



The Lacombe Legion



Volume 12 - Winter

Zone 3 District 4

Winter - 2004



60 Years Ago - June 6, 1944

The French Consul General in Alberta is hosting a special lunch and reception at the **Museum of the Regiments** on Sunday June 6, 2004 at 12:30 p.m.

The purpose of the two events is to honour veterans of our three services in this area who took part in in the D-Day, or subsequent operations during the June and July liberation of Normandy. They and their spouses will be requested to join the Consul General of France and other dignitaries such as the Consul Generals or other Consulates staff of the 8 other countries who participated in the liberation of Normandy.

Thirty French Air Force pilots will fly from the Cold Lake airforce base to attend the festivities. Letters will be read, and especially one from the Mayor of Caen in Normandy.

There will be two choirs, the Calgary Highlanders Pipe and Drum Band and a large Guard of Honour.

The Naval, Air Crew and Air Force Associations are also included in the event.

Please provide Branch at (403) 782-3273 of the name, address and phone number of all eligible veterans no later than April 14, 2004.

Branch Events

April 4 - Zone 3 Rally - Bashaw
Bus leaves at 11:30 a.m.

April 7 - Vimy and Awards Dinner.
Cocktails 5:30 p.m.
Dinner 6:00 p.m.
No charge to members.

April 30 - A Garage Sale will be held in the Legion Hall.

Bring your saleable treasures, both new and old!

Time - 10:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Each table will rent for \$10.00.

May - Veterans Afternoon Tea.
Veterans are invited to bring their 'significant other' to this special event.

May 2 - District Rally - Innisfail
Check the bulletin board

May - Vets Night.
This annual event is a special project of the Ladies Auxiliary!

We take pride in honouring all local area veterans with a dinner on the anniversary of the end of WWII.

The ranks are thinning, but about 60 veterans come to enjoy the company of "Comrades-in-Arms" and old friends.

This is an open invitation to all veterans, not only Legion members! Korean War veterans and Peacetime veterans are also included.

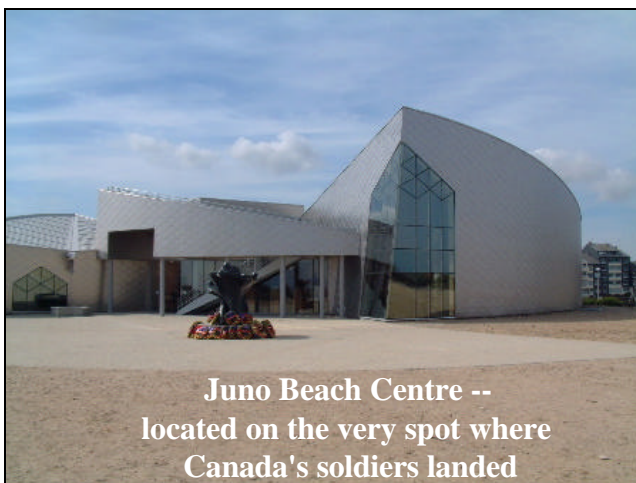
May 28 - Innisfail - Service Officer Seminar for all Veterans.

Jun 19 - Zone Golf Tournament - Lacombe.

Jun 26 - District Golf Tournament - Sylvan Lake,

Oct 3 - Zone Rally - Consort.

Check the Branch bulletin board for details



Juno Beach Centre --
located on the very spot where
Canada's soldiers landed



Sick and Visiting



- ” Veteran and Comrade “Chuck” McIntyre is in the Lacombe hospital.
- ” Branch member Roy Richmond is home from hospital.

We wish for you a speedy and full recovery

Doris Ahlquist, Chairman

Did you know Zone 4 has combined with Zone 3? It now has 9 branches with Lacombe on the west and Consort on the east! Brenda Campbell from Big Valley is the Zone Commander.

Lacombe Legion Branch #79

Branch Hours

Monday to Saturday inclusive 3:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Weekly Activities

Monday	Bingo	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Youth Council	4:30 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

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



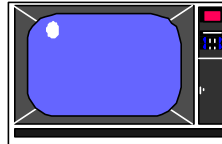
Lest We Forget

Veteran Ivan Stonehocker, DFC

Born March 23, 1918
Passed away March 8, 2004

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

T.V. Raffle



A 32" Panasonic TV is being raffled off on May 1, 2004.
Tickets \$2.00 each.
Only 1,000 tickets printed.
Tickets available at the Lounge.



