keep our finances in order but we are still open 7 days a week. This is a real accomplishment in these times when many legions are closing. (continued page 7)

Past Presidents Message (continued from page 6)

Although the members play a big role in helping to keep this branch going, I would be remiss if I did not thank the following special members who have been there for me;

1) My Executive who have supported and stayed with me for the past two years. Your help has been invaluable and truly appreciated. As I have said many times, there is no “I” in team. We did this together and you should be proud of what you learned and accomplished

2) Comrade Jack Gemmell who has been there since day one when I took over the position. Always offering information and support when asked for but never once telling me how it should be done. He has taught me a great deal

3) Last but not least, my husband Mike Gander also a Past President like Jack, who taught me much about the legion as

well. He has been my rock. Always there as a sounding board, picking up my slack at home when legion duty called (didn't do windows though) and, taking on extra legion duties when I was running in all directions

It is the hardest job in the Legion but also the most rewarding. In order to survive we must be proactive with new and innovative ideas. I will continue to work for my Branch and hope that you as members will step forward to help when called upon. It still bothers me that there are members who spend their time criticizing those who put themselves forward to be fulltime volunteers but never offer assistance.

In closing I want to wish Kevin Froats all the best as he takes over this demanding role and hope you as members will support him and his Executive (some returning / some new) as well.

Yours in Comradeship,

Trish Gander



138th Branch celebrates the 90th Ann. 2019

Recipes from the Homefront

Wartime Scotch Shortbread

By Carolyn Ekins

Method

1. Melt 4 oz margarine,
2. Add 8 oz plain flour
3. And 2 oz sugar,
4. Mix well and knead until the mixture binds together.
5. If it is a little dry crumble it again and add a splash of milk and re knead.
6. Put in an ungreased baking tin and press mixture down firmly so it is about 1/2 inch thick.
7. Prick the surface and then cut into 10-12 portions.
8. Bake in centre of moderate oven for 30 + minutes.
9. Remove, sprinkle lightly with sugar
10. Serve.

Ingredients

- 4 oz margarine,
- 8 oz plain flour
- 2 oz sugar,
- a splash of milk (if needed)

These Recipes from the Second World War are reprinted from Carolyn Ekins blog The1940sExperiment.com

The flour supplied to the public in the 1940's, was a minimum of 85% wholewheat flour made from homegrown wheat (UK). It was said to have an unpopular grey appearance but I guess that really was all that was available and all recipes that called for flour would have been made out of this..



Sick & Visiting

By Evelyn Froats

People who have been in hospital since the last newsletter. Christine Wignall, John Mancur, Den Hindle, Joe Cassidy, Bob Weir.

Poppy

By George Geoff

I would like to thank all the members that made this year's poppy term a great success and like to say it is our legion help out where you can to keep it going well.

Membership

By Velma Rutka

Looking forward to meeting you as you renew your Membership for 2020 year.

I will be posting dates and time when I will be at the Legion before the EARLY BIRD starts. You can call me ---leave me a message with you name--Phone # or you can text me and I will get back to you.

Military Article

By Anthony Percival

In this issue we continue the reprinting of an article about the history of the Mess from the book Customs and traditions of the Canadian Armed Forces from E.C. Russell book published in 1980. (Continued on page 10)

Do you know of a member who has been unwell – please talk to Evelyn Froats



Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to GM Canada, St Catharines Plant. GM Employees gave \$3408.60 to Poppy Fund on Day 1 of the 2018 Campaign during gate collection



Branch 138 Donates \$3100 to Hotel Dieu Shaver for equipment needs. Your Poppy Fund at Work

14 MILITARY CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

officers' mess ashore, where that blend of authority and mutual respect, of friendship and good-humoured sharing of experience, contributes so much to *esprit de corps* and pride in service. This whole concept is something unique to the military.

Since time out of memory, organized fighting forces, unless compelled to live off the land, have been provided by their masters with rations of food and water, essential as they are to survival. It is likely that messes designed for communal eating first came into being in the name of economy of time, expense and effort. The common pot or kettle was the more efficient way to prepare the soldier's stew and the sailor's lobsouse. But, no doubt, companionship had much to do with it, too. As Falconer's dictionary put it back in 1815, "Mess among seamen, implies any company of the officers or crew of a ship, who eat, drink and associate together."²

The beginnings of organized messes in the army seem to be eighteenth century in origin. Certainly, there is a marked difference between officers' messing arrangements in the Seven Years' War and those at the close of the Napoleonic Wars. As Montcalm prepared for the defence of Quebec in the spring of 1759, Amherst was gathering his forces at New York, and a glimpse of regimental life may be seen in the daily order book of one of his regiments, the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment, under date of 14 March 1759: "Such of the Gentlemen of the Regiment as intend to mess with Mrs. Calender, the sutler, for next campaign, to give their names to the Adjutant by Monday morning. Divine Service tomorrow as usual."³

In other words, in the forthcoming advance up the Hudson and down the Richelieu to Montreal, Amherst's officers could make their own arrangements for cooking their rations, or, for a fee, could sit down to table with other officers in the tent of Mrs. Calender, one of several sutlers who customarily followed on the heels of armies in the field for the purpose of turning a profit.

