



# The Lacombe Legion



Volume 14

Area "B" District 4

Fall / Winter - 2006

## Happy New Year

... to all members of Branch # 79 in 2007, I hope that the year 2006 was satisfactory for everyone. To all veterans and our members who passed away this past year:



**"THEY WILL BE REMEMBERED  
LEST WE FORGET"!**

As President of our branch, I want to congratulate all our affiliate non-voting members who will become voting members this year. Documentation is being processed to change your membership status to a "voting status" as soon as possible. Please exercise your right to vote by attending our general meetings every first Thursday of the month. Your

guidance for this branch is required to make this branch work. Everything from the flower arrangements in our entry way to the spending of our last dollar for major expenditures is to be voted on and accepted by you, our members.

As President, I guide our executive to follow our General By-Laws and to be accountable for all expenditures.

It is your responsibility, as a member, to report or comment on all actions and or issues that you feel are erroneous, or in contradiction to our by-laws. Changes to improve our branch will only happen if you the MEMBER want them to.

Every member is asked to invite their dependents, upon reaching 18 years of age, to join our branch. Opportunities to volunteer to assist past veterans, their spouses, their dependents and other seniors are available to everyone. Bringing them

flowers, sharing a walk in the park, or a visit are all important. All seniors appreciate and need assistance.

It is my hope that our facility will continue to be offered to all volunteer groups; helping young citizens, veterans and their dependents as well as seniors, on a no charge basis. Other service clubs in our area are also able to use our facilities at a nominal charge to cover fixed costs.

*Glen Miller, President,  
Royal Canadian Legion*

# 2007

## Poppy Campaign

The Poppy and Wreath Campaign was successful this year with a total of \$14,859.50 collected.

We were able to collect this amount thanks to the following members:

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Herb Draney | Jack Thompson |
| Lee Smith   | Faye Chomaway |
| Bill Suter  | Dave Chomaway |
| Tom Morrow  | Jack Wallace  |
| Al Walushka | Bud Alstad    |
| Rod Oberg   | Pauline Oberg |

Working with people like these makes one realize what makes a Legion!!!



## Lest We Forget Park

As has been done for many years, several Branch members placed poppies around the Legion Cairn and the Lest We Forget Monuments.

## School Visitations

School visitations were made by several individual veterans. School Remembrance ceremonies were held at 11 schools and 2 Seniors' Lodges.

Twelve (12) veterans *shared their story* with about 200 school children. World War II, Korean War and Peacekeepers took part.

Three (3) WWII veterans attended a Rotary Club meeting and spoke about some of their wartime experiences.

Having seen at first hand the friendly way the Legion Group was welcomed by the children and teachers at the ten schools we visited makes me realize how the Royal Canadian Legion impacts the community we live in.

**Keeping alive the memory of fallen comrades and surviving members is something we all must maintain**

*Comrade Jim Pratt,  
Benevolent Chairman*

## Lacombe Memorial Centre

**On February 12, 2007 the Town of Lacombe council voted unanimously to retain the previous name of the new building.**

**Let us work together and provide full support for a facility honouring the memory of the fallen.**

**We remember also, war veterans, the police forces, firefighters and all others protecting Canada's and our personal freedom and safety.**

**It is time to be counted as supporters of the LMC!**

# LEST WE FORGET

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**TO SERVE VETERANS  
AND THEIR DEPENDENTS,  
PROMOTE REMEMBRANCE AND  
ACT IN THE SERVICE OF CANADA**

## 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.
2nd and 3d Thursday	Euchre (NEW)	7:30 p.m.
Friday	Meat Draws	6:30 p.m.
	Kinsmen (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	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:rcl79@telusplanet.net)  
Web site [lacombelegion.com](http://lacombelegion.com).

