

The Royal Canadian Legion, Orillia Branch 34  
215 Mississaga St., E Orillia, Ontario L3V 1W2

# Vet's Gazette

April 2026



*Branch 34 member Kate Palmer was recently awarded the Palm Leaf to the Meritorious Service Medal. The Palm Leaf to the MSM is awarded by Dominion Command to recognize further outstanding service to The Legion and the community. Kate is pictured above with Zone E5 Commander Bruce Henn and Branch 34 President Rick Purcell*

## **In Flanders Fields**

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place: and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow  
Loved, and were loved and now we  
lie in Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe,  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.

If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies  
grow In Flanders Fields.

Col John McCrae

**Branch Officers**

President - Rick Purcell	705-330-4815
Immediate Past Pres- Bob Thomas	705-325-4695
1st Vice-President Rob McCron	705-687-7390
2nd Vice -President Chuck Penny	705-955-2548
Treasurer - Charon Varty	289-259-0546
Secretary - Brian Robertson	705-327-1825
Cathy Carde	705-350-0126
Jane Lawson	705-330-1056
Bill Madigan	705-619-1110
Dorothy Cotter	705-955-1884
Padre Gerry McMillan	705-329-0338
Padre Terry Bennett	705-329-0289
Sergeant-at-Arms - Sean Cousens	705-330-6993
Colour Sergeant -	
Service Bureau – Peter DeVillers	705-326-2198

**Committee Chairs**

Poppy – Bob Thomas  
 Membership - Cathy Carde  
 Sports - Bill Madigan  
 Ways and Means - Dorothy Cotter  
 PRO - Rob McCron  
 Leadership - Chuck Penny  
 Seniors / Sick & Visiting - Jane Lawson  
 Youth Education - Kate Palmer  
 Bingo, Air Cadets, Minor Ball – Rick Purcell

**Office Personnel**

Administrator	Sherri Bloodworth
Office	705-325-8442
Bar	705-325-1266

**Special Events**

Scottish Festival	Carrie Dunn	
	Angela Paylor	705-323-9759

**Special Committee Chairs**

Pipe Band Manager	Heather Shelswell	705-484-5433
Sick & Visiting	Jane Lawson	705-330-1056
Tuesday Euchre	Karen	705-955-9341

**Ladies Auxiliary Officers**

President	Beverly Brennan	705-331-3195
1 <sup>ST</sup> Vice President	Debbie Stanton	705-325-4240
2 <sup>ND</sup> Vice President	Susan Swinton	705-796-0755
	Secretary/ Treasurer	
	Laury McCullough	705-717-9643
Sports Officer	Brenda Watt	705-325-8104
Sgt at Arms	Izzy Broughton	705-323-3708

**Executive Committee & Chairs**

Membership	Stacie Swinton	705-826-2108
Banquet convenor-	Dorothy Cotter	705-955-1884
Ways & Means - Craft Sale - Darts		
	Sherry Dallimore	705-715-8861
	Candy Cashen	705-826-7907
Phoning Captain	Sharon Ross	705-727-9654
Monday Cards	Sandra Evans	705-826-8977

**Address Vet's Gazette Correspondence to:**  
**Kate Palmer,**

**Royal Canadian Legion Branch 34**  
**215 Mississaga St. E., Orillia ON. L3V 1W2**  
**Phone (705) 325-8442 Fax (705) 325-3758**

**Our email address is:**  
**royalcdnl34@rogers.com**

**Our Web Site is**  
**<http://www.orillialegion.com>**

## President's Report

Comrades.

**W**e have entered into our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year.

We have already had our January kick off dance and our March Ladies Auxillary Soup and Sandwich luncheon.

May 23 we are receiving Freedom of the City from the City of Orillia. We will meet at the City Hall parking lot and march to City Hall. There we will be met by the Mayor of Orillia and receive Freedom of the City. From there we will march to the Legion where we will dedicate a plaque to our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Afterwards we will have some refreshments at the branch

In June we are hosting a Dart Tournament.

We are hoping to have a float in the Canada Day Parade on July 1<sup>st</sup> and will be honored as the Host Clan at the Scottish Festival in July.

We end the Anniversary Year with a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner in October.

It has been an exciting year so far and will continue to have exciting events up to our October dinner.

We thank our Ladies Auxiliary for holding the Soup and Sandwich luncheon in March to celebrate our Anniversary. It was quite a successful luncheon.

Most of our sports programs are winding down as the spring approaches.

We will be starting our monthly barbecues soon. Watch for announcements on our bulletin boards.

There is still an opportunity to buy some of our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary clothing. Good Things Promotional Wear gets the

clothing ready for those who order items. They should have their web page up for you to order soon.

Yours in Comradeship:

*Rick Purcell,*  
President Branch 34



### *Congratulations*

*Branch 34 President Rick Purcell presents veteran Paul Connell with The Ontario Veterans Award for Community Service Excellence. Paul, the head piper for the Orillia pipe band, has played a prominent role in Legion ceremonies, city events and the Orillia Scottish festival. The provincial honour recognizes veterans who continue to serve their communities after their military careers have ended.*



# Upcoming Entertainment

**Sunday, April 19, 2 to 4 p.m.**

*Trivia*

*\$5.00/round per team of four*

**Saturday, April 25, 2 p.m.**

*Millionaires Afternoon*

*Games of Chance - 50/50*

*Crown & Anchor*

**Sunday, May 3rd, 2 to 4 p.m.**

*Ladies Auxiliary*

*Spring Tea and Fashion Show*

*\$20.00 per person - Fashions by Orillia Thrift Store  
Tea - Treats - Door Prizes - VIP Shopping Experience*

**Saturday, June 20**

*100th Anniversary Popsicle Dart Tournament*

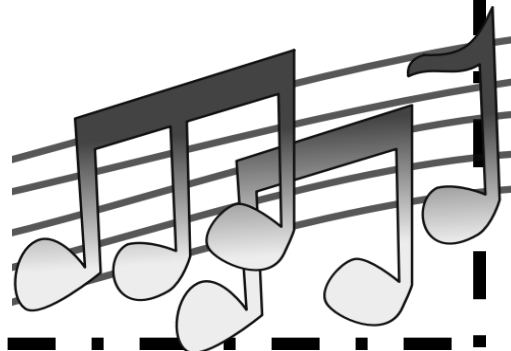
**Saturday, June 27, 8 p.m.**

*Christmas in June*

*Ugly Sweater Dance*

*with Rudy Fernandes*

*\$7.00 members / \$10.00 non members*



# Ladies Auxiliary President's Report

Comrades

**W**e are back to holding our monthly meetings after taking a well deserved, rest for January and February.

We continued to work hard in January and February, catering several functions. Spring is finally on its way after a challenging winter.

