

2025 MISSILE – Official Newsletter of Cobourg Legion Br#133 Vol 6 Issue 5 submitted May 1st 2025.

President's Report May 2025

Comrades...Spring is here! As we see spring flowers and new growth around us and under our feet, let's all just take a moment and look inside ourselves and see where we are growing. I'm hoping you're feeling the same burst of energy that I am feeling as we approach a new year with Branch elections coming up this month, and with that energy, think about how you would like to support the Branch.

There are so many ways to help.

I have added different volunteer positions on the noticeboard in the clubroom. When you are in the branch next, take a look, and add your name to volunteer that suits you. This gives us a starting point for events and call you and ask if you are available to help.

On May the 8th, VE Day, let's all take a personal moment to remember all those that gave their all and the families whos' lives were changed forever. As Royal Canadian Legion members, lets reflect on the oath we have all taken and the Royal Canadian

Legion Mission.

MISSION STATEMENT OUR MISSION IS TO SERVE VETERANS, WHICH INCLUDES SERVING MILITARY AND RCMP MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, TO PROMOTE REMEMBRANCE AND TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES AND OUR COUNTRY.

Yours in comradeship Janet Kyle



Advertising and promotions page.

Do you have a business you'd like to promote? Must be a Member OR offer deals to members. \$25.00 per year.





Owned by our very own Vice Chair Jennifer Robison.

Delicious food, generous portions, excellent service and prices.

NOW if she can run a restaurant and volunteer, surely you can give a little! 😊

Elections for 2025/2026 year.

Are you interested in being more active in the Branch? Then we need you in our Executive. We



have a big branch and yet we don't have a full executive. Let's change that for the next business year.

Nominations will re-open at our next General Meeting and close prior to Elections May 15th @ 7:30pm

Branch Officers

- President
- Past President
- 1st Vice
- 2nd Vice
- Secretary
- Sgt at Arms

Plus 8 Executive positions to include one of the following positions

- Legion Seniors
- Membership
- Poppy
- Public Relations
- Sports
- Track and Field
- Leadership Development
- Veterans Services
- Youth Education

Appointments

- ✓ Treasurer
- ✓ Chaplain

Remember...

A dedicated Executive and a dedicated supportive membership equals a Successful Branch!



There will be no fish and chips this month (sigh) The kitchen is in use for a banquet, the following week, as some of us are unavailable due to being away at Provincial Convention in London Ontario, the following weekend is the long weekend, so we are going to take a breather, but back in June with the BBQ!

The final Trivia for this session will be May 14th. We would like to thank John Lindsay for his dedication to the branch and leading us with a fun time. We look forward to September when Trivia will start up again.

May 25th, we have entertainment in the clubroom – West of 60 – who sing a broad mix of Songs along with a BBQ. More info to follow.

Remember to come out to Elections on May 15th at 7:30pm

Yours in comradeship Ian Kyle



The LA Elections were held on Monday, April 7th, 2025, conducted by the Branch Executive, and we welcome a few changes for those members not able to be present.

The newly elected Executive team will be installed at the May 6th, 2025, general meeting.

The elected Officers are:

- President-Janet Richardson,
- 1st Vice President-Normalee Teskey,
- 2nd Vice President-Linda Bevan,
- Corresponding Secretary-Yoland McKinnon,
- Treasurer-Jennifer Brooks,
- Sgt-At-Arms-Aldene Cooper
- Sports Officer-Michelle Mallory.

The elected executive members:

Pat Griffin, Nancy Turpin, Judy Elliot, Marion Switzer, Sue Poelstra, Diane MacPhee, Jan Bradford, Chris Wilson, Jocelyn LaForest &; Sarah Bevan. My sincere appreciation & thank you to those who have volunteered to perform the various duties involved. Please support your incoming Officers & Executive team.

In addition to the elections, a new member was sworn into our membership. The Zone Convention is being held at RCL-Brighton on Sunday, May 4th. All are welcome to attend. If interested, please reach out to one of the Officers for further details. Sign-up sheet for LA Decoration Day decorating will be available at the general meeting.

May 2025 Catering Events --- A Very Busy Month!

- 2-Dart Banquet 7-10PM
- > 3-50th Birthday Party 7-12PM
- > 4-Badminton Club Brunch 10AM-2PM
- ➢ 8-Social Eyes
- > 10-Birthday Party 7-11PM
- 12-Bowling Banquet 6-9PM
- 14-Bowling Banquet 4-8PM
- > 21- Over 55 Luncheon
- > 22-Northumberland Manufacturers Association (AGM breakfast) TBD
- > 24-80th Birthday Party 1-5PM
- > 26-MS Group
- 30-Ostomy Group

Please reach out to a convenor or sign up at the General meeting to assist on the dates provided. It is most appreciated when you get in touch to assist and we need lots of help this month given the number of events!

