



The Lacombe Legion



Volume 10 Number 11 / 12

Zone 3 District 4

November / December 2002



Season's Greetings



December 6

Christmas Party

6:30 PM



A Christmas Dinner
with ALL
the Trimmings!

\$25 per couple
for each event

8:00 PM



Midnight
Lunch

December 31

New Years Eve Dance

Music by
Soundman

I nvite your friends!

Come in and enjoy the season's festivities at the Legion

Looking back on this month of November we have the glow of our Remembrance Day Service with so much community support. We also remember the recent passing of our comrade Bill Hill. War and death remind us that we are indeed mortal beings and our days on this earth shall end.

Society and advertising often stress a 'get' philosophy! We are encouraged to buy bigger and better, cars, houses, appliances, gifts and to invest more money to make more money. It is a frantic circle of escalating proportion. Material things are temporary, but the legacy we have received and now pass on to others will outlive us all and have a positive effect on our world. Participation in a group such as the Royal Canadian Legion stresses a 'give' philosophy and we are encouraged to become involved; to give our time, talents and money for the good of others.

Looking forward we anticipate the glow of the

Christmas lights and yet another Christmas that shows us the power of One Life and the difference it can make. It shows us a caring God who would send His Son to be one of us. It gives us a reminder that life should be lived by caring for our brothers and sisters around the world, fighting for truth and freedom and dignity for all.



Christmas also gives each one of us the most wonderful gift - the promise of eternal life because of the birth of that one tiny baby Jesus Christ. War and death are real - so are love, fellowship and eternal life.

May you have a blessed Christmas and a joyous new year.

*Shealagh McClelland, D. M.,
Branch Chaplain*



Lest We Forget

Comrade and veteran

Russell William Henley

Born October 14, 1918

Died October 14, 2002

Comrade Russ was a Past-President of the Lacombe Branch and a staunch member.

The Lacombe Branch #79 offers heartfelt condolences to the family.



Ladies Auxiliary Notes

Elsie Suter, Reporter

With sadness, the Ladies Auxiliary has recently lost a valued member, **Olive Boice**. Our heartfelt condolences go to family and friends.

President Jean Bruns is convalescing at home. The Ladies Auxiliary presented bursaries to deserving students at the the Lacombe High School on a recent Awards Night.

Ladies Auxiliary Lacombe Branch 79

☞☞ Taryn Stuart

☞☞ Steven Schwenneker

Ladies Auxiliary Command

☞☞ Heather Gullekson.

Doris Jones won the Food Hamper (again) at the event following the Remembrance Day service.

Coming Branch Events

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| ☞☞ December 6 | Christmas Dinner |
| ☞☞ December 31 | New Year's Party |
| ☞☞ Jan 11, 2003 | Mixed Senior Darts |

Watch the bulletin board for other events.

Lacombe Legion Branch #79

Branch Hours

Monday to Saturday inclusive 3 p.m.-10 p.m.

Weekly Activities

Monday	Bingo	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Darts	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Cribbage	7:00 p.m.
Thursday	Action Group	Afternoon
Friday	Meat Draws	6:30 p.m.
Saturday	Meat Draws	4:30 p.m.

Whist Party

1st Saturday	Whist	7:00 p.m.
3rd Saturday	Military Whist	7:00 p.m.
Phone	Ruth Hoppus	782-5365
	Marie Long	782-2186

Meetings

Lacombe Branch #79

General Meeting	Fist Thursday	7:30 p.m.
Executive Meeting	Last Thursday	7:30 p.m.

Ladies' Auxiliary

General Meeting	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m.
Executive Meeting	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion

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Kitchen (403) 782 7888
E-mail rcl79@telusplanet.net



Donations to Our Community

(January 15 to September 5 inclusive)

- ?? Victims' Services
- ?? Lions Club
- ?? Lacombe Outreach
- ?? Big Brothers and Big Sisters
- ?? Lacombe Hospital
- ?? Senior Activity (2)
- ?? Salvation Army, Red Shield Appeal
- ?? Meals on Wheels and Home Support
- ?? Lacombe Youth Bowling
- ?? Lacombe Diabetes Support Group
- ?? Girl Guides of Canada
- ?? Legion Track and Field
- ?? Canadian Cancer Society
- ?? Lacombe Chamber of Commerce
- ?? Lacombe Seniors
- ?? Bursary - Joanna Lee Neufeld
- ?? Bursary - George DenOudsten
- ?? Youth for Christ
- ?? Lacombe Dolphin Swim Club
- ?? Lacombe Youth Curling Club

Donations total \$16,350.00

Attention Grads!



