



ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION COBOURG BRANCH 133
135B Orr St. Cobourg, ON K9A 0J6
OFFICE: [905-372-2231](tel:905-372-2231)
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2025 MISSILE – Re: February
Official Newsletter of Cobourg Legion Br#133
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Presidents Report - March 2025

February is always such a long month, even though it's the shortest one of the year, but here we are—heading into March!

At the start of February, we held our regular Fish and Chips night alongside our Friday Night Meat Draws, and once again, the Club room was full! It's always uplifting to see so many members and visitors enjoying themselves. While it's hard work, the energy and joy in the room make it all worthwhile.

As for me, I was away on holiday for a couple of weeks, visiting Ian's and my family in jolly old England. It was an adventure, but I'm happy to be back with our family of friends at Br. 133.

When we talk about “family” here, we mean support—helping each other out when needed. However, lately, it seems that our Legion family is not fully supporting us during our meetings. We have nearly 1,000 members at Br. 133, but while we see great attendance at our events, the General Meetings have been seeing lower participation. During my absence, 1st Vice President Jennifer Robison did a fantastic job holding things down. She was well-prepared for the General Meeting, but unfortunately, only a few members showed up. This lack of attendance meant we didn't have enough for a quorum, so no business could be conducted.

If you're happy with how things are going, the General Meeting is the perfect place to voice your opinion and perhaps help bring about positive changes. Likewise, if you have any suggestions for the Branch or ideas for events you'd like to see, please bring them up at the General Meeting.

This is where we need your help: With nearly 1,000 members, we should have more participation at our General Meetings! We see great turnout for events, so we know the interest and support are there. What can we do to encourage more of you to attend the meetings? Should we change the time or day? How can we make it easier for you to participate? We truly want to hear from you so we can make the General Meetings more accessible and engaging for everyone.

Please feel free to speak with any of the Executive members, drop us an email, leave a note in the suggestion box, or pop a message in my mailbox.

As a reminder, General Meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month, with the exception of July and August. Our next General Meeting will be Thursday, March 20th at 7:30 p.m.

If you can't make the meeting, we'd love to see you at one of our events in March.

Yours in comradeship,
Janet Kyle
President, Br. 133, Cobourg

Legion

Branch 133
Cobourg

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Entertainment





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Ladies Auxiliary March 2025 Missile Report

It has been a real Canadian winter this year and I hope that spring weather will soon arrive.

The Ladies Auxiliary have had a few large catering events in February. A huge thank you to those who have committed time to ensure success of each event. Your efforts are most appreciated.

Our ladies darts placed 3rd & 4th at the Colborne Zone Darts held March 8th.

Congratulations ladies and best wishes for the District Darts tournament.

Ladies Auxiliary will be celebrating their birthday on Saturday, March 15th with a luncheon.

Cocktails -12:00PM Lunch at 1:00PM \$10.00 per ticket. Tickets are available by contacting Yolande at 905-375-0996.

March 2025 Events ---

- 8-Birthday Party-Convenor-Marion Switzer
- 19- Over 55 Luncheon-Convenor-Michelle Mallory
- 23-Birthday Party-(1-4PM)-Convenor-Pat Griffin
- 29-Public Speaking-Convenor-Aldene Cooper
- 29-Birthday Party-(8PM-12AM)-Convenor-Donna Martorino-Glenn

Please reach out to convenor or sign up at the General meeting to assist on those dates. We do appreciate you getting in touch to assist.

Notice for Upcoming Events

- General Meeting March 3 @ 7:00PM
- Birthday Party March 15 @12:00Noon
- Executive Meeting March 31 @6:30 PM

In Comradeship, Normalee Teskey- President of Ladies Auxiliary,
RCL Br # 133 Cobourg



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Membership Report - March 2025

Huge thanks go out to Iris and Josephine's team for holding things together in the membership office while Jo is off.

As many of you are, Josephine is still in hospital with her broken ankle, but she is on the mend, and we hope she will be up and moving around soon. But don't despair – Josephine has a magnificent group on her membership committee, so I'm sure we will be able to assist when needed, so please reach out if you need anything.

If you have an application in to the membership, we will be reaching out to you. We hope to hold a Welcoming ceremony the latter end in March or very early April.

If you have paid your 2025 membership, remember to pick up your sticker or if you requested a new card, please ask at the bar.

We wish Josephine a speedy recovery.

Janet Kyle
President



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Over 55

On Monday January 20th we had another fun afternoon of darts. High score was made with a score of 116 by Esther. Fantastic job! Our winner of the 50/50 was won by Lynn of \$34.00

On Monday January 27th was another wonderful day of darts. Lots of laughs with some great people. The 50/50 draw was won by George of \$34.00. The highest score was won with a tie by Doug and Ken with a score of 94. Great job guys.

On February 3rd we had another fun afternoon of darts. The 50/50 draw was won by Pauline of \$31.00. The highest score was won by Greg with a score of 120. Excellent job Greg.

On February 10th we had a great afternoon of darts. The 50/50 was won by Barry (the bartender) of \$36.00. The highest score was won by Greg of 140. Wow. Great job Greg.

