



The Lacombe Legion



Volume 11 Number 05-12

Zone 3 District 4

Fall 2003



Season's Greetings



Christmas Party

New Year's Eve Party

December 5

Cocktails 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

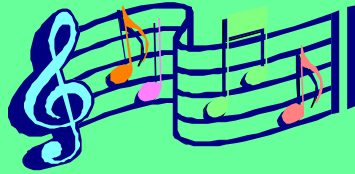
Dance 9:00 to 12:00 a.m.

Lunch to follow

Tickets \$ 25.00

per couple

*Music by
Country Express*



Members and Guests

December 31

Cocktails 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Dance 9:00 to 2:00 a.m.

Lunch After midnight

Tickets \$25.00

per couple

*Music by
Sound Man*



Everyone Welcome



Are you related to, or know a veteran?

The Lacombe Legion Service Officer is compiling a list of the names and phone numbers of "crisis persons" having close ties to all veterans, including non-Legion members.

Should the need arise, this information is important for providing available assistance for the veteran and the immediate family.

The name, phone number and military service number of the veteran is important.

Please notify the Branch of veterans entering a hospital.

Call (403) 782 6441.



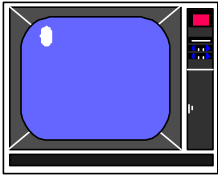
T.V. Raffle

A 32" Panasonic TV is being raffled off in April 01.

Tickets \$2.00 each.

Only 1,000 tickets printed.

Tickets available at the Lounge.



Lacombe Legion Branch #79

Branch Hours

Monday to Saturday inclusive 3:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Weekly Activities

Monday	Bingo	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Darts	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Cribbage	7:00 p.m.
Friday	Meat Draws	6:30 p.m.
Thursday	Action Group	2:00 p.m.
Saturday	Meat Draws	4:30 p.m.
1st Saturday	Court 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	1st Thursday	7:30 p.m.
Executive Meeting	Last Thursday	: 7:30 p.m.

Ladies' Auxiliary

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

Royal Canadian Legion

5138 49 Street
Lacombe Alberta
T4L 1J2

Phone (403) 782 6441
Fax (403) 782 2077
Kitchen (403) 782 7888
E-mail rcl79@telusplanet.net
Web page lacombelegion.com



Poppy and Remembrance

Thank You to:

- ☞☞ Comrade Rod and Pauline Oberg for the successful Poppy Campaign. Don't ask how many hours they worked! And they have more to do!
- ☞☞ Branch Chaplain Shealagh McClelland for organizing the Remembrance Day program.
- ☞☞ The participating church ministers.
- ☞☞ Comrade John Parsons (**Parson's Holiday Tours**) for donating the bus used to transport Legion members visiting the Lacombe, Blackfalds and Bentley Schools.
- This contribution goes back for many years!
- ☞☞ Virginia Kemp for the 'whirlwind' volunteer assistance in the lounge on Remembrance Day.
- ☞☞ All the men who did 'kitchen duty' making breakfast and giving our hard-working ladies a break.
- ☞☞ The school teachers for teaching the children the reasons for Remembrance.
- ☞☞ The students who contributed poems, essays and posters for the Remembrance challenge.
- ☞☞ The Town of Lacombe for the generous use of the Lacombe Memorial Centre (LMC).
- ☞☞ The Fire Department for sheltering the parade participants in the fire hall.
- ☞☞ The Town of Lacombe merchants for selling Poppies, their financial contributions and displaying the Wreaths of Remembrance.
- ☞☞ The Branch members for selling poppies, wreaths, school visitations and other vital tasks.
- ☞☞ Prairie Bus Lines of Red Deer for treating the 16 school-visitation Legion volunteers to a "Smorg" at Leto's.
- ☞☞ Red Deer Legion Pipe Band (Bentley School).
- ☞☞ The Youth Groups and their Leaders (Cadet Corps, Scouts, Guides, Brownies,
- ☞☞ The Lion's Club Band.
- ☞☞ The Local Police Department for traffic control.
- ☞☞ The citizens who donated so generously to the Poppy Campaign.
- ☞☞ . . .and so many others who made this time of Remembrance a success.