## Legion Sunset Campground

Office (403) 748 2200  
Fax (403) 748 4698



## Veteran Support

### Veterans Affairs Canada

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

## Sunset Legion Campground



2006 was really an uneventful year at the campground. We had a very nice summer weather-wise and I believe that all the campers using our facilities enjoyed themselves.

During the last two years, 2004 and 2005, we spent a considerable amount of money upgrading the beach, playground facilities and the campground residence.

The Lacombe Branch has benefited from approximately \$22,000 received from the Campground Account for future improvements to the Lacombe Legion.

In 2006 we spent approximately \$13,000 for graveling all the sites, roadways, filling pot-holes and generally improving the campground for residents.

At the last General Meeting I requested \$1,200 plus tax and freight to purchase ten aluminum Pet Stands and 1,000 plastic bags (Super-Doooper-Pooper-Scoopers). These stands will be used to hold the bags for dog owners' convenience and campground cleanliness. The bags will be used by pet owners to pick up the dropping from their pets. It is not the campground operator's, or others' responsibility to pick up animal droppings from other people's animals. Full cooperation is expected from pet owners!

The fee for leased campgrounds sites is raised to \$950 per year. The rates will now be the same for all sites. Site leaseholders must keep their area clean. Arrangements may be made with the campground operators for site maintenance.

A valuation review of the chattels inventory was completed. It was agreed to increase the insured replacement value.

We are looking forward to another good year, some rain when needed, warm and dry evenings, and sunny warm days.

Have you been to the Sunset Legion Campground recently? Bring your family and friends to enjoy this award-winning facility. It is a wonderful, clean, family orientated facility for all to enjoy. Come down and appreciate a facility under the care of June and Brian.

The Campground Committee consisting of Comrades Tom Keats, Roy Cleveland and I will be meeting with Brian and June in the coming days to make our plans for this summer.

*Comrade Al Bunn,  
Campground Chairman*



Visit us on the Web

The Lacombe Branch # 79 at  
[www.lacombelegion.com](http://www.lacombelegion.com)  
The Royal Canadian Legion at  
[www.legion.ca](http://www.legion.ca)



## Ladies Auxiliary



**Officers and Executive 2007**

Front Row (l/r):

Carol Albers	Treasurer
Joan Robak	Secretary
Sandy Pratt	President
Emma Miller	1st Vice
Trudy Friesen	2nd Vice

Back Row (l/r):

Velma Price	Gwen Duffy
Elsie Suter	Edith Hustad
Isabel Dermott	
<i>District Commander</i>	
Marlene Ferguson	

### Year-end Report

The ladies had another busy year!.

We provided well over 100 volunteer hours at the Seniors' Lodge and Nursing Home. We organized Bingo and provided prizes, served tea and goodies.

We provided a lunch at over 16 funerals.

We catered at 6 or more functions.

Over 45 WWII vets enjoyed the dinner and entertainment we hosted in May.

As fund-raisers we held a Garage Sale as well as a Bazaar.

We purchased plates and silverware for the Legion kitchen for over \$450.00.

We made donations to several needy groups. :

The HandiVan for Seniors Week; Heart & Stroke; Diabetes; S.T.A.R.S.; Nursing Home recreation department; Bursaries at the High School; Dominion Command Bursaries; Lacombe Christmas Food Certificates; Salvation Army; Arthritis Association, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and others.

We delivered 75 Christmas gifts to the Nursing Home residents.

Donations exceeded over \$2,400.00.

We appreciate what each of our ladies is able to do, but due to poor health and age, the group is losing its members.

We would appreciate hearing from anyone who may be interested in helping us to continue to serve our Legion; and Community.

*Joan Roback,  
Immediate Past President*



### Lest We Forget

**Comrade Harry Cleveland**

**Comrade Steve Hlavoy**

The Lacombe Branch #79 offers condolences to the Families.

