



The Lacombe Legion



Volume 13

Zone 3 District 4

Winter - 2005

2005



75 Years

In 1927, twelve World War I and Boer War veterans attended a meeting at the Atlas Lumber Company in Lacombe, operated by veteran Thomas Wilkes.

At this meeting, they formed the Lacombe Branch of the Canadian Legion *British Empire Service League* (B. E. S. L.). The Branch was officially constituted on January 1, 1930 with fifteen veterans signing the Charter.

To learn more visit Lacombe branch, or the Branch's website at lacombelegion.com.

The Government of Canada has declared 2005 the *Year of the Veteran*. Throughout the year, Canadians will celebrate, honour, remember and teach our youth about the contributions and sacrifice of our veterans.

Every year is an important year to honour veterans and their service, and 2005 is especially meaningful because it marks the **60th** anniversary of the end of the Second World War; and the Government of Canada is developing a new Veterans Charter that will better support releasing Canadian Forces members and their families who are re-entering civilian life.

Donations to Our Community (Year 2004)

- ☞☞Lacombe Municipal Ambulance
- ☞☞Big Brothers / Big Sisters
- ☞☞Canadian Cancer Society
- ☞☞Lacombe Senior 'Slo-Pitch'
- ☞☞Bursaries (3 students)
- ☞☞Poster / Poem-Essay Contest (21)
- ☞☞Lacombe Public Library
- ☞☞Encounters With Canada (1)
- ☞☞Lacombe Music Festival
- ☞☞Lacombe Outreach School (2)
- ☞☞Lacombe Ringette
- ☞☞Legion Track & Field Camp (2)
- ☞☞Lacombe Minor Hockey (2)
- ☞☞Dolphin Swim Club (Medals)
- ☞☞Youth Bowling
- ☞☞Polio Fund
- ☞☞Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal
- ☞☞Neighbourhood Place
- ☞☞Lion's Community Band
- ☞☞Royal Canadian Air Cadets
- ☞☞Royal Canadian Army Cadets
- ☞☞Youth for Christ
- ☞☞Meals on Wheels

Total

\$12, 946.85



Have you purchased your **Legion Lottery** ticket?

The deadlines are:

Early Bird 11:00 p.m.
February 28, 2005

Final Draw 11:00 p.m.
April 3, 2005.

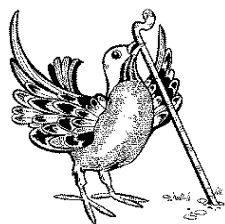
Tickets are
\$25.00 each, or
3 for \$50.00.

Please remember to include "Lacombe

Branch #79" in the space provided. A share of the proceeds will be allocated to the Branch.

To obtain tickets please call the Branch at (403) 782-6441, or the Lottery centre at phone 1-877-444-6001.

Help the Legion to help the Community!



Earlybird Draw

Congratulations to this year's winners of a **free Legion membership** for year 2005!

September	Penny Henkel
October	Val Brick
November	Rod Oberg

Welcome

Ken Fordyce has replaced Bernice Daze as the Branch bookkeeper.

Welcome aboard, Ken!

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	Fun darts	7:30 p.m.
	Youth Council	4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Cribbage	7:00 p.m.
Friday	Meat Draws	6:30 p.m.
Thursday	Action Group	3:00 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 Tuesday	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 site	lacombelegion.com

Sick and Visiting



President Rod Oberg
Welcome back!

Comrade George Damant,



We Will Remember Them



Comrade Donald Dahm

Passed away January 1, 2005

Comrade R. D. H. 'Curly' Ellis

Born July 18, 1915
Passed away December 23, 2004

Veteran Bernard William Duffy

Born June 14, 1914
Passed away December 31, 2004

The Lacombe Branch #79 offers heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families.

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

Sports

Congratulations to

Cheryl Swarbrick **Joyce Bradford**
Al Bunn **Gord Kelly.**

They are advancing to the **Provincial Command Senior Mixed Dart Competition** on March 11, 2005.