To indicate the advances made in the concept of messing, it is of interest to note what amounted to an elaborate mess dinner in the field during operations in the year 1812. One of Wellington's young subalterns during the Peninsular War described the tactical situation on the Tagus River in the spring of that year and a "jollification dinner" in which all officers and men of the 34th Regiment of Foot participated:

So we determined to get up a big mess dinner for the whole regiment once for all, to celebrate the battle of Albuera . . . We selected a pretty spot outside the town, under some cork-trees, marked out the size of our table on the green sod, and cut a trench all round. Our legs in the trench, we sat on the ground, with the table in front, but without a table-cloth. This was our arrangement.⁴

[Continued on page 12]

On Parade – Sgt@Arms

By Mike Gander

Elections have taken place and I would like to congratulate the incoming executive and wish them all the best for the coming term. Right now, we are gearing up for our Decoration Day Parade and Service at the Merritton Cenotaph. This event takes place on Sunday, 2 June, 2019. We will be forming up in front of the Branch at 10:40a.m. to be at the Cenotaph for 11a.m. All letters have gone out and confirmations are starting to come in. We will have the City of Thorold Pipe Band leading us that day, as well. Full Legion Uniform is to be worn on that day, if you have one. As always, if you do not have a Uniform, you are still encouraged to take part in the parade.



Veteran's Service Officer

Our Provincial Service Officer, Rebecca Calder, will be in our area during the week of June 12 to 14. If anybody knows of a Veterans, or their family, who has any issues pertaining to Veterans Affairs Canada, please have them contact me and I will set up appointments.

A Veteran or immediate family member does not have to wait for these visitations. If they have immediate issues, they can contact me, through our Branch, at any time. The Service Officer is always there to help.

A service Officer's Seminar is being conducted on June 8 at Smithville Branch.

PRO

Watch for more photos of Branch members in upcoming issues of Legion Magazine. We have had several photos published over the last few months. We have also had photos published in every issue of Snap'd St Catharines as well as some in Niagara This Week.

Decoration Day. 2019



In garrison, organized mess life received a real impetus when permanent barrack buildings came into vogue. Certainly, at Halifax in 1787, where there were three barrack blocks, the army officers' mess was the centre of the port's social life. The members' rations for a week, valued at three shillings, sixpence, were augmented by means of a levy of two dollars, to purchase extras for the table, though there were complaints from the officers of the 4th Regiment of Foot about the high cost of mutton at sixpence a pound and twenty pence a bottle for sherry and port.⁵

Army officers early in the nineteenth century dined well during passage at sea, though, on occasion, their mess facilities were not as stable as when in garrison ashore. In January 1809 HMS *Fisguard*, frigate, was escorting a troop convoy to reinforce the British army in Spain. Brigadier-General William Dyott recorded an incident in the army officers' mess on board the *Fisguard* in the notorious Bay of Biscay:

In the night another gale of wind came on, and it blew extremely hard the next morning. We were sitting at breakfast in the cabin, when a wave struck the ship, and in consequence of our all clinging to the table hands and feet, the lashings gave way, and coffee, tea, ham, biscuits, generals, aides-de-camp, sailors, etc., were sprawling on the floor, paddling away in different fluids, some with a slice of ham plastered to his cheek, others with his eye closed by a pat of butter; it was the most ridiculous scene possible.⁶

Naval messes afloat are institutions of great antiquity. Emphasis has been not so much on organization, as upon actions and attitudes distilled over the years into a body of customs that have withstood the tests of time and of social and technological change. Much of what we see in ships' messes today has been dictated by space limitations in ships and by conditions imposed by the long sea passage. Indeed, in a sense, conditions which obtained in Drake's *Golden Hind* prevail in HMC submarines today.

The ship, in terms of the numbers of officers and men embarked and the masses of fighting equipment borne, is a relatively small vehicle. Add to this fuel, stores, the means of propulsion and the ships' capacity to keep the seas for long periods of time, and the problems of living cheek by jowl and at the same time preserving the strictest discipline essential to top fighting efficiency become readily apparent. It is these factors, which down through the centuries of seafaring have produced the customs routines and what may be called "a system of manners," that govern mess life at sea.

In the days of sail a ship-of-the-line had several decks. The seamen had their quarters, their home, on the lowerdeck, the lowest of the gun decks, where the

[Concludes in the next issue]

Editorial

By Anthony Percival

Hope this newsletter finds you well, I would like to thank everyone who contributed articles. I also would like to create an archive of past bulletins and newsletters but have been shocked to find that none have been saved by the Branch. If you have saved any copies I'd like to hear from you. In writing a history of the branch I was dismayed by how little of the real fun story of the branch have been captured in the minutes.

Do you have a date you want to publicize, maybe a Birthday or Anniversary? Do you have a story that you would like to tell?

Send me an email with **Branch Newsletter** in the subject line: **anthonyrpercival@hotmail.com**

I am hoping not to incur too much cost or waste so we are limiting the printed copies as much as possible. The newsletter will be

posted on the Web, Facebook and can be emailed to anyone who requests it from either myself the President, Secretary or Membership Chair.