On February 17th there was no darts due to the Legion being closed for Family Day. We have lost another member of our Over 55 Club. On January 29th we lost Heather Smith. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family.

If you are over 55 and interested in joining us for a few hours on Monday afternoon's, we have spots open for darts, please come by. Games start at 1:00pm, \$2.00 for 3 games.

Our Over 55 luncheon was held on February 19th at noon. We had roast beef on a bun, gravy, roasted potatoes, carrots, coleslaw, with a Valentine cake for dessert and of course tea or coffee all served by the Ladies Auxiliary. It was delicious. The winner of the 50/50 draw was won by Wilfred of \$43.00. We also had a door prize, and the winner was Dorothy of \$25.00. We also celebrated 2 birthdays for the month of February. Each person who attended received a cupcake for their special day. We had our meeting then enjoyed a few games of bingo. The next luncheon will be March 19th.

Communication officer: Judy Turk



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Padre

THE STORMS OF LIFE

Many of us Legion members and our comrades are of an age that we have come through and I might add, have survived many STORMS during our lifetime.

I recall vividly a horrendous THUNDERSTORM with very loud and continuous rumbling and extreme continuous lightning, or so it seemed, to this seven-year-old in his boarding school dormitory bed. However, as traumatic as that STORM was, I survived. Life brings with it several metaphorical STORMS, but for the most part we come through, we survive.

In the Royal Canadian legion, Veterans retell the STORMS of battle and it is critical that we continue to do that.

This Winter we have experienced what for some might be akin to old fashioned snowstorms, all of which we have and will survive.

Unfortunately, we are sitting on the cusp of some STORMS to come, due to the current international scene. We may well be facing economic STORMS ahead, until reason once again prevails, but be assured; We will come through, we will survive.

O CANADA, WE STAND ON GUARD FOR THEE.

LEST WE FORGET



Chaplain Art



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Youth Education

On March 2nd we will be holding our Branch Public Speaking Competition with local students. This will be very interesting listening to our youth talk on their favorite subjects while promoting self-confidence.

March 29th we will be hosting district Public Speaking at our Branch. We will be looking for judges for this event. If you are interested in listening to our youth, please reach out to the office, and we will forward your information.

Bursaries

We have applications at the branch for The Royal Canadian Legion and Royal Canadian Ladies Auxiliary Bursary Assistance Program. If you are a serving veteran, Ex-service personnel, Legion member or their spouse, children or grandchildren, you may qualify for this award of \$1250.00

Applications must be received by Ontario Command prior to the last Friday in March which this year is March 28th.

Judy Elliott -Youth Education



Veterans Affairs
Canada

Anciens Combattants
Canada

CANADA REMEMBERS THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN



The chain of events that would bring Canadian soldiers into the desolate and dangerous terrain of Afghanistan began on September 11, 2001. On that day, four airliners were hijacked in the skies over the eastern United States; two were deliberately crashed into the World Trade Center towers and one into the Pentagon, resulting in the death of nearly 3,000 people. These horrific attacks shocked and galvanized the United States and much of the world. Canada would soon play a role in the ensuing international efforts to battle terrorism and help bring democracy to Afghanistan.

AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan is a rugged country in Southwest Asia, located between Pakistan and Iran. This ancient, mountainous land is about the size of Saskatchewan and has a population of approximately 30 million people. The various ethnic groups and factions that have made the country home over the centuries have given Afghanistan a rich heritage and diversity, but have also helped make peace and stability difficult to achieve.

The civil war that broke out after the former Soviet Union withdrew from its military occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s would see the Taliban regime gain control of the country. This extreme fundamentalist regime severely limited civil rights

and supported international terrorist groups, including al-Qaeda (the group which was behind the attacks in the United States). In the wake of September 11, the United States and the world took action through the United Nations (UN) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

CANADA AND THE WORLD RESPOND

The first Canadian Armed Forces contribution to the campaign against terrorism in Southwest Asia came at sea. Beginning in October 2001, Canadian ships would see ongoing duty in the waters off the region, supporting and defending the international fleet operating there as well as locating and searching unknown boats looking for illegal activity.

The Aurora patrol aircraft and Hercules and Polaris transport planes of the Canadian Armed Forces Air Command would also be active in Afghanistan and the waters off Southwest Asia, filling important roles in marine surveillance, transporting supplies and personnel, and evacuating casualties. Canadian helicopters also provided important service in identifying merchant vessels and offering valuable transport support over the years.

Canadian soldiers soon travelled to Afghanistan as well. The first were commandoes from the elite Joint Task Force 2 (JTF 2) in December 2001,

Soldiers from the Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group on patrol in the Panjwai District of Kandahar Province, October 2001.
Photo: Department of National Defence DND 10-3031-25

followed by other Canadian soldiers in January 2002 who were initially based in Kandahar. There they joined American and British troops already fighting to topple the Taliban regime, eliminate terrorist operations and establish the basis for lasting peace in the troubled country.

