

THE MAPLE LEAF

MARCH 2025 EDITION

Newsletter of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater

(705) 686-3388 • 2 Michael Anne Drive, P.O. Box 89, Coldwater, ON, L0K1E0 <u>branch270@rogers.com</u> • <u>www.coldwaterlegion.com</u> • <u>www.facebook.com/Coldwaterlegion</u>



HOW CANADA GOT A NEW NATIONAL FLAG

On February 15, Canadians across the country celebrated National Flag of Canada Day, which marked the 60th anniversary of the inauguration of their new national flag. Here's how it came to be.

(From the files of the Government of Canada)

In 1960, Lester B. Pearson, then Leader of the Opposition, declared that he was determined to solve what he called "the flag problem." To Pearson, this issue was critical to defining Canada as a unified, independent country. As the newly elected Prime Minister in 1963, Pearson promised to resolve the question of a new national flag in time for Canada's centennial celebrations in 1967.

Pearson began by proposing a concept for a new flag featuring a sprig of 3 red maple leaves, similar to those in the national coat of arms, on a white background bordered by two blue stripes. The heraldic expert and artist Alan Beddoe took Pearson's concept and developed it into a design that became known as the "Pearson Pennant."

Pearson recommended this design to members of Parliament in 1964, but his proposal was strongly opposed. Instead, a parliamentary committee was created and given a six-week deadline to submit a recommendation for a national flag. Debate within the committee was fierce, divided between those who wished to retain the symbols that tied Canada to its colonial history, and those who wanted Canada to adopt its own symbols for the future. This period was known as the Great Flag Debate.

One of the more well-received concepts considered by the committee was proposed by George Stanley, Dean of Arts at the Royal Military College (RMC) in Kingston, Ontario. Inspired by RMC's own flag, Stanley recommended a concept featuring a single, stylized red maple leaf on a white background with two red borders.

The new maple leaf flag was made official by a proclamation from Queen Elizabeth II on January 28, 1965. On February 15 of that year, it was inaugurated in a public ceremony on Parliament Hill. Thousands of Canadians gathered as the Canadian Red Ensign was lowered and, at the stroke of noon, the new National Flag of Canada was hoisted. Prime Minister Pearson's words on the occasion resound with hope and determination: "May the land over which this new flag flies remain united in freedom and justice ... sensitive, tolerant and compassionate towards all."

In 1967, the year of Canada's 100th birthday, our new flag was showcased to the world at Expo '67.

Inside The Maple Leaf this month

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Tuesday evenings

Registration at 6 p.m. Play starts at 6:30 p.m.

FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT



It's hard to believe that March has arrived. Let's hope that, as the saying goes, spring comes in like a lion, and goes out like a lamb.

Thank you to everyone that kept things running while I was away on vacation. I say it many times but it is the wonderful members of this executive that keep

things running smoothly.

It is the time of year where there are many conventions being held. Zone E4 Convention is Saturday March 15, 2025 in Wasaga Beach, if you are interested in attending, please let us know. District 'E' Convention is April 4 to 6, 2025. I will not be able to attend Saturday April 5, so 1st Vice President Kari Malmström will be attending the Presidents' meeting in my place.

The Provincial Convention will be held in London this year from May 10 to 13. It is election year for Zone, District, and Provincial officers. It is therefore important that the Coldwater Branch be represented at these conventions and that we exercise our right to vote.

Congratulations to the Euchre team of Heather Davey, Phyllis Devine, Richard McDonald and Jim Olds, who came in third at the Zone level; good luck at District level. Congratulations goes out to the team of John O'Hara, Hans Klanert, Laren Norrie, and Greg Stoutt on placing second at the Seniors Dart tournament at Zone level. Good luck at District level. There are many sports events at Zone and District level for all members to take advantage of.

Elections for Branch 270 are on Sunday May 4, 2025 at 1 p.m. If you are interested in becoming an elected officer or executive member, please let others know so that you can be nominated. If you are interested in being a chair of a committee, you can be appointed by the President.

Again, as always, thank you to everyone for all the dedicated and hard work that you put in to support our Veterans, the Branch, and our community

Yours in Comradeship, Anne Frankish, Branch 270 President

BRANCH GENERAL MEETINGS

The next General Meeting will be on Tuesday March 25, 2025, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Branch General Meetings take place on the fourth Tuesday of each month, from September to June (except for December), in the upstairs hall, starting at 6:30 p.m.

FROM THE LADIES' AUXILIARY PRESIDENT



Greetings Comrades:

I think, like most of us, I am suffering from winter blues and wish that the snow would go away and warmer weather would prevail. Let's hope March is gentle and kind!