Treasurer

By Tom Locke

Our objective for this year will fall short, however we will end up year with income of approx. \$8500. A big disappointment was a drop of 7% on our canteen sales that we reflect a gross margin of 54.7% or income of \$5800. Fixed costs were held to an increase of 2.5% while general expenses were held firm for the year. All of this was based on results of the first 11 months of fiscal year and hopefully there will be no negative results in May that would alter our outcome. I look forward to next year with newly elected executive to another financially sound year end.

3 Issues per year:
Winter/Spring; Summer;
Fall/Winter

Deadline for Submission
(Branch Exec. Meet):
Jan; May; Sep

Date for Distribution
(Branch Gen. Meet):
Jan; May; Sep





SPORTS

AN TENNIS TEAM TO BE INVITED

(United Press)
NEW YORK, July 15.—The United Lawn Tennis Association is planning to invite members of the German Davis Cup team, latest winners in the tennis world, to take part in the men's national championships at Forest Hills. No decision was decided upon but it is considered probable today that the Germans would be invited to part in the annual fall net

MERRITTON TO HOLD FIELD DAY THIS FRIDAY

July 16 1929

Canadian Legion Announces Events and Splendid Prize List

The Merritton branch of the Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L., are staging a field night on Friday, July 19th. In their sports grounds, the feature of which will be a softball game between the Lakesides of Port Dalhousie and the Rainbows of Niagara Falls.

A schedule of events is likewise hooked, the prizes for which have all been donated by the industries of the town and are well worth the competition. Following are the events listed:

- Girls relay race (open) for manicure sets.
- Girls 100 yards, Public and Separate schools: 1st, bracelet watch; 2nd, lamp with shade.
- Boys 100 yards, Public and Separate schools: 1st, wrist watch; 2nd, pencil set.
- Boys sack race: 1st, candle sticks; 2nd, flash light.
- Boys 100 yards (Sea Cadets only): 1st, Galleon clock.
- Girls 100 yards (ball teams only): 1st, beaded bag; 2nd, boudoir lamp; 3rd, buffet set.
- Ladies 100 yards (drill corp only): 1st, table runner; 2nd, kitchen set.
- Tug-of-war (invitation), 1st, pipe sets.

WYKOFF WINS IN

AL BROWN THROUGH WITH

(United Press)
CHICAGO, July 15.—Al Brown is under suspension by the Boxing Association, Al Brown, a bantamweight, will be to go through with his fight Young Battalino in Hartford July 18. The Association made an announcement after it had Brown made the statement before he was not fulfilling a contract with Copenhagen, Denmark.

WEIGHT

If Loughran Limit and

(By George K... Staff Co...)
NEW YORK... pounds of flesh... termine the... night's 15-round... stadium between... light heavyweights... James J. Braddock... Completing his... sick, Falls, N. Y... faced the prospect... tomorrow in order... divisional weight... pounds of 1... the... fight.

"It's going to be hard... it," Loughran told The Un... "I don't think it will hurt... and I'll gain all my strength before I enter the ring."

ENGLAND SHOWS WELL IN TEST

Woolley (Kent) Has High Score of 83 Against South Africa

(Canadian Press Cable)
LONDON, Eng., July 16.—England showed themselves in a winning way on yesterday in the third test match with South Africa. The scores to date indicate a slight of the tourists. England scored 328 in their reply to South Africa's first innings total of 235. The visitors, collapsing badly in their second innings, lost seven wickets for 116 runs, so that they were only 24 runs to the good. Given the weather England should easily wipe off the South African tail in their second innings. The left honors yesterday went to veteran, Frank Woolley, the only player, who was included in the English eleven after younger players had been tried out and failed in the first two tests which ended in a draw. Woolley has not been

ST. CATHARINES STANDARD, JULY 16TH, 1929

Less We Forget

LCpl J. Hanley

By Anthony Percival

In each issue of the newsletter I aim to bring forward out of the veil of the past the story of one soldier whose name is on the Merritton Cenotaph. In this edition we will look at John Hanley the fourth Merrittonian to die in the Great War. You can find his name on the left column, ninth name from the top.

John Hanley like many who volunteered to go overseas in the First World War was born in Great Britain. John was born in Leeds, Yorkshire in 1883 on the 2nd of May. In the 1891 census John's father Patrick was a bricklayer who had come over from Ireland. John's mother was named Catherine and there were three other children in the family, a sister Annie age 10 and in school and Wilfred and Ellen. By the 1911 census John's father had passed away and John had also become a bricklayer. In the household it was just John and his mother. Catherine had had nine children in all, four had lived and five had died before 1911. The other surviving children had grown up and move way. Annie, John's sister was living at 14 Bread St. in Leeds and was working as a leather dresser. She had married Roger Leonard who was also a bricklayer.

