

THE DUFFLEBAG

COLLINGWOOD LEGION BRANCH #63

June 2022



President's Message

As we approach the summer months we are seeing the return of a couple of events that have been on hold the past couple of years.

On Sunday June 26 we will have our Honours and Awards Luncheon and we look forward to seeing many of you out to the Branch after a long time away.

On Friday July 1 we will once again hold a Canada Day BBQ in the clubroom. We hope many in town, members or not, drop by to celebrate our Country's Birthday, and have some fun and a bit to eat.



Please keep these two events in mind when planning your social agenda.

Have a great summer...

Rob

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Ladies Auxiliary



For the first time in several years we were able to hold our elections in person.

Congratulations to all who were nominated and thank you to those who chose to stand as part of the executive. Have a great summer and see you all in the fall .

Yours in comradeship
Sue
LA President

The Branch hosted a grade 7 class from Pretty River Academy who wanted to learn more about WWII .



ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
BRANCH 63
2022 - 2023



Branch Officers

President	Rob Graham	794-9975
1st Vice	Hans Muller	Poppy Chair 445-6771
2nd Vice	Nancy Phillips	Youth Education 445-2489
Secretary		Vacant
Treasurer	Pat Graham	Membership 444-8043

Executive Committee

(Standing Committee Chairs appointed by Executive Officers/President)

Don Wilcox	Public Relations/Museum Officer	444-5357
Larry Baulke	Ways & Means	445-6204
Ruby Klinck	Sick and Visiting	445-5153
Ken Templeman	Sgt at Arms/Veteran's Service Officer	444-1307

Standing Committee Chairs

(not actually part of the Executive Committee but appointed by Executive Officers/President)

Chaplin	Reverend Brian Goodings, Trinity United Church	441-0561
Bert Brennan	Sports	445-4116
Cedric D'Souza	Cadet Liason Honours & Awards Committee	
Marie Stephenson	Honours & Awards Committee	
Susan Payne	Editor, <i>The Dufflebag</i>	429-8033

website: www.collingwoodlegion.ca

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
Ladies Auxiliary
BRANCH 63
2022-2023



Officers

President	Sue Muller	Bookings/Buyer	445-6771
Past President	Helen Jamieson	Staffing	445-2368
1st Vice	Cathy Kusiar	Membership	445-8187
2nd Vice	Sharon Helmer	Sick & Visiting	445-6785
Secretary	Joan Rainbird-Sharp	Table Convenor	445-1402
Treasurer	Bev Stephenson	Ways and Means	888-8712

Executive Committee

	Sgt at Arms	445-2090
Debbie Gruter	Sports	429-1983
Sharon Helmer	Sick & Visiting	445-6785

Standing Committees

EDITOR'S DESK



This is a story that my son sent me, well we all know about the Great Escape but I was happy that the younger generation (my son) was interested enough to know I would be interested. I cannot imagine crawling through a tunnel 2 feet square. I am not sure I would even fit!

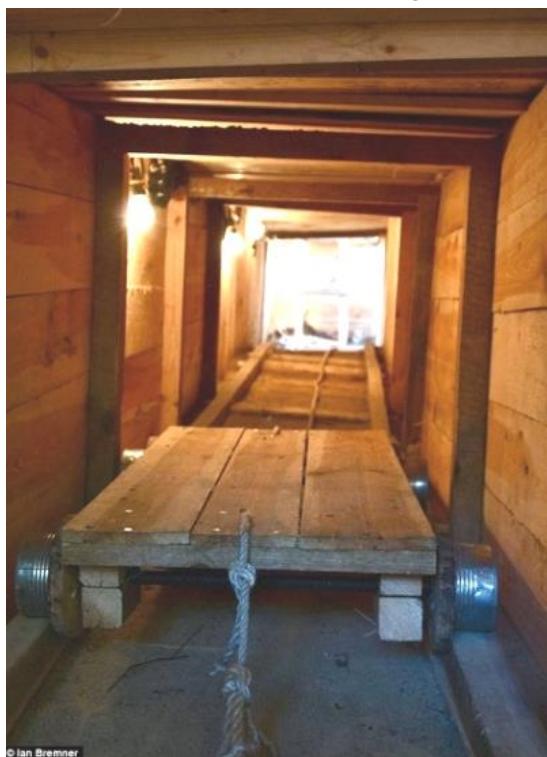
Wishing everyone a great summer

The Great Escape Untouched for almost seven decades, the tunnel used in the Great Escape has finally been unearthed.