With the eventual fall from power of the Taliban, attention turned to stabilizing the country and helping establish a new Afghan government. The UN authorized a NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to take on this challenge. The initial Canadian contribution to the ISAF in the summer of 2003 consisted of more than 700 Canadian Armed Forces members stationed in Kabul, the country's capital, with 200 more providing support from elsewhere in Southwest Asia. In Kabul, the Canadians patrolled the western sector of the city, helped operate the airport and assisted in rebuilding the Afghan National Army.

In 2005, the Canadian Armed Forces' role evolved again when they began to shift back to the volatile Kandahar region. While the Taliban government had been toppled, the group remained a strong presence in some areas of the country. Indeed, Canada's return to Kandahar coincided with a resurgence in Taliban activity and our soldiers quickly found themselves the targets of attack.

The numbers of Canadian soldiers soon swelled to approximately 2,300 to help deal with the enemy and support the Provincial Reconstruction Team operating there. Canadian tanks, artillery and infantry soldiers all took part in many ground operations in Kandahar, including large-scale offensives against massed Taliban forces. This chapter of Canada's efforts in Afghanistan was the most perilous. Anytime Canadian soldiers left the relative safety of their main camps to go "outside the wire," the danger was very real.

Canada's combat role in the country ended in 2011 when the focus shifted to training Afghanistan's army and police force and the last of our service members left the country in March 2014. But Canada's efforts in the troubled country have been numerous. Reaching out in an attempt to build trust

and win the hearts and minds of the people of Afghanistan was an important goal. In addition to their military activities, Canadian Armed Forces members engaged in many humanitarian efforts like digging wells, rebuilding schools and distributing medical and relief supplies, both as part of their official mission and on a volunteer basis.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- More than 40,000 Canadian Armed Forces members served in the Afghanistan theatre of operations between 2001 and 2014. These brave men and women are eligible to receive the General Campaign Star-Southwest Asia.
- Afghanistan is a very poor country and its climate can be extreme. Summer temperatures of 50° C are common and huge dust storms can sweep across its arid deserts.
- Camp Nathan Smith was a base for Canadian operations in Kandahar for several years. It was named in honour of a soldier from Nova Scotia who was killed there in 2002.
- Operation *Medusa* was a September 2006 offensive in Kandahar province that involved more than 1,000 Canadian Armed Forces members, making it our country's largest combat operation in more than 50 years. The heavy fighting in Operation *Medusa* tragically saw the loss of 12 Canadians, but the Taliban were pushed from the Panjwai district.





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HEROES AND BRAVERY

Canadians demonstrated great bravery time and again in Afghanistan. Here are just some examples of that valour.

- A number of Canadians who served in Afghanistan have earned the Star of Military Valour, our country's second-highest decoration for courage. The first was Sergeant Patrick Tower in August 2006 when he braved enemy fire to lead the extraction of a platoon that had come under heavy attack.
- Flight Lieutenant Chris Hasler, a Canadian serving with Britain's Royal Air Force, received the Distinguished Flying Cross for piloting helicopter resupply missions under fire in July 2006.
- Captain Nichola Goddard became the first female Canadian Armed Forces member to die in combat duty when the forward artillery observer was killed in a firefight on May 17, 2006.

SACRIFICE

Canada's efforts in Afghanistan have made a difference, but this has come at a great cost. The threat of suicide attacks and roadside bombs was a constant risk. Improvised explosive devices (IEDs) caused the most Canadian casualties. There were also many other perils beyond ambushes and firefights with the enemy. Landmines and friendly fire incidents took the lives of our soldiers while

vehicle accidents, illnesses and the psychological strain of serving in such a difficult environment also could take a heavy and life-long toll. Sadly, 158 Canadian Armed Forces members died in the cause of peace and freedom in Afghanistan.

CANADA REMEMBERS PROGRAM

The Canada Remembers Program of Veterans Affairs Canada encourages all Canadians to learn about the sacrifices and achievements made by those who have served—and continue to serve—during times of war and peace. As well, it invites Canadians to become involved in remembrance activities that will help preserve their legacy for future generations.

To learn more about Canada's role in peace efforts over the years, please visit the Veterans Affairs Canada Web site at veterans.gc.ca or call **1-866-522-2122** toll free.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Veterans Affairs Canada: veterans.gc.ca
- Canadian Military History Gateway: www.cmhg.gc.ca
- Canada's Engagement in Afghanistan: www.afghanistan.gc.ca

This publication is available in other formats upon request.

Canadian Armed Forces members help a young Afghan child suffering from a burn at a her medical clinic, January 2008.
Photo: Department of National Defence/A62008-2105-9

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Club Room Bar Hours

- Monday: 12:00 to 10:00
- Tuesday: 12:00 to 6:00
- Wednesday: 12:00 to 10:00
- Thursday: 12:00 to 6:00
- Friday: 11:00 to 11:00
- Saturday: 1:00 to 6:00
- Sunday: 12:00 to 5:00



Don't forget while you're enjoying the clubroom, to also enjoy some snacks, play the always popular Nevada tickets and tip our own hard-working Buddha and sweet Grace! AND pop those can pop tops for the wheelchair fund! 😊

