



THE MERRITTONIAN

Royal Canadian Legion Merritton ~ Branch 138

Happy

CANADA
Day



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R O Y A L C A N A D I A N L E G I O N
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Look us up on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/merritton.legion?fref=ts>

FLANDERS FIELDS



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 amidst 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 LT COL. JOHN MCRAE, OF MONTREAL,
WHOSE BODY LIES IN FLANDERS FIELDS.





LAST POST



ORDINARY: Raymond Thompson

ASSOCIATE: J.B. Kennedy
Barb McGeorge

AFFILIATE VOTING: Jeremiah Bissette
R. McMullen

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



Decoration Day

What is Decoration Day?

“We will remember” are words that we most often hear in late October and early November as we get ready for our annual Remembrance Day observances. Many do not know that it wasn't until 1931 that the Government passed an act setting our official national military memorial day on the anniversary of Armistice Day, Nov. 11, 1918. The day was named Remembrance Day and continues to be celebrated today.



Fewer still know that before this act was passed Canadians had a different memorial called Decoration Day. It was a day that commemorated or war dead by the laying of real flowers in the spring time, which many thought more suiting than under the dark, grey skies of November. Decoration was observed on the weekend closest to June 2nd.

The original purpose of Decoration Day was actually as a protest for veterans of the Battle of Ridgeway who felt overlooked by Canada for their efforts during the Fenian Raids. In 1890, on the 25th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgeway they started the Decoration Day celebrations by the laying of decorations at the Canadian Volunteers monument near Queen's park in Toronto. It is believed that 50 thousand people came out to watch that 1st parade and show their support. Decoration Day became an annual even drawing more and more participants as other conflicts resulted in a larger and larger number of Canadian Veterans.

As members of the Legion we still celebrate Decoration Day though our numbers have dwindled. It is another time for us to honour our war heroes and show our appreciation for the sacrifices they made in keeping our country safe and free.

Resources

Paul Maroney, “‘Lest We Forget’: War and Meaning in English Canada, 1885–1914,” *Journal of Canadian Studies*, Vol. 32, No. 4 (Winter 1997/1998); *Globe*, May 30, 1896.
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-debate/canadas-forgotten-first-remembrance-day/article5176843/>
http://www.decorationday.org/history.htm#_ednref1
<http://qormuseum.org/history/timeline-1856-1899/the-fenian-raid-1866/>



Branch Executive

Executive Officers

President—Alex Verdile
Immediate Past President—Wayne Haslam
1st Vice President—Kevin Froats
2nd Vice President—Ken Heath
Sgt. At Arms—Mary Novarro
Treasurer—Pat McCabe
Membership—Colleen Bradshaw
Veterans Service Officer—Mike Gander
Secretary—Renee Thompson

Executive Committee

Bill Borden—Sports & House Chairman
Ted Collins—Co-Poppy
Ron Dollar—Co-Draws & Yard Maintenance
Emily Froats—Youth & Education
Evelyn Froats—Sick & Visiting
Jim Froats—Nevada
Margaret MacGregor—Hall Rentals
Maggie Stewart—Ways & Means
Bob Weir—Training & Development & Legion Seniors



L.A. Executive

Executive Officers

President—Patricia Dickenson
1st Vice President—Patricia McCabe
2nd Vice President—Vera Strickland
Secretary/ Treasurer—Angela Ried
Sgt. At Arms—Marlene Wallace
Sports Officer—Jennifer Tophen

Executive Committee

PRO—Renee Thompson
Membership—Linda Clugston
Phone—Evelyn Froats
Honours & Awards—Donna Carley
Fundraising—Colleen Bradshaw
Sick & Sunshine—Bev Damiano





PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

I want to take a moment to extend a warm welcome and congratulations to the incoming executive. I am honoured to be stepping into the roll of Branch President and I am looking forward to working with this great group as well as the new Ladies Auxiliary Executive. I trust that the membership will join in, working with us to make this Branch the best that it can be.

We have some new things planned for the year and we hope that you will find them enjoyable. I look forward to seeing you on Canada Day for our Annual Canada Day Party ! I wish you a safe and happy summer!

Yours in comradeship,

Alex Verdile
President



WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS. IF YOU WANT TO HELP OUT PLEASE APPROACH ANY ONE OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS .



THERE WILL BE A SIGN-UP SHEET FOR LABOUR DAY VOLUNTEERS VERY SOON. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR HELP WITH SET UP AND TEAR DOWN, THE BBQ, AND MANY OTHER JOBS.

MANY HANDS MAKES LIGHT WORK!