The 111-yard passage nicknamed 'Harry' by Allied prisoners was sealed by the Germans after the audacious break-out from the POW camp Stalag Luft III in western Poland.

Despite huge interest in the subject, encouraged by the film starring Steve McQueen, the tunnel remained undisturbed over the decades because it was behind the Iron Curtain and the Soviet authorities had no interest in its significance.

But at last British archaeologists have excavated it, and discovered its remarkable secrets.



Many of the bed boards which had been joined together to stop it collapsing were still in position. And the ventilation shaft, ingeniously crafted from used powdered milk containers known as Klim Tins, remained in working order.

Tunnel vision: A tunnel reconstruction showing the trolley system.

Scattered throughout the tunnel, which is 30ft below ground, were bits of old metal buckets, hammers and crowbars which were used to hollow out the route.

A total of 600 prisoners worked on three tunnels at the same time. They were nicknamed Tom, Dick and Harry and were just 2 ft square for most of their length. It was on the night of March 24 and 25, 1944, that 76 Allied airmen escaped through Harry.

Barely a third of the 200 prisoners many in fake German uniforms and civilian outfits and carrying false identity papers, who were meant to slip away managed to leave before the alarm was raised when escapee number 77 was spotted.

Only three made it back to Britain. Another 50 were executed by firing squad on the orders of Adolf Hitler, who was furious after learning of the breach of security. In all, 90 boards from bunk beds, 62 tables, 34 chairs and 76 benches, as well as thousands of items including knives, spoons, forks, towels and blankets, were squirrelled away by the Allied prisoners to aid the escape plan under the noses of their captors.



Although the Hollywood movie suggested otherwise, *NO* Americans were involved in the operation. Most were British, and the others were from Canada, (all the tunnelers were Canadian personnel with backgrounds in mining) Poland, New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa.

The site of the tunnel, recently excavated by British archaeologists

The latest dig, over three weeks in August, located the entrance to Harry, which was originally concealed under a stove in Hut 104.

The team also found another tunnel, called George, whose exact position had not been charted. It was never used as the 2,000 prisoners were forced to march to other camps as the Red Army approached in January 1945.

Watching the excavation was Gordie King, 91, an RAF radio operator, who was 140th in line to use Harry and therefore missed out. 'This brings back such bitter-sweet memories,' he said as he wiped away tears. 'I'm amazed by what they've found.'



In comradeship
Sue

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.



227 Hurontario Street
Collingwood, Ontario L9Y 2M8
(705)444-0389

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Members who are behind in paying their membership can pay past years. This will not impact your years of service with the Legion. A renewal sticker for 2022 will be ordered for your card. If you do not wish to pay back past years but still wish to remain a member, you can pay for the current year and you will be reinstated as a member. Just note that you will lose any past years of service. You will also receive a new card to reflect the year joined. Please note that there will be a delay in getting your new membership card to you or your 2022 sticker. You can also prepay future years at this time at the early bird rate of \$60. A great way to make sure you don't fall behind again.

On line enrollment and renewals are also becoming increasingly popular. This allows you to pay online and you can also set up automatic renewal for future years or you can prepay future years. Also coming soon, the Legion is introducing a Virtual Card....stay tune for more details. As always, I can be reached at membership@collingwoodlegion.ca or you can leave a message at the bar. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Hope everyone has a great summer and hope to see you at the Branch.

Yours in Comradeship,
Pat Graham

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.

You don't have to be a Veteran to join the Legion!



When you join the Legion, you support the many services we offer to Veterans, serving military, RCMP members, and their families.