The Lacombe Branch is hosting **Alta/NWT Command Mixed Curling** February 10, 11, 12, 13, 2005.

Volunteers are needed to assist with some of the duties.

Contact Dave Swarbrick at phone 782 6441.

Dart games are held every Tuesday at 7:30 pm sharp.

Everybody is welcome.

Help ~~Wanted~~ Needed

Are you interested in producing the Branch newsletter?

Please call President Rod Oberg or any executive member for information.



Ladies Auxiliary

Elsie Suter, Reporter



Front row: (left to right)
 Carol Albers, Treasurer; Trudy Friesen, 2nd Vice President;
 Joan Robak, President; Emma Miller, Secretary.
 Back row - (left to right)
 Elsie Suter, Onagh Lidster, Gwen Duffy, Edith Hustad, Is-
 abel Dermott, Eva Whittaker

Ladies Auxiliary Yearly Report

The new Executive members for the 2005 year are:

Officers

<u>President</u>	Joan Robak
<u>Vice-President</u>	Trudy Friesen
<u>Secretary</u>	Emma Miller
<u>Treasurer</u>	Carol Albers
<u>Past President</u>	Jean Bruns

Executive

Ellen Fannon	Onagh Lidster
Elsie Suter	Gwen Duffy
Edith Hustad	Sandy Pratt
Eva Whittaker	

Chaplain	Isabelle Dermott
Sgt.-At-Arms	Gwen Duffy
Phone Committee	Edith Hustad Onagh Lidster

- Some of the things that the L.A. did in year 2004:
- ☞☞ Catered to many funeral lunches,
 - ☞☞ Catered to a number of dinners,
 - ☞☞ Assisted at the Branch's Monday Night Bingos,
 - ☞☞ Sponsored 5 bingos at the Seniors' Lodge,
 - ☞☞ Sponsored a bingo and birthday party at the Nursing Home,
 - ☞☞ Served the Branch's yearly "Vimy Night" dinner,
 - ☞☞ Served our Annual Veterans Dinner",

☞☞ Assisted the Branch in the "Remembrance" visitations to the Lacombe and District Schools. After the Remembrance Day service, the L.A. served snacks at the Branch during the afternoon, then served a pot-luck supper to members and guests. A special "Thank You" to the Tru-Value Hardware. for donating a large hamper. The L.A. filled and raffled it at the Remembrance Day pot-luck supper.

The Ladies Auxiliary conducted their annual fall "Bazaar and Bake Sale". A special thank you to the local I. G. A. and Co-op stores, the Lacombe Flower Shop and Pharmasave for their generous donations to the raffle. Also, we thank the Lacombe Globe and other Lacombe businesses for their unfailing support.

New members are welcome to join.
 Please contact Joan Robak phone (403) 782 3905.

*A cheery "HELLO" to all
 who are "UNDER THE WEATHER".*

Ladies Auxiliary Donations To The Community

- ☞☞ Heart and Stroke Foundation,
- ☞☞ Lacombe Diabetes Association,
- ☞☞ "Star" Ambulance,
- ☞☞ Salvation Army,
- ☞☞ Nursing Home Recreation. Board,
- ☞☞ Lacombe Regional Hospital,
- ☞☞ Lacombe Organized Sports,
- ☞☞ Arthritis Society,
- ☞☞ Lacombe Christmas Food Certificate Fund,
- ☞☞ Busaries to two (2) deserving students.

\$2,200.00



Visit us on the Web

The Lacombe Branch # 79 at
www.lacombelegion.com

The Royal Candian Legion at
www.legion.ca

**"A person needs just three things in this world
 to be truly happy;
 someone with whom to share love,
 something to do and
 something for which to hope."**



Branch #79 members and other groups visit the Blackfalds schools during Remembrance Week.



The Poppy Campaign

Thank you

On behalf of President, Comrade Rod Oberg, I thank each and everyone of you who were involved in the Poppy Campaign.

From cooking pancakes for the breakfast on Remembrance Day, waiting on tables; the pot luck supper; the clean-up, the the school visitations, distribution of wreaths and poppies, monitoring and picking up the coin boxes and preparation of the Remembrance Day Service at the Lacombe Memorial Centre..

