



The Lacombe Legion



Volume 13

Zone 3 District 4

Summer/Fall - 2005

Open House

(November 04 to November 11)

The Lacombe Branch #79 of the Royal Canadian Legion is holding an "Open House".

Year 2005 has a special significance to Canada and its Veterans.

~~It~~ Veterans Affairs Canada has declared this as the "Year of the Veteran".

~~It~~ is the 60th Anniversary of the end of WWII and the Japanese War.

~~It~~ is the 75th Anniversary of Lacombe Legion Branch #79.

The Community is invited to visit the Branch and learn why the the Legion must remain as an integral part of the freedom we enjoy.

Talk With a Veteran

Visit with a Veteran

and learn about the price they and their comrades paid for our Freedom. Bring the children and meet veterans willing to discuss what freedom means to them!

November 04 /05

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Veterans Week

Open House

November 7 - 11

3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

School Remembrance Ceremonies

Legion members

share school-sponsored Remembrance ceremonies.

November 7 - 8 - 9

Remembrance Day

Honour the Fallen and Our Surviving Veterans

November 11

Pancake Breakfast

7:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Parade "Fall-in"

Meet at the Fire Hall if bad weather.

10:30 a.m.

Remembrance Ceremony (Lacombe Memorial Centre)

11:00 a.m.

Comradeship

Share an afternoon and evening with all groups participating in the Parade and Remembrance Day ceremonies.

12:00 Noon - 10: p.m.

Pot Luck Supper

6:00 p.m.

Bring and share a "Pot-Luck" with others.

Free coffee and treats will be available during this Open House and Veterans Week.

Everybody Welcome



Lacombe Branch Executive

June 2005 to May-2006

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

President	Rod Oberg	782-4946/302-2644
1 st Vice President	Glen Miller	782-6896/357-0696
2 nd Vice President	Jack Wallace	340-3846
Secretary	D Hogarth	782-7493
Treasurer	Barbara Burnett	782-7876/782-4088
Past President	Joyce Bradford	782-2886

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Al Bunn	Jim Pratt	Jim Brimacombe
Dwight Baird	Dave Swarbrick	Roy Cleveland

APPOINTMENTS

Chaplain	Shealagh McClelland	784-3367
Sgt-at-Arms	Doug Handford	782-2190
Service Officer	Al Walushka	782-3273

BRANCH COMMITTEES

Membership	Jim Pratt	782-5047
Honours & Awards	Joyce Bradford	782-2886
Hall & Building	Glen Miller	357-0696
Lounge & Bar	Jack Wallace	340-3846
Benevolent & Poppy	Rod Oberg	782-1640
Social & Ent	Jim Brimacombe	782-4204
Sports	Dave Swarbrick	782-0921
Bingo	Roy Cleveland	782-2442
Pull Tickets	Rod Oberg	782-1640
Seniors Activities	Tom Morrow	782-3529
Newsletter	Al Walushka	782-3273
Publicity	Dwight Baird	782-4715
Sick & Visiting	George Damant	782-6518
Legion Lottery	Rod Oberg	782-1640
Campground	Al Bunn	782-5058
Casino	Jack Thompson	782-6022
Community Events Facilitator		

SERVING VETERANS AND THE COMMUNITY



75 Years

Lest We Forget

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.
Thursday	Action Group	3:00 p.m.
Friday	Meat Draws	6:30 p.m.
	Kinsmen meeting games room	6:30 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

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E-mail rcl79@telusplanet.net
Web site lacombelegion.com

*From little towns, in a far land,
we came, to save our honour
and a world aflame;
by little towns, in a far land, we
sleep,
and trust those things we won
for you to keep.*

Thank You

☞☞ **Comrade John Parsons** of **Parsons Holiday Tours** for offering a bus to transport veterans to the Special Dinners at the Legion.

☞☞ **Comrade Tom Morrow** for volunteering to drive the bus and pick up veterans.

Birth of Alberta - 1905



Edmonton's inauguration celebrations began on August 31st, with a grand concert at the Thistle Rink with Governor General Earl Grey.