Do you live within the Town of Lacombe School System?

Are you a child or grand child of an ex-service person?

If you are attending, or planning to attend university, college or technical school and require financial assistance, you may apply for a Legion bursary.

The bursary is based on financial need, provided the applicant has a satisfactory scholastic record and is a first or second year student.

Application forms are available from any institution of advanced education in the Province of Alberta/ NWT Command.

Bursaries

The Lacombe Branch

is pleased to present Bursary Awards to Grade 12 students graduating from the Lacombe Christian High School.

They are

☞ George Den Oudsten

☞ Joanna Lee Neufeld.

Congratulations! We wish you well as you continue your education away from Lacombe.

Legion Awards

Royal Canadian Legion

☞ Sarah Russell

Lacombe Legion Memorial Award

☞ Ashley Ainsworth

These deserving students are relatives of veterans in Lacombe area and were selected by the teachers of their school.

Encounters Canada

The Lacombe Branch sponsored

☞ Melissa Hampton

☞ Meredith Easton

Learn about Canada - An event all students should undertake during their school years.

Membership

The Royal Canadian Legion was formed in 1925 with a membership of 50,000 veterans. The Legion's commitment to the remembrance of those who gave their lives for peace and freedom is as valid today as it was then.

Today the Legion is one of the largest community service organizations in Canada with more than 450,000 members and approximately 1,600 branches in Canada, the USA and Germany. As well as service to veterans and the community, the Legion has a strong and continuing commitment in promoting Canada's contribution to world peace, the protection of Canadian sovereignty and the preservation of national unity.

As the years take their toll on Canada's veteran population, the Legion needs the infusion of new blood in order to maintain the many services provided by The Royal Canadian Legion to communities across Canada.

Membership was originally restricted to those who had served in Canada's Armed Forces and Merchant Navy.

The Royal Canadian Legion is proud of its military heritage and still maintains close ties with the Armed Forces today; however, over the years, categories of membership have evolved to include other members of the community.



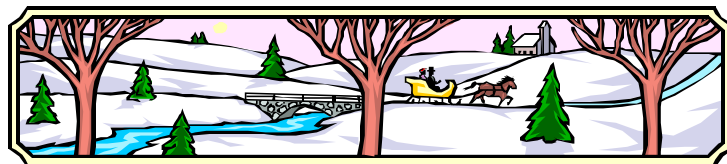
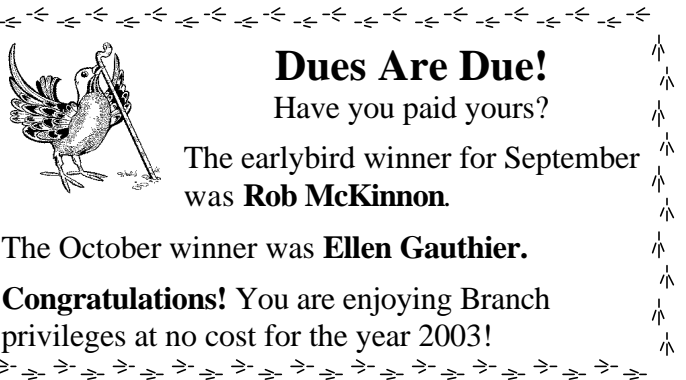
Dues Are Due!

Have you paid yours?

The earlybird winner for September was **Rob McKinnon**.

The October winner was **Ellen Gauthier**.

Congratulations! You are enjoying Branch privileges at no cost for the year 2003!