Honours and Awards 2022

10 Year

Ordinary

2019 Frederick Jewer
 2020 Rob Gilmour, Geoffery Boone, Trevor Neilson
 2021 Mike Kristy

Associate

2019 Phyllis Days, Harold Hawes, Ed Hilder, Tom Kells, Jamie McQueen, Garry Walker, Patricia Walker
 2020 Harold Lanktree
 2021 Michael Daoust, Laura Ewing, Leslie Foster, Donna Gardner, Terry Hockley, Anna Langridge, Wayne McInnes, Gary Norman, David Ripley, Elizabeth Soteros, Peter Soteros, Ken Spooner, Calvin Willis, E.J. Wilson

Affiliate

2019 Brian Caldwell, John O'Neill
 2020 David fryer, Harry Groves, Andrew Hansen, Jeffery Hansen, Lois Hough, Ken Lougheed, Mike MacDonald, Kathleen Smart
 2021 Randy Anderson, Dirk Denbok, Marry Ducker, June Ducker, Thomas Hutchesson

15 Year

Ordinary

2019 Don Wilcox
 2020 William Halverson, Herb Klink, Ryersin Picot
 2021 Sandy Chater, Ronald Murray.

Associate

2019 Judy Hill, Patricia Orend
 2020 Lily Adrienne, Larry Baulke, Douglas Burn, Brian Dee, Dan Graham, Chris Jeffery, Rick Lloyd, Robert Montgomery Gary MacNicol, Robert Hewitt
 2021 Arwyn Morgan, David Stanbury, George Stewart, Bill Switzer, Donna White, Walter White.

Affiliate.

2019 Wendy Bleming, Lorna Peters
 2020 Bert Brennan, Bing Jowett
 2021 Victor Drabowicz

20 Year

Ordinary

2019 Katleen Fitzgerald, Michael A. Bullis

2020 Edward Sparber

2021 Frank Cruickshanks, John Trude

Associate

2020 David Raynor

2021 Janice Duff, Robert Duff, Terry Geddes, Pat Graham, Kathy Jeffery, Barry Lavers
Gwen Lesslie

Affiliate

2019 Edward Henderson

2020 Wayne Bishop

2021 David Jones, Barb McArthur, Wayne Noble

25 Year

Ordinary

2021 Frank Bondi

Associate

2019 Cheryl Henderson, Cliff Knisley, Larry Long, Doreen Mathieson

2020 Bill Calvert, Mary Madigan, S.L. Montgomery

2021 Paul Chaisson, Wayne Frye, Brian Hawboldt, Marie Stephenson

30 Year

Ordinary

2019 Jack McCombs

2020 Christopher Valentine

Associate

2019 Sandy Dance, Jean McMaster, Marylou Simonato, Kathleen Smales

2020 Dale Hogg, Douglas Kim Murray

2021 Jean Dingwall, John Evans

35 Year

Ordinary

2019 M. Ethel Gartlan

2020 David Stephenson, William Murray

2021 Ronald Keans, Robert Dunn, Arnold McKay, E. Paddison

Associate

2019 Ted Cooper, Barbara Hall, Jack Johnson Jr., Steve Livingstone, Donna Spencer

2020 Robert Akitt, M.J. Swan, Brian Treloar, Joan Wilson

2021 Margaret Black, Norma Blackwell, John Brumpton, Helen Montgomery, Noel Smith

40 Year

Ordinary

2019 Robert Allen

2020 George Kernaghan, Jim Lupton

2021 Jane McCrae, Donald Walton

Associate

2019 Neil Currie, David Hammill, Lorraine Johnson

2020 D. Hubbard, M.J. Johnson, Alice Marritt, Linda Ormsby

2021 Peter Campbell Linda Jarvis, Robert McCrae, Wayne Reid, David Saunders, Doug Trott, Peter Brugmans

Affiliate

2019 John Redman

2020 Al McArthur

45 Year

Ordinary

2019 John Eichler

2020 William Harris, Larry Madigan

2021 Robert Lawson

Associate

2019 Trevor Adams, Donald J. MacIver, B. McGarvey, R.J. McLean, Ralph McQuarrie

2020 Wayne Kilsby, John MacDonald, Sandy McPherson, Joe Sheffer, D.E. Black

2021 Ken Cooper, Dorothy Dynes, Cliff Rimmington

50 year

2019 Joseph Landry

2020 Brian Kirkwood, Robert Vanslyke

2021 Albert (Bev) Willis, Jim Murray and Mitch Murray

55year

Mike Threader



LAST POST



GEORGE STEWART



George passed away peacefully on Friday, May 20, 2022 at the Collingwood General and Marine Hospital in his 88th year. George is now reunited with his beloved wife Lola and daughter Evelyn. He will be deeply missed by his daughter Teresa and her husband Rick Engel, 4 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. George was an active member of the Manito Shrine and was a Past President (1992). He joined the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 63 in 2007. George is remembered for being a believer in community and was always willing to help others in need. He will be remembered by all who knew him and will be missed by all his friends at Branch 63.