Inauguration Day, September 1st, featured many speeches, including an address by Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The crowds were also entertained with a parade, horse races, baseball games, lacrosse and polo. The Royal North-West Mounted Police musical ride was a special highlight.

Governor General Earl Grey reviewed the parade and the Mounted Police.

Lieutenant Governor Bulyea was sworn in at noon and received the 21 gun royal salute.

The day ended with an Inaugural Ball, held at the Thistle Rink. More than one thousand guests took part and an orchestra under the direction of Walter Clark provided the music.

Legion Colour Parties



On 26 February 2005 the Dominion Executive Council approved a recommendation by the Ritual and Awards Committee that the Red Ensign (1922-1957

version) be included in all Legion Colour Parties. The Canadian Red Ensign holds a special place in the hearts and minds of not just veterans, but Canadians from all walks of life. This particular version (there were 8) was not the one replaced by the Maple Leaf, but the one just before it, in use by Canadian troops from 1922 until 1957. It flew over Canada during World War II and the Korean War. Henceforth, the Red Ensign will be carried second in order of precedence in Legion Colour Parties.

Flag Poles

Did you notice the 2 new flag poles and flags adjacent to the Branch? We now can fly the Red Ensign and Provincial flags. The additional flag displays the 'blood-red' Poppy and under it the words

Lest We Forget.

It is there for "The Year of the Veteran".

Ladies Auxiliary



Elsie Suter, Reporter



Onagh Lidster

Onagh Lidster passed away September 25, 2005.

Onagh was a very active member of the Ladies Auxiliary, and will be sadly missed.

Prayers were held at the Catholic Church Thursday, September 29, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.

The funeral service was on Friday, September 30, 2005 at 11 a.m.

Lunch followed at the Legion Hall.

We will miss her!

Our kitchen has been busy during the summer months with several funerals and two weddings.

September 26th

Six of us met at the Lodge and hosted 2 hours of Bingo with the residents there. Our ladies served the lunch. We enjoy going there; it is not a chore and everyone seems to enjoy the afternoon.

October 28th

We will do the same with patients in the Nursing Home.

October 18th

We will have our yearly Appreciation Supper. This year it will be at the Lucky Palace at 5:30.

November 5th

We are having a Bazaar upstairs in our Legion hall from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Come and enjoy our "Beef-on-a-Bun", muffins, coffee and refreshments.

Come in and see, or purchase the new items on the Craft & Bake tables.



Last Post

Comrade Don Bradford

Born 1927
Passed away March 25, 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

Veterans

- ~~/~~ Comrade Harry Cleveland
- ~~/~~ Comrade Russ Creasey
- ~~/~~ Comrade John King
- ~~/~~ Comrade Harvey Allen
- ~~/~~ Comrade "Slim" Lepine
- ~~/~~ Comrade Chester Fannon

*Comrade George Damant
Chairman*

Poppy Campaign

Are you willing to perform a valuable service for the veterans and the community?

This is the primary source of funds for assisting so many within our community.

There is a desperate need for persons to assist in the delivery of wreaths and poppies to the business community.

To volunteer, please place your name and phone number on the bulletin board.

Support the Legion and the Community



Sports

Again this year we had a great day for our annual Fun Golf Tourney held at the Nursery Golf Course. A total of 38 golfers played 9 holes and then came back to the Branch for steak dinner and prizes.

Thank you, Dave and Cheryl Swarbrick for organizing this annual event .

Inter-service Clubs Golf Tournament was an unqualified success. The Rotary and Lions Clubs were the winners.

Date

Place

The Dart League started on Sept 13. Everyone is welcome to come out and participate as this is just “drop in”.

Drop by the Branch to check out Zone and District playdowns.

B-I-N-G-O

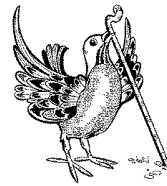
Comrade Roy Cleveland needs more volunteers to assist as “callers” Please call him at 782-6441.

*Dave Swarbrick-
Sports chairman*



Comrade Gordon Manson - “front and centre”

Early Bird



Once again it is time for our **Early Bird Campaign.**

For the months of September, October and November we will have a draw each month for a free membership for Comrades who pay their 2006 memberships early.