The poem on this page was written by Fiona Anderson (a 10-year old student from the Mirror school) for the junior category in the Royal Canadian Legion's annual Remembrance Poetry and Essay contests. It was selected for first prize among thousands of entries from schools across the country.

Her poem describes her feelings, she says, after seeing several television shows that were featured during last year's Remembrance Day activities.

Fiona believes schools don't teach enough about Canada's history. "I think it's important that Canada's war history doesn't get lost," she says.

Her interest in things military comes naturally. Her father Andrie and mother Judy served in the Canadian Forces.

The Lacombe Branch is pleased to recognize this young lady for her depth of understanding a veterans feelings and their suffering for the freedom we enjoy.

Congratulations, Fiona! We are proud of you!

**In peace,
sons bury their fathers . . .
In war,
fathers bury their sons!**

The Poppy Fund At Work

The Lacombe Legion Branch and the Lacombe Lion's Club pooled their resources to purchase an electric scooter for a very appreciative Tarra Harder.

This young woman has been handicapped with multiple sclerosis (MS) for several years. She now enjoys the independence we all value.

The Legion assists others in the community - not only the veterans!

Remembrance Day



We sit in the assembly hall,
All is quiet, all is still
The Two Minutes of Silence,
Began to cause a chill,
The coldness sweeps across us
For knowing that soldiers had given their lives,
Leaving children, loved ones, wives . . .!

But then I realize why they left
their warm beds for cold, hard ground,
Left protection for Death.
Left good meals for camp food.
They did it for our safety,
Comfort and freedom.

So as I stand here remembering
those who died for us
I realize why
They chose to die
for us and our country.

They were loyal, and proud
They would yell out loud
Their battle cry
"For Canada and country,
We'll fight 'till we die, for we are loyal
And proud and willing to die for our country!"

As I think of them
I know why we have
This day to remember
This day to mourn.
That's why it's called
Remembrance Day.

*Fiona Anderson,
Mirror, Alberta*

Lest We Forget

Poppy Facts

During the Napoleonic Wars, the poppy drew attention as the mysterious flower that bloomed over the graves of fallen soldiers.

In the 20th Century, the poppy again was widely noticed after soils in France and Belgium became rich in lime from rubble during the First World War. The little red flowers flourished around the graves of the war dead as they had 100 years earlier.

In 1915, Guelph, Ontario native John McCrae, a doctor serving with the Canadian Forces Artillery, recorded this phenomenon in his famous poem "In Flanders Fields".

Two days before the Armistice, Moina Michael, an American woman from Athens, Georgia, read the McCrae poem and was inspired to wear a poppy year-round in memory of the war dead.

In 1920, Madame E. Guérin of France visited the United States and happened to meet Miss Michael at the YMCA at Columbia University, where the latter was a volunteer. Mme. Guérin then resolved to sell handmade poppies around Armistice Day to raise money for poor children in the war-torn areas of Europe.

In 1921, Field-Marshal Earl Haig, the former Commander-in-Chief of the British Armies in France and Belgium and the principal founder of the British Legion, was sold on Mme. Guérin's fundraising idea and approved organization of the British Poppy Day Appeal by the Legion to raise money for poor and disabled veterans.

The same year, Mme Guérin visited Canada, and convinced the Great War Veterans Association (predecessor to the Royal Canadian Legion) to similarly adopt the poppy as a symbol of remembrance in aid of fundraising.

Today, the Poppy Campaign is one of the Royal Canadian Legion's most important programs. The money raised from poppy sales provides direct assistance for ex-service people in financial distress, as well as funding for medical appliances and research, home services, care facilities, and numerous other purposes.



Poppy Campaign

The Poppy Campaign went very well. We are in the final stages of wrapping everything up.

I sincerely appreciate all the assistance I received from all the volunteers who gave generously of their time to distribute the wreaths and poppies. Also I thank the group that visited the schools. These visits were made a lot easier with the generous loan of a passenger van donated by John Parsons of Parsons Holiday Tours. Many thanks to you, John, for its use!

For many years Lacombe Branch members attended school-sponsored Remembrance Day services. They visit all the local schools, the Canadian University College (CUC) and the College Heights high school. Some also journey to Blackfalds and Bentley.. This year, several members included the Clive school.