Again, my thanks to those who helped out at Celebrations of Life in February. A

big thank you to Henny Risebrough for running the Lions Club Lasagna dinner as I was unavailable. We received many compliments on the dinner!

At our February General Meeting, Comrade Brenda Yule resigned as 1st Vice President and Executive chair of Membership and Honors and Awards. On behalf of our Auxiliary, we would like to thank Brenda for her years of dedication, hard work and inspiration. Her commitment to these chairs was exceptional. Brenda will still retain her Life Membership as a member of our Auxiliary.

Yvonne Sauvé will advance to the position of 1st Vice President. The position of 2nd Vice President will remain open until we have our elections in May.

Our Zone E4 Spring Convention is on Sunday April 13 at the Waubaushene Legion.

All members are invited to attend. Uniforms if you have or appropriate attire. It is important to have as good a turnout as possible to support the hosting Auxiliary. These conventions are informative and a good way to hear what other Auxiliaries are doing to support their branch and communities. If you are interested in attending, please let me know.

Membership in our Auxiliary has been dwindling as we have lost a few members for various reasons. If you know of someone who might be interested in becoming a member, please let me know.

Our next General Meeting is Tuesday March 18 at 6:30 p.m. Please try to attend as we welcome your ideas and suggestions. I look forward to seeing you!

"The quality of your life will be determined by the quality of your contribution. When you work to improve the lives of others, your life improves automatically." – Kurek Ashley

Yours in Comradeship, Donna Packer, Branch 270 Ladies' Auxiliary President



THE MAPLE LEAF

The Maple Leaf is the award-winning newsletter of The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 270 Coldwater, published each month in the first week of the month. It is primarily an internal communication tool through which the Branch Executive and Committee Chairs disseminate information and report to the membership on their respective activities. Opinions expressed in feature articles are those of the writers and do not imply endorsement by the Branch or the Legion. Committee reports and pre-arranged articles must be received no later than the 23rd of the month in order to be published in the following month's issue. Please submit by email to: Branch PRO at branch270@rogers.com.

TREASURER REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Al Myre, Treasurer
The General account balance is \$51,201.07.
The Building account balance is \$79,716.90.
The Nevada account balances remains at \$237.61.
The Bottle Drive revenue for the month is \$182.40.
The prior month Bottle Drive revenue was \$513.60.
We are scheduled to receive the balance of the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) grant as follows: \$16,800 in March 2025 and \$4,200 in October 2025.
The GST/HST holiday ended February 15, 2025. All our

BOTTLE DRIVE UPDATE

prices now include the tax.

Submitted by Comrade Cheryll Barr, Bottle Drive Coordinator

On the latest pickup we sent back \$182.40 worth of empties We sent back a total of 556,137 empties since the beginning of the Bottle Drive, which brought in \$68,428.50 that helped cover the cost of major repairs and the daily operations of the Branch. We couldn't have done it without the community's continuous support. Thank you to all the volunteers that keep the Bottle Drive going by organizing and sorting empties and getting everything ready for pickup.

ENTERTAINMENT REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Penny Lawrence-Judges, Entertainment Chair

The **March** entertainment schedule is as follows:

- 1 Sing-O Bingo starts at 3:00 p.m.
- 4 Trivia Night. Registration 6 p.m. starts 6:30
- 8 Meat Draw starts at 3 p.m.
- 11 Trivia Night. Registration 6 p.m. starts 6:30
- 15 Sing-O Bingo starts at 3:00 p.m.
- 17 St. Patrick's Day Party Dance Factory starts 2 p.m.
- 18 Trivia Night. Registration 6 p.m. starts 6:30
- Music by D.J. *Times Change* from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- 29 Music with *The Good Ole Boys* 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

SICK & VISITING

Submitted by Comrade Betty-Anne Burnie, Sick and Visiting Chairman

I have been keeping in touch with those I know are ill or not well. If there are any issues that require my attention please let me know. Home phone (705) 686-3270 or email bburnie6@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Cheryll Barr, Membership Chair Happy St. Patrick's Day everyone!

Membership stands at 296: Affiliate, 53; Associate, 195; Life, 2; and Ordinary, 46.

I would like to welcome Comrade Ernesto Meigast, and Dr. Michael Kidd, to Branch 270 Coldwater.

Please check the back of your Legion card to see if you have a 2025 sticker on it. If not, it means that your membership dues are outstanding. You can pay your dues at the bar during working hours. Just ask the Bar Steward on duty. Membership fees are now \$65.00. I will be working with Comrades Norm Marion and John O'Hara in getting membership information up to date for the BIDDY and Honours and Awards.

