



The Lacombe Legion



Volume 13

Zone 3 District 4

Spring - 2005



WW II Veterans

The Ladies Auxiliary of Royal Canadian Legion Lacombe Branch #79 and the Dutch Community are co-operating in honouring all the veterans of WW II.



The 60th anniversary of the liberation of Holland and end of World War II on May 8, 1945 will be celebrated with a dinner and entertainment. Preliminary plans are to have the event in the Legion Hall on Wednesday, May 11. Comradeship and Entertainment 5:00 - 6:p.m. Dinner 6:00 p.m with more entertainment to follow.

Thank you, Ladies Auxiliary President Joan Robak and John Jager for organizing this event for the veterans in the Lacombe area.

Please phone Joan at 782-3905.

The Legion Branch is planning a special dinner for other veterans at a later date.

Celebrate our freedom



Branch #79 Elections

On June 2, 2005, the Lacombe Branch will be electing members for all executive positions. This is the democratic process in which Canada defended in the wars past. Many people in Iraq risked their lives to vote for 'freedom of choice' and not dictatorship.

This is an opportunity to put your energy into an organization with over 400,000 members across Canada.

Do you have some concerns that need to be heard by others? Do you have suggestions to make this a better Branch? These are critical times for the Legion and other service clubs. This is an opportunity for all who are interested in supporting the Legion and the Community.

Your support is critical to the Branch's survival.

Nominations are accepted on Election Day.

The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

You may want to be on a committee that makes the Legion and community a better place!

- ?? Sports
- ?? Bingo
- ?? Publicity
- ?? Newsletter
- ?? Lounge/Bar
- ?? Pull Tickets
- ?? Web Design
- ?? Membership
- ?? Campground
- ?? Hall & Building
- ?? Sick & Visiting
- ?? Seniors Activities
- ?? Benevolent/Poppy
- ?? Branch Rep Casino
- ?? Ways & Means
- ?? Social & Entertainment
- ?? Community Events Facilitator (New)
- ?? Youth Auxiliary Co-ordinator (New)
- ?? Legion Lottery

The Branch is seeking members willing and able to assist and be part of a Colour Party and Honour Guard at special events and funerals.

There has been a lack of support for this very important Legion responsibility. Very few World War II veterans are able to continue with this important Act of Remembrance.

The time has come when others are needed to maintain the traditions and objectives of the Legion.

Please become a willing volunteer and accept the torch being placed in your hands.

Add your name and phone number to a list of volunteers!

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

Veterans

All veterans are requested to maintain contact with Veteran Affairs Canada.

It is recommended that if you have a disability that can be traced back to your time in the services you may be eligible for a 'Disability Pension'. Hearing loss is a good example. Don't deprive yourself of this assistance to better your life.

You deserve it!

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

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.

Did You Know . . .

that the Lacombe Branch accepts donated equipment to aid the handicapped in Lacombe?

Wheel-chairs, walkers, canes and crutches are then made available at no cost to all veterans, Legion members, their families and community! They are returned to the Branch after use; to be loaned to others in need.

If you know of anyone who has any appliances for the handicapped, please bring them to the Legion. They will be put to good use.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

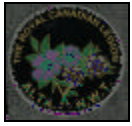
~~Help Wanted~~ Needed

Are you interested in producing the Branch newsletter?

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

Ladies Auxiliary

Elsie Suter, Reporter



Edna Irene Lepine

Born - September 7, 1913
Passed away - March 05, 2005

The Lacombe Branch #79 offers heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Comrade "Slim" Lepine.

The ladies made funeral teas for the late Edna Lepine and for veterans, Bill Hall and Aksel Steffenson.

April 6th We cooked a full meal for Vimy Night with approximately 60 in attendance.

May 11th WW II Vets' Night. All veterans are welcome to attend. Supper will be served at 5:30.

Please make a point of coming early, have refreshments upstairs and take in the entertainment provided.

May 1st Rally at Innisfail Legion. Phone President Joan Robak at 782-3905 if you plan to attend.

June 12th to 15th is the Provincial Convention to be held in Red Deer. Joyce Hunt and Emma Miller will go as our Ladies Auxiliary Branch 79 delegates.

June 27th We will call Bingo again at the Lodge for the residents there. Ladies please bring "goodies".

"Vimy Night" was quite a success. Everyone seemed to enjoy the roast beef, 'veggies' and *super* dessert.

All those members who may be under the weather – remember, we are thinking of you, and hope you will soon be well.

Some graphics and articles were obtained from Internet sources.