Just before the Great War began, John had left home (possible after the death of his mother) and emigrated to Canada. The War had begun 9 months earlier when John signed up at the Niagara Camp on May 27th 1915. John was 32 at the time and older than many of the recruits he was training with. On the attestation form John had put his sister Anne as his next of kin. He joined up with the 37th Battalion (Northern Ontario), Canadian Expeditionary Force (C.E.F.) whose history is today perpetuated by the Lorne Scots. The 37th Battalion (Bn) had been raised by Lieutenant Colonel C.F. Bick who had been the Commanding Officer of the 34th Regiment (today this unit is known as the Ontario Regiment) and the initial recruitment had come from the north. The 37th Bn was authorized at the end of November 1915 and had gone overseas. The 37th Bn then recruited a 1st and then a 2nd reinforcement draft while in the Niagara Camp of which John Hanley became a member. Following just two weeks of training the 1st reinforcement draft was moved to Montreal and went aboard the S.S. Hesperian and departed for overseas.

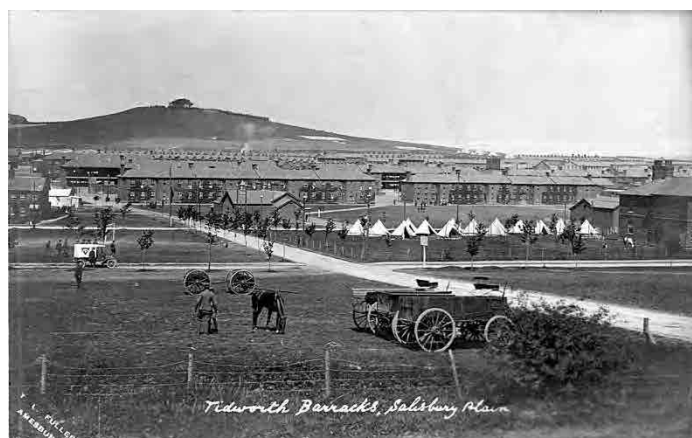


*Top: Cap badge of the 37th Bn CEF
Bottom: S.S. Hesperian*

*Middle Top: LCol Bick Middle
Bottom the 37th Bn at the Niagara Camp*



John spent less than a month in England where he received further training before being transferred to the 17th Reserve Bn. This Battalion had been authorized in September 1914 and had been recruited in Nova Scotia for service at the front. Upon arrival in England this Battalion was placed in reserve. The C.E.F. was faced with the challenge of mounting casualties at the front and no organized system for supplying additional manpower. The Canadian Training Depot had been hastily set up at Tidworth barracks in Wiltshire and the 17th Reserve Bn placed under its command. John spent a second month in training there before being sent to France and into the trenches with the 15th Bn, C.E.F after just fifty-seven days in uniform.



Tidworth Barracks, England

John Hanley joined the 4th Company of the 15th Battalion while in the trenches in Belgium. The 15th Bn had been raised in Toronto just three days after Britain's Declaration of War with Germany. The Battalion had then travelled to England along with the First Canadian Contingent two months later. In the Spring of 1915 the 15th Bn along with the remainder of the 1st Canadian Division had fought in the 2nd Battle of Ypres in which the Germans had used Chlorine Gas offensively for the first time. The Battalion had also fought at Festubert before Private (Pte) John Hanley had joined the unit. The sector was quiet at the time and so it was the routine of trench warfare, sentry duties, artillery fire, night patrols, sniping, fatigue parties and rotations of positions. In August while the Battalion was in reserve Pte Hanley injured his knee and was evacuated to a casualty centre but rejoined his unit in a couple of days. A few days later John Hanley injured his hand most likely while part of a supplied work party making improvements to the defences of the trench positions.

Eight months went by and Private Hanley learned how to survive in the trenches. In March of the following year he spent a week at the 1st Canadian Division sniper school. In May The 15th Battalion was moved back into the Ypres sector. Pte Hanley was again wounded this time cut close to the left eye. He again spent a couple of



Top: 15th Bn CEF Capbadge

Left: Canadian soldiers returning from the Battle of the Somme in France, November 1916.

days at the casualty clearing post before he was back on duty with his unit. He now was given a leave of absence and returned to England for a seven-day furlong. Upon his arrival back at his unit three German Division attacked the Canadian line and the 15th Bn was hastily called up to plug the hole in the defenses. What followed was ten days of fierce fighting in the Battle of Mount Sorrel before the line was re-established. The Germans had hoped to disrupt the building up of resources that they could see taking place in the Somme area to the north.

At the beginning of September, 1916, the 15th Battalion was moved to the Somme. The greatest battle of the First World War the Somme Offensive was in full swing and over 3 million soldiers were taking part in the fighting. In the middle of the month John was promoted to Lance Corporal. The 15th Bn as a part of the Canadian Corps would continue to press the attack in the third and final phase of the Somme. Starting with the Battle of Mount Sorrel the majority of Canadian Units at the front were now fighting together under the unified Chain of Command of the Canadian Corps. On September 26th at 12:35pm the Canadian Corps attacked. The attack was started just after midday instead of the usual attack at dawn because it had been learned that once the attacking force had gone forward that having too many hours of daylight while the positions taken were consolidated only benefited the German counterattack and counter artillery fire. As a result, successes gained could not be held and casualties among the reserves were too high to further press an attack. This attack was successful in that

the attackers were able to penetrate over a kilometer and hold just short of a major trench complex. Under the cover of a rolling barrage which lifted and moved a further 100m every two minutes, the 15th Bn cleared through the trench lines and by 19:45 that evening were digging in ready to hold the ground taken. In just a few hours 117 soldiers from the unit had been killed and 223 wounded. During the Somme the Battalion lost almost half its strength. Among the dead that day was Lance Corporal John Hanley. In all over one million soldiers were wounded or killed in just 140 days of the Somme Offensive.