*We Will Remember Them*

*Comrade Al Walushka,  
Branch #79 Service Officer*

### Hospital and Convalescing

#### Veterans

Comrade Victor Szabunio

Comrade "Slim" Lepine

Comrade Cliff Swarbrick

Comrade Ole Halberg

Comrade "Terry" Halberg

Comrade Fred Archibald

Comrade John King

*Comrade Herb Draney  
Chairman*

### Support Our Troops



War has not affected the Canadian citizen for many years. We are again facing the threat even though the conflict for freedom is being waged half-way around the world.

Effective 1 January 2007 the Dominion Executive Council (DEC) has authorized all members to wear the "**We Support Our Troops**" pin on the right lapel of your jacket and Legion blazer.

They are available at the Branch during business hours.



Wear a **Red Shirt** on every Friday. When you are asked explain that this is another way the Royal Canadian Legion tells the public we support the troops defending our freedom.

**This is something we can do!**

### Did you know?

ANZAC Cookies are now available in Wal-Mart stores and selected Giant Tiger stores across Canada.

The producers of ANZAC Cookies supports the Legion by donating a part of the proceeds from the sale of their cookies to the Royal Canadian Legion.





## Sports

**T**he Games Room is very active and is used by several community groups.

Cards games such as Cribbage, Whist, Euchre and Bridge are part of the activities.

There are eight dart boards, a shuffleboard, a pool table and a foosball table for enjoyment.

A wide-screen, Plasma Screen TV has been donated to the Branch.

*A very special 'Thank You' to the Lacombe Kinsmen Club for donating a wide plazma-screen TV and a Foosball Game table for Legion and community use.*

### Cribbage

Wednesday Cribbage night is doing very well with approximately 30 people attending.

### Euchre

A popular card game, Euchre, has been accepted by AB/NWT Command as a competitive event.

Interest in Monday Night Euchre is growing. The first tournament was held recently in the Lacombe Branch. Twenty eight players from several close-by Legion branches took part.

Lacombe Branch hosted the District Euchre January 21. Twelve teams attended. Comrades Faye Chomoway and Joyce Bradford represented the Lacombe Branch.

Better luck next time!

### Darts

*Tuesday Night Darts* has between 20 to 30 people attending. *The Senior Dart Team* did not make it to District Level.

One *Mixed Dart Team* made it to District Level. The team of Joe and Donna Cunningham, Toni Kind and Dave Swarbrick won 1<sup>st</sup> place at Bashaw. They are proceeding to Command Mixed Darts in Innisfail February 23.

District Legion Darts were held in Lacombe on January 27. Two teams from Lacombe entered the competition.

### Golf

Drop by the Branch for information about Command Golf and the Lacombe Branch tournaments usually held in August.

Come on down and enjoy Legion activities!

*Comrade Dave Swarbrick,  
Sports Chairman*

### Other Events

A parade float is entered where and when required. Thank you, Cheryl Swarbrick for the many years you organized this event.

On a trial basis, Tom and Florence Morrow are organizing a Legion Coffee Break. The doors are open to the community every second Wednesday mornings between 9:00 am and 11:00 am.

For details call the Legion at 782 6441 or the Morrrows at 782 3529.!

## Committee Reports



## Hall and Building

**L**egion facilities are available to community and charitable groups at negotiated rates.

The Ladies Auxiliary is proud of their commercial-style kitchen and is making good use of the facilities.

A State of the Art sound system was installed in 2006.

Handicap-accessible chair lifts are now installed and operating and enabling access to all levels.

Plans are being prepared to improve the lower level.

The east entrance, the kitchenette, serving area and handicap accessible washroom facilities will be completed soon..

The main hall windows will be modernized.

Improved hall lighting is also on the agenda,

The improvements will be make the Legion facilities even more useful for the community!

*Comrade Brian Brant,  
Hall and Building Chairman*

### Seniors' Events

The Legion invited Seniors to share in two different bus trips.

The first trip toured the Legion Branches in Olds, Sundre and Caroline. About 40 Seniors took part.