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MUSEUM and PRO REPORT

Congratulations to all the Honours and Awards winners. Without dedicated people such as you the Branch would suffer. It takes many hands and many



hours of work by volunteers to maintain a Branch as great as 63 is. We have a great team that starts at the top and works its way to all who help by visiting and doing what they can to keep us as great as we are.

From the Museum side of things thanks to Anthony and Gail Hendrie of Nottawa for thinking about the Branch when they started a down sizing project at their home. Because of that we now have some great books about the Royal Canadian Navy and other naval information in the North Atlantic Museum Room.

On a personal note I thank Ruby Klinck for nominating me for the Executive and may Dianne and I thank you for all the phone calls and messages wishing her well.

Enjoy your summer and the Lord willing we will return with more news in September.

Lest we Forget.

Comrade Don Wilcox
PRO/Museum Chair

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WEB PAGE REPORT

Our web page is still out there. (collingwoodlegion.ca) . The current issue of *The Dufflebag* and the past issues are on the site along with some Branch history and pictures. We are planning to have up to 6 past *Dufflebags* on the web page so you will be able to enjoy past issues that you may have missed. As always, any ideas or contributions are always welcomed.

Pat Graham
Web Page Coordinator

* * * * *



When ships had sails, they used to use the trade winds to cross the ocean. Sometimes when the wind didn't blow the sailors would whistle to make the wind come. My brother said they would have been better off eating beans. (William, age 7)



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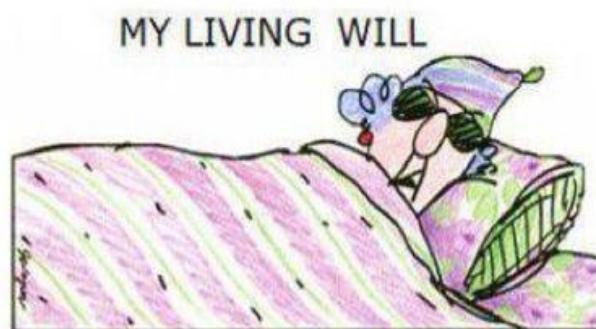
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Greg and Christina Foster, Owners

SPORTS REPORT

There has been no word yet on when Branch sports will begin, as soon as I hear anything I will update the sports binder.

Yours in comradeship
Bert Brennan sports chair



Last night my sister and I were sitting in the den and I said to her, 'I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle to keep me alive. That would be no quality of life at all, If that ever happens, just pull the plug.' So she got up, unplugged the computer, and threw out my wine.

She's such a bitch.

HISTORY

Bitter-sweet memories: Gordie King, 91, made an emotional return to Stalag Luft III.

Many of the recent generations have no true notion of the cost in lives and treasure that were paid for the liberties that we enjoy in this United States. They also have no idea in respect of the lengths that the "greatest generation" went to in order to preserve those liberties. Below is one true, small and entertaining story regarding those measures that are well worth reading, even if the only thing derived from the story is entertainment.

Escape from WWII POW Camps

Starting in 1940, an increasing number of British and Canadian Airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape..

Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks -- they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in MI-5 (similar to America's OSS) got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads and, unfolded as many times as needed and, makes no noise whatsoever.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington Ltd When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licensee for the popular American board game Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany, Italy, and France or wherever Allied POW camps were located. When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

1. A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass
2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together
3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set – by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWS who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war.

The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honored in a public ceremony.

It's always nice when you can play that 'Get Out of Jail' Free' card!

Some of you are (probably) too young to have any personal connection to WWII (Sep. '39 to Aug. '45), but this is still an interesting bit of history for everyone to know.

* * * * *

Two Canadians die and end up in Hell. Satan decides to pay them a visit, so he walks into their room and sees them talking and laughing.