LCpl Hanley is remembered on the Merritton Cenotaph as well as in the Book of Remembrance of the 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders of Canada) at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Toronto.



Above: Stretcher bearers during the Battle of Thiepval Ridge, September 1916

Below: September 25-28, 1916: Battles of Morval and Thiepval Ridge

Next issue: George J. Doyle the fifth Merrittonian to die in the Great War, if you have a picture, are related, or have heard stories about this person it would be great to hear from you.





bus trip for the delegates through the Niagara peninsula to Niagara Falls is planned. If the war is over, it is hoped that they will be able to visit and inspect the Welland ship canal. This district is well represented in the association with the mayors from the following communities as members: Thorold, Welland, Merrittton, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls.

Radio Forum

The Thorold Rd. Farm Radio Forum held its third monthly meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Munro, Thorold - Stamford Town Line last evening. The topic was Rural Recreation. Helen Watson, of Ottawa, was the radio speaker. She is the author of "Fun for All." Miss Hazel Bullmer was in charge of recreation consisting of a quiz contest. After a sing-song the hostess served lunch.

News Notes

The Legion held an excellent display of motion pictures in the Legion Hall last night. Homer Houser, of the Houser Machine Works in Merrittton displayed the pictures. The feature of the evening was a technical film of the Decoration Day Parade on June 10. The R.C.M.P.'s red coats showed up especially well.

Noble, S. Crowe has cancelled his vacation to be able to assist in the Kiwanis Karnival starting tomorrow night.

The Ladies' Auxilliary of the Canadian Legion are holding a social tonight.

Mrs. M. Swart has left to do some nursing at Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Owing to the Kiwanis Karnival the Canadian Legion Bingo has been cancelled for Thursday night.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Frazer and children, Ormond Street, spent the week-end at Port Stanton on Sparrow Lake.

There will be a meeting in the Municipal Building tonight for all organizations in town to discuss comforts for H.M.C.S. Thorlock.

Bingo Tonight, Canadian Corps, Thorold, special bonus \$50.00 start 8.30 p.m.

Mammoth Bingo. Prizes totalling \$300.00. Sponsored by the Merrittton Lions Club to be held Tuesday night, June 27th, 8 p.m. at Houser's Stadium, 236 Merritt Street, Merrittton, 25 games for \$1.00

The A.R.P. Rifle Club will meet at the usual time in the Arena tonight.

The pupils of Maragaret M. Galvin, A.T.C.M., are giving their annual recital in Rosary Hall tonight. All interested are extended an invita-

MERRITTON
Entertained
Niagara
Veterans

MERRITTON, June 20.—Some 25 sergeants and R.S.M. Bacon, of the Veterans' Guard, Niagara, were entertained at the Legion Hall last night by members of the branch. Many served in the old 75th in the First World War.

The first part of the evening was spent playing cribbage, the Vets being the losers. Later in the evening a lunch was served by the Ladies' Auxilliary, who joined in the festivities.

Several veterans contributed to the evening's entertainment. Mrs. J. Halton and J. M. McDonald sang several solos.

The visitors contributed a generous sum to the Ladies' Auxilliary cigarette fund. Mrs. C. McGill accepted the money on behalf of the ladies and stated that more boys overseas would be made happy because of it.

Mrs. R. Hall was chairman of the entertainment. The president Mr. Squires, welcomed the visitors and expressed his regrets at bringing them from Niagara only to give them a trouncing.

R.S.M. Bacon expressed the thanks of the Veterans for the grand evening. Dancing followed and the evening closed with a toast to the King.

Large Fish

Arthur Wormald yesterday caught a 12 1-2 pound pike in Gibson Lake. The fish measured 37 inches in length.

Lions

Lions are reminded that tonight is the night for work on the benches for the Bingo games. Each Lion is to bring a hammer and be at the back of the Houser Machine Works at 7:30 sharp.

Lawn Bowling

The first two ten-end games in the Standard Cup competition were played at the Merrittton Lawn Bowling Club last night. High team consisted of Ward Hagar, Henry Rapsey Volney Stuart and William Webber.

News Notes

A number of Merrittton merchants have received invitations to attend



Count Carlo Siorza, member of the new Italian club who returned from with the fall of Muss and the surrender of Ita the Allies.

MARRIED

COOTE-BRITAIN—On June 17, 1944, in Cosburn United, Toronto, L.A.W. Gladys, daughter of Mrs. Wm. Smythe and the late Brittain, to L.A.C. George Coote, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Coote, Toronto.