This is the 100<sup>th</sup> year for the Branch and we had a St Patrick's themed soup & sandwich lunch to help celebrate.

Our member Izzy Broughton will be representing us at Provincial Singles Darts held in Smiths Falls. We also have a dart team heading to Creemore this April.

The Zone Convention will be held this April 26 in Victoria Harbour it is an election year.

The LA Ontario Provincial Convention is also this year from May 30 to June 2. It will be held in Bracebridge.

Our elections are coming up this May. I hope to see a lot of members out to that meeting.

We will be hosting the Vets Luncheon in June I always enjoy this event.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers that took the time to help with lunches, sport events and mostly the officers and the executive for their continued support. We are a great team.

Our general meetings are always the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. For our executive members our meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. We are always looking for new members. Please come and join us.

Yours in comradeship,

**Bev Brennan**

President Branch 34 Ladies Auxiliary

## Ladies Auxiliary Spring Tea and Fashion Show

**Sunday, May 3rd  
2 to 4 p.m.**

**Tickets \$20.00**

*Tea, treats,  
fashion show,  
door prizes,*

Fashion show  
clothing provided by  
the Orillia Thrift Store.



Tickets available at the  
Legion Bar and Orillia  
Thrift Store

## 99 Lynx Air Cadets Euchre Nights



**April 24, 2026**

Doors Open at 6 p.m.

Games start 7 p.m. sharp  
in the Branch 34 Normandy Room

*Tickets are being pre-sold by Staff Members of  
99 Lynx Air Cadets \$15.00 per ticket*

Contact 249-385-5697 or  
cacole99lynx@gmail.com

# Soldiers' Aid

Supporting more of Ontario's Veteran Heroes and their families  
Financial support for Veterans and their families of all ages.

Are you a Veteran or family member of a Veteran living in Ontario? Do you need help covering some expenses due to financial hardship? You may be eligible for support from Soldiers' Aid Commission.

Apply for up to \$2,000 a year to help with costs of:

- Securing or maintaining a place to live
- Housing-related items, such as repairs or modifications
- Equipment and assistive devices to support mobility, accessibility or health and safety
- Personal items, services and expenses to support basic needs
- Items and services to support physical or mental health
- Getting help with employment

Available to eligible Veterans and their families in Ontario.

For more information visit [ontario.ca/SoldiersAid](http://ontario.ca/SoldiersAid) or call Branch 34 Service Officer Peter DeVillers at 705-326-2198

# Bingo

**B**ingos are going well and continue to be a good source of income for the branch.

Volunteers are needed to keep them successful. The Legion bingos are the first and third Wednesday of each month.. If you are able to volunteer for even one of these nights please let Rick Purcell know.

## HOCKEY POOL

*Take your chance to win \$195.00 in the weekly hockey pool. Squares are sold for the Saturday night NHL game.*

*Only \$5.00 per square.  
Only 49 squares!*



**WORRIED? LONELY? ISOLATED? OVERWHELMED?**

**Need someone to talk to?**

**CALL 705-726-7922**

Confidential Distress Line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

*If you can reach a phone, you can reach a friend.*

# TRIVIA



**Sunday,  
April 19  
2 to 4 p.m.**

**Team up for the  
ultimate  
Trivia Test  
\$5.00 a round  
per team of 4**



## Attention Veterans



## VETERANS' Luncheon

**Monday, June 8th  
At 1 p.m.**

*In the Vimy Room  
Branch 34,  
Royal Canadian Legion*

*This invitation is extended to all veterans in the Orillia area. If you know a veteran who you think would like to attend please let him/her know. The veteran DOES NOT have to be a Legion member.*

We will arrange transportation for those who need it.

**RESERVATIONS WILL NOT  
BE TAKEN UNTIL  
MAY 4TH AND MUST BE MADE  
BY JUNE 3RD**

*Presented by the Branch 34  
Poppy Committee*



## Christmas in June Dance

*Featuring  
D.J. Rudy*

**Saturday, June 27**

**8 p.m. to midnight**

**\$7.00 members  
\$10.00 non members**

# Open Mic Music Jam

April 12

May 10

June 14

July 12

2 to 5 p.m.

In The Vimy Room

Admission

\$5.00 per person

**B**

**I**

**N**

**G**

**O**

## Wednesday Nights

*Doors open at 5 p.m.*

*Sales start at 5:30 p.m.*

*Games start  
at 6:30 p.m.*

**B**

**I**

**N**

**G**

**O**

### **You know you're getting older when.....**

*You and your teeth don't sleep together*

*You try to straighten out the wrinkles in your  
socks and discover you aren't wearing any*

*Your idea of a night out is sitting on the patio*

*When happy hour is a nap*

*Your idea of weight lifting is sitting up*

*You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it  
going*

*It takes twice as long - to look half as good*

*The pharmacist has become your new best  
friend*

*You look for your glasses for half an hour  
and they were on your head the whole time*

*Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt,  
doesn't work*

*Your address book has mostly names that  
start with Dr.*

*It takes two tries to get up from the couch*

*At the breakfast table you hear snap,  
crackle and pop and you're not eating  
cereal*

*When you're on vacation and our energy  
runs out before you do*

## Centenary Anniversary: Presenting the “Legion 100” tulip

*Beautifully coloured flower honours  
the past and welcomes the future*

OTTAWA, ON, 2 APRIL 2026 – The Royal Canadian Legion is delighted to present its new “Legion 100” anniversary tulip to Canadians. Supporters can plant the bulbs during the organization’s anniversary year and welcome its next century when the flowers are in full bloom next spring. The symbolic flower was chosen in collaboration with the Canadian Tulip Festival, which literally grew from the gratitude felt by the Netherlands after Canada’s key role in its liberation during the Second World War.