Quote of the Month

"If life were predictable, it would cease to be life, and be without flavor."
-Eleanor Roosevelt



JOKE OF THE MONTH

I was going into a store the other day and a man had a box of puppies. On the side of the box he had written "Free Puppies!" I did, and he got mad.



BURSARY OFFICER REPORT

Submitted by Henny Risebrough, Bursary Officer
I would like to remind the members of the Legion and the Ladies' Auxiliary that the deadline for bursary applications is fast approaching. It is the last Friday of March. If you have family members that are in post-secondary education and meet the requirements please reach out and we can get the process started. Bursary applications can be picked up at the branch, or applications can be obtained from the Ontario Command website:

Https://www.on.legion.ca/remembrance/youth-programs/bursaries

SPORTS REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Al Myre, Sports Officer
Congratulations go out to the team of Richard McDonald,
Phyllis Devine, Jim Olds & Heather Davey for placing 3rd in
Elmvale in the Zone Euchre Tournament. They now qualify
to play at District on March 15 in Angus. We wish them luck.
There's a Mixed Dart tournament to be held on March 22
in Victoria Harbour. Registrations need to be in no later
than March 14. Any questions, please reach out to me. All
details are posted in the Club Room.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Branch Public Relations Officer

The monthly newsletter and on-line media - Facebook & Website – and the BIDDY are kept up-to-date.

As we are approaching branch elections in May, which will likely bring new people as members of the Executive and various committees, I remind everyone that we are always looking for people to join us and take on some of the jobs that need to be done at the branch. If anyone is interested in helping me out in the Public Relations Officer world – or,

for that matter, taking over the job!, please let me know. A candidate should preferably have some knowledge/experience in writing short articles and handling imagery, but there are many other aspects of the job that only require someone to take a bit of time to learn a routine. Please consider.

YOUTH EDUCATION REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Cheryll Barr, Youth Education Chair Comrade John O'Hara and I were able to get two home schooled students their certificates and prize money for placing first in their respective categories at Zone level in the Legion's Poster and Literary Contests. John O'Hara and I will be helping with the Zone E4 Public Speaking competition being held in Elmvale on March 2. Youth Education is taking a short break, regrouping and getting all information ready for the students on the Remembrance Day Poster and Literary Contests and Public Speaking.



Timothy Cooke (left) was one of our area home schooled students who progressed to Zone level in the 2024 Poster & Literary Contests held by the branch. Timothy's award for taking 1st place in the Senior Essay category was presented to him by Youth Education Co-Chair John O'Hara during a weekly class session held upstairs at the branch.



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COMPETITION OPENS – FEBRUARY 14, 2025

CLOSES – midnight WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2025

AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT, LUNCHEON DATE AND LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED

For more info on SENIORS LIT COMPETITION

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Or Dist E Sec/Srs Lit Co-Chair Betty-Jean Murray - 705-528-9292

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- Seniors Issues
- Small Business Issues
- Transportation
- Trillium Drug Program (OTDP)
- Workplace Safety & Insurance Board (WSIB)



JILL DUNLOP MPP – Simcoe North/Nord

BUILDING MANAGER REPORT

Submitted by Kari Malmström, Building Manager
I have the following report in the way of 1st Vice/ Building Manager since our last meeting.
My report is as follows:

- Monthly fire inspections are completed
- As everyone is aware, we have been buried in snow. There will be additional expenses for snow removal that needs to be done before the warm up. We are clearing the small step-down section of the roof that has a small leak, and the parking lot mountain again.

- I would like to prepare a list of priorities and a plan in case of flooding this spring. We may have to move some items to higher ground just in case.
- We are working on getting quotes for the latest Ontario Trillium Grant and hope to have it submitted in March.
- Still waiting on installation of the interior doors. Latest news is that they will be installed in the first week of March.
- New fridge arrived for the Ladies' Auxiliary's upstairs kitchen. We're getting quotes for someone to move it upstairs as it is quite heavy.
- Nothing major in the way of repairs, and we're hoping it stays that way.
- We had a good turnout for the Super Bowl party. The new sound system works great for events like that. Thanks to everyone who participated.

WAYS & MEANS REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Penny Lawrence-Judges, Entertainment Chair

I have nothing special to report for this month, but I do want to send a big "WAY TO GO GIRLS" for how successful Tuesday Night Trivia has become. Congratulations Margaret Anne and Michelle for an awesome job!