The community will benefit from your contributions and volunteer work!

*Comrade Bill Suter,
Publicity Chairman*



Ladies Auxiliary Notes

*Doris Dicknoether, for
Elsie Suter, Reporter*

We had a busy summer with a lot of catering and have several catering events coming up.

Two of our members recently passed away:

?? Ada Dool – Life Member

?? Evonne Weitzel

Elsie Suter and Jean Spencer are home after being in hospital. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Tha Annual *Appreciation Dinner* for our members was held in October. Fifteen-year pins were presented to Joan Robak and Pearl Johnston.

Our 'Fall Bazaar and Bake Sale' was held on November 1st and was well attended. Our 'beef-on-a-bun' for lunch is always a hit.

We wish all Laies Auxiliary and Legion members a happy and safe holiday season.

Stumpy and his wife Martha went to the Air Show every year. Every year Stumpy would say, "Martha, I'd like to ride in that there airplane."

And every year Martha would say, "I know, Stumpy, but that airplane ride costs ten dollars, and ten dollars is ten dollars."

This year Stumpy and Martha went to the show and Stumpy said, "Martha, I'm 71 years old. If I don't ride that airplane this year I may never get another chance."

Martha replied, "Stumpy, that there airplane ride costs ten dollars, and ten dollars is ten dollars."

The pilot overheard them and said, "Folks, I'll make you a deal. I'll take you both up for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and not say one word, I won't charge you, but if you say one word it's ten dollars."

Stumpy and Martha agree and up they go. The pilot does all kinds of twists and turns, rolls and dives, but not a word is heard. He does all his tricks over again, but still not a word. They land and the pilot turns to Stumpy, "By golly, I did everything I could think of to get you to yell out, but you didn't."

Stumpy replied, "Well, I was gonna say something when Martha fell out, but ten dollars is ten dollars."



Sick and Visiting



Comrades "Slim" Lepine, Stan Parsons and Roy

Richmond are home from the hospital.

Comrade Charlie Huseby is in the Lacombe hospital.

Comrade Huseby was able to leave the hospital and visit with friends at the Lacombe Branch on Remembrance Day.

We wish for you a speedy and full recovery

Doris Ahlquist, Chairman

Legion Sports

Branch #79 is hosting Zone Legion Darts on November 22.

Participants in Cribbage, Bowling, Curling, Shuffleboard and Darts are needed for Zone and District playoffs. Contact Dave or Cheryl Swarbrick for details.

The Fun Darts on Tuesday is well attended. Everyone is welcome.

Please check *page 4* for Zone/District Sports Events.

Did You Know . . .

- †† The RCMP are classed with veterans and are accepted as 'Ordinary Members'?
The Lacombe Branch does have ex-RCMP as members.
Veterans of the Korean War are also Branch members.
- †† There will not be a 'Special Christmas Dinner' on Christmas Day .in the Legion Hall this year. Previous donors regretfully have withdrawn their support.

Inter-Branch Events

*Registration for all events is at 9:00 A.M.
Games begin at 10:00 A.M.*

Zone Darts

(Legion)

Date November 22
Time Registration 9:00 A.M.
Place Lacombe Branch #79
Phone (780)-782-6441

*Please register to
Lacombe Branch #79
before November 01!*



District Curling

Legion Teams

Mixed Teams

Senior Teams

Date November 28, 29 and 30
Time 9:00 A.M.

Place Eckville
Phone (780)-372-4355
 (no later than November 21)

Noon Lunch

(Seniors)

Date December 07
Time 9:00 A.M.
Place Ponoka Branch #66

(Mixed)

Date December 13
Time Registration 9:00 A.M.
Place Bashaw Branch #38

Zone Cribbage

(Seniors)

Date November 23
Time Registration 9:00 A.M.
Place Mirror Branch #189

(Mixed)

Date November 23
Time Registration 9:00 A.M.
Place Mirror Branch #189

(Legion)

Date January 04
Time Registration 9:00 A.M.
Place Stettler Branch #59

*Dave Swarbrick -
Sports Chairman*

Definition of a Veteran

There was never a definition of a veteran prior to year 2000 for the Legion and year 2001 for Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC). Even the Pension Act does not have a definition for a veteran.