With Comrade Oberg being ill, I must say I was overwhelmed with the assistance received from so many. Without your assistance we could not have brought that week to the success it was.

Once again, thank you all.

Yours in comradeship,

*Interim Poppy Campaign Chairman and
1st Vice-President
Al Bunn*

Important Phone Numbers
(For All Veterans)

It is recommended that these telephone numbers are included with your "Important Phone Numbers" list . . . and call when you need support!

Veterans Affairs Canada
Client Toll-free Contact Number

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

Royal Canadian Legion
Service Officers

Lacombe Branch (403) 782-6441
AB NWT Command (780) 426-1252

BORED?

Wondering what to do?
Come to the Legion and get involved!

Come in and check the **Bulletin Board** for dates of future events. Suggestions (and your help) are welcome!



Remembrance

Poem, Poster Essay Winners

		
Description	Name	School
Blk & White Poster / Elementary		
1 st	Sean Vanderhoek	Lacombe Christian School
3 rd	Curtis Maetche	Lacombe Christian School
Color Poster / Elementary		
1 st	Jordan Folkerts	Lacombe Christian School
2 nd	Joseph Horvath	Lacombe Christian School
3 rd	Torie Goings	Lacombe Upper Elementary
Essay / Elementary		
1 st	Maryellen Gibson	Lacombe Upper Elementary
2 nd	Amber Copp	Iron Ridge Jr. Campus, Blackfalds
3 rd	Theresa Dankor	College Hts Christian School
Poem / Elementary		
1 st	Tavia Prins	Lacombe Upper Elementary
2 nd	Quinnlyn Howie	Lacombe Upper Elementary
3 rd	Rebecca Epp	Lacombe Upper Elementary
Blk & White Poster - / Senior		
1 st	Jordyn Brandsma	Central Alberta Christian High
2 nd	Amy Wild	Central Alberta Christian High
3 rd	Brandon Bajema	Central Alberta Christian High
Color Poster / Senior		
1 st	Evelin Meyer	Central Alberta Christian High
Poem / Senior		
1 st	Robyn Easton	Lacombe Composite High
2 nd	Kimberly McKnight	Lacombe Composite High
3 rd	Sheri Jackson	Lacombe Composite High
Blk & White Poster / Intermediate		
1 st	Aaron Bomback	Terrace Ridge School
2 nd	Kayla Nielsen	Lacombe Jr. High
3 rd	Tanner Craig	Terrace Ridge
Color Poster / Intermediate		
1 st	Derek Albert	Lacombe Christian School
2 nd	Darby Wasdal	Terrace Ridge
3 rd	Breanna Nielsen	College Hts Christian School
Poem / Intermediate		
1 st	Matthew Wilton`	College Heights
2 nd	Haley Scott`	Lacombe Jr. High
Essay / Intermediate		
1st	Gina Flewelling	Lacombe Jr. High
2nd	Preston Cook	

Reply to Flanders Fields

*Oh! Sleep in peace where poppies grow;
The torch your falling hands let go
Was caught by us, again held high,
A beacon light in Flanders sky
That dims the stars to those below.*

*You are our dead, you held the foe,
And e're the poppies cease to blow,
We'll prove our faith in you who lie
In Flanders Fields.*

*Oh! Rest in peace, we quickly go
To you who bravely died, and know
In other fields was heard the cry,
For freedom's cause, of you who lie,
So still asleep where poppies grow,
In Flanders Fields.*

*As in rumbling sound, to and fro,
The lightning flashes, sky aglow,
The mighty hosts appear, and high
Above the din of battle cry,
Scarce heard amidst the guns below,
Are fearless hearts who fight the foe,
And guard the place where poppies grow.
Oh! Ssleep in peace, all you who lie
In Flanders Fields.*

*And still the poppies gently blow,
Between the crosses, row on row.
The larks, still bravely soaring high,
Are singing now their lullaby
To you who sleep where poppies grow
In Flanders Fields.*

- John Mitchell

Poppy Campaign

Legion volunteers who assisted in the judging of posters, essays and poems:

~~George Damant~~
~~Min Richmond~~
~~Bud Aalstad~~
~~Doris Ahlquist~~
~~Gerry McIntyre~~
~~Glen Miller~~

Coffee and donuts were supplied as well as a noon lunch.