Upcoming Events Notice

Zone Convention-RCL Brighton May 4th@11AM

General Meeting & Installation of elected Officers and Executive May 6 @ 7:00PM Executive Meeting May 26 @6:30PM

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

Membership Report



I'm coming back slowly to the office a couple of hours a week, thanks to the membership volunteers and President Janet for holding it together while I was in the hospital. Thanks to all that visited, texted, phoned and sent prayers I am very grateful to have such wonderful people in my life.

DOWN TO BUSINESS:

MAY 15 is the GENERAL MEETING and ELECTIONS PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD OR RECEIPT AS PROOF OF PAYMENT FOR 2025 DUES. ALL MEMBERS MUST SHOW IT AT THE DOOR BEFORE ENTERING THE MEETING.

If you have not received your card yet please check at the bar first. New Transfer members may not have their new card yet please bring proof of payment for 2025.

We are working on getting those that paid online to come in and be initiated we have set a date of. Sunday May 25th at 1.30pm, we will be calling those members in the next couple of weeks.

If you have questions regarding membership please reach out to me at 289-251-2478 call, text or Email, <u>133upton@gmail.com</u>

Respectfully, Josephine Upton, Membership Chair





On Monday March 24th we had a great afternoon of darts. High score was made by Cathy with a score of 104. Great job Cathy! Our winner of the 50/50 was won by Derek of \$ 36.00.

On Monday March 31 st was another wonderful day of darts. Lots of laughs with some great people. The 50/50 draw was won by Art of \$38.00 The highest score was won by Derek with a score of 97. Great job Derek.

On April 7th we had another fun afternoon of darts. The 50/50 draw was won by Edith of \$38.00. The highest score was won by Art with a score of 116. Great job Art!

On April 14th we had a great afternoon of darts. The 50/50 was won by Stan of \$27.00 The highest score was won by George of 98. Great job George...

The Over 55 Club welcomed 6 possible new members for next year, Donna and Jack Gelineau, Judith Mc Combe, Heather Webb, Linda Cardie and Jim Horton at our luncheon.

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

Our Over 55 luncheon was held on April 16th at noon. We had ham and scallop potatoes, carrots and a bun. For dessert we had bread pudding and of course tea or coffee all served by the Ladies Auxiliary. The winner of the 50/50 draw was won by Marian of \$37.00. We also had a door prize, and the winner was Carol W of \$25.00. We celebrated 7 birthdays for the month of April. 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 May 21st

Communication officer: Judy Turk



Padre

LOTS HAPPENING

There is no need to be bored, with so much going on in Cobourg. There is LOTS HAPPENING. There is still LOTS HAPPENING, as a result of the March 30th winter storm which knocked out power to thousands in our county. A victim of the storm, was the F2 Zone Convention, scheduled to happen at Grafton, but was rescheduled to April 12 at Branch 133. Major Kudos to Grafton, who provided many meals for the community even though running on generators. There was LOTS HAPPENING.

There is LOTS HAPPENING when it comes to elections. Why there was the provincial, (did your candidate get in? Did you vote?)

It was an election year for Zone F2. A few changes there, but the same old chaplain (moi.) I was delighted to receive my bar and medal.

LOTS HAPPENING at the Branch too, with elections. April 17 was nominations night. If you missed that, nominations continue on voting night May 15th. Don't miss it. LOTS HAPPENING at Provincial command, as they prepare for London, (Ontario that is.) Mrs Chappy and I, are looking forward to that experience. (Tell you about it next month.)

LOTS HAPPENING federally, with election day April 28th. The branch will be a polling location. LOTS HAPPENING, in Cobourg. The annual dredging of the harbour is well under way. The Coast Guard boat is in. These are sure signs of Summer coming. (Hooray!) The boat lift is scheduled for second weekend of May, then the campers will be filling the campground. LOTS HAPPENING. The Military will have been in town, the end of April for maneuverers as well as a movie shoot around town for ten days. Wow ! LOTS HAPPENING in our Country, County, Town and Branch. Don't be bored, DON'T BE APART, BE A PART.

See you at the Branch.



Chaplain Art



Cobourg Legion Pipes and Drums Missile Missive April/May 2025

As befits the pipers and drummers of your Legion, we established another public offering benchmark on Sunday, April 27, when we hosted an afternoon Dessert Concert at the Legion. Conceived and executed as a fund-raising gesture for a much-loved band piper who has experienced a medical hill on life's road, we had a very successful offering of multiple delicious desserts and music, both from a variety of sources. It was a full house of folks who were entertained by the Happy Jammers of local Legion fame, Madman's Window, the New Ventures Brass quintet, and the Legion Pipes and Drums opening and closing the afternoon's offerings. Our genuine thanks to everyone.