Veteran's Affairs Canada
Client Toll-free Contact Number

English 1-866-522-2122
French 1-866-522-2022



Juno Beach Memorial



Visit us on the Web

The Lacombe Branch # 79 at
www.lacombelegion.com

The Royal Candian Legion at
www.legion.ca



Ladies Auxiliary Notes

Elsie Suter, Reporter

Elsie Suter has returned from Edmonton following treatment and therapy. Welcome back!

On March 22nd several of our ladies played Bingo at the Seniors' Lodge. We do this 5 times a year and always have a nice time. We supply the lunch for every second event.

We will be hosting a birthday party at the nursing home April 13th. We bring cup cakes and ice-cream for all to share and enjoy. Entertainment for the residents is always appreciated.

Three ladies have birthdays in April. This is also the month the Ladies Auxiliary celebrate birthdays with the residents. We attempt to do a Garage Sale on April 30th. Table rent is \$10.00. Contact person is Velma Price, 782-6741. We are hoping for a good response from the community.

We were happy to have Doris Dicknoether and Elsie Suter at our General Meeting. Doris has been house bound all winter. We wish both ladies a steady recovery.

Several ladies will attend the District Rally in Rocky Mountain House May 2nd.

Vets' Night May 12th, will be our night to dine and entertain the vets in our community.

Did you know the Alberta Command of the Ladies Auxiliary gave 112, \$500.00 bursaries to Alberta school children?

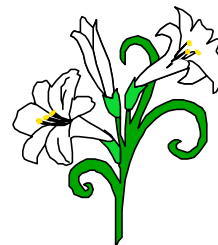
NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE

April 9th is a **National Day of Remembrance** marking the anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The Battle of Vimy Ridge took place in 1917 and was the first time all four divisions of the Canadian Corps went into battle together. At Vimy Ridge, the Canadians did what other allied forces could not, they took Vimy Ridge. The Canadian success earned Canada a separate signature on the Versailles Peace treaty.

This anniversary has always had great significance, but it is only with the recent passage of Bill C-227 that April 9th has become a National Day of Remembrance.

Our challenge is to keep alive the memory of what happened on that ridge 87 years ago, and the memory of those who were there, risking their lives and making the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

The Canadian victory at Vimy Ridge carried a heavy cost. Canada suffered more than 10,000 casualties, of which 3,598 were fatal.



Happy Easter

Sports

The weekend of March 12-14 saw the Lacombe Senior Mixed dart team travel to High Prairie to compete in the Provincial Command Senior Mixed Tournament.

The team consisted of Jim Pratt, Madeleine Babiuk, Faye Chomoway and Rod Oberg with Pauline Oberg as spare. They didn't fare well during the tournament but reported the High Prairie branch #37 were excellent hosts and they had a great time.

Lacombe Branch recently hosted the Bunky Darts Tournament. 17 teams took part coming from Calgary, Red Deer and Lacombe.

During the tournament 4 players shot a perfect score of 180. The Bunky shoot is a memorial to Comrade Harvey Whittaker.

Top prize and trophy was won by a Red Deer team.

We hope to see everyone again next year.

Joyce Bradford, Roving Reporter

Presenting Branch #79 Colour Party

I am presently the Sgt. At Arms of the Lacombe Legion Branch #79. I first joined the Royal Canadian Legion in 1972 with Innisfail Branch # 104, which was my father's branch, after the Dominion Command allowed Sons and Daughters of Veterans to join the Legion, I was a member of Innisfail Branch until 1992.

In 1992, I transferred to Slave Lake Branch # 110. While a member of Slave Lake Branch, I served for a six-month period as 2nd Vice President and Bar Chairman, until moving back to Red Deer. While I was with Slave Lake Branch, I received my 20-year service pin.

I took a break as a member of the Legion from 1995 to 2000, when my wife and I joined Lacombe Branch # 79.

I have served two terms on the executive of the Branch as Bar Chairman and as Publicity Chairman.

Along with belonging to the Legion, in 1975, I joined the St. John Ambulance Brigade and served as Duty Officer putting in over 500 hours of volunteer time in the first two years with them. In 1980, I received a commission to 2nd Lieutenant and in 1982 was promoted to Divisional Officer and received



my commission to Lieutenant.

In 1986, I left the Brigade and became the Area Staff Officer and was promoted to Major, in charge of Area Administration. After, I joined the Branch committee and served as Publicity Officer.