**Thank you
for your time and patience.**

George Damant, chairman



Special Licence Plates for Alberta Veterans

Alberta veterans have an extra reason to mark Veterans Week this year. The Province of Alberta and Alberta-NWT Command of The

Royal Canadian Legion, together with representatives of other veteran's organizations, have worked out the details around the issuance of a distinctive "Veteran" license plate for Alberta's driving veterans. This historic event is the result of extensive work by the Legion to give recognition to both war and peacetime veterans who qualify under the Veteran Affairs Canada definition of a veteran.

Qualified drivers of private cars, light trucks and motor homes can now apply through the Legion for a newly designed plate that includes the word "Veteran" and a "blood-red poppy", the universal symbol of remembrance. The poppy replaces the Alberta's flower symbol - the prickly rose.

Plates are expected to be available about mid February, 2005. Government Services has also announced that the regular fee for a plate exchange will be waived until January 31, 2006.

Alberta-NWT Command of The Royal Canadian Legion has accepted the responsibility of validating application.

Application forms are available at all Alberta Registry Agent offices.

Alberta is the 4th province to produce a special vehicle licence plate for veterans.

Why are my dues \$35.00 per year?

Per Capita Tax Rate

Provincial Command	\$10.50
Legion Magazine	\$ 7.49
Dominion Command	\$ 6.15
Sub-total	\$24.14
Branch Operations	<u>\$10.86</u>
Total Dues	\$35.00

Year 2005

will be:

✍️ **The 60th Anniversary** of the end of WWII
- a time to celebrate our freedom!

✍️ **Year of the Veterans**
- honour the Veterans of war and peace.

✍️ ✍️ **The 75th Anniversary**
- for Lacombe Branch #79!

✍️ ✍️ **Alberta's Centennial year.**

✍️ ✍️ **44th Biennial Convention.**
The Royal Canadian Legion
- Alberta / Northwest Territory Command.

Veteran Affairs Canada *Our Mission*

To provide exemplary, client-centred services and benefits that respond to the needs of veterans, our other clients and their families, in recognition of their services to Canada; and to keep the memory of their achievements and sacrifices alive for all Canadians.

Some graphics and articles were obtained from Internet sources.

Have you paid your 2005 dues?

A college student challenged a senior citizen, saying it was impossible for their generation to understand his. "You grew up in a different world," the student said. "Today we have television, jet planes, space travel, nuclear energy, computers.

Taking advantage of a pause in the student's litany, the geezer said, "You're right. We didn't have those things when we were young; so we invented them!.

What are you doing for the next generation??"

Legion Sunset Campground Report

2004 was a busy year at the Sunset Campground, as usual Brian and June were kept busy with their many and varied duties. They have continued to represent us at Legion #79 as well as themselves, anyone who has stayed there will agree it is an extremely well organized and CLEAN campground.

There have been rumours going around that we have been contemplating installing power to the seasonal sites. This is false! This initiative would be very expensive. There is the problem of charging for the power usage. Many people may decide to leave and we become liable for the bill. This could be the downfall of the Campground itself.

Anyone who has been to the Campground in 2004 may have noticed the new Playground equipment that was installed in the Spring. The new equipment which is much safer and more up to date than the old, was erected on the site of the old playground at the north end near the boat launch.

Water lines were installed to areas of the Campground which did not have this service. This will make it more pleasant and easier for the campers.

We have gravelled the playground campsites. Over the years the gravel gets moved around and / or sinks into the ground, therefore, gravel was trucked in and spread around all the firepits. This made campsites that were more functional and

"Crisis - the Chinese write the word with two characters; one means danger, but the other means opportunity!"