A rare Scottish Dance effort was made by six band members, in recognition of the Honoured Lady's history of the same from the age of four. We thank our guide, local SCD instructor Diane. The Legion ladies in the kitchen are to be thanked for their many excellent efforts to keep everything flowing smoothly and well supplied, and of course we thank the band members for their numerous contributions before, during and after the concert. Our local producer Baxter's Bakery led the field in dessert donations with a tremendous contribution, as did many others, with equal individual and band member generosity. The HL was also presented with a piece of painted stone art, created by a band member artist, representing Cindy's strength and determination to overcome her challenges and return to her pipe band family. It was a very successful afternoon of desserts, music and much camaraderie, in support of an admired individual and her supportive family.

With the eventual spring thaw and the almost warmer temperatures, a piper and drummer's thoughts turn to the parade season ahead. We will soon be able to spend some practice time outside, in the parking lot across the road. The residents of the area seem to enjoy our offerings. It is all in an effort to better contribute our music to area events, such as the Opening of the farmer's Market on May 3, and the launch of the Legion of Honour documentary scheduled for May 29. June will be a much busier month, starting with Legion Decoration Day at St. Michael's Cemetery on June 1. In the next Missile offering the June dates will be further outlined.

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V HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

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The Liberation of the Netherlands

INTRODUCTION

There have been many proud chapters in Canada's military history but one of the best known and most significant was the Liberation of the Netherlands. The Dutch people have never forgotten our brave soldiers' efforts to free their country after years of harsh German occupation during the Second World War.

OCCUPIED EUROPE

The Second World War of 1939-1945 would greatly impact the lives of countless millions of people. This included both those who would serve in uniform and civilians who had to endure great suffering when the fighting came to their homelands.

In Europe, country after country fell to the invading forces of Nazi Germany during the opening stages of the conflict. By mid-1940, much of the western portion of the continent, including the Netherlands, had been conquered and occupied. It would take years of hard struggle for the Allies to build up their resources and turn the tide of the war. On 6 June 1944, the campaign to free "Fortress Europe" from the west finally began when Allied forces came ashore in Normandy, France, on D-Day. The liberating armies would soon advance north and east, but the Netherlands, with its challenging terrain of canals, dykes and floodlands, would prove to be a very difficult battleground.

THE BATTLE OF THE SCHELDT

In mid-September 1944, the Allies launched Operation Market-Garden, a daring land and airborne attack behind enemy lines in the eastern Netherlands. The goal was to bring the war to a rapid end by cutting in half the German positions in Northwest Europe. The German resistance was determined, however, and the bold offensive failed. It soon became apparent that the conflict would drag on.

Soldiers of the Perth Regiment on the move near the Dutch city of Arnhem on 15 April 1945. Photo: Library and Archives Canada PA-145884



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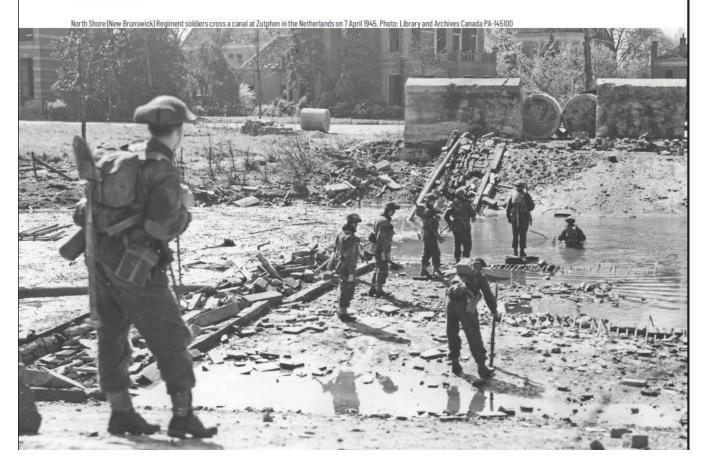
To maintain pressure on the German forces, the Allies needed a reliable way to keep the flow of vital supplies moving to the front lines of Northwest Europe. This meant a large seaport would need to be taken on the continent. The major Belgian port city of Antwerp was captured almost intact in early September 1944 but there was a complicating factor. Antwerp is located some 80 kilometres from the North Sea and is accessible only by the Scheldt river—a waterway that was still in enemy hands.

Much of this portion of the Scheldt runs through the Netherlands and the First Canadian Army led the way in fierce combat to clear the Germans from its shores in the fall of 1944. Our troops would succeed in opening up the port of Antwerp to Allied shipping—a key step in the liberation of Northwest Europe—but it would come at a great cost. More than 6,000 Canadian soldiers were killed, wounded or taken prisoner in this bitter campaign.