Should you choose to mail in your dues your membership cards will be mailed to you!

To avoid losing continuous Branch membership dues must be paid to the Branch by January 1, 2006.

Membership dues are still \$35.00.

*Comrade Jim Pratt,
Membership Chairman.*



Mission Statement

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



**Are you wearing
this pin?**

Were you a member of the Lacombe Branch at anytime during the last 12 years?

They are now called “The Good Old Days”!

We have archived pictures, books, tapes, copies of the newsletter and. other memorabilia.

Come in and refresh your memory.

"In Flanders Field the poppies grow"

. . . and so they will beneath the mural on the east wall of the Lacombe Legion.

This spring Comrades Barbara Burnett and Glen Miller thought it would be perfect if we had poppies planted beneath the mural.

Special red poppies were ordered from Central Alberta Florists. They will mature and flower the second year and will eventually take over the



entire plot.

For this year bright red geraniums were placed adjacent to the wall. Comrade Cheryl Swarbrick generously donated some perennials and annuals to fill some spaces.

Thanks also, to Comrade Dave Swarbrick for bringing the bricks outlining the plot.

Thanks to all for their thoughtful contributions!

Sunset Legion Campground

It has again been another active year at Sunset Legion Campground.

We installed additional playground equipment in the south playground area. We did not install as much equipment at this site as we did last year at the playground near the boat launch due to the expense involved.

In addition we added approximately 35,000 square feet of sod on the beach adjacent to the boat launch. I was concerned at first that the grass would not grow, however, during the wet summer it has grown very well. It seems that the geese in the area are thankful to us for supplying a place for them to lay in the sun and eat at the same time. It has caused a problem, after eating they poop. Brian and June MacIntosh, our Contractors have done an excellent job in keeping the area clean for the campers.

I should at this point thank those who helped Brian and June lay the sod, it took the better part of the weekend to do the job.

The house/office where Brian and June reside needed repairs this year. It seems the squirrels enjoyed playing in the insulation under their home, making nests, carting it away and generally destroying the bottom of the building. As a result Brian pulled all the insulation out from under the building and we had a company that insulates trailers attend and completely insulate the underside of the building. Brian will be installing new skirting around the outside.

At the playground site and at the beach we had sand delivered around the playground equipment and will soon have all the sand delivered at the beach. Each year the water washes away the sand that has been dropped on the beach, therefore, more was required between the water and the new sod. We do realize this will be an ongoing expense every couple of years.

I do not have the entire amount we spent this year at Sunset but it will be close to \$25,000.00. Previous years, not including last year, we did not spend much at this facility, and the expense was well over due. All the money spent comes from the money we receive from the campers. I do believe that to entice people to use our campground you have to make it an attractive place for people to enjoy as a family. The campground is clean, well maintained and this year we received a few letters and many comments on the cleanliness and beauty of our Campground.

Brian and June have done an excellent job in looking after the campground for us. Thank them, for a job well done. Without their effort it would not be the success that is. The campground committee will be meeting with Brian and June in coming weeks to sign another three year contract.

Camping is almost done for another year, lets hope that next year the days will be clear and warm and rain will not fall during the week-ends.

*Comrade Al Bunn
Campground Chairman
Committee members
Comrade Tom Keats
Comrade Roy Cleveland*

???? You Asked ???? ?

Question:

Is it true that only older people belong to the Legions?
(Name withheld.)

Answer:

Since incorporation in 1926 the Legion membership has changed considerably. Legions throughout Canada have many members with young families. Some are taking active roles in their Community through the facilities the Legion provides. Join to participate.



The new beachfront at the Legion Sunset Campground



Vets Night Dinner
with the Dutch Community



Of the 42 veterans, 16 were unable to stay for the photograph

On May 12 2005, 42 WWII Veterans, 69 members from the Dutch community, and 3 guests celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the end of the Nazi occupation and starvation of Holland.

The Ladies Auxiliary of Lacombe Branch #79 and members from the Dutch Community co-operated to host this special celebration. An excellent dinner and a “sing-song” was the order for the evening. Most of the food was supplied by the Dutch community.