Accordingly, at the 26 of November 1999 Sub-Executive meeting, a motion was introduced to adopt a definition of a veteran which reads as follows:

“A veteran is any person who is serving or who has served in the Armed Forces of Canada, the Commonwealth or its wartime allies or who has served in the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command during wartime”.

This was eventually drafted into a resolution, approved by DEC and the 38th Dominion Convention held in Halifax in June year 2000

As for the VAC, they adopted a definition of a veteran in year 2001 which read as follows:

“VAC and the Department of National Defence (DND) have extended veteran status to former Canadian Forces members and Reserve Force members who:

meet DND’s Military Occupational Classification requirements (MOC qualified); and

have been released from the forces with an honourable discharge .”

Information provided by,
M. Suzanne Shaw,
AB/NWT Command,
Service Officer

Acronyms

VAC	Veterans Affairs Canada
DND	Department of National Defence
MOC	Military Occupational Classification
DEC	Dominion Executive Council

Remembrance Day Report

Once again our Branch Chaplain Comrade Sheilagh McClland organised a well attended Remembrance Day service. Unfortunately she could not attend but we carried on bravely in her absence.

The day started for some members early in the morning with a Pancake breakfast. Attendance was down for the breakfast this year, and a reminder to all members to attend this opening to Remembrance Day. Bring your family, friends, neighbours. The cooks and the kitchen staff are all men from the Branch (no women have kitchen duty for this event) and the men do a wonderful job every year. Some of the volunteers have been doing this for many years. Many thanks to Comrade Dave Swarbrick for organising it. Comrade Swarbrick was a volunteer for his father-in-law Comrade Harvey Whittaker who was chief cook for many years until his passing. Comrade Swarbrick has successfully carried on this family tradition of making sure that the members and public are well fed before the service.

Unfortunately due to icy roads the parade to the Memorial Centre could not start from the Legion. Its a very emotional sight to see the Color Party followed by the Legion and Youth groups parading through town as they make their way to the Memorial Centre.

Noticeably missing is a Piper. If any one knows of a Piper who would like to lead the parade, send them our way. The Branch would be grateful for a volunteer.

After the service, a social and lunch (no charge for the lunch) takes place at the Branch. Many members take part in this event. It's a great way to visit with friends you may not have seen for awhile.

Pot Luck supper starts about 5:00 p.m. Most members bring a dish and the Ladies Auxiliary spends many hours in the kitchen preparing and heating the food. From their efforts and the food brought by those attending, everyone is assured of a delicious meal.

The Ladies Auxiliary raffled off a food hamper after selling tickets throughout the day. Congratulations to Marie Cleveland who was the lucky winner.

Thanks to the generous donations, to the Poppy Fund the Branch has \$10,330 available for veteran, family and community support.

This amount is less than in 2002.

Submitted by,,

*Joyce Bradford,
Roving Reporter*



School Visitations

Branch members supporting the Lacombe Christian High School in their Remembrance program



Branch #79 President John Robinson presenting **Danielle Bennik**, a student at the Lacombe Christian High School receiving the 1st prize for her poster in the Senior Category Remembrance sponsored by the Alberta/NWT Command.



Visit us on the Web

The Lacombe Branch # 79 at
www.lacombelegion.com

The Royal Candian Legion at
www.legion.ca

Sunset Legion Campground

Lacombe Branch #79 operates the *Sunset Legion Campground* (located on the west side of Gull Lake) with Brian and June MacIntosh as Facility Operators. The Branch and the Facility Operators have recently renewed the contract for three-years.

Two years ago, following the Walkerton, Ontario water crisis, I requested Mr. and Mrs. MacIntosh to forward water samples for the government to test and ensure the drinking water was safe. Each month during the summer they forward to me a monthly report on what is happening at the campground and also, the results of monthly water tests. It is tested for Coliforms and E.Coli, and these are absent in the samples tested. The campground water is safe. We had to ensure that if a camper at the campground complained about the water making them sick, we were legally protected.

We had to ensure our water was safe, as some campers carelessly neglect to clean out their personal water holding tanks.