Confused, he asks them why they're happy. They tell him, "Well, we're so sick of the cold where we're from, and this place is nice and toasty."

Satan, annoyed, storms away and goes to Hell's boiler room, where he turns up the temperature.

He goes back to the Canadians' room, along the way being begged by all sorts of people to put the heating back down. He enters the room to see the Canadians having a barbecue. Furiously, he asks them what they're doing.

"Well, we can't pass up this wonderful weather without getting out the barbecue!"

Satan realizes he's been doing the wrong thing. He goes to the boiler room and turns it down until it's at a colder temperature than ever seen on earth.

He knows he's won now, so he goes back to the Canadians' room, only to see them jumping up and down in excitement. He shouts at them in fury, "WHY ARE YOU STILL HAPPY?!?!?"

They look at him and shout at the same time, "Hell froze over! That means the Leafs won!"

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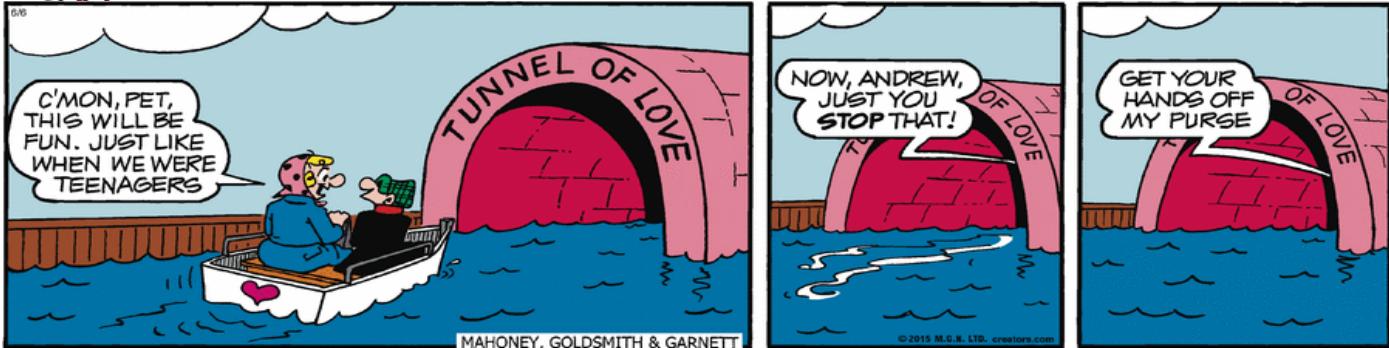
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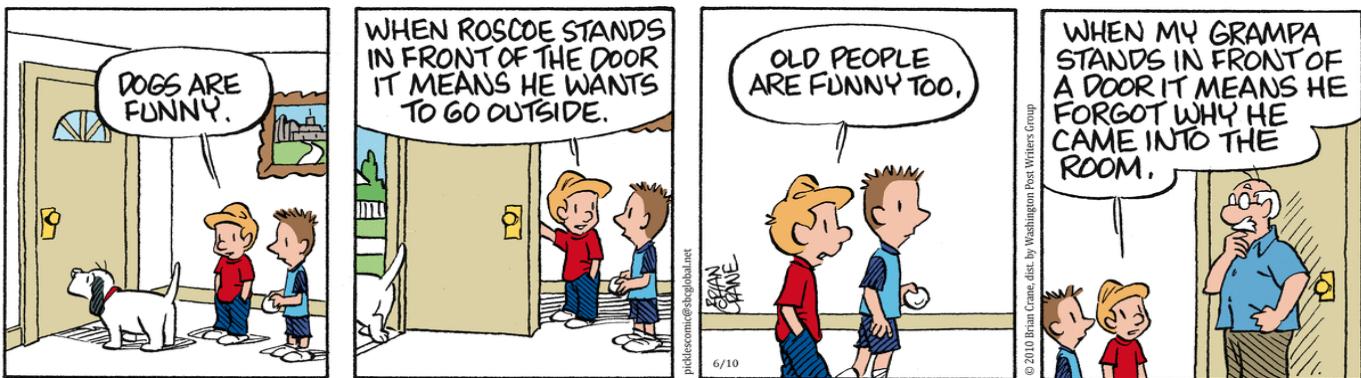
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