BRANCH HISTORIAN REPORT

Submitted by Comrade Norm Marion, Branch Historian At the February General Meeting it was proposed that the branch make a donation (branch funds, NOT Poppy) not to exceed \$500.00 to the Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Museum in support of their efforts to expand/enhance the local military displays of the museum. Although this would not qualify for Poppy funds, the activity certainly fits in the Legion's aim of supporting Remembrance. A motion approving the donation was passed.

This past month I sent two more submissions to the Military Service Recognition Book (MSRB) Vol XII. They are for Harry Delion, Killed in Action in the First World War, great uncle of branch member Bruce Delion, and for George Beaudoin, Second World War Veteran of the Italy Campaign, grandfather of branch members Tim and Wanda Beaudoin. Three more submissions are almost ready to go. New submissions or suggestions for submissions are welcome.



RECOGNIZING OUR VETERANS

From the files of Ontario Command

As the "Keepers of Remembrance", Ontario Provincial Command is proud to publish an annual Military Service Recognition Book to identify and recognize many of our Veterans who have or are living in the Province of Ontario. Veterans who have either served or are still serving in our Canadian Armed Forces, the Commonwealth or Allied Forces qualify for a submission publication.

We invite you to visit your local Legion Branch to obtain more information regarding this Remembrance program and more importantly, to submit a story and photo of a Veteran. Everyone is welcome to submit a story, including Veterans, relatives or friends.

Drop off or send your submission and story to your local Legion Branch. We accept submissions year-round and are published on a first come, first served basis. Please do not drop submissions off or mail them to our Provincial Command Headquarters.

This project not only produces an annual Book of Remembrance, but also raises funds through a telephone appeal to the general public and through advertising sales for our books.

The book publisher, Fenety Marketing, conducts a telephone appeal on our behalf to private citizens and the business community throughout Ontario.

Funds raised through the program are utilized to support various Veteran Transition Programs that in turn will assist our Veterans who suffer from various challenges they face in transitioning from a military life to a civilian life.

We invite you to share your story or the story of a loved one through your local Legion Branch.

Please visit your local Legion Branch or visit our website (www.on.legion.ca) for a submission form and pertinent information about our program.



The image on the front cover of the current year's MSRB Volume XI is a poster that was entered in the latest Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Provincial Command Youth Education Poem, Poster & Essay Competition. The poster being depicted was the 1st place winner in the Intermediate Colour Poster category at the Provincial level. It was designed by student Naomi Cheang of Peoples Christian Academy School in Markham, Ontario. She represented the Stouffville Ontario Legion Branch 459 in District 'E' in our Legion Branch competitions.





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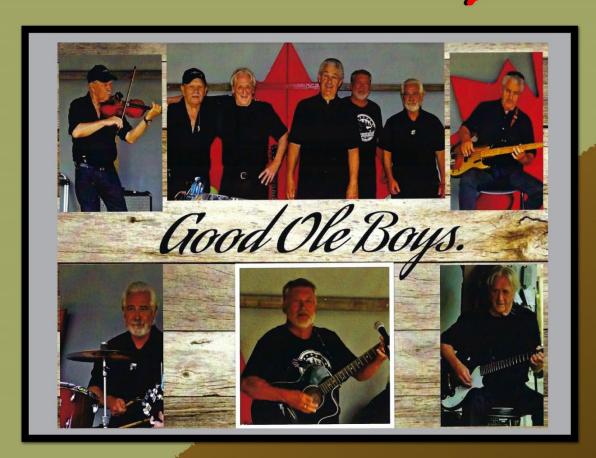
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Live music at the Legion with The Good Ole Boys





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Join us in the Club Room for our next

Meat Draw

Saturday March 8, 2025 starting at 3 p.m.

Everyone welcome!

MEAT DRAW WINNERS

FEBRUARY 8

- 1. Yvonne Sauvé
- 2. Dorothy Gerrard
- 3. Margaret Anne Murray
- 4. Karen Dravis
- 5. Marina Goulter
- 6. Mark Sauder
- 7. Debbie Burke
- 8. Kari Malmström
- 9. Kari Malmström
- **10.** Margaret Anne Murray
- 11. Brad Murray

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2025 EVENTS

May 18-19 Re-opening Weekend | 35th Battalion Reenactors

June 7 Annual Lawn & Plant Sale
June 21 Mid-Summer's Drumming

June 21-22 Coldwater & Area Studio Tour (Host Centre) | Vintage Tractor & Equipment Display