The Legion 100 tulip’s unique petals have vibrant white edges that point to the sky, celebrating the first one hundred years of Legion service, and welcoming the next. Infused with the red of Remembrance, the petals open to form an angled design reminiscent of the royal crown depicted on the Legion’s badge. Together, the shape and the colours tell a story

“This flower truly reflects what the Legion stands for,” says Berkley Lawrence, Dominion President. “It also reminds us of the symbolic colours of our country and its freedoms, granted by the sacrifices of our Veterans.”

The limited-edition bulbs will grow into Darwin Hybrid Tulip blooms with strong stalks, and large blooms reaching up to five inches high. They can be ordered online and delivered across the country, through the [Legion’s online Poppy Store](#) and the [Canadian Tulip Festival’s](#) site. Any proceeds will support The Royal Canadian Legion in serving Veterans, and The Canadian Tulip Legacy. Legion 100 bulbs will also be available in person during the 2026 [Canadian Tulip Festival](#) in Ottawa which runs from May 8-18.

Throughout 2026, the Legion is holding special events at the national, provincial, and local levels, and kicking off additional new projects that will mark its entry into the next century.



Branch 034  
Orillia



## Craft & Chat

**This is an afternoon where we can come together and craft or just chat. Sometimes we will have an instructed class or you can bring whatever you are working on (knitting, crochet, diamond art, needle point etc.) I am hoping to do this once a month.**

**Sunday, April 26  
Sunday May 31**

**All will take place in the Navy Room**

*Hope to see you there!*

Please Join Kim every Monday and Thursday for Yoga

**Mondays 9:45 a.m. Chair Yoga**  
**Thursdays 9:00 a.m. Combo Class**  
Mat and Restorative Yoga  
**Thursdays 10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga**



**NAMASTE ALL DAY**

**LEGION MEMBERS RECEIVE A DISCOUNTED DROP-IN  
RATE OF \$8 – NON-MEMBERS \$10**

**Call Kim at (705) 327-6045 to confirm**



## Poppy Report

Comrades

**T**he Poppy Committee met recently to set their budget for the coming year..

The committee approved the donation of \$4,000 each to several Ontario Command sponsored programs including: Leave the Streets Behind, Charitable Foundation, Ontario Command Bursary as well as the District E Hospital Trust Fund. These donations will be made at the District E Spring convention and an equal amount will be presented in the fall. A donation of \$8,000 to Operation Service Dogs and \$4,000 to the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League will be presented at the Spring Convention only.

A donation of \$5,000 will also be made to the 99 Lynx Air Cadet Squadron.

The Spring Veteran's Luncheon will be held on Monday, June 8th. A date for the Fall Veteran's Dinner has not been confirmed.

The committee also passed a motion to approach Provincial Command for permission to spend up to \$50,000 to retrofit the washrooms in the Vimy and Tri-Service Rooms.

Respectfully submitted by

*The Poppy Committee*

## Membership

**T**hings are going well with membership. There are 1,116 total members for 2025 - 2026. We have signed up a lot of new members through the 100th Anniversary Centenary program

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their memberships. I continue to be in the office most weekdays from noon to 4 p.m. and look forward to seeing you.

***Welcome to new members!***

Yours in comradeship,

*Cathy Carde*

Membership Chair



## ATTENTION VETERANS

(Anyone who has served in the military including WWII, Korea, SDA, Militia/Reserve Forces, RCMP, still serving and dependents)

***The Royal Canadian Legion's Service Officer  
Sherry Culling  
will be in Orillia  
April 16th***

**For anyone wishing information, advice or assistance regarding:**

***Veterans Affairs Canada  
Disability Pensions***

***Treatment for  
Entitled Veterans***

***Application for  
Poppy/Benevolent Funds***

***Appeals against unfavorable  
VAC Decisions***

***Widows' Entitlement***

***You do not have to be a  
Legion Member to  
request an interview***

***To book an appointment.***

***Call Sherri at 705-325-8442***

**A free service offered by  
the Legion**

## Military Service Recognition Book

If you are a Veteran or the relative or friend of a Veteran it is not to late to have them recognized for their service in the

*13th Edition of the Ontario Command Military Service Recognition Book*

Deadline for this issue is May 31st.

go to [on.legion.ca](http://on.legion.ca) or the branch office for information

## Open Snooker Tournament

*Every weekend*

Doubles on Saturdays  
Singles on Sundays



Registration each day at 10:30 a.m.  
*Everyone welcome*

## Come to the Trail Walk Café At The Legion

Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Holidays

From 8 to 11:30 a.m.

### Sides

Side Fruit	\$1.50
Scallop Potatoes	\$4.75
Cheese Potatoes	\$4.25
Mashed Potatoes	\$3.75
Home Fries	\$3.75
Cheese Swiss, Cheddar, Mozzarella	\$1.75
Mushrooms	\$1.00
Trio of Sweet Peppers	\$1.00
3 Bacons, 3 Hams or 2 Sausages	\$3.95
3 Peameal	\$4.50
Toast	\$2.95
Plain Bagel	\$2.95
Gravy	\$1.00
Tomatoes	\$1.50

### Drinks

Canned Pop	\$1.40
Bottled Water	\$1.25
Hot Chocolate	\$2.25
Milk (Chocolate or White)	\$1.90
Orange Juice	\$2.50
Apple Juice	\$2.50
Coffee	\$2.50
Tea	\$2.50

*Please inform your server of any food allergies or dietary restrictions.*

# Trail Walk Café At The Legion

## Breakfast

2 Eggs Your Way	\$7.25
Add Bacon, Ham or Sausage	\$10.50
Add Peameal	\$11.00
Add Steak	\$16.50
Add Scalloped Potatoes	\$3.00

### Big Breakfast \$15.00

3 Eggs Your Way, 2 Bacon  
2 Sausage, 2 Ham

### Cheesy Breakfast \$13.50

2 Eggs, Ham, Bacon or Sausage  
with Fried Scalloped Potatoes

### Corn Beef , Hash & Eggs \$14.00

Corn Beef, Caramelized Onion  
Home Fries, Eggs

### Waffles \$10.10

with fruit \$11.25

### Pancakes \$10.10

with fruit \$11.25

### 3 French Toast \$10.10

With fruit \$11.25

All Breakfasts include  
Fresh Home Fries, Toast,  
Coffee or Tea

**TAXES NOT INCLUDED**

## Omelettes

Vegetarian	\$11.50
Spinach & Feta	\$10.75
Meat Lovers (Ham, Bacon and Sausage)	\$12.95
Classic Western	\$10.25
Mushroom Swiss	\$10.85
Mediterranean	\$12.95

## Eggs Benedict

Salmon	\$12.75
Peameal	\$11.50
Ham	\$10.95
Bacon	\$10.75
Sausage	\$10.75
Spinach	\$10.75

## Lighter Options

Bagel with cream cheese	\$5.99
Smoked Salmon, Red Onion Capers, Cream Cheese	\$10.99

## Sandwiches

Steak	\$15.50
Western	\$10.25
Bacon & Egg	\$7.95
Clubhouse	\$12.50
BLT	\$8.95
3 Cheese Grilled	\$6.50
Reuben	\$12.95

## Donation

Thanks to the generous \$7,000 donation from The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command Branches and Ladies' Auxiliaries Charitable Foundation, The Soldiers' Memorial Hospital Foundation was able to fund a benchtop sample centrifuge.