HOPEWELL - McBRIDE — On June 17, 1944, Sarah Elizabeth (Betty) daughter of Mr. and Mrs. McBride, to Walter William Hope, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Hope, Britannia Bay, Ontario.

HULL-CRAISE—At St. A. United Church, Port Dalhousie, on Sunday, June 17, 1944, Helen H. Craise, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard L. Craise, to David J. Hull, only son of Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Hull, all of St. Catharines.

DIED

SAVIGNY, Georgina Bufton—At La Salle, N.Y., on Sunday, June 18, 1944, Georgina Bufton, widow of Charles Savigny, late of 89 Maple Street. Funeral, Wednesday, June 21, at 3 o'clock from the Funeral Home of Winter and Winter, 89 Ontario Street. Interment in Victoria Lawn Cemetery.

ST. CATHARINES STANDARD, JUNE 20TH, 1944

Ways & Means

By Marlene Gemmell

I would like to thank everyone who supports me in my new position of ways and means. I am grateful to have volunteers who have agreed to assist me in providing food and entertainment. For the summer we will be sticking with barbeques but I am hoping to add French fries to the mix since they are normally a big hit. I have posted calendar months for the summer. If you would be willing to barbeque or take and deliver orders or make French fries, please sign the calendar when you would like to volunteer. All help would be greatly appreciated. I welcome any suggestions for events that you would like to see happen. Let's make this Legion a happening place!

By Mati Percival (Outgoing Executive)

This is my last article as an executive member and I'd like to list the highlights of what the Ways and Means committee has accomplished in these past 2 years.

We've celebrated Superbowl with chili cookoffs, enjoyed Irish fare St. Patricks Day, hosted Bingo Bowling, Turkey Rolls, Ham Rolls, Soup nights, Salad contest, Hawaiian night, Deli night, New Years eve gala's, poker run, Jump-up, BBQs, corn roasts, pizza night and of course my favourite Karaoke nights.

I've had a great time organizing the events and dinners and have a great many people to thank!

I could not have carried out this job without all the members who have volunteered. You know who you are, and I am talking about those who have helped with organizing events, set up for dinners, peel potatoes, and even assisting with cleaning. I cannot forget all the members who have also donated salads, soups and desserts to all our meals.

These donations not only tasted wonderful but added that extra touch and class enticing more to buy our meals, not to mention bribing my children to help me on those Friday evenings I was on my own. Lauren and Gregory fit right in as helpers and it was nice to see the members make them feel comfortable and welcoming.

Karaoke Night
 Hosted by Myles Wilson
Friday, July 14th
 7pm to 11pm
 Merritton Legion Branch #138 - 2 Chestnut St. E. on the patio (weather permitting)
 "FUN is mandatory Earplugs are optional"
 Spice up your life!!!
 \$8 Fajitas & Salads 5:30-7:00 Steak draw @ 8:15
 905-227-1821 legionbranch138@hotmail.com

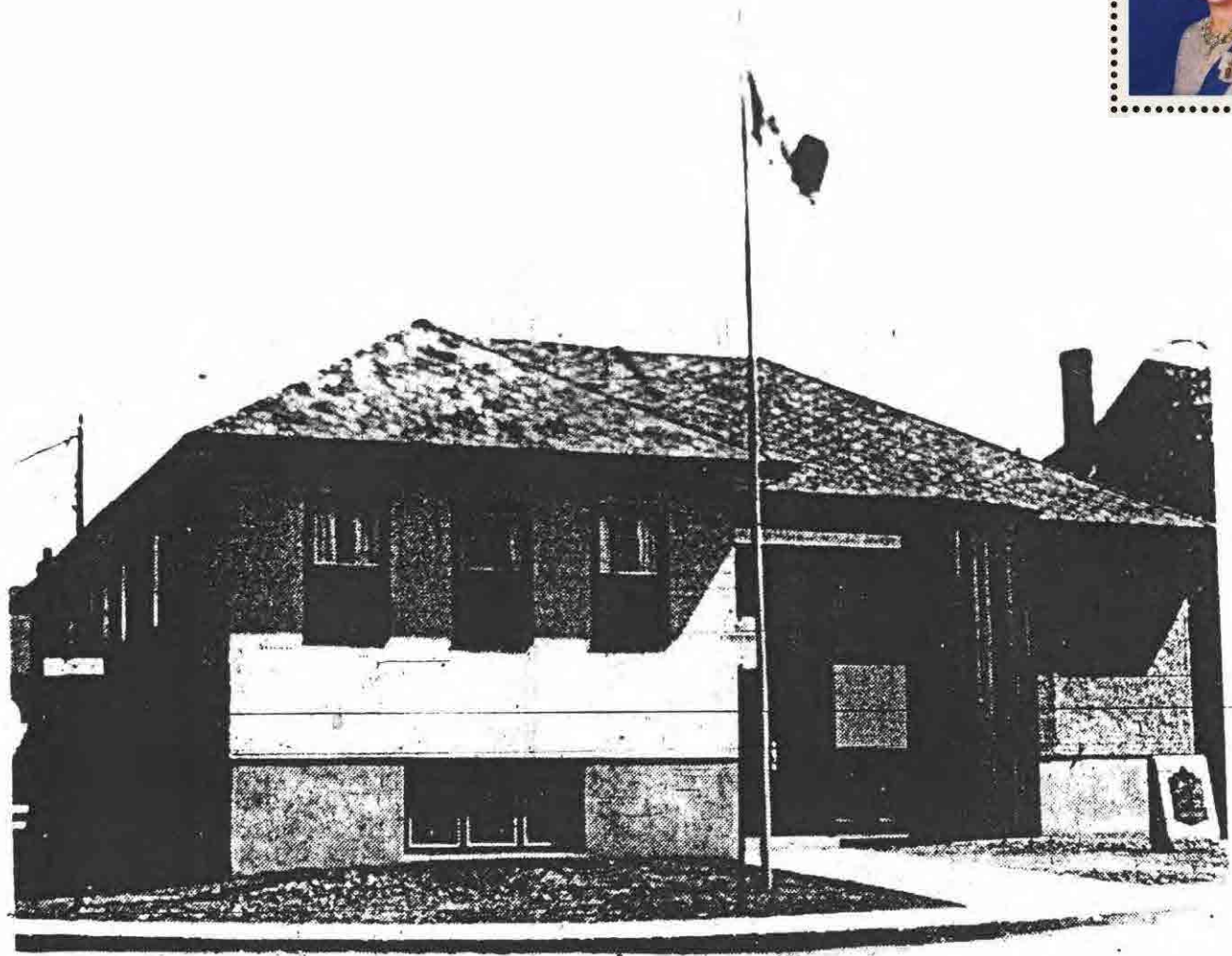
Karaoke Night
 Hosted by Myles Wilson
Friday, Mar 23rd
 7pm to 11pm
 Merritton Legion Branch #138 - 2 Chestnut St. E.
 "Mele Kalikimaka is the thing to say On a bright Hawaiian Winter Day"
Hawaiian Night
 \$7 Ham & Cheese rolls, Hawaiian rice, Pineapple Upside Down cake, 5:30-7:00
 \$6 Corn Roast 5:30-7:00 Steak draw @ 8:15
 905-227-1821