In 1987, I became President of the Central Alberta Branch of St. John

Ambulance and served as President until 1989 to return to University.

In 1988, I received my decoration of the Order of St. John from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. In 1991, I received a degree of Bachelor of Business Operations from DeVry University in Phoenix, Arizona.

I am presently employed with Owen Gris Gun as Quality Assurance and Safety Assistant and have been with them for over 4 years.

I am married to Joan (nee Bottomley) and have 3 stepchildren and 4 grandchildren.

Doug Handford, M. StJ., B.Sc.

I am Flight Sergeant Sarah Pierrard of 24 Royal Canadian Air Cadets in Red Deer, Alberta.

My cadet career started in September of 1999. Being in the cadet program has been exciting and is a 'lifetime' experience for me. In cadets we have so many opportunities to do unusual and exciting things. How many people can say they have sat in the cockpit of a F-18 fighter jet, or flown in a Griffin helicopter? I have!

During the summer there is a variety of summer camps available to cadets. I personally have been to the 2-week Basic Course that every cadet takes. You learn the basics of everything involved in the cadet program, like swimming, sports, flying, shooting, and of course the class room stuff: leadership, effective speaking, and so on.

I have also been on the Introduction to Leadership course. This was a 3-week course where we learned leadership techniques of being a good leader. We return to our squadrons with skills and confidence.

Last summer I was Staff Cadet at Penhold, where I worked in Administration. My job was signing cadets in and out, doing kit checks on people coming and going, and barracks security. That was the best summer of my life! I am hoping to repeat this summer, (my last summer). I will be overaged.

Summer camps are the best thing about cadets. Meeting

with fellow cadets and leaders from all over Canada will give me lifelong friends.

All I have left to say is, "I Love Cadets"!!

Flight Sergeant Sarah Pierrard

My name is Sgt. Kathleen Price. I am an Air Cadet from 24 RCACS Red Deer. I joined cadets about four years ago because my big sister was in it and I thought it would be neat. Turns out I really enjoyed it and have been involved as much as I can ever since.

I am the volleyball coach, I am in the drill team, I have never missed a survival exercise and I try my hardest to attend all fundraisers and tours.

Within my four years of cadet experience I have attended three fantastic summer training courses. In Penhold I have done Basic Band and Six Week Senior Band and in Cold Lake I passed the Survival Instructors Course. This year I am hoping to go on the Senior Leaders Course in Cold Lake. I hope to become a Warrant Officer before I age out and because I am fifteen I still have three years.

I think cadets are an awesome program that needs more youth involved.

Sergeant. Kathleen Price.

60 Years Ago

D-Day

On June 6, 1944, about 21,000 Canadian troops led by its 3rd Infantry Division stormed Juno Beach at Normandy.

June 6 is the anniversary of the D-Day Allied invasion of Nazi-occupied continental Europe, at Normandy, France.

The long coastline in Normandy is strewn with rocks throughout and edged with high cliffs.

The British area of responsibility included Gold, Juno, and Sword Beaches and the Orne River. Immediately to the west were the American areas of responsibility, which included the Cotentin Peninsula and Omaha and Utah beaches.

The Canadian 3rd Infantry Division of the First Canadian Army got the call for Juno Beach. It was about six miles wide and straddled both sides of a small fishing port known as Courseulles-sur-Mer, a resort town and marina. The Canadians were in the center of the British front and were to cut through and form a link between the two British beaches.

The Canadian 3rd Division under the British Second Army was given the responsibility of taking Juno Beach. Juno Beach stretched from St Aubin-sur-mer on the east to half way between the towns of La Riviere and Courseulles-sur-mer on the west.

Goals and Objectives

1. Get the ships to the beaches
2. Land troops, tanks, artillery and the supplies needed to bring the German armies to submission in Normandy.
3. Secure positions far enough inland to:
 - i. Dig in and repel the German counter-attack
 - ii. Allow reinforcements to land safely.
 - iii. Have an advantageous position for an advance into France (Normandy) and on to Germany.

The 3rd Canadian Division's D-Day immediate objectives were to:

1. Get off Juno Beach as quickly as possible.
2. Push inland up to the Caen-Bayeux Highway.
3. Connect with the British forces on Gold and Sword beach.



Juno Beach was divided up into two sectors Mike and Nan. Sector Mike was on the west and Nan sector was on the east. The 7th Brigade supported by the 6th Canadian Armored Regiment (1st Hussars) were to land and control Mike Sector. The 8th Brigade supported by the 10th Canadian Armored Regiment (Fort Garry Horse) landed on Nan sector. The 9th Brigade was to be left in reserve.