The second trip included Legion branches in Millet, Wetaskiwin and Leduc. About 35 Seniors took part in this trip.

Branches visited expressed appreciation for including them in this comradeship event.

Thank you to the bus drivers. A good time was had by all.

*Comrade Tom Morrow,  
Seniors Events Coordinator*

### Lounge

The Lounge continues to be active for those who appreciate a place to enjoy a beverage in a quiet atmosphere.

Yes! To enter the lounge, you must be a Legion member and sign-in. A guest must be in the company of a Legion member and also sign in. This is the Law!

There are two satellite television sets placed diagonally apart for separate program viewing.

A single dart board is available for members and guests.

Celebrate your birthday parties in the Lounge.

Smoking is permitted in this area.

*Comrade Dwight (Dewey) Baird,  
Lounge / Bar Chairman*

## Welcome!

We welcome **Sandra Shaflik** as the Branch Secretary and **Brian Brant** as the Hall and Building Chairman.

They will serve until the new elections in June of 2007.

## Legion Breakfast

This had been a very eventful year. Our monthly breakfasts that began January 16, 2006 are still going strong. Thanks to the volunteers who help faithfully to make this happen. With these funds we bought a few kitchen items, a new microwave, and did a few other things.

**Thank all of you who supported our breakfasts.**

Breakfasts for the year 2007		
January 14	February 11	March 11
April 15	May 06	June 10
July <i>No breakfast</i>	August <i>No breakfast</i>	September 9
October 14	November 11	December 9



As Lacombe Legion Branch Archivist and with the help of Comrade Susan Churchill, we have designed a Wall of Remembrance of Lacombe area servicemen and women who gave the supreme sacrifice. This memorial was placed on the north wall in the main hall

New picture frames were made to accommodate pictures of veterans, who served Canada and lived, or are living, in Lacombe. There are now four large picture frames on the south wall of the main hall.

Comrade Susan Churchill and I did extensive research on Lacombe area's fallen heroes. We compiled available information on individuals into a Book of Remembrance. It was presented to the Branch on November 11, 2006.

A second book was created to remember Lacombe Branch Ladies Auxiliary members who have been laid to rest. The records will be revised as necessary .

The Book of Remembrance and the Lest We Forget books make a real find for any genealogist who is researching any military personnel or Ladies Auxiliary member in this area. If you know anyone that has served our country in this area, and their picture is not included in our display of service personnel, please contact me through the Legion 782-6441.

Once again, I'd like to thank all those who have helped me with my various projects. Without the volunteers we would not have a Lacombe Legion branch.

**Hope you all have a good year.**

*Comrade Barbara Burnett,  
Branch #79 Archivist*

## Membership Matters

Have you paid your Year 2007 dues?

The Lacombe Branch #79 membership fee is now \$40.00.

The per capita rate for 2007 for all members in the Alberta-NWT Command is \$29.57.

Per capita tax is allocated as follows:

\$11.50 – Alberta-NWT Command

\$7.42 – Legion Magazine (A real bargain)

\$10.65 – Dominion Command

\$10.43 is retained for Branch operations and maintenance (and mailing Newsletters)!

Comrades Cheryl Swarbrick, Faye Chomoway and I are updating Branch records. The names and service records of veterans who pass away need to be recorded. This information will acknowledge the veteran's service in the Last Post section of the Legion magazine. If you have documentation, newspaper clipping, etc., of deceased veterans please bring it to the Legion.

Some members have paid for, but not received, their 2006, or 2007 membership cards. Dominion Command has completed their transfer of computer based membership records and the new cards will be arriving soon.

When completing Membership Application forms, please enter all information requested. This will reduce the time for cards to be returned from Dominion Command.

We apologize for any inconvenience to Legion members caused by this temporary, but serious flaw in the computer-based records.

*Comrade Barbara Burnett,  
Membership Chairman*





An intermediate class listening intently to a veteran's wartime experiences.