1st Vice Presidents Greetings

Hello members, I hope you are all doing well and looking forward to a warm, sunny and dry summer. May we all be able to use our Branch, especially the patio & yard for many activities.

I thank the membership and executive for all the assistance you offered during my tenure as Membership Chairman and Sports Officer. I owe a big thank you to Wayne Haslam and Jack Gemmell for their support and encouragement and for bringing me to Zone & District meetings. You made it fun and helped me gain experience and some new contacts. Thank you both so much.. Welcome Colleen and Bill as I pass the torch to you for your new assignments. I wish you both success during your campaigns and encourage you both to contact me for assistance in delivering service to our membership.

As I take on the position and duties of 1st Vice president I know it will be challenging. However, I did accept the nomination and appreciate your support. I promise to offer my best effort and I only ask that you continue to show me support throughout this 2015—2016 campaign. Remember that we have 9 general membership meetings throughout the year. It will be nice to see more members out to these meetings and even nicer to hear your input. It is your Branch and we the executive need to hear from you at the meetings. Please do not save your thoughts and great ideas for the BS table in the canteen. Bring your new ideas and concerns to the meetings. We must embrace change to run our Branch effectively.

Recently, I was involved in the Decoration Day ceremony and am learning something new every day. As always, it is a pleasure to represent our Branch in the march to the cenotaph. Whether or not we are blessed with a fine day, we should take time to remember our veterans, and the sacrifices they've made to secure our freedom.

Several members have made donations to the Branch by way of scrap metals over the last year. I thank each & everyone on of you for the generosity and appreciate your support. I will continue to accept your donations of aluminum cans, bottle caps, batteries of any size/type. I am not going to recycle electronics as I have found it is not profitable. Please ask family & friends to consider donating these materials also.

Keep in mind that being a member of the Royal Canadian Legion you will have the opportunity to make new friends, become involved with your community and to develop and share your leadership skills. You will help to perpetuate the Remembrance of those who gave so much fo the freedom and prosperity we enjoy today. The proud heritage of this great Canadian organization will be enriched by the enthusiasm, energy and new ideas that you bring to it.

As your 1st Vice President I am receptive to your positive input with regard to the many issues at our Branch.

This Branch is our social club, so let's all do a little to support it!

In Comradeship

Kevin Froats
1st Vice President

Canada and Peacekeeping



During the first half of this century, some 1.5 million Canadians were called upon to defend peace and freedom around the world during the First World War, the Second World War and the Korean War. Over 110,000 Canadians died. Following these terrible conflicts, Canada began looking for ways to prevent wars. Contemporary peacekeeping is a natural extension of Canada's longstanding commitment to the principles of peace and freedom.

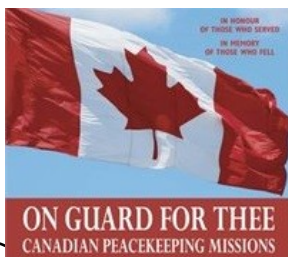
Following the Second World War, Canada was involved in military observer missions in the late 1940's, particularly during the Arab-Israeli and the India-Pakistan conflicts. From 1950 to 1953, Canada joined other UN nations to resist aggression during the Korean War. However, it wasn't until 1956 that the term peacekeeping entered the popular vocabulary, thanks to a Canadian.



During the Suez Crisis of 1956, Secretary of State for External Affairs Lester B. Pearson, later Canada's 14th Prime Minister—proposed that multinational UN peacekeeping forces be sent to the Suez to separate the warring parties. For his visionary idea, Mr. Pearson was awarded the 1957 Nobel Peace Prize.

Peacekeepers are traditionally placed between hostile forces to supervise cease-fires and the withdrawal of opposing forces. In recent years the roll of peacekeepers has expanded to include the delivery of humanitarian aid, the supervision of elections, the repatriation of refugees, the disarming of warring factions and the reclamation of shattered landscapes through the clearing of mines, etc. Another increasingly important aspect of peacekeeping is support for stable government and human rights, including the organization of electoral systems, and the training of police forces and the judiciary. These new peacekeeping activities now involve many Canadian civilians, in addition to the Canadian Armed Forces.

Canada is one of a handful of nations to which the United Nations can regularly turn to, to obtain peacekeeping advice and expert peacekeepers. Canada has participated in the overwhelming majority of peacekeeping operations mandated by the United Nations Security Council. Tens of thousands of Canadians have served in more than 40 separate peacekeeping missions. But Canada's contribution to peace-



ON GUARD FOR THEE
CANADIAN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

keeping is not without risk: Over 100 Canadians have died in peacekeeping operations and hundreds more have been wounded.