**A benchtop sample centrifuge is essential for hospitals, as it allows**

*for the swift and efficient separation of blood components, cell cultures, and various biological samples used in diagnostic testing and research.* Shown in the picture above are: Peter DeVillers, Branch 34 Service Officer, Jessica Finos, Sr. Philanthropy Officer, Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital Foundation Bev Brennen, President, Branch 34 Ladies' Auxiliary, Rick Purcell, President, Branch 34, Lindsey Slade, Sr. Philanthropy Officer, Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital Foundation, Kate Palmer and Brian Robertson, Branch 34 Poppy committee members.

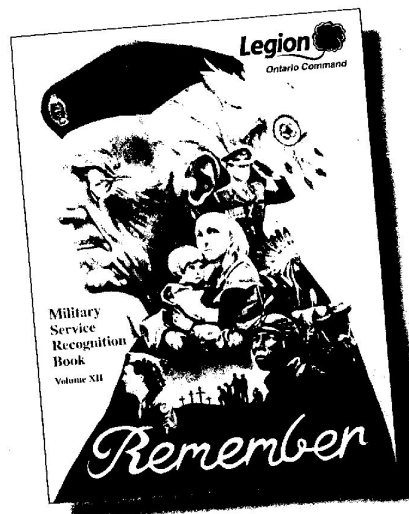


## Military Service Recognition Book

### The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command

We are proud to be introducing year thirteenth of our annual publication that will help identify and recognize many of Ontario's Veterans who have served their country so well during times of war and peace.

- Our thirteenth book will be available at all Legion Branches by October 2026.
- Books are gifted to Branches, Veterans, Schools, Libraries, Military Bases, Museums, local Municipal Buildings and Community Resource Centres.
- We invite you to submit stories of Veterans and Military Service Personnel who have touched your life. Submission forms and guidelines are available from your local Legion Branch or at [www.on.legion.ca](http://www.on.legion.ca) for those wishing to submit a Veteran story and photo.
- A provincial telephone appeal is underway to private citizens and businesses requesting support to publish this book each year and to support our Veterans.



**Legion** 

Ontario Command

**Remember, share, donate today.**

For more information:  
Contact Sherri in the office

## Youth Education

We had a very good turnout for the Poster and Literary contest awards presentation on Tuesday, February 17.

About 95 people including students, other family members and three teachers enjoyed pizza and cookies before the awards were handed out.

Thanks to comrades Rick Purcell, Marg Robertson and Brian Robertson for their help. Thanks also to Sherri for dealing with all the phone calls.

Along with awards from the branch, we also presented 10 students with awards from Zone E5 and four District E Awards

The branch public speaking contest was held on Sunday, February 22. Eleven students, representing five schools participated and their speeches were very good. This was the largest representation we have had in many years.

Unfortunately, our branch was the only one in Zone E5 that held a competition this year. The students who won at the branch level automatically advanced to the district competition. While there was no zone competition the students did present

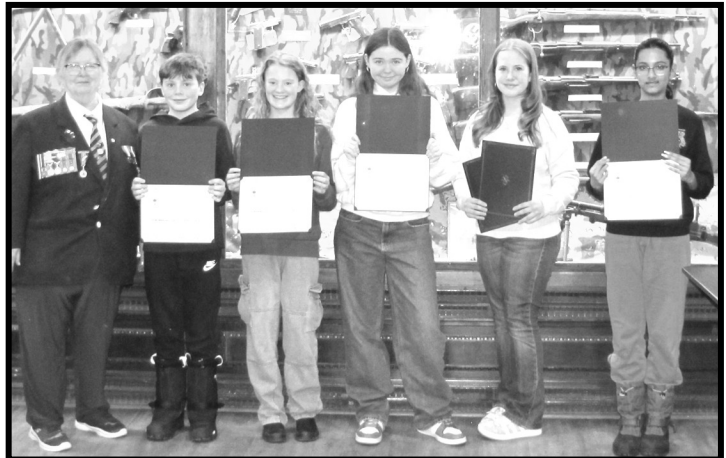
their speeches in front of some zone representatives. The District E competition was held on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at Branch 220 Shelburne and although none of the Orillia students won, they represented us well.

Special thanks to comrades Rob McCron, Chuck Penny, Bob Middaugh and Cathy Carde for their assistance.

Yours in comradeship

*Kate Palmer*

Youth Education chair



## Treasurer's Report

### Financial Summary for the Nine months ending February 28, 2026

	<u>9 Months ending February 28, 2026</u>	<u>9 Months ending February 28, 2025</u>
Bar revenue	\$227,286	\$238,300
Cost of goods sold	<u>99,248</u>	<u>107,800</u>
Gross Bar profit	<u>\$128,038</u>	<u>\$130,500</u>
Gross Profit %age-bar	56.3%	54.8%
Committee revenue	\$ 52,074	\$ 46,504
Committee expenses	<u>39,717</u>	<u>42,389</u>
Committee profit (loss)	<u>\$ 12,357</u>	<u>\$ 4,115</u>
Revenue-Ways & Means	\$ 27,539	\$ 22,026
Expenses-Ways & Means	<u>3,681</u>	<u>4,492</u>
Ways & Means profit	<u>\$ 23,857</u>	<u>\$ 17,534</u>
Revenue-Normandy Room	\$ 44,209	\$ 42,421
Expenses-Normandy Room	<u>---</u>	<u>-----</u>
Normandy profit	<u>\$ 44,209</u>	<u>\$ 42,421</u>
Member Fees-net	<u>\$ 19,749</u>	<u>\$ 26,012</u>
Other Income	<u>\$ 41,739</u>	<u>\$ 53,853</u>
	<u>Expenses</u>	
Administration	\$ 40,961	\$ 44,725
Building	\$ 63,282	\$ 51,801
Payroll	<u>\$135,342</u>	<u>\$132,085</u>
Total Expense	<u>\$239,586</u>	<u>\$228,610</u>
Net Profit(loss)	<u>\$ 30,363</u>	<u>\$ 45,826</u>
Cash and GICs less payables		<u>\$ 83,710</u>
Bingo Bank Account		<u>\$ 23,321</u>
Nevada Bank Account		<u>\$ 14,105</u>
Raffle Bank Account		<u>\$ 7,295</u>