THE "HUNGER WINTER"

With the realization that the conflict would stretch into 1945, Canadian soldiers took up positions on the Nijmegen salient in the eastern Netherlands near the German border. The Allies would make careful plans for the campaign to end the war in Europe in the new year but the delay would have serious ramifications for the Dutch people who had already endured more than four years of brutal enemy occupation.

The so-called "Hunger Winter" of 1944-1945 would be a terrible time for many in the country. Food supplies were exhausted and some people were reduced to eating tulip bulbs just to try to survive. Fuel had run out and transportation was almost non-existent. Tragically, thousands of Dutch civilians in the occupied portions of the nation would perish.





V HISTORICAL FACTSHEET

After three months of helping hold the front line in the Netherlands, in February 1945 the First Canadian Army took part in a fierce Allied offensive through muddy and flooded ground to drive the Germans from the Nijmegen front and back across the Rhine River. The major push to finally liberate all of Northwest Europe had begun.

THE LIBERATION CAMPAIGN

In early April 1945, the First Canadian Army began to clear the Germans from the northeast portions of the Netherlands. Often aided by information provided by Dutch resistance fighters, Canadian troops advanced rapidly, recapturing communities, canals and farmland as they relentlessly pushed forward. By the middle of the month, British and Canadian forces had cleared the city of Arnhem after two days of house-by-house fighting. Only days later, they also freed Apeldoorn. They continued their advance up through places like Zwolle and Groningen towards the North Sea. The Canadians kept up the pressure, putting their lives on the line even though it was evident that the rapidly weakening enemy forces would soon have to surrender anyway. It was felt, however, that the long-suffering Dutch simply could wait for relief no longer. Canadians tried to be judicious with their use of destructive artillery fire and aerial bombing as they didn't want to badly damage the country's infrastructure and make it even harder for the local people to rebuild their lives after the war.

Ecstatic Dutch men, women and children cheered Canadian troops as one town after another was liberated. Recalled one person who was a teenager at the time, "As the (Canadian) tank came nearer...there was a big hush over all the people, and it was suddenly broken by a big scream, as if it was out of the earth. And the people climbed on the tank...and they were crying. And we were running with the tanks and the jeeps all the way into the city."

It was still a challenging and stressful campaign for our troops, however, as it was difficult to predict how the Germans would respond when the Canadians went on the attack in an occupied town or village. Sometimes enemy forces resisted fiercely and other times they would retreat with hardly a shot being fired. This uncertainty took a psychological toll on our soldiers in the final weeks of the war as no one wanted to lose their lives when victory seemed so close at hand.

In April the Canadians had also began to advance in the western Netherlands—a populous region containing the major cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague. Canadian troops were prepared to continue their assaults but there were serious concerns this would prompt the desperate German forces to breach all the dykes and completely flood the low-lying terrain. To help ease the pressure, a truce was arranged later in the month that saw the Allied advance there come to a temporary halt. In return, the Germans allowed relief supplies to reach the suffering Dutch citizens still trapped behind enemy lines. To show their appreciation to our forces who airdropped food and other desperately needed supplies during this time, some Dutch people painted "Thank you, Canadians!" on their rooftops.

Thanks to the hard work, courage and great sacrifices of so many Canadian and other Allied troops, enemy forces in the country surrendered on 5 May 1945, finally liberating all of the Netherlands. All German forces on the continent would unconditionally surrender on 7 May 1945, and the next day was declared Victory in Europe (V-E) Day.

SACRIFICE

The fighting in the Netherlands was often bitter but ultimately Canadian service members were able to liberate the Dutch people and help bring the Second World War to an end in Europe. This great victory, however, came at a terrible cost. More than 7,600 Canadians died in the efforts to free the country and are buried far from their homes and loved ones. Others returned home with injuries to body and mind that they would bear for the rest of their lives.

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LEGACY

Great bravery and sacrifice on the battlefield were not the only help our country offered the Netherlands during the Second World War. Some members of the Dutch royal family also found sanctuary in Canada during the conflict and Princess Margriet was born in Ottawa in 1943. These powerful connections helped form warm bonds of friendship and respect between the people of Canada and the Netherlands which continue to this day. Evidence of this enduring connection may be seen in the tulips—gifts from the Dutch people—which bloom in Ottawa each spring, and in the care and attention Dutch children give to the burial places of our war dead in their country. Even though the price was heavy, Canadians are proud to be seen as liberators in the Netherlands.

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 the Second World War, please visit the Veterans Affairs Canada website at **veterans.gc.ca** or call **1-866-522-2122** toll free.



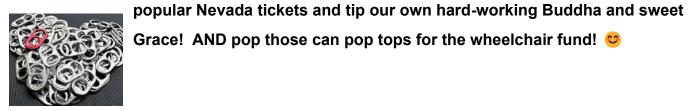


Club Room Bar Hours

- 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



Grace! AND pop those can pop tops for the wheelchair fund! 😊