In 1988, the Nobel peace prize was awarded collectively to UN peacekeepers in recognition of their historic efforts to limit violence and promote peace. A Canadian invented peacekeeping and Canada has always been one of the world's most committed peacekeeping nations. In a small way, every Canadian can share in the honour the Nobel Prize confers on the peacekeepers of the world, including Canada's peacekeepers.

This Peacekeeping Article was submitted by Comrade Eric Jensen, United Nations peacekeeper (1960'S) in the Middle East from Gaza Palestine to Rafah Egypt.

Veteran's Services

Many of you know veterans, whether, or not, they are Legion members. If they are in need, wish to remain in their own homes but can not keep up with daily chores, are having hardships due to physical issues perhaps stemming from service time, the Legion Service Officer is only a phone call away. We may be able to help them. If you have concerns, talk to them. Ask them to get in touch with any Branch Service Officer at their closest Royal Canadian Legion Branch to see if they qualify for some sort of assistance. It's NOT welfare, but an entitlement due to past Military service. We are there for them.

Michael Gander
Veteran's Service Officer



Honours and Awards





BBQ



**COME JOIN US FOR
FRIDAY NIGHT BBQ!**

**ALL SUMMER LONG!
BURGERS! DOGS!
AND MORE!**

Grab your guy!

Grab your girl!

STARTING AT 4:30



We still have a number of weeks that we need volunteers for so if you like to grill sign up and give us a hand!

CANADA DAY TRIVIA

- 1. WHAT ARE CANADA'S TWO NATIONAL SPORTS?**
- 2. WHO WAS THE FIRST PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA?**
- 3. HOW MANY LAKES ARE THERE IN CANADA?**
- 4. CANADA HAS TWO NATIONAL SYMBOLS. WHAT ARE THEY?**
- 5. CANADA HAS THE LONGEST COVERED BRIDGE IN THE WORLD (1,282 FT LONG). WHERE IS IT LOCATED?**
- 6. WHAT CANADIAN UNIVERSITY CREATED THE FIRST ANTI-GRAVITY SUIT?**
- 7. HOW MANY NATIONAL PARKS ARE THERE IN CANADA?**
- 8. HOW MANY TIME ZONES ARE THERE IN CANADA?**
- 9. WHAT IS THE LONGEST RIVER IN CANADA?**
- 10. WHICH PROVINCE HAS THE LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF MOOSE?**
- 11. APPROXIMATELY 247 CAR ACCIDENTS A YEAR OCCUR IN CANADA BECAUSE OF WHAT?**
- 12. WHAT PROVINCE PRODUCES THE MOST MAPLE SYRUP?**
- 13. HOW MANY OCEANS BORDER CANADA?**
- 14. WHO'S FACE IS ON THE CANADIAN 100 DOLLAR BILL?**
- 15. WHEN DID O CANADA BECOME THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL ANTHEM?**
- 16. WHICH CANADIAN UNIVERSITY IS HOME TO PART OF EINSTEIN'S BRAIN?**
- 17. WHO WAS THE FIRST BLACK LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR IN CANADIAN HISTORY?**
- 18. THERE ARE ABOUT 150 SPECIES OF OWLS IN THE WORLD. HOW MANY ARE NATIVE TO CANADA?**
- 19. NAME THE AUTHOR OF "SMELLY SOCKS", "MUD PUDDLE", AND "THE PAPER BAG PRINCESS."**
- 20. THE SIX PLACES WITH THE HIGHEST ANNUAL SNOWFALL FALL IN CANADA ARE ALL IN THE SAME PROVINCE. WHICH PROVINCE IS THAT?**



Answers at the bottom of

Merritton Memories



**Come join the Merritton Memories
and make some more memories!**

September 5th, 2015

2 PM – 7 PM

MERRITTON LEGION

2 CHESTNUT STREET, ST.

A large black vinyl record with a pink center is the background for this section. Text is arranged around the record.

Hoodies & Tees
Available

ZIPPER HOODIE \$45.00	PULL - OVER HOODIE \$40.00
TEES \$20.00	

Call Pat McCabe to
order 905-684-2590



I ♥ MERRITTON

TRIVIA NIGHT



BEAUTY AND BRAINS! THANKS TO KIM AND EV FOR ORGANIZING AND RUNNING AN AWESOME TRIVIA NIGHT!



94TH ANNUAL

WARRIORS' DAY

PARADE

ESTABLISHED 1921

SATURDAY AUGUST 22, 2015

thewarriorsdayparade.ca

"We win when we work willingly."

Celebrating the 70TH Anniversary of
Victory in World War II

The above message was engraved in Morse Code on the rim of the nickel from 1943-45.