Special thanks to my wife, Pauline for assisting me in the preparation of, and finalizing the Poppy Campaign!

Respectfully submitted,

Comrade Rod Oberg
Poppy Campaign Chairman

Remembrance Day - 2002

A big **thank you** to the kitchen volunteers who manned the 'pancake breakfast' detail!

They are :

Tom Keats,	Roy Cucheran,
Jack Wallace,	Jason Wallace,
Roger Stotz,	Bill McAdam,
Darcy Whittaker,	Val Brimacombe,
Hanna Cucheran,	Penny Henkel.

We apologize to those who assisted in other ways and are not included in this list. It requires many volunteers to make this important event a success. We thank you!

Comrade Dave Swarbrick.

"Criticism

is the disapproval of people,
not for having faults,
but for having faults that are
different from your own."

Legion Sports

Rule changes for the year 2003

- ?? That L.A. members be eligible to participate in all sports (excluding Men's events - Shuffleboard, Bowling).
- ?? That membership cards must be shown for the year of the Command Playoffs and the previous year or transfer records (excluding new members).
- ?? That spares be allowed to rotate in and out in all categories at the beginning of each new round.
- ?? In the event of a tie for second place a play-off will be held to determine which team will advance.
- ?? That bowlers not having an established average will enter the first level of competition with no average. During this 8 game event whether at Branch, Zone, District or Command level, the official in charge of the event will randomly select any three of the eight games to be played prior to the beginning of play. All competitors in the event will use three games as their average for this particular event. Following this event the total of the scores obtained in all eight games will be used as the competitors' average for all subsequent events up to and including the command finals.
- ?? A member in arrears as of January 31st of that



year is not in good standing for any purpose. Once the yearly membership dues have been paid, the member is considered to be "in good standing".

?? "Member in Good Standing" means a member who has been initiated and who is not under suspension or is not in arrears in payment of dues.

- ?? This is also on the new sports entry form. *"I hereby certify that the above branch members, Ladies Auxiliary of Affiliates have belonged to this branch as of January 31st for the preceding year in which these Command Playoffs take place."* New members and Ladies Auxiliary must have been initiated.

Stony Plain Branch #256 has put forth a resolution concerning the game of Euchre, and they would like to make this a Provincial Command sport. What are your thoughts about this suggestion?

All correspondence from Provincial Command should be passed along and read out at all general meetings.

This information is for all the members and the best way for them to learn is at a general meeting.

Zone Darts Playoff

Faye Chomoway, Herb Draney, Bill McAdam and Madeleine Babiuk represented the Lacombe Branch at the tournament in Ponoka.

A good time was enjoyed by all!

The Lacombe team came in 3rd.

Casino Winners

Thanks to the effort of Comrade Jack Thompson and a crew of volunteers, the Branch received about \$15,000.

Well done!

Grey Cup Party

The party was a success even though our Alberta team lost the game!

The biggest winner of the draw was Audrey Wilson. She hung on for 3 quarters with Cheryl Swarbrick the winner of the 4th quarter.

"We are born alone; we live alone; and we die alone. We should, therefore, appreciate those who make the journey through Life a pleasant, or even a tolerable experience."

Yul Brunner

Master Warrant Officer Schilling..



is an example of what military training can do for a young person with a lot of energy, but without a purpose or a direction!

Her parents "home schooled" this active teenager and discovered she needed a greater challenge. She was encouraged by her mother to enlist in the Army Cadets. This was the beginning of the self-confident, self-disciplined

and skilled young lady we know today.

She accepted the challenge and became the Best First-year Female Cadet, Best Female Weapons Shot for three years and Best All-round Cadet for two years.

A part of her training included climbing and rappelling down mountains, flying gliders, learning to sail, . . . and the list goes on! She was the smallest person in the 1,390 member Red Deer Cadet Squadron for several years.

On Oct. 8, 2002, Mellissa and her family travelled to Winnipeg for a very prestigious award presented by Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. She was the recipient of the **Gold-Level Duke of Edinburgh Award**.