Karaoke Night
 Hosted by Myles Wilson
Friday, Sep 22nd
 7pm to 11pm
 Merritton Legion Branch #138 - 2 Chestnut St. E. on the patio (weather permitting)
 "What goes better with cheese than more cheese?"
 \$6 Mac'N Cheese 5:30-7:00
 Steak draw @ 8:15
 905-227-1821 legionbranch138@hotmail.com

Karaoke Night
 Hosted by Myles Wilson
Friday, Jan 26th
 7pm to 11pm
 Merritton Legion Branch #138 - 2 Chestnut St. E.
 "If you can make it down to the pub - the pub will make it up to you"
British Pub Night
 \$8 Meat pie, Mash, Peas & Gravy 5:30-7:00
 Steak draw @ 8:15
 legionbranch138@hotmail.com 905-227-1821

Karaoke Night
 Hosted by Myles Wilson
Friday, Aug 25th
 7pm to 11pm
 Merritton Legion Branch #138 - 2 Chestnut St. E. on the patio (weather permitting)
 the singin' cowboys
 "CORN N' CARAOCE"
 \$6 Corn Roast 5:30-7:00
 Steak draw @ 8:15
 905-227-1821 legionbranch138@hotmail.com

Karaoke Night
 Hosted by Corey Rogers
Friday, May 25th
 7pm to 11pm
 Merritton Legion Branch #138 - 2 Chestnut St. E.
Western Edition
 Cowboy hats welcomed
 \$8 BBO 5:30-7:00
 Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Sausages & Salads
 Steak draw @ 8:15
 905-227-1821 legionbranch138@hotmail.com



The jobs to be year... —St... Brass for foot p... —U... angev equip where ploye plast... —St... Port tion t plant... —E... Ltd... build manu need...

New Look For Legion

The extension to Merriton Branch 138, Royal Canadian Legion, and the facelift that came along with it was officially opened today. The 29-year-old premises on Hastings St. have been expanded to include a new entrance hall, office and meeting room space and enlargement of the lounges on each floor. The new face of the building com-

pletely changes the look on the outside. The branch was founded in 1928 and meetings were held in the basement of Merriton library. In 1939, construction started on the original building and much of the work was performed by volunteers from the branch.

—Staff photo

Governor-General To Visit Eastern Arctic, Keewatin

OTTAWA

ST. CATHARINES STANDARD, APRIL 12TH, 1969

DAVID C. OR... NCE AGENCY... Ave. 685

Ways & Means (Continued)

As the LA Liaison officer I have observed more harmony between the branch and the LA and I am grateful for their assistance and pitching in when needed since being on my own in Ways and Means.

I would also like to thank our President, soon to be past president Trish Gander, for her advice, guidance and encouragement these past 2 years. I have learned a lot while in this position, or should say positions. This experience has been very positive and has created wonderful relationships.

Last but not least, I must thank my husband, Anthony. He was the reason I volunteered, he encouraged me to try something new and out of my comfort zone. He was also the creative force behind me, designing the posters and helping with ideas. He never said no, when I needed his help and never complained when I vented out my frustrations, there were a few, but mostly working for branch 138 was pleasure and I will be back to volunteer again.