Comrade Ken Long, D.F.C. describing his experiences as a Lancaster Bomber pilot during WWII

### Veteran Assistance

Visitations to veterans in extended care facilities, self-contained units and those ill at home is a necessary challenge.

Suitable comfort gifts for veterans in health care facilities and their home is a major responsibility of the Branch.

Counseling veterans on available services and health care.

Liaise with Veterans Affairs regarding veterans assistance and related problems continues to be an ongoing responsibility.

### Memorials

A special committee consisting of Comrades Barbara Burnett, Tom Morrow and Al Walushka have been working with Veterans Affairs Canada to improve Lacombe memorials and veterans' gravesites. Some of the headstones need repairs; some are missing and many are unreadable. Comrades Churchill and Burnett have tried to clean the lichen off the stones, but to no avail.

Veterans Affairs Canada have a task force that is assessing the needs of all the veterans graves in Canada. It is expected they will be in the Lacombe area this year.

### Field of Honour #1

This graves area no longer has burial sites.

The committee is in preliminary stages to restore and upgrade the existing Cairn.

This year, as has been for many years, a thoughtful group of Lacombe Legion members have placed poppies on the Lacombe Branch Legion Cairn and veterans' graves during Remembrance Week.

### Field of Honour #2

This graves area has only a few burial sites for veterans. If Fairview Cemetery is chosen for interment, please apply to the Town of Lacombe as soon as possible.

The committee is in preliminary stages to construct a suitable Cairn in the new Field of Honour. The current proposal is to obtain a large, but attractive field stone on which to place a memorial plaque. Please contact the Legion if you know of a stone available and acceptable for this memorial.

*Comrade Al Walushka,  
Service Officer*

### Veterans Week

Held an Open House event for 5 consecutive days.

The Community was invited to 'Share the Story' with veterans and view veteran memorabilia. A free cup of coffee, popcorn and cookies were available for all visitors.

Remembrance Week opened with Korean and WWII veterans sharing their story with about 200 elementary school children and their teachers. This took place over a two day period.

Comrades attending the sessions with the school children were: Comrades Gordon Manson, Ken Knight, Jack Kanngiesser, Bill Payne, Bill Suter, Swen Odland, Evans Carson, Ken Long, Chester Fannon, Al Walushka and Bob Evans.

*Comrade Al Walushka,  
Publicity Chairman*



Comrades Vic Szabunio and Al Walushka explaining a wartime artifact to students (year 2005)

### Legion Million Dollar Lottery



Purchase your tickets before March 9 to be eligible for the Earl Bird draw. The draw will be made on March 21.

Remember to name the Lacombe Branch as your partner!

**Supporting the Legion  
supports the Community!**

## Bursaries and Scholarships



**Congratulations to the winners of the  
Royal Canadian Legion sponsored  
Remembrance Contest.**

**Thank you, all students who took part in this  
important Lacombe Legion Branch project!**



<b>Literary Winners</b>		
<b>Junior Poem</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Shelby Hippe	Iron Ridge School
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Riley Warta	Iron Ridge School
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tammy Grund	College Heights Christian School
<b>Junior Essay</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Shelby Hippe	Iron Ridge School
<b>Intermediate Poem</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Nicole H. Tainsh	Terrace Ridge School
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Danielle Bouchard	Terrace Ridge School
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Joshua Olson	Iron Ridge Jr. Campus
<b>Intermediate Essay</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Eric Bonneau	Iron Ridge Jr. Campus
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kayla Brooke Ritchey	College Heights Christian School
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ashten Jessica Blain	Terrace Ridge School
<b>Senior Essay</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Grejanka Martens	Central Alberta Christian High School
<b>Senior Poem</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Brittany Kearns	Lacombe Composite High School
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sharayah Weenink	Central Alberta Christian High School
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Charissa Vandergrift	Central Alberta Christian High School