Bagpipes played their eerie sound as the Royal Highland Regiment left the harbour in England. They played the pipes on the transports as the waves rocked them to the shore. The bagpipes howled as the Black Watch hit Juno Beach. The bagpipes gave the message to the Germans defending Juno Beach that we may be crazy, but we are coming.

After all the delays, and a night suffering from the rocking boats, the ramps dropped and the Canadians charged to the beach.

It would have been helpful if things went as planned! All the Canadian assault teams were to land following the tanks hitting the shore. An assault team was fortunate to have armoured tank support on the beach. In many cases the tanks did not land until after the Canadians had cleared the seawall and were engaged in street fights in the nearby towns.

“B” Company of the Highland Regiment were fortunate to find the fortifications destroyed by naval fire and were able to move off the beaches quickly and with few casualties. Other regiments of the assault force were not so fortunate.

The Regina Rifles Regiment lost about a half of their fighting force before they got to the beach. The Win-

Winnipeg Rifles Regiment assault teams found the German defenses intact and ready for an attack. They suffered dearly for every step they took to get off the beaches. German defenders cut down Winnipeg's "B" Company to one officer and 25 men by the time they finally reached the seawall (a company has about 150 officers and soldiers).

One of the bravest acts was accomplished by a soldier in a Winnipeg platoon, in an attempt to get off the beach. A pioneer platoon in the Winnipeg infantry was trapped behind barbed wire with no means to get through the wire. One soldier in that platoon threw himself on the barbed wire so the men in the platoon could walk on his back and get to the safety of the seawall.

The attack on Juno Beach is filled with stories of men crawling through minefields and barbed wire, under heavy fire so they could toss a couple grenades into pillboxes. Sergeant Sigie Johnstone of the Winnipeg Rifles Regiment is quoted, "Very few publications ever get the truth of what our Winnipeg infantry faced and did." This applies to all regiments involved in this Juno Beach invasion.

In the first hour of the assault on Juno Beach the Canadian forces would suffer conditions and casualty rates almost identical to what the Americans would suffer on Omaha beach. Once the Canadians cleared the seawall (about an hour after jumping off the transports) they would start to advance quickly inland and have a much easier time subduing the German defenses than the Americans at Omaha Beach.

Once the beaches were secure the Canadians started to steadily move inland. Each platoon was assigned sections to secure. Some of the platoons found little or no resistance in the area while others spent the entire day trying to liberate the towns along the beach.

By noon the entire 3rd Canadian Division was on the beach and used the momentum of the morning to push Germans back. The Winnipeg and Regina Regiments along with tank support penetrated several kilometres inland and gained control of the bridges over the river Seulles.

The North Shore (New Brunswick regiment) faced the day in heavy street fighting trying to capture St Aubin.

St Aubin was finally secured by the North Shore regiment by 4:00 p.m.

After an hour of street fights and silencing enemy guns Courseulles and Bernieres comes under allied control. Later that day the Highland regiment would push ahead of the Winnipeg Rifles to capture Colombiers-sur-seulles.

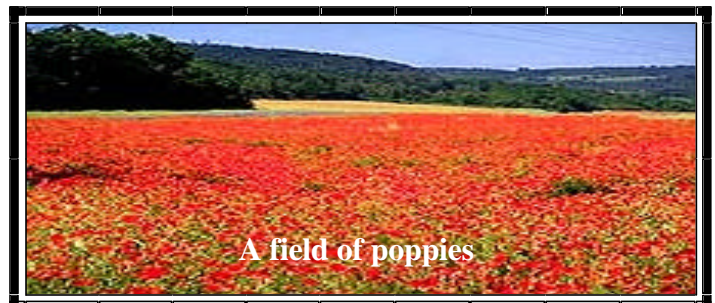
A 1st Hussar Armored Troop was the only unit in Normandy that had reached its objectives. It had pushed 15 km inland and crossed the Caen-Bayeaux highway. This troop had reached the day's objective but were forced to pull back because they had passed the supporting infantry. Without the infantry support the tanks would not have been able to defend against a German counter attack.

At the end of the day the Canadian troops dug in and prepared for a counter attack. A 4 to 7km gap separated the British on Sword Beach and the Canadians on Juno. The next day the German panzer division that had kept the British on Sword Beach busy would counter attack the Canadian and British forces through the gap.