## Treasurer's Comments

April 1, 2026

### Financial Statements

February 28, 2026

#### Profit & Loss June 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026:

Detailed financial statements are available at the Branch. Financial highlights are listed below:

1. Bar revenue for the nine months ending February 28, 2026 was \$227,286. Other revenues for the nine months ending February 28, 2026 were Ways & Means net revenue of \$23,857 net Membership Fees of \$19,749, Bingo/Kitchen rent of \$44,209 Scottish Festival, Regalia and Sport Committees net profit of \$12,357, and Other Income of \$41,739. Bar Gross Profit was 56.3% of bar revenue and amounted to \$128,038.

2. Geneva Bingo is held every Wednesday. Trail Walk Catering is open for Friday through Monday breakfast in the Vimy room from 8:00am to 11:30am.

3. Building and Administration costs were \$104,244. Wages were \$135,342.

4. The Legion's profit for the nine months ending February 28, 2026 was \$30,363 as compared to a profit of \$45,826 for the nine months ending February 28, 2025.

#### Balance Sheet- February 28, 2026:

1. Retained earnings at February 28, 2026 were \$123,574.

2. Cash on hand was \$210,657.

3. Accounts payable & reserve liabilities were \$126,947 leaving a net cash balance of \$83,710 at February 28, 2026.

4. The Bingo, Nevada and Raffle bank accounts have a balance of \$44,721.

**TRILLIUM GRANT** - The Legion has filled a 2026 Trillium Grant for \$193,000, to cover cost of repairs to the flat roof above the Normandy room, roof of the Vimy room and for the modernization of the elevator.

**ONTARIO SENIORS GRANT** - The 2025 Ontario

Seniors Grant of approximately \$40,000 that the Legion filed for wasn't approved. The Legion has filed for another 2025 Ontario Seniors Grant for \$26,000 for replacement of the Legion's partial replacement/repair of driveway around the entries to the front of the Legion to make it more accessible, accessible toilets and Seniors programs.

**NEW HORIZON GRANT** - The Legion has filed a 2025 New Horizon Grant in September 2025 for \$25,000, to replace the two Cooler Thermal Doors, repainting outdoor siding and replacement/repair signs.

**LEGION KITCHEN** - The renovation of the kitchen has been finished with a cost of \$17,650, which the Ladies Auxiliary has generously donation \$12,000, too.

**PIB/AVIVA INSURANCE**-The Orillia Legion's lawsuit for a Business Interruption Claim is still on going.

Respectively submitted,

*Charon Varty,*

Treasurer

*Back by Popular Demand*

**Line Dancing**

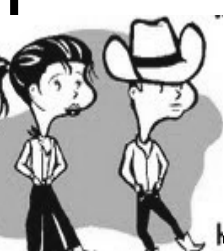
*With Richlynn*

**Sundays April 26, May 17  
June 7 and July 26**

**2 to 3 pm.**

*Bring a friend,  
make a new one!*

**\$5.00 per dancer**



## Artist Spotlight



**Marilou Villeneuve-Last**

For many, the eternal winter months bring on a nostalgic longing for past summer days. The sight of the shovel can make us cringe after continued 'day dates' with it. Many people start booking their warm weather vacations during the deep days of winter. By March, those of us who are not winter sports people, get tired of this cold. It can be hard to find inspiration under a dome of weather that seems to beat us down.

When you meet someone who truly loves the winter it can be alarmingly uplifting to the winter skeptic. Marilou Villeneuve-Last is one of those people who loves the season of snow. Some of her best memories occurred in the landscape of winter while serving in the military. These experiences have shaped her inspiration for art over time.

Marilou joined the Army Reserve in 2003 as a Resource Management Support Clerk. She stayed in the Reserves the next 14 years though changed uniform into the Air Force Reserve and then the Naval Reserve. In 2017 she transferred to the Regular Force as an Imagery Technician.

Marilou deployed on the HMCS Athabaskan in 2014 to take part in Operation CARRIB and sailed on the Atlantic for various exercises. In 2019, she participated as an Imagery technician on Operation LENTUS to help the civilian force through the floods in the province of Quebec. In 2023, she then

deployed on NRU ASTÉRIX to take part in Operation PROJECTION in the Pacific. Marilou has worked in Shilo, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa and Borden, however the majority of her years in the military were spent in Quebec City at Base Valcartier.

"Quebec City to me is a magical city. Every corner you turn, there's history, old architecture, yet you get to another part of the city and you're well into modernity. I spent many hours wearing out my shoes walking in the old town. It is a city heavy in history and I love history. It gets really cold but Quebec City is where we embrace winter. We celebrate it with the winter carnival, one of the oldest in the world. I'm a winter person and this is something that inspires my painting." - Marilou

In 2022, Marilou was transferred to Base Borden and became an Instructor for the Imagery School at Canadian Forces Training Development Center.

"I get to tell stories through my lens. I love meeting people and [to] capture their emotion, their own stories." - Marilou.

Marilou's artwork recently hung in The Steel Spirit art gallery in Barrie Ontario in 2025. One of her abstract pieces "Winter" was on display.

People often create art about things that they love. However, how Marilou talks about the city that she loves, really draws others in to remind us of the memories we all have of places that have shaped us. Places that hold our happy memories locked in time are what define us. Though like any enticing book, new chapters and new seasons can be just as inspiring as old ones." - Barbara

"It certainly can remind us that a season can be much more than a weather network daily check. It can simply be the background of very happy times in our lives and how we embrace them. The seasonal frame of a chapter in our life book.