Last Post



Veteran Alan Leroy "Bud" Carter

Born - April 30, 1918
Passed away - March 25, 2005

Comrade Aksel Steffensen

Born - August 4, 1918.
Passed away - April 11, 2005

Comrade William "Bill" Hall

Born - March 24, 1925
Passed away - March 24, 2005

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

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



Hospital and Convalescing Comrades



~~✂~~ Mrs. V. T. "Terry" Halberg

~~✂~~ Past-president John Robinson

Comrade George Damant,

Year 2005

~~✂~~ **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.**
- Alberta became a province in 1905.

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



Visit us on the Web

The Lacombe Branch # 79 at
www.lacombelegion.com

The Royal Candian Legion at
www.legion.ca

Branch #79 Years of Service Pins 2005

5 Years

Trevor Alstad
 Jim Bruns
 Les Nieviadomy
 Ed Rice
 John Soderberg
 Jim Pratt
 Toni Swarbrick
 John Reid
 Candy Greff
 Diedre Hogarth
 Gregory Hogarth
 Don Charney
 Bernadette Siermachesky

10 Years

Doug Corrigan
 Stephen Villeneuve

15 Years

Min Richmond
 Deborah J Edlund
 Randy Gimble
 Gord Kelly
 R. Paul Henderson
 Leslie Mullins

20 Years

Doris Ahlquist
 David Friesen
 Richard Gascon
 Terry Halberg
 Babette Dorn

25 Years

Neil Davison
 Kenneth Huston
 Dave Swarbrick

30 Years

Jim Currey
 Gloria White
 Fred Charles Powell
 George Elliott

40 Years

Swen Odland

60 Years

Cliff Swarbrick

Congratulations to all!

Vimy and Awards

On April 9th, 1917 the Canadian Military achieved an enormous victory with the seizure of Vimy Ridge. Branch #79 has annually recognized not only this historical Canadian Military victory, but also the sacrifice of 3,500 soldiers who gave their lives on the road to victory.

Many thanks to guest Sylvia Gillespie who gave a short and informative talk on her emotional visit to Vimy Ridge. Her talk accompanied with photographs described the Memorial at Vimy Ridge and the surrounding terrain, which still bears scars from battles fought over 80 years ago.

Also in attendance was Glenn Brown whose grandfather fought at the Battle of Vimy Ridge. He showed a book and a medallion presented to his grandfather at the unveiling of the Vimy Ridge Memorial in 1936. He offered to show the items to anyone interested. Call him at phone 782 5738.

Honourable Mention our Life members

<i>John Schroeder</i>	<i>65 Years</i>
<i>John King</i>	<i>60 years</i>
<i>Clayton Brown</i>	<i>57 years</i>
<i>John Kangiesser</i>	<i>53 years</i>
<i>Frank Lacey</i>	<i>50 years</i>
<i>Ole Halberg</i>	<i>45 years</i>
<i>Martin Kaufmann</i>	<i>45 years</i>
<i>Jack Thompson</i>	<i>34 years</i>
<i>Gordon Manson</i>	<i>32 years</i>
<i>Bill Suter</i>	<i>25 years</i>
<i>Al Walushka</i>	<i>19 years.</i>

We thank you Comrades for your continued dedication to the Branch and the Community

Joyce Bradford
 - membership
 chairman



**Did you notice the new flag
 on the Branch flagpole?
 It displays the 'blood-red'
 Poppy and under it the words**

Lest We Forget.



Mission Statement

**To serve veterans
 ex-service personnel
 their dependents
 the community
 and Canada**

Vimy Dinner Honours and Awards



On the evening of April 6 the Branch held its Annual Honours and Awards Dinner.

The Branch Ladies Auxiliary served about 60 members and guests. Pins were awarded to members for their years of membership.

We had a special guest speaker, Sylvia Gillespie who visited the Vimy Memorial (in France) during November 2002.

She gave a vivid description of the site and some details of Canadian involvement in the war, and its aftermath.

Extracted from Sylvia's talk:

"It was in April 1917 that the Canadians did what other allied forces had failed to do during the first 3 years of World War I. All four divisions of the Canadian Corp attacked the ridge following a sustained barrage of cannon fire. The Canadians fired 6 million shells into the German lines, half of them in the last 2-3 days before the attack. They engaged the enemy in "hand-to-hand" battle and captured Vimy Ridge in a few hours. This battle was the turning point in the war!

The memorial at Vimy Ridge rests on Canadian land. This 200 hectare site was donated to Canada by the French Government, "A free gift in perpetuity of the French Nation to the people of Canada".

The memorial stands on Hill 145, the highest point of the 14 kilometre-long Vimy Ridge. The site today is overgrown with grass but the pock marked landscape remains. Electric fences and many warning signs are evident as these areas have not been cleared of explosives! The grass cannot be mown because of the ever-present buried shells, so sheep are rented to graze and keep the grass short. They occasionally get blown up.

The site has been reforested with thousands of trees brought from Canada. Each tree represents a soldier who was killed in the conflict.