If you are interested in attending the Warriors Day Parade and events please contact President Alex Verdile as there is a bus that will be going from our region. More information can be found on the website, the Branch bulletin board or from the Branch Secretary.



From the Editors Desk

Welcome to the second edition of the Merrittonian for 2015! The dark of winter has passed and flowers of spring have bloomed and summer is upon us! I hope that you are all taking the opportunity to get out and use our beautiful patio on the sunny days. I want to say a special thanks to those who contributed to this edition and remind everyone that I am always looking for new and interesting articles, pictures and humour to keep things lively! As I have been elected to the Branch and L.A Executives taking on the roll of Branch Secretary and PRO for both, it is going to be even more important in the coming months to have your support. You're suggestions and comments on past editions have been helpful and encouraging. Thank you!

One of the big issues of last year for the Legion in Canada was the issue of friendliness and being welcoming to newcomers and to visitors. A few weeks back I had the opportunity to meet 4 ladies that were visiting our Branch. One lived here in St. Catharines but the other 3 were visiting from a Branch in British Columbia. Myself and a few of other members had an enjoyable hour and a half talking with them and hearing about their branch and their experiences as they travel around different Branches here in Ontario. I am sure that they left our Branch that day feeling welcomed and glad that they stopped in.

I am putting out a challenge to myself and to each and every one of us to reach out a hand in comradeship when you see someone that you don't recognize. Take a moment to introduce yourself and introduce visitors to other branch members. You never know what you might learn or how much fun you might have when you take the chance to be friendly and welcoming.

I hope that you enjoyed this edition! You're feedback and suggestions are always welcome. Have a bright, fun and safe summer!

Renée

For submissions, pictures and suggestions you can reach me by email at
luna_moonrai@yahoo.ca



Whopet's Happening

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
HOURS:						
Mon, Wed - Fri	Mon night Darts		CANADA DAY		TOONIE DRAW	
11am-11pm	& Cribbage will		PARTY		STEAK DRAW	
Tues, Sat & Sun	Start up again				50/50 DRAW	
11am-8pm	In September				BBQ	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
			EXECUTIVE MEETING		TOONIE DRAW	
GOLF		AFTERNOON	L.A CHRISTMAS	EVENING	STEAK DRAW	
		EUCHRE	IN JULY PARTY	EUCHRE	50/50 DRAW	
			DARTS FOR FUN		BBQ	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
					TOONIE DRAW	
GOLF		AFTERNOON	DARTS FOR FUN	EVENING	STEAK DRAW	
		EUCHRE		EUCHRE	50/50 DRAW	
					BBQ	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
					TOONIE DRAW	
GOLF		AFTERNOON	DARTS FOR FUN	EVENING	STEAK DRAW	
		EUCHRE		EUCHRE	50/50 DRAW	
					BBQ	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
					TOONIE DRAW	
GOLF		AFTERNOON	DARTS FOR FUN	EVENING	STEAK DRAW	
		EUCHRE		EUCHRE	50/50 DRAW	
					BBQ	

What's Happening

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
GOLF	AFTERNOON EUCHRE	L.A MEETING DARTS FOR FUN	EVENING EUCHRE	TOONIE DRAW STEAK DRAW 50/50 DRAW BBQ	TOONIE DRAW STEAK DRAW 50/50 DRAW BBQ	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
GOLF	AFTERNOON EUCHRE	EXECUTIVE MEETING DARTS FOR FUN	EVENING EUCHRE	TOONIE DRAW STEAK DRAW 50/50 DRAW BBQ	TOONIE DRAW STEAK DRAW 50/50 DRAW BBQ	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
GOLF	AFTERNOON EUCHRE	DARTS FOR FUN	EVENING EUCHRE	TOONIE DRAW STEAK DRAW 50/50 DRAW BBQ	TOONIE DRAW STEAK DRAW 50/50 DRAW BBQ	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
GOLF	AFTERNOON EUCHRE	DARTS FOR FUN	EVENING EUCHRE	TOONIE DRAW STEAK DRAW 50/50 DRAW BBQ	TOONIE DRAW STEAK DRAW 50/50 DRAW BBQ	
30	31					
GOLF						

Trivia Answers

1) Lacrosse and Ice hockey , 2) John A. MacDonald, 3) Unknown, 4) Maple Leaf & the beaver, 5) Hartland, NB, 6) University of Toronto, 7) 40, 8) 6, 9) Mackenzie River, 10) Newfoundland, 11) Moose, 12) Quebec, 13) 3, 14) Sir Robert Borden, 15) 1980, 16) Mac Master University, Hamilton, 17) Lincoln Alexander, 18) 16 species of owl live in Canada, 19) Robert Munsch, 20) British Columbia