This award is open to all young Canadians who perform public service, keep physically fit and do volunteer work.

She has also earned the Royal Canadian Legion Medal of Excellence.

Mellissa has been in the Army Cadets

The Lacombe Branch #79 thanks you Mellissa, for your dedication and the manner with which you fulfilled your responsibilities as a person, a cadet and an integral member of the Colour Party at Legion Branch #79 meetings.

We wish you the best in your education and your choices in Life!

We will miss you!



Did you notice the new, tall, bright and straight flag pole in front of the Branch building?

Many thanks to **J.C. Welding** and **Comrade Brian Brant** for manufacturing and installing it!



Visit the Legion site on the Web
<http://www.legion.ca>

The Sentinel *The Voice*

of Alberta - North West Territories Command
Have you received your copy of the first issue of this tabloid size newspaper?

This very informative publication will serve us only if we collectively contribute to its viability. Information and pictures from all branches will ensure its success. The Legion is changing and needs and wants more publicity!

They will welcome criticism and praise - *anything to make it even better!*

We congratulate the people who worked through the many challenges involved.

If you haven't received it please let us know.

The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayam

COME, FILL THE CUP, AND IN THE FIRE OF SPRING
THE WINTER GARMENT OF REPENTANCE FLING:

THE BIRD OF TIME HAS
BUT A LITTLE WAY TO FLY-
AND LO! THE BIRD IS ON THE WING.

Edward FitzGerald (1809_1883)

Is It True??

The European Commission has just announced an agreement whereby English will be the official language of the European nation rather than German that was the other possibility.

As part of the negotiations, Her Majesty's Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a 5-year phase-in plan that would become known as "Euro-English". In the first year, "s" will replace the soft "c". Certainly, this will make the sivil servants jump with joy. The hard "c" will be dropped in favour of the "k". This should klear up konfusion, and keyboards kan have one less letter. There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced with the "f". This will make words like fotograf 20% shorter.

In the 3rd year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Governments will enkourage the removal of double letters which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling. Also, al wil agre that the horibl mes of the silent "e" in the languag is disgrasful and it should go away.

By the 4th yer peopl wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" with "z" and "w" with "v".

During ze fifz yer, ze unesesary "o" kan be dropd from vords kontaining "ou" and after ziz fifz yer, ve fil hav a reil sensibl riten styl.

Zer vil be no mor trubl or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech oza. Ze drem of a united Urop vil finali kum tru.

If zis mad yu smil, pleas pas it on to oza pepl.

Looking back

It's hard to believe that we have lived this long:

- ?? As children we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags.
- ?? Riding in the back of a pickup truck on a warm day was always a special treat.
- ?? Baby cribs were painted with bright colored lead based paint. We often chewed on the crib, ingesting the paint.
- ?? We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets, and when we rode our bikes we had no helmets.
- ?? We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle.
- ?? We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then roared down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After crashing into the bushes a few times we learned to solve the problem.
- ?? We would leave home in the morning to play, and didn't come back until the streetlights were on. No one was able to reach us all day.
- ?? We played dodgeball, and sometimes the ball would really hurt.
- ?? We jumped off the garage roof using an umbrella as a parachute.
- ?? We climbed to the tops of the trees and sat on makeshift plywood seats with big nails protruding.
- ?? We ate cupcakes, white bread and butter, and drank sugary Coca Cola, but we were never overweight because we were always outside playing.
- ?? Most of us didn't have Little League, we just had empty fields where we gathered to play a pick-up game, and our uniforms were "skins or shirts." We chose up sides and the slowest kids were chosen last. There were no law suits over this discrimination-and the slowest and the swiftest all had a good time.
- ?? Some of us did have Little League and we had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment, and the parents never got bent out of shape about it.
- ?? Some students weren't as smart as others so they failed a grade and were held back to repeat the same grade.
- ?? We threw spitballs and shot rubber bands, and if caught, were forced to clean the erasers by banging them together, thus inhaling huge amounts of chalk dust.
- ?? Our generation produced some of the greatest risk-takers and problem-solvers. We had the freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.

The world has changed!