This monument was sculptured by a Canadian, Walter Seymour Allard and it took 11 years to build. It rests on a base of 11,000 tonnes of concrete reinforced by steel. The towering pylons and sculptured figures contain almost 6,000 tonnes of limestone brought from an abandoned Roman quarry.

The figures are symbolic but the most moving was that of a cloaked figure at the front or east side of the monument overlooking the Douai Plain. This is of a sorrowing woman, young Canada, mourning her dead. It was carved from a single 30 tonne block and is the largest figure on the monument.

The Vimy Memorial is inaccessible from January 2005 to 2006 as much needed repairs are being made.

Statistics do not tell the story of the agony and suffering of those in battle or their families!

For the record:

- ~~66,655~~ were killed in WW1.
- ~~11,285~~ Canadian "Unknown Soldiers" killed in France.
- ~~3,598~~ killed at Vimy Ridge.
- ~~10,602~~ casualties.
- ~~7,000~~ buried in about 30 cemeteries in a 16 kilometre radius from Vimy.
- ~~20-30~~ people are killed in the surrounding area from unexploded shells each year.

The Monument was dedicated in 1936 by Betty Woods a Silver Cross mother representing the mothers of Canada at the ceremony. She had 12 members of her family in the war and lost 8 sons.

At the base of the memorial are these words: "To the valour of their countrymen and in memory of 60,000 dead, this monument is raised by the people of Canada".

Farmers in the area surrounding the memorial have set aside a corner of each field and fenced it with netting. This is where they place shells, some unexploded, and other debris for disposal. Three children were killed by unexploded shells shortly before the group arrived.

It is estimated that it will take up to 200 years before



Do I Need To "Sign-In"?

The AB-NWT Command Secretary has investigated the Legion's responsibility regarding the sign-in policy.

For our information, Branches are all covered under Class "C" licenses and the access rules are:

All guests and members from other Branches must be signed in.

Members of the Branch are required to sign-in. This change was decided at the General Meeting of May 5, 2005.

Please conform to this requirement and reduce the possibility of legal problems for the Branch . . . and yourself!

AB/NWT Command Curling

- 1st #285 Calgary
- 2nd #79 skip - Rod Oberg
Sharon Pahl
Ted Lembicz
Elaine Oldford
Spares - Ron Barnes
Pauline Olberg
- 3rd #285 Calgary
- 4th #79 skip - Lee Loeppky
Ruth Hoppus
Ken Hulse
Josie Hulse
Spare - Dave Chomoway
- 5th #223 Sundre
- 6th #264 Calgary
- 7th #79 skip - John Robinson
Colleen Robinson
Lee Smith
Bernice Daze
Spare - Al Bunn

A good time was had by all!

Canada's Military History (by month)

- 16 January 1991 Gulf War begins
- 28 February 1991 Gulf War hostilities end
- 25 March - 1885 North-West Campaign
- 09 April 1917 Battle of Vimy Ridge
- 22 1915 Battle of Ypres begins (1st of three)
- 17 April 1915 Battle of Ypres begins (2nd of 3)
- 20 April 1915 Galipoli (Newfoundland Regiment)
- 29 April 1991 Gulf War official cease-fire
- 03 May 1915 2nd Battle of Ypres ends
May 1943 Battle of the Atlantic (31 U-boats sunk)
- 08 May 1945 Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day)
- 31 May 1902 South African (Boer) War ends
- 25 May 1915 2nd Battle of Ypres ends
- 06 June 1944 Normandy Invasion (D-Day)
- 25 June 1950 Korean War begins
- 01 July 1916 Battle of Somme begins
- 01 July 1916 Battle of Beaumont Hamel
(Royal Newfoundland Regiment)
- 10 July 1940 Battle of Britain begins
- 10 July 1943 Invasion of Sicily
- 27 July 1953 Korean War ends
- 31 July 1917 Battle of Paschendaele begins
(also called the 3d battle of Ypres)
- 04 August 1914 World War I begins
- 07 August Canada announces entry into Korean War
- 15 August 1945 Victory Over Japan Day (V-J Day)
- 19 August 1942 Dieppe Raid
- 02 September 1945 World War II ends
- 03 September 1943 Invasion of mainland Italy
- 08 September 1993 Battle of the Medak Pocket in Croatia
- 10 September 1939 Canada declares war on Germany
- 11 October 1899 South African ((Boer) War begins
- 31 October 1940 Battle of Britain over
- 31 October 1914 1st Battle of Ypres begins 1st of 3)
- 11 November 1918 Armistice Day (World War I ends)
- 12 1917 Battle of Passchendaele ends)(3d Battle of Ypres)
- 30 November 1916 Battle of Somme ends
- 17 November 1914 1st Battle of Ypres ends
(1st of 3)
- 30 November 1916 Battle of the Somme ends
- 10 December 1988 Nobel Prize for Peace awarded to
peacekeepers
- 20 December 1915 Evacuation of Galipoli
(Royal Newfoundland Regiment)
- 06 December 1917 Halifax Explosion

M o v i n g ?