Over the last number of years the campground Operators had held a Family day at the campground with no cost to the Legion. They supplied the sleigh rides, cleared a space on the lake for skating, BBQ'd 'smokies' and hamburgers. Unfortunately this year only 8 couples showed up for this event. It seems that this event will be cancelled due to lack of support.

During May clean-up starts with painting, gathering fallen leaves and preparing the shower house for operation. The May long week-end felt more like winter and the campground was about half full.

During the summer it was hot and dry. A fire-ban was imposed in National and Provincial Parks. Campfires were still allowed at the campground. The camping season was not great as far as campers

attending was concerned.

During the last couple of years the water level has been dropping in the lake causing some problems with the dock and boat launch. We can not add rocks, dirt, or sand to the water without authorization from Environment Authorities.

The night of August 27 was the first night of an all night rain, which was welcomed by everyone.

This past summer a number of boats anchored in the water had stereo equipment and speakers stolen from them.. Water skiing equipment was not touched. Rimbey R.C.M.P. attended and are investigating.

Early September young people drove to the old Carol house and set it on fire. The R.C.M.P. are investigating and have suspects, thanks to the vigilance of the campground operators.

The year end party was a success with approximately 100 people attending. The Band played well into the night.

Over the years a great deal of work was done to make this a first class camping experience.

The Branch receives a financial benefit from the campground and need your support. If you have never been there, drop in and say hello to Brian and June.

The campground is a quiet and safe place to be and by staying there you support YOUR Legion.

This more or less covers what goes on at the campground.

*Comrade Al Bunn,
Vice-President, and
Campground Chairman*

This year, 2003 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Cease Fire in the Korean War and not the end of the war . . . !

The Forgotten War (1950-1953) Korea

Athabaskan and Sioux arrived in Sasebo, Japan, under orders to sail for Korean waters, the first Canadians to see action in Korea. Five other Tribal Class destroyers,

On Sunday, June, 25th 1950, 135,000 troops of the North Korean People's Army attacked South Korea during the pre-dawn darkness and the wet ground of the beginning of monsoon rains. The main invasion thrust was a direct route to Seoul, the capital of the Republic of Korea (South Korea). The United Nations condemned the attack and Canada joined 15 other nations to resist the aggression.

United States President Harry Truman ordered U.S. troops into action under the banner of the United Nations. Five other nations offered assistance, but for political expediency opted to supply medical services rather than send their citizens into combat roles. Although it was not reported, it is estimated that several hundred First Nations peoples served on the battlefields and also at sea in Korea.

On November 26, 1950, China entered the war on the side of North Korea and Allied Forces were forced south again to positions well below the 38th Parallel.

By mid-1951, the Allies had pushed the Chinese and North Koreans back across the 38th Parallel. Cease fire negotiations were initiated and dragged on.. A period of static warfare set in.

By the time the civil war of the Koreas had ended, six million of their countrymen, civilian and military personnel had perished. Nearly half a million Communist Chinese "comrades-in-arms" of the North Koreans, soldiers of the People's Liberation Army, were killed in action.

The United States who supplied the largest contingent for the United Nations Command suffered 103,284 wounded, 54,236 deaths including 33,629 killed in combat and 8,177 missing in action. Canada's casualties totaled 1,558 including 516 who died. The total number of UN Forces (including South Korea) killed, wounded or missing was 996,937.

The tragedy of Korea had its roots in world politics. The Korean peninsula was divided into North and South at the 38th parallel, not by the Korean people, but by the United States and the Soviet Union. It was meant to be a temporary demarcation pending unification of two opposing ideologies.

On July 30th 1950, three Canadian destroyers: Cayuga,

Crusader, Huron, Iroquois, Nootka, Haida, served under UN Command during the war. Also in July, #426 Transport Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Force, flew the first of 600 round trips to the Far East carrying more than 13,000 passengers and 3,000,000 kilograms of freight. In addition, twenty-two RCAF fighter pilots and a number of technical officers were attached to the U.S. Fifth Air Force in Korea.

Tragedy struck Canadian troops early! Before arriving in Korea 17 gunners of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery were killed caused by a head-on passenger and a troop train crash at Canoe River, B.C. on November 21, 1950. (As in many events of the Korean War, this tragedy was buried in archives until a cairn was erected and dedicated on May 21, 1990.)