<b>Poster Winners</b>		
<b>Junior Black and White</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Mark Hawkings	Bentley School
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Hans Bergeson	Bentley School
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Madison Olesiuk	Bentley School
<b>Junior Colour</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Shelby Hippe	Iron Ridge Jr. Campus
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Savanna Spendiff	Bentley Elementary
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Michelle Liu	Lacombe Upper Elementary
<b>Intermediate Black and White</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Yvette Deleeuw	Bentley School
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jenna Johnson	Bentley School
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Leah Armstrong	Bentley School
<b>Intermediate Colour</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Rebecca M. Jensen	Terrace Ridge Elementary School
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lindsay Purves	Terrace Ridge School
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Breanna Nielsen	College Heights Christian School

<b>1<sup>st</sup> prize</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> prize</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> prize</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>



### Branch Donations 2006

- Veteran Support
- Lacombe Outreach School
- Canadian Cancer Society
- Legion Senior Slo-pitch
- Polio Donations
- Youth Donation
- Meals on Wheels
- Home Support
- Lacombe Minor Hockey
- Salvation Army
- Christmas Food Certificates
- Lacombe and District Music Festival
- Encounters with Canada
- Big Brothers / Big Sisters
- FCSS Handi-Van (\$5,000)
- Lacombe Hospital and Health Care (\$5,000)
- Student Trip Support to Ottawa
- Student Transportation to Airport
- Red Deer Legion Pipe Band and more ...!

**Total 19,009.88**

# Valentines for Vets



Isn't Valentines Day a wonderful way to make a fuss and let Veterans know that we will never forget what they have done for us?

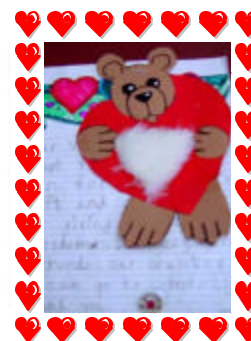
February 14<sup>th</sup> is a day to show our loved ones we care by giving them candy, flowers and gifts. Why not take this time to express appreciation for the men and women who have served our country?

Each year, Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) invites schools, individuals and organizations from across Canada to craft and design valentines for the 'Valentines for Vets' program. Valentines are sent to VAC's Head Office in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, where they are sorted and repackaged for distribution to Veterans in long-term care facilities across the country in time for Valentines Day.

Show Veterans you care. Create a hand-made message, and help bring joy to a Canadian Veteran this Valentine's Day.

Let them know that you appreciate and respect their sacrifices and achievements.

Veterans Affairs Canada  
Valentines for Vets  
4th Floor, 134 Kent St.  
P.O.Box 1300  
Charlottetown, PE  
C1A 7M8



### Newsletters

After fourteen years of providing a newsletter for the Lacombe Branch #79, it is time to pass the responsibility to others.

My sincere thanks to Doris Ahlquist, Bill Suter, Barbara Burnett and Ladies Auxiliary members Elsie Suter and Joan Robak, for their encouragement and contributions.

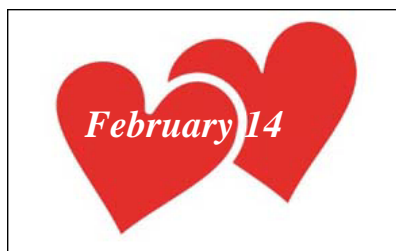
We are preparing a CD (compact disc) that will contain all available newsletters (about 100 in Adobe Reader pdf format), some pictures and other information of possible interest to Branch members.

The CD will be available for purchase beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> week of March 2007. The price will be \$5.00 (including GST). Proceeds will go the Benevolent Fund.

Branch news and Legion information will be accessible 'on-line' at [www.lacombelegion.com](http://www.lacombelegion.com).

A current version of Adobe Reader (a free program) is required.

**MEET US ON THE WEB!**



*Al Walushka,  
Publicity Chairman*