At the end of the day the Canadian 3rd Division was able to join up with the British forces on Gold Beach. Also the Canadians would push farther inland on D-Day than any other army that landed on the Normandy shore. As John Keegan said, "At the end of the day its forward elements stood deeper into France than those of any other division."

Stephen Ambrose concludes that statement with, "**The opposition Canadians faced was stronger than at any other beach except for Omaha. That was an accomplishment in which the whole nation could take considerable pride.**"

L e s t W e F o r g e t



A field of poppies

	It was learned at the Seminar held in the Lacombe Branch for Veterans and other Seniors that transportation and some services can be a serious problem. This information was provided by the F.C.S.S. and the Branch Service Officer for those who may need it.	
Source	Comments	Phone
Lacombe Handivan	Call Mimi Stewart Local round trip - \$4.00 Local/Surrounding Area Transportation is provided for the following groups Handicapped adults and children Elderly (who are over 60 years of age) Infirm (any age with medical transportation needs.)	872-1552
Lacombe Taxi		787-3448
Reddy Cab		782-5900
Parson's Travel	(shopping trips to Red Deer two times a month Cost \$10.00 per person)	782-6341
F.C.S.S. Volunteer Driver	Organizes transportation for people requiring assistance through their volunteer driver program	782-6637
Greyhound Bus Lines		782-4844
RexAll	Free prescription medication delivery.	782-2900
Pharmasave	Free prescription medication delivery.	782-3999
Other Important Numbers		
Source	Comments	Phone
Veterans Affairs	?? Veterans should call Veterans Affairs when in need of information and assistance when hospitalized. ?? Please advise the hospital receptionist that you are a veteran!	1-855-522-2122
Legion Branch #79	Service Officer	782-6441
Emergency	Fire, Police, Ambulance	911
Hospital (Lacombe)		782-3218
Doctor		

Family & Community Support Services (F.C.S.S.)

Executive Director: Brenda Vaughan
 Receptionist: Jennie Cote
 Telephone: (403) 782-6637
 Office Hours: 8:30 - 4:30
 Monday to Friday



Mailing Address
 Lacombe & District
 Family & Community Support Services
 5102B - 50 Avenue
 Lacombe, AB T4L 1K6

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERED

Home Support	Services are available to those who are unable to manage household duties due to disability, frailties associated with age or those recently discharged from the hospital.
Personal Care Aides	Provide certain essential services to seniors, disabled, those recently discharged from the hospital and medically frail who are referred by the DTHR Home Care Program.
Meals on Wheels	Provide hot meals for the frail elderly, those recently discharged from the hospital, the chronically ill, those with mental, emotional or social conditions which make it impossible to prepare adequate meals.
Lifeline	Is a personal response and support system, that supports elderly and/or disabled persons to maintain independence in their own home. Emergency assistance is available 24 hours a day.
Seniors Information	Assists seniors with their applications for government pensions. Also provides updated information about the programs available to seniors and assists with accessing these services.
Volunteer Resources	Serves as an information source on volunteer opportunities available in the community. This service links potential volunteer and volunteer opportunities.
Leaders of Tomorrow Awards	A youth volunteer recognition program recognizes students who have made outstanding contributions to their community through volunteerism.
Family Life Education	Courses and workshops are developed in response to local needs and requests. Types of course that are run are Being Home Alone, Red Cross Babysitting, Personal Directives, etc. Keep an eye out for upcoming courses being offered.
Hire-A-Student	Matches students looking for work with local employers from May - August each year.
Christmas Food Certificate Fund	Provides grocery vouchers for families experiencing financial difficulties during the Christmas season. Santa's Anonymous applications also available.
Healthy Families	A voluntary, early intervention program with regular home visits to support families with newborns, in providing a nurturing, stimulating and safe environment for their children from birth to the age of five.
Tools for Schools	A program that assists children with supplies needed for school. Donations can be made at various locations throughout Lacombe starting July 31st. Cash donations can be made at F.C.S.S.
Public Guardians	Provides a community-based contact for potential and existing private guardians, and assist those potential private guardians referred by the Office of the Public Guardian.
Caring for Children	Funds raised from churches and service organizations provide medical and dental support for children of the community that might go without if assistance were not available.
<i>"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. - Margaret Mead"</i>	

Change-of-Address

Please let the Branch Membership chairman know of your new address. This is important for the Legion to keep in touch with you.

The number to call is (403)782-6441.