"The winter-hibernation months can be the best months to seek out our own talents, when the weather doesn't permit us to stay outside for long periods.

"Many people say they're not artistic, but sometimes it's that they haven't tried the right medium. Art is not only about painting or drawing. When you're not too hard on yourself, it can be truly satisfying to create something and practice a medium you've always wanted to try." - Barbara

One of Marilou's favourite motivational quotes is - Embrace the hardship. This too shall pass.

Sometimes it's about embracing the wild weather knowing it too will pass, and to capture our own memories through creativity...no matter the season.

***The Steel Spirit is a platform for artists from military, first responder and hospital practitioner services to share their art and their stories. They are always looking for new submissions and involvement in upcoming galleries.***

***For more information visit:***  
[www.thesteelspirit.ca](http://www.thesteelspirit.ca)



*The ever popular*  
**Steak BBQ's**  
*are back*

**Fridays at 6 p.m.**

**April 24**

**May 29**

**June 26**

**July 24**

**Only \$25.00 per person**  
**Steak, baked potato cole**  
**slaw, roll and**  
**dessert**



**Get your tickets**  
**early - these dinners**  
**sell out fast**

# Fun Darts

Every  
Friday Night  
at 8 p.m.

Only \$6.00  
per person  
*Please register by  
7:45 p.m.*



*Enjoy a game of*  
**Euchre**

**Tuesdays at 1 p.m.**

**Bid Euchre**  
**Wednesdays at 1 p.m**

*Everyone welcome*



## DARTS

**Come out  
to Branch 34  
every Wednesday  
at 1 p.m.  
for a fun  
afternoon of darts  
and comradeship.**

*Any skill level acceptable -  
just a fun way to pass a  
Wednesday afternoon.*



**Save your beer can  
and pop can tabs**

*Bring them to the branch.  
They will be collected and taken  
to a scrap yard. The money  
received is then  
donated to*

**Soldiers' Memorial  
Hospital**

# 100th Anniversary

*The 100th Anniversary Committee has been working hard to plan special events to celebrate this huge milestone. Here are some things to mark on your calendar.*

**Saturday, April 25**

**Millionaires Afternoon, 2 p.m.**

*Games of Chance—Fun for all*

**Saturday, May 23**

**THE CITY OF ORILLIA WILL AWARD  
BRANCH 34**

**“FREEDOM OF THE CITY”**

*The Ceremony at City Hall will be followed by a  
Parade to the Legion and Reception*



**Saturday, June 20**

*Popsicle Dart Tournament*

**Thursday, July 1**

*Canada Day Parade Float*

**July 17 to 19**

*Orillia Scottish Festival*

*Honouring our 100th Anniversary*



**Saturday, October 17**

*100th Anniversary Dinner*

*Details for all events will be made available as they get closer. Watch for  
Information on the bulletin boards, on the website, Facebook and in The Gazette*



## Royal Canadian Legion Orillia Branch 34



# **ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!**

**Recruiting new members for the Branch 34 Colour Party!**

In an effort to rebuild the Branch 34 Colour Party we are looking for interested individuals who:

1. Can dedicate one night per month, for one or two hours of practice;
2. Can participate in most if not all parades and events as a Branch 34 Colour Party member (e.g. Remembrance Day, Santa Claus Parade, Canada Day, Scottish Festival, etc.); and
3. Can learn colour party drill movements and follow commands given on parade.

\* Drill experience IS NOT required.

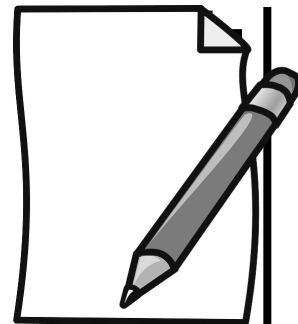
\* Must be a strong team player and able to work with existing members.

**INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS PLEASE CONTACT  
SEAN COUSENS AT: [rcl34paradecommander@outlook.com](mailto:rcl34paradecommander@outlook.com)**

*The Royal Canadian Legion, District E  
invites you to enter the 8th Annual*

# Seniors 55+ Literary Competition

*IN MEMORY OF JACKIE WALTER*



**WRITE A POEM, ESSAY, SHORT STORY, MEMOIR**

- ◆ Open to all Ontario seniors aged 55+
- ◆ Must be original, written by the contestant and be unpublished
  - ◆ Must be submitted in English or French
  - ◆ Must not exceed the line or word count specified
  - ◆ Must be **ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION ONLY:**  
Name on application and title page only
- ◆ Contestants may submit only one entry in any/each category
- ◆ Submission must include a cover page stating the title, author's name and entry word count
- ◆ Biographies that are submitted must include written consent of the subject, if living

**Competition Opens February 14, 2026 and closes  
at midnight April 30, 2026**

**Submit entries to: [districtEseniorsliterary@gmail.com](mailto:districtEseniorsliterary@gmail.com)  
***ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS ONLY*****

*POETRY - maximum 32 lines*

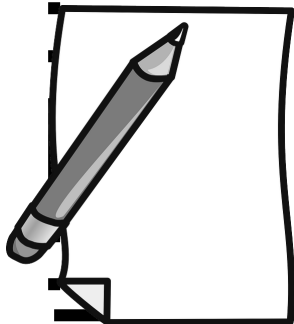
*SHORT STORY - word count maximum 4,000*

*ESSAY - word count maximum 1,000*

*MEMOIR - includes biographies, autobiographies and travel writing  
- word count maximum 5,000*

**For more information contact**

**Seniors Chair Bruno Scaturchio - 416-347-0621 or  
[districtEseniorsliterary@gmail.com](mailto:districtEseniorsliterary@gmail.com)**



# *Branch 34 Celebrates 100 Years*



**Branch 034  
Orillia**

*Scenes from our  
50's/60's Dance  
and the  
Ladies Auxiliary  
Soup and Sandwich  
Luncheon*





## Scottish Festival

We are four months out from Scottish Festival weekend and plans are well underway. As previously announced, our honoured clan will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion. The festival, being held on July 17, 18, 19, 2026 is our 48<sup>th</sup> annual celebrating Scottish heritage, traditions and culture. We have an exciting line up of energetic and upbeat entertainers to enjoy during our Friday night Ceilidh, Saturday in the park and Sunday afternoon at the Legion.