July 19 Archibald & Catherine Woodrow Farm Day

Aug. 21 Heritage crafters sale
July 2-August 27 School Day Wednesdays

July 3-August 21 Community Day Crafting Thursdays

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SPORTS AT BRANCH 270

TUESDAY AFTERNOON EUCHRE

February 4

High Hand – Betty-Anne Low Hand – Anne Most Lone Hands – Brian

February 11

High Hand – Heather Low Hand – Ken Most Lone Hands – Paul

February 18

High Hand – Anne Low Hand – Doreen Most Lone Hands – Brian

February 25

High Hand – Paul Low Hand – Bruce Most Lone Hands – Phyllis

SHUFFLEBOARD

February 6

1st: Ken & Sherri 2nd: Paul & Doreen 3rd: Phyllis & Betty-Anne Sunshine: Paul

Juliannic. I dui

February 20

1st: Jackie & Heather G. 2nd: Doreen & Sherrin 3rd: Brian & Lloyd Sunshine: Betty-Anne

February 27

1st : Doreen & Richard 2nd : Ken & Betty-Anne 3rd: Heather G. & Paul

Sunshine: Ken

FRIDAY NIGHT STEAK DARTS

February 14

- 1. Devon
- 2. Bev
- 3. Grace
- 4. Don
- 5. Harry
- 6. Harry

Sunshine: Bruce

February 21

- 1. Mike S.
- 2. Anne
- 3. Mike D.
- 4. Bruce
- 5. Yvonne D.
- S. TVOITICE
- 6. Bruce

Sunshine: Brad

February 28

- 1. Phil
- 2. Kari
- 3. Grace
- 4. Rick
- 5. Lloyd
- 6. Mark

Sunshine: Devon



BRANCH 270 WEEKLY SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

- Winter Schedule -

Euchre

1 p.m. every Tuesday

Trivia

6 p.m. every Tuesday

Fun Darts

7:30 p.m. every Wednesday

Shuffleboard

1 p.m. every Thursday

Steak Darts

6 p.m. every Friday





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		Royal Canadian Legio	dian Legion Branch	n Branch 270 Coldwater • www.coldwaterlegion.com	www.coldwaterleg		MARCH 2025
Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8	4	Happy St. Patrick's Day Everyone!	Patrick's	Day Eve	ryone!		Branch Open 1 11:30am-9:00pm Sing-0 Bingo starts at 3 pm
CLOSED	7	3 CLOSED	Branch Open 4 11:30am-9:00pm Euchre 1 pm Trivia 6 pm	Branch Open 5 11:30am-9:00pm Fun Darts 7:30 pm	Branch Open 6 11:30am-9:00pm Shuffleboard 1 pm League Darts 7:30pm	Branch Open 7 11:30am-9:00pm Bid Euchre12:30 pm Steak Darts 6 pm	Branch Open 8 11:30am-9:00pm Meat Draw starts at 3 pm
CLOSED	6	10 CLOSED	Branch Open 11 11:30am-9:00pm Euchre 1 pm Trivia 6 pm	Branch Open 12 11:30am-9:00pm Fun Darts 7:30 pm	Branch Open 13 11:30am-9:00pm Shuffleboard 1 pm League Darts 7:30pm	Branch Open 14 11:30am-9:00pm Bid Euchre12:30 pm Steak Darts 6 pm	Branch Open 15 11:30am-9:00pm Sing-O Bingo starts at 3 pm
CLOSED	16	Branch Open 17 12:00am-6:00pm St.Patrick's Day Parade at 1 pm Music will follow	Branch Open 18 11:30am-9:00pm Euchre 1 pm Trivia 6 pm L. A. General Meeting 6:30pm	Branch Open 19 11:30am-9:00pm Fun Darts 7:30 pm	Branch Open 20 11:30am-9:00pm Shuffleboard 1 pm League Darts 7:30pm	Branch Open 21 11:30am-9:00pm Bid Euchre12:30 pm Steak Darts 6 pm	Branch Open 22 11:30am-9:00pm Music with D.J. Times Change starts at 3 pm
CLOSED	30	CLOSED 31 CLOSED	Branch Open 25 11:30am-9:00pm Euchre 1pm Branch General Meeting 6:30pm	Branch Open 26 11:30am-9:00pm Fun Darts 7:30 pm	Branch Open 27 11:30am-9:00pm Shuffleboard 1 pm League Darts 7:30pm	Branch Open 28 11:30am-9:00pm Bid Euchre12:30 pm Steak Darts 6 pm	Branch Open 29 11:30am-9:00pm Music with Good Ole Boys starts at 2 pm