The Ladies Auxiliary who did the work were Gwen Duffy, Joyce Hunt, Sandy Pratt, Marg Simpson, Marilyn Nordgren, Trudy Friesen, Evelyn Lewis.

The Veterans were presented with a special lapel pin and a written acknowledgment from the Dutch Consul. A commemorative plaque was presented to Comrade Clayton Brown by John Jager for display in the Lacombe Branch.

We thank Grace Spelt for playing familiar songs from the wartime period on the piano.

We also thank Glen Walushka of Walcom Consulting, Lacombe for operating the sound system and taking pictures during the evening.

The Committee		
Dutch Community	John Jager	Pieta Doornenbal
Ladies Auxiliary	Joan Robak	Marg Simpson
Branch #79	Al Walushka	



Year of the Veteran - 2005

The Canadian Government proclaimed 2005 as the "Year of the Veteran" sixty years after VE Day and VJ Day.

To honour all veterans in our community, the Branch hosted a Buffet Dinner on June 11th. In attendance were approximately 100 veterans, escorts and a few local dignitaries, MLA Ray Prins, Lacombe Globe Publisher, Susan Benjamin and husband. Mayor Judy Gordon sent her regrets that she could not attend due to other commitments.

The guests were escorted to tastefully decorated tables denoting the "Year of the Veteran" by Branch Sergeant-at-Arms Doug Handford. Comrade Handford served wine and punch drinks during the evening.

Service Officer Comrade Al Walushka phoned the veterans and updated phone numbers and addresses in the guest book.

Background dinner music was played by pianist Marilyn Almond from Ponoka.

Comrade Frank Lacey asked the blessing. The dinner was catered by Comrade Barbara Burnett, with helpers, Sylvia Lague, Joyce Hunt and Shannon Vanstone. Comrade Jack Wallace was on hand to carve and serve the “Baron of Beef”.

Toast to the Queen by Comrade Clayton Brown.
Toast to the Ladies by President Rod Oberg.

Speakers were MLA Ray Prins, President Oberg and Comrade Barbara Burnett.

Thank you letters were received from veterans in appreciation of the honour bestowed on them.

I thank all those who helped make this night "Special" and, a big hug to Dana Vanstone who ran errands.

A huge bouquet to Sylvia Lague for running errands all over for me to get just the right decorations.

Photos, video taping and operating the sound system was by Glen Walushka (Walcom Consulting).

Thanks, Glen!

*Comrade Barbara Burnett,
Treasurer*

Special Thanks to Comrade Barbara Burnett and all named persons for volunteering to honour all veterans in the Community with a very special evening and dinner on behalf of the Lacombe Branch.
Thank you for being the reporter for this newsletter!

... One of Our Own

There are numerous Lancaster Bombers worthy of special attention for their service during the Second World War. A few examples are: R-5868, the British built Lanc that flew 144 operations; ED-932, Guy Gibson's aircraft on the Dambusters' Raid; KB-726, the *Lanc* that is honoured by the Andrew Mynarski VC Memorial Lancaster at Canadian Warplane Heritage in Hamilton, and ND-811, the aircraft in which a Canadian, S/L Ian Bazalgette VC, was killed together with two of his crew following a courageous attempt to save his wounded friends.

Of the Canadian built Lancaster, KB-732, VR-X of No. 419 Squadron was arguably the greatest of them all, completing more operational flights against the enemy than any other.

KB-732 was the serial number of the thirty-third of 430 Lancasters that rolled off the Victory Aircraft assembly line at Malton, Ontario during the Second World War. Flown to Britain during April, 1944, the aircraft was assigned to No. 419 Squadron of No. 6 Group, the Canadian arm of Bomber Command. No. 419 Squadron, together with another Canadian squadron, No. 428, was based at Middleton-St. George, about 55 miles north of York. Upon its arrival it had the letters VR-X painted on its fuselage, "VR" being the marking for No. 419 Squadron aircraft and "X" designating this particular aircraft within the squadron.

KB-732 wasn't the first Lancaster to be designated VR-X. Lanc KB-713 carried the markings from April, 1944 until it was shot down during a raid on the railyards at Louvain during the night of May 12/13, 1944.