I wish the new executive members all the best and will assist them when I can.

Mati Percival

CANADA DAY - MERRITTON
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION #138
BRANCH BACKYARD BBQ
SUNDAY JULY 1ST
 Featuring: The Pub Jugs 2-6PM

St. Patrick's Day Dinner
 Celebrate at the one three eight!

5-30pm Sunday, March 17
 Early drink, Collings, Potatoes, Sausage, Irish Soda Bread
 Entertainment by Carol & Eric 11:30 AM with live music and dancing. Tickets \$12
 Merritton Legion Branch #138 - 2 Chestnut St. E. 905-227-1821 - legionbranch138@hotmail.com

BINGO BOWLING

Sat, April 6th - 3pm
Merritton Community Centre
\$18 per person (food included)
Food will be served at 6pm
Merritton Legion Branch 138
Tickets for just food \$8 per person
Tickets available at the bar or call:
905-933-4636
legionbranch138@hotmail.com

2019 Black & White Masquerade New Year's Bash

Locks open at 7pm
Late night buffet
Champagne toast
Tickets are 25\$ (available at the bar)
Early favours
Cheese at 1am
 Merritton Legion Branch #138 - 2 Chestnut St. E. 905-227-1821
merrittonbranch138@hotmail.com

Labour Day Party
 Merritton Branch 138 RCL

Mon. 3rd Sept.
 2 Chestnut St. E. Starting after the parade.
 All day BBQ / Refreshments
 All takes place in our spacious yard / patio
2PM - 6PM Featuring:
THE HOWLING HORNS
 EIGHT PIECE HORN BAND

CELEBRATE!
 Grape & Wine Festival...Old Fashion Way
JUMP UP PARTY ON THE PATIO
 RCL Merritton Branch 138

 Featuring:
JERRY JEROME ON STEEL DRUMS
 \$5 per person - Tickets available starting Fri Aug 31 at the legion
SUN SEPT 16th 3-6PM
 Wear your best clypeo pufft or blend in with the grapes.
 Charcuterie boards (meats, cheeses, fruit crackers, olives)
 2 sides \$5 (2 person) or \$10 (4 person)
 pre-order with debit:
debbiedart17@yahoo.ca
 or call 905-227-1821

2018 The Great Gatsby New Year's Bash

Locks open at 7pm
Late night buffet
Champagne toast
Tickets are 25\$ (available at the bar)
Early favours
Cheese at 1am
 Merritton Legion Branch #138 - 2 Chestnut St. E. 905-227-1821
legionbranch138@hotmail.com

STEAK DINNER NIGHT

SAT, JULY 28 AT 5PM
 Steak BBQ includes:
 + Baked Potato + Salad + New York Strip
 Tickets are \$18 each in advance - Only 70 tickets available
 Get your tickets before July 22
 Monthly 50/50 and Mini Meat Draw follows.
 Merritton Legion Branch #138 - 2 Chestnut St. E. 905-227-1821
legionbranch138@hotmail.com

Angie's Poker Run

 Welland
 Port Dalhousie
 Smithville
 Beamsville
Saturday, July 7th
Start time 11am
25\$ per person
Sign up and pay at the bar





Good day to all Members of Royal Canadian Legion Br. 138 Merritton
It's not often a "Message from the Secretary of the Branch" is seen or even thought of, but our Newsletter Editor Anthony asked for submissions and I decided to respond.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Executive of 2018-2019 for helping me do my job each month. It took a bit of training, cajoling and a little threatening, but you all came together and rose to my request and handed me your reports at each Executive and General Meeting. This was so helpful when it came time for me to type each set of minutes and as we all know there were some humdinger long ones. So I say thank you most sincerely.

I say a special thank you to our President Trish Gander for always being there for me, whether it was a question, correction, explanation or a "I just don't know about this one" Never a waiver, always ready to help me. Thank you Madam President.

Thank you to the membership for supporting your Branch and attending the meetings and staying up on the information we have all shared with you. It would be nice to see more members in attendance and hopefully the new Executive will enjoy more participation.

It has been an honour and pleasure to serve as your Secretary this past term.

I wish the Incoming Executive all the best and success for the new term. And to the outgoing Executive thank you for your support and friendship, for keeping me on my toes and my shorthand and typing skills sharpened.

Respectfully;

Colleen
Bradshaw

Secretary
Royal
Canadian
Legion
Br. 138
Merritton



STIR THE POT

Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 138



Every good cook knows that in order to get a good soup you have to stir the pot.

Let's take a minute or two to bring our thoughts, concerns and ideas to the executive so that they know what you would like to see happen in OUR Legion

This is YOUR page!

This is where you can put your concerns, questions, thoughts and suggestions. If you want to volunteer you can list it here.

Please use it!

Write it down and submit it to you Executive.

Do you want to be updated on the events happening at our Branch?

Do you want to be on the Membership Email List?

Please list your name and email address and hand in to Kevin Froats or leave it with the Steward.

Name: _____

Email: _____