The Royal Canadian Legion 44th Biennial Convention

Alberta - Northwest Territory Command

☞ Saturday June 11th

☞ Sunday June 12th

☞ Monday June 13th

The Royal Canadian Legion
3310 - 50th Avenue
Red Deer AB
T4N 3X9

cleaner.

For your information all purchases and improvements at the Campground exceeded \$30,000.00 for 2004.

Brian and June (operators) are building / repairing picnic tables for the coming year as well as many other duties they perform this time of the year.

We are contemplating, plans for this year I have had campers suggest more sand on the beach, however, there are Government restrictions to this. An alternative may be to plant grass. This would be more environmentally friendly with fewer restrictions.

Brian, June and I will be contacting people on the camping waiting list to ascertain if they are interested in camping. At this time we are unsure of the number of vacant sites we will have as this decision is made after April 1st.

The operators, Brian and June, and I as campground chairman, wish you all a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Happy Camping!

Al Bunn

*Campground Chairman
1st Vice-President*

"Whatever you have to say to people, be sure to say it in words that will cause them to smile and you will be on pretty safe ground.

And when you do find it necessary to criticize someone, put your criticism in the form of a question which the other person is practically sure to have to answer in a manner that he will become his own critic."

- John Wannamaker.

February 14



The Women's Side

Cpl. "Terry" Halberg

My life began on a farm east of Lacombe in the Eclipse district. We moved to Clive when I was in Grade 3 and completed my high school education.

Following my graduation, I moved to Edmonton and worked in Municipal Affairs in the Provincial Government for about 3 years.

A friend and I decided to join the military and joined the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) in 1943.

We enlisted in Edmonton and were sent to Rockcliff (near Ottawa) for basic training (I really enjoyed being on a precision drill squad). With my previous experience as a stenographer, I did not receive other job training and was immediately transferred to the Aylmer,

Ontario air base. This was followed by a transfer to Mt. View, Ontario and a year later I was posted to Toronto. We were allowed to live "off-base" in an apartment. Much of my time in the RCAF/WD I was in the Aerial Mapping Division.

This was a very difficult posting! It was our job to process the discharge paperwork of the returned veterans from the military services! So many were badly injured.

In 1946, we chose to become "civilians" and I returned to Clive. It was here that I met Ole on the following spring and we were married in November, 57 years ago.



Great Britain began recruiting women to the services in 1938.

When the RAF proposed to send members of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (the WAAFs) to Canada to work at air training schools, the Canadian government acted to avoid embarrassment.

The Women's Division (WD) of the RCAF was authorised in July 2, 1941.

Canadian Women's Army Corps was announced and training bases were established at St. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec; Kitchener, Ontario; and Vermilion, Alberta. A year later it was integrated with the Royal Canadian Air Force and renamed the Royal Canadian Air Force Women's Division. The (CWACs) was the first Canadian military branch to accept women. In August 1941, the "Wrens," or Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service, did not begin recruiting until 1942, and grew more slowly. Training establishments at Galt, Ontario, and St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, enrolled 6,718 recruits.

By 1942 17,000 women were serving in all three branches of Canada's military.

The WDs first trained at Toronto's Haverhal Col-

lege, a private girls' school designated as "No. 6 Manning Depot." The first 150 recruits joined in October 1941 and completed

their training on Dec. 1, 1941.

At its height in December 1943 the WD had 591 officers and 14,562 members of all ranks. Over 17,000 women, eight per cent of all RCAF personnel served in the WD by war's end. More than 21,000 served in the Canadian Women's Auxiliary Air Force CWACs.

A key contribution of the WD was operation of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, which trained 159,340 aircrew personnel (including 49,507 pilots) from Australia, New Zealand, England and Canada from late 1939 until March 31, 1945.

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill called the program "Canada's greatest contribution to the Allied victory"; U.S. president Roosevelt called Canada "the aerodrome of democracy."

The WD was disbanded on Dec. 11, 1946 as the Canadian military was drastically reduced.

All the women who served were volunteers, and many sought an active role in the "real" war.