P/O B.F. Edwards and crew were all killed when the aircraft, known as "X-Ray" was attacked by a

JU-88 enemy nightfighter on the way to the target and crashed at Coxyde, Belgium. KB-732 became the new VR-X on May 15, 1944.

As the new VR-X began regular operations against the enemy, some of its flights were particularly noteworthy.

During the night of June 7/8, 1944, VR-X-terminator, as it became known because of the nose art painted below the cockpit, became the first Canadian built Lancaster to shoot down an enemy fighter.



Comrade "Andy" Anderson, (centre) a former member of Lacombe Branch #79 who passed away on June 12 2004.

The pilot on that flight was F/O Wm. John (Andy) Anderson.

This wasn't the first VR-X the crew had taken out as they had two training flights in their logbooks aboard the former VR-X, nine days before it was lost.

Ten minutes after bombing the railway junction at Acheres, Rear-gunner Sgt. W.F. (Bill) Mann and Mid-upper gunner Sgt. P.F. (Paul) Burton shot down an enemy Junkers-88. According to bomb-aimer Jim Steels, KB-732 was,

"only at 5000 feet and the E. A. (enemy aircraft) was seen to burn on the deck by all of the crew except the navigator, Bill Behan."

Both air-gunners received the DFM (Distinguished Flying Medal) on the following October in recognition of this action. Their citations referred specifically to the night of June 7/8 but went on to state that they had, "displayed notable determination and devotion to duty throughout. On several occasions they have driven off enemy aircraft and in so doing, have displayed great coolness and co-operation."

Andy Anderson's crew completed its last of five operations in KB-732 on July 20, 1944, a daylight raid against a V-1 flying-bomb site near St. Omer.

This article is an excerpt from the
Nanton Air Museum website
www.lancastermuseum.ca.



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 the important **Act of Remembrance**.

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



The Torch is now in your hands.



Visit us on the Web

The Lacombe Branch # 79 at
www.lacombelegion.com

The Royal Candian Legion at
www.legion.ca



Legion - Days to Remember

April 9	Vimy Day
August 9	Peacekeepers Day
August 27	Korea Vets Day
November 6 - 11	Veterans Week
November 11	Remembrance Day

Support Our Troops

Canadian servicemen on missions around the world need our support.

The purchase of Magnetic Car Ribbons raise funds for special gifts 'from home'! They are available for \$3.00 and \$5.00. at the lounge .



Veterans Licence plates

Have you applied for your Veterans plate? Applications must be approved this year.

Forms are available at the Registration Office located in the former town office.

Don't delay!

Signs of the Times!

Sign over a Gynecologist's Office:

"Dr. Jones, at your cervix."

On a Plumber's truck:

"We repair what your husband fixed."

On a Plumber's truck:

"Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber.."

Pizza Shop Slogan:

"7 days without pizza makes one weak."

At a Tire Shop in Milwaukee!

"Invite us to your next blowout."

On a Plastic Surgeon's Office door

"Hello. Can we pick your nose?"

At a Towing company:

"We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want tows."

On an Electrician's truck:

"Let us remove your shorts."

In a Nonsmoking Area:

"If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action."

On a Maternity Room door:

"Push. Push. Push"

At an Optometrist's Office

"If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

On a Taxidermist's window:

"We really know our stuff."

In a Podiatrist's office:

"Time wounds all heels."

On a Fence:

"Salesmen welcome! Dog food is expensive."

At a Car Dealership:

"The best way to get back on your feet -- miss a car payment."

Outside a Muffler Shop:

"No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."

In a Veterinarian's waiting room:

"Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"

At the Electric Company:

"We would be delighted if you send in your payment. However, if you don't, you will be."

In a Restaurant window:

"Don't stand there and be hungry, Come on in and get fed up."

In the front yard of a Funeral Home:

"Drive carefully. We'll wait."

At a Propane Filling Station,

"Thank heaven for little grills"

And don't forget the sign at a Chicago Radiator Shop:

"Best place in town to take a leak"

Some graphics and articles were obtained from Internet sources.