A few weeks later, the first contingent of Canadians, the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry arrived in Korea. The following April, this unit was awarded a U.S. Presidential Unit Citation for preventing an enemy breakthrough of the UN lines at Kap'yong.

In May 1951 the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade, comprised of the Second Battalions of the Royal Canadian Regiment, and of the Royal 22e Régiment along with supporting arms, entered the Korean theatre. In June, 2nd PPCLI which had been attached to the 28th Commonwealth Brigade, rejoined the 25th, which in turn became part of the First Commonwealth Division. The Brigade's first important battle took place at Chail-li at the end of May.

During the summer and fall of 1951 the UN forces continued their advance to the 38th Parallel, during which time peace talks were held in Kaesong and later Panmunjom. Opposing armies dug in. The enemies faced each other across a no-man's-land ranging from a few hundred metres in width to several kilometres. During this phase of the war, and until the cease-fire of 27 July 1953, bloody battles raged for strategic high ground.

Battlegrounds such as the Sami-chon Valley, hills numbered 187, 227, 166, 113, 159, 355 and 'The Hook' rank prominently in Korean War Canadian

military history.

The fighting ended with the signing of the Korea Armistice Agreement on July 27, 1953. but no formal end to the Korean War was ever concluded.

A Military Demarcation Line was fixed and the opposing armies withdrew two kilometres from the line to establish a buffer – the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

The peacekeeping years began with constant observation and patrolling of the 244 kilometre DMZ. The buffer stretched from the Yellow Sea on the west coast of the Korean peninsula to the Sea of Japan on the east coast.

The Canadian sector included some of their former battlegrounds such as Hill 355, a permanent monument to courage, battle and bloodshed.

Canada's contribution may have been a small portion of the total UN effort, but it was considerable in proportion to our population. In total, 26,791 Canadians served in the Korean War and another 7,000 served in the theatre between the cease-fire and the end of 1955. The names of 516 Canadian dead are inscribed in the Korean War Book of Remembrance.

The troops contended with the same natural elements as that of their predecessors – summer heat, dust, torrential rains and the freezing cold of winter. And in concert, the knowledge that theirs was a dangerous mission; for if the North launched another full-scale invasion, the likelihood of their survival would be extremely doubtful. .

The RCAF made its final transport flight to the Far East in June 1954 and the last RCN ship left Korean waters in September 1955.

The Canadian brigade's operational role in Korea ended on November 8, 1954. The Second Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada left for home on April 6, 1955 – the last Canadian infantry battalion to serve in Korea.

By February 1956 there were only about 40 Canadians remaining in Korea; all members of the Medical and Dental Corps. The last to leave was the Canadian Medical Detachment, which sailed from Inchon on June 28, 1957.

The cease-fire still holds, although at times badly battered by innumerable violations of the Armistice Agreement by the North, ranging from fire-fights in the DMZ (and tunnels dug under it) to confrontations

at sea.

After 49 years the DMZ is still patrolled; a duty shared by U.S. and ROK troops. Korea is located in northeast Asia, which lies south of Russia and China. Its southern tip is within 120 kilometres of Japan, and the two are separated by the Sea of Japan. Korea is separated from China on the west by the Yellow Sea.

South Korea erected a monument bearing this inscription:

"We'll never forget you brave sons of Canada" in English, French and Korean, along with the names of the 516 Canadian soldiers who died serving in the Korean War. The design also conveys the message of peace, the goal of all who served in Korea.

There are no weapons or symbols of war depicted.

South Korea is located below the 38th Parallel. Its official name is the Republic of Korea, and the capital city is Seoul. Korea is located in northeast Asia, which lies south of Russia and China. Its southern tip is within 120 kilometres of Japan, and the two are separated by the Sea of Japan. Korea is separated from China on the west by the Yellow Sea.

Korea is known as the "Land of the Morning Calm," but its history has been far from peaceful.

Notes -

The above information was gleaned from a Korean Veteran's Association website at www.kvacanada.com

A Lacombe family member died in the conflict