Currently, we are looking for individuals to help support us during the weekend with button and 50/50 sales, our Kids Zone, and various duties throughout the weekend. If you want to help for an hour, or a day, we would love to have you join us! Interested individuals can reach out to [orilliascottishfestival@gmail.com](mailto:orilliascottishfestival@gmail.com)

Find us on:

- Facebook - @orilliascottishfestival
- Instagram - @orilliascottish
- Twitter - @orilliascotfest
- Web: [scottishfestival.ca](http://scottishfestival.ca) or scan the QR code to go to the website here



Until we see one another, SOCIABLE!

*Angela Paylor and Carrie Dunn*

Co- chairs, Orillia Scottish Festival  
[orilliascottishfestival@gmail.com](mailto:orilliascottishfestival@gmail.com)

## 100th Anniversary

The 50's/60's dance held in January was a wonderful event. Thanks to the Orillia Big Band as well as the City of Orillia Branch 34 Pipe band for the great music. Special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped put it together, especially the ladies auxiliary members who jumped in at the last minute to help serve the food.

The Ladies Auxiliary Lunch on March 17<sup>th</sup> was a huge success, and I thank the ladies for helping to mark our anniversary.

The next event on our Anniversary calendar is the Millionaires Afternoon on April 25<sup>th</sup>. This will be the first Millionaires event in about 15 years. They used to be held three or four times a year and were a very popular event.

Comrades Rick Purcell and Sean Cousens are working with The City of Orillia to organize having the branch receive Freedom of the City on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. This honour will commence with a ceremony at City Hall followed by a parade to the branch.

Watch for details of the Popsicle Dart Tournament on June 20th as they become available.

While our anniversary plans include having a float in the Canada Day Parade, we were recently approached by Celebrate Orillia Inc, the organizers of the activities in the park. Every year Mariposa Market creates a huge cake for the festivities in Couchiching Park and this year they want to recognize our anniversary and use our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo on the cake. Representatives from the branch will participate in the dedication ceremony. This is a huge honour for our branch.

Submitted by

*Kate Palmer*

100th Anniversary Committee Chair

# April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Millionaires Afternoon</b> Saturday, April 25 <i>Games of Chance,                      Fun for all</i>			<b>1</b> Darts Bid Euchre Executive Meeting Bingo	<b>2</b> Yoga 9 & 10:15 a.m.	<b>3</b> <i>Breakfast</i> <b>Good                      Friday                      Branch                      Closed</b>	<b>4</b> <i>Breakfast                      8 to 11:30                      Pool                      10:30 a.m.</i>
<b>5</b>  <b>Happy                      Easter</b> <i>Breakfast                      Pool</i>	<b>5</b> Yoga 9:45 Bid Euchre 1 p.m. Ladies' Darts	<b>7</b> Euchre 1 p.m. LA Meeting	<b>8</b> Darts Bid Euchre <b>GENERAL                      MEETING</b> 7 P.M. Bingo	<b>9</b> Yoga 9 & 10:15 a.m.	<b>10</b> <i>Breakfast                      8 to 11:30                      Meat Draws                      Fun Darts</i>	<b>11</b> <i>Breakfast                      8 to 11:30                      Pool                      10:30 a.m.</i>
<b>12</b> <i>Breakfast                      8 to 11:30                      Pool 10:30                      Music Jam                      2 to 5 p.m</i>	<b>13</b> Yoga 9:45	<b>14</b> Euchre 1 p.m.	<b>15</b> Afternoon Darts Bid Euchre 1 pm Bingo	<b>16</b> Yoga 9 & 10:15 a.m.	<b>17</b> <i>Breakfast                      Meat Draws                      Fun Darts</i>	<b>18</b> <i>Breakfast                      8 to 11:30                      Pool                      10:30 a.m.</i>
<b>19</b> <i>Breakfast                      8 to 11:30                      Pool                      10:30 a.m.                      TRIVIA</i>	<b>20</b> Yoga 9:45	<b>21</b> Euchre 1 p.m.	<b>22</b> Afternoon Darts Bid Euchre 1 pm Bingo	<b>23</b> Yoga 9 & 10:15 a.m.	<b>24</b> <i>Breakfast                      8 to 11:30                      Meat Draws                      STEAK                      BBQ</i>	<b>25</b> <i>Breakfast                      8 to 11:30                      Millionaires                      Afternoon</i>
<b>26</b> <i>Breakfast                      Pool                      10:30 a.m.                      Chat &amp; Craft                      Line Dancing</i>	<b>27</b> Yoga 9:45	<b>28</b> Euchre 1 p.m. LA Executive	<b>29</b> Afternoon Darts Bid Euchre 1 pm Bingo	<b>30</b> Yoga 9 & 10:15 a.m.	<b>STEAK BBQ</b> <b>FRIDAY, APRIL 24</b> <b>6 P.M.</b> <b>\$25.00 PER PERSON</b>	

# May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>100TH ANNIVERSARY FREEDOM OF THE CITY AND PARADE SATURDAY, MAY 23RD</b>				<b>1</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30 Meat Draws Fun Darts</i>	<b>2</b> <i>Breakfast Pool 10:30 a.m.</i>
<b>3</b> <i>Breakfast SPRING TEA Pool 10:30 a.m.</i>	<b>4</b> Yoga 9:45	<b>5</b> Euchre 1 p.m.	<b>6</b> Darts Bid Euchre Executive Meeting Bingo	<b>7</b> Yoga 9 & 10:15 a.m.	<b>8</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30 Meat Draws Fun Darts</i>	<b>9</b> <i>Breakfast Pool 10:30 a.m.</i>
<b>10</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30 Pool 10:30 Music Jam 2 to 5 p.m.</i>	<b>11</b> Yoga 9:45	<b>12</b> Euchre 1 p.m.	<b>13</b> Darts Bid Euchre GENERAL MEETING Bingo	<b>14</b> Yoga 9 & 10:15 a.m.	<b>15</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30 Meat Draws Fun Darts</i>	<b>16</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30 Pool 10:30 DICE ROLL</i>
<b>17</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30 Line Dancing Pool 10:30</i>	<b>18</b> Yoga 9:45	<b>19</b> Euchre 1 p.m.	<b>20</b> Afternoon Darts Bid Euchre 1 pm Bingo	<b>21</b> Yoga 9 & 10:15 a.m.	<b>22</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30 Meat Draws Fun Darts</i>	<b>23</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30 FREEDOM OF THE CITY</i>
<b>24</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30 Pool 10:30 a.m.</i>	<b>25</b> Yoga 9:45	<b>26</b> Euchre 1 p.m.	<b>27</b> Afternoon Darts Bid Euchre 1 pm Bingo	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <i>Breakfast Meat Draws STEAK BBQ Fun Darts</i>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <i>Breakfast Pool 10:30 a.m. Chat &amp; Craft</i>			<b>STEAK BBQ FRIDAY, MAY 29 6 P.M. \$25.00 PER PERSON</b>			