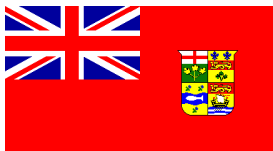
Please advise the Branch secretary when you have a change-of-address and /or a new phone number.

Canada's Symbols

The "Red Ensign" in its many changes was Canada's "unofficial flag" until 1965. It was the ensign that the Canadian military forces identified themselves with.

To learn more about the attempts to retain, or change the Canadian national flag go on the internet to

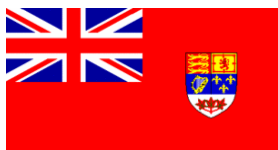
www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Red_Ensign



1907 - 1921



1922 - 1957
(green maple leaf)



1957 - 1965
(red maple leaf)



1965 -

Late Breaking News

This information was received at the District 4 Rally held in Innisfail on Sunday, May 1. There was a very good representation from most of the 28 Branches in this district. 104 Legion members and 2 guest were in attendance.

Thank you, Innisfail Branch for your hospitality.

?? Bev' Gallagher (Bashaw Branch) has been re-elected as the District Commander for her third term. Congratulations, Bev!

?? A Youth Auxiliary has been sanctioned for all branches to review. It is this age group that is having difficulty in finding a place to gather and enjoy themselves.

The Mirror Branch and several Branches in Calgary have accepted this responsibility and it has been a success. This is an excellent way to ensure the Legion survives!

?? The Red Ensign has become an official flag for the Royal Canadian Legion. It will follow the Maple Leaf Flag in importance on flag poles and Colour Party.

The Red Ensign (1922 - 1957) is the emblem under which the Canadians served during World War II and the Korean War.

?? AB/NWT Command announced the winners of the 2004 Literary and Poster Contest. Evelien Meyer, a student at the Central Alberta Christian High School (CACHS) won in the Intermediate class. Evelien claimed First Place for her colour poster. The poster has been entered in the Dominion Command Contest.

We wish Evelien the best of luck!

?? AB/NWT Command has given the Legion a very high public profile. The STARS Ambulance helicopter now displays the Royal Canadian Legion emblem.

?? May21 - 23

Victoria Day Family Campout at Bluffton. All Legion members and families are invited. This is a well organized event with fun for all.

?? June 25

Bowden - 9 a.m. District 4 Golf Tournament \$45.00 for 18 holes. It is a 9-hole course. All other events will be held in the Innisfail Branch #15.

?? July 27

This day has been declared as **Korean War Veterans' Day**. The Korean War veterans are not forgotten in this "Year of the Veteran". The 3-year war was called "The Forgotten War". These veterans struggled to get public recognition and government disability pension!

We must not forget their contribution to world peace.

?? August 6

Olds - Provincial Golf Tournament. \$50.00 per player. Pay for your own cart. This tournament is open to all. See the Bulletin Board in the Branch for details.

?? September 10

Red Deer - Candlelight Tribute. The youth will be paired with a veteran to symbolize "Passing the Torch" to the following generations.

Call Bobbi Hamata at 342 0035, Red Deer Legion, for details.

Branch Events

- May 1** District Rally Innisfail
May 4 Poster and Awards Dinner
May 11 WW II Veterans Dinner
 (Auxiliary sponsored)
June 2 Branch Elections
June 6 - 11 Seniors Fair
 The Lacombe Branch is sponsoring (B - I - N - G - O)
June 12 Veterans Dinner (Branch sponsored)
June 12 - 15 Convention - Red Deer
October 23 Zone Rally - Big Valley

Did you know Branch membership now has 243 members?

Membership is dropping and there is a
very real need for new members.

Become a 'Recruiter'!

Will We Ever Learn?

Will Rogers, who died in a plane crash with Wylie Post in 1935, was probably the greatest political sage the United States has ever known. Enjoy the following:

1. Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco.
2. Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.
3. There are 2 theories to arguing with a woman . . . neither works.
4. Never miss a good chance to shut up.
5. Always drink upstream from the herd.
6. If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.
7. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back in your pocket.
8. There are three kinds of men: The ones that learn by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence and find out for themselves.
9. Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
10. If you're riding' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.
11. Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier'n puttin' it back.
12. After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him. The moral:
 When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.



The mural on the east wall of the Lacombe Branch is of WW I soldiers celebrating the end of the war.

About Growing Older

First ~ Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging.

Second ~ The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Third ~ Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

Fourth ~ When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.

Fifth ~ You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

Sixth ~ I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

Seventh ~ One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.

Eighth ~ One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been.

Ninth ~ Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

Tenth ~ Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf.

And finally ~ If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you are old.