# June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Yoga 9:45	<b>2</b> Euchre 1 p.m.  LA Meeting	<b>3</b> Afternoon Darts Bid Euchre 1 p.m. Executive Meeting Bingo	<b>4</b> Yoga 9 & 10:15 a.m.	<b>5</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30</i> Meat Draws Fun Darts	<b>6</b> <i>Breakfast Pool 10:30 a.m.</i>
<b>7</b> <i>Breakfast Pool 10:30 a.m.</i>  <i>Line Dancing</i>	<b>8</b> Yoga 9:45  <b>Veterans Lunch</b>	<b>9</b> Euchre 1 p.m.	<b>10</b> Afternoon Darts Bid Euchre <b>General Meeting</b> Bingo	<b>11</b> Yoga 9 & 10:15 a.m.	<b>12</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30</i> Meat Draws Fun Darts	<b>13</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30 Pool 10:30 a.m.</i>
<b>14</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30</i> <i>Pool 10:30</i> <i>Music Jam 2 to 5 p.m.</i>	<b>15</b> Yoga 9:45	<b>16</b> Euchre 1 pm	<b>17</b> Afternoon Darts Bid Euchre 1 pm  Bingo	<b>18</b> Yoga 9 & 10:15 a.m.	<b>19</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30</i> Meat Draws Fun Darts	<b>20</b> <i>Breakfast 100th Anniversary Dart Tournament</i>
<b>21</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30</i> <i>Pool 10:30 a.m.</i>	<b>22</b> Yoga 9:45	<b>23</b> Euchre 1 p.m.	<b>24</b> Afternoon Darts Bid Euchre 1 pm  Bingo	<b>25</b> Yoga 9 & 10:15 a.m.	<b>26</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30</i> Meat Draws STEAK BBQ Fun Darts	<b>27</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30 Pool 10:30 a.m.</i>
<b>28</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30</i> <i>Pool 10:30 a.m.</i>	<b>29</b> Yoga 9:45	<b>30</b> Euchre 1 p.m.  LA Executive		<b>STEAK BBQ</b> <b>FRIDAY, JUNE 26</b> <b>6 P.M.</b> <b>\$25.00 PER PERSON</b>		

# July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Scottish Festival Honours 100th Anniversary of The Royal Canadian Legion and Branch 34 July 17, 18 and 19</b>			<b>1</b> <i><b>HAPPY CANADA DAY</b></i>	<b>2</b> Yoga 9 & 10:15 a.m.	<b>3</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30</i> Meat Draws Fun Darts	<b>4</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30</i> <i>Pool 10:30 a.m.</i> 
<b>5</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30</i> <i>Pool 10:30</i>	<b>6</b> Yoga 9:45	<b>7</b> Euchre 1 p.m.  LA Meeting	<b>8</b> Afternoon Darts Bid Euchre 1 pm  Bingo	<b>9</b> Yoga 9 & 10:15 a.m.	<b>10</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30</i> Meat Draws Fun Darts	<b>11</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30</i> <i>Pool 10:30 a.m.</i> 
<b>12</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30</i> <i>Pool 10:30</i> <i>Music Jam 2 to 5 p.m</i>	<b>13</b> Yoga 9:45	<b>14</b>  Euchre 1 p.m.	<b>15</b> Afternoon Darts Bid Euchre 1 pm  Bingo	<b>16</b> Yoga 9 & 10:15 a.m.	<b>17</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30</i> Meat Draws Fun Darts	<b>18</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30</i> <i>Scottish Festival</i>
<b>19</b> <i>Breakfast</i>  <i>Scottish Festival Ceildth</i>	<b>20</b> Yoga 9:45	<b>21</b>  Euchre 1 p.m.	<b>22</b> Afternoon Darts Bid Euchre 1 pm  Bingo	<b>23</b> Yoga 9 & 10:15 a.m.	<b>24</b> <i>Breakfast</i> Meat Draws STEAK BBQ Fun Darts	<b>25</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30</i>
<b>26</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30</i> <i>Pool 10:30 a.m.</i> <i>Line Dancing</i>	<b>27</b> Yoga 9:45	<b>28</b> Euchre 1 p.m.  LA Executive	<b>29</b> Afternoon Darts Bid Euchre 1 pm  Bingo	<b>30</b> Yoga 9 & 10:15 a.m.	<b>31</b> <i>Breakfast 8 to 11:30</i> Meat Draws Fun Darts	

## A Debt of Thanks

In fields of red, where poppies gently sway,  
We pause to think on this Remembrance Day,  
Of soldiers past, their hearts both strong and true,  
Who gave their lives for me and for you.

A moments silence at the eleventh hour,  
To think of love, shown as a crimson flower,  
We keep their memory in our hearts today,  
A debt of thanks we never can repay.

The earth between us stretches wide and deep,  
Where in their graves, our heroes softly sleep,  
At home, sweet wives and mothers softly cry,  
As silent tears fall when days pass them by.

Their hearts feel heavy, their homes seem so bare,  
Missing the love that once fill all the air,  
A framed photograph, so clear and so kind,  
Is all that is left for the loved one behind.

When trouble came in many sorts,  
We thank all who offer their steady support,  
We value their caring work that they do,  
For mending bodies and spirits too.

***Black and White Senior Poster  
by Ridhima Ahlawat  
First Place Branch 34,  
First Place Zone E5 and  
First Place District E***



We give them respect, with hearts sincere and kind,  
The bravest of people, the best of mankind.  
The peaceful future that their service has made,  
The heavy sacrifice that they have paid..

Our thoughts also turn to those who serve today,  
And for our gratitude, we silently pray.  
The women and men, in uniforms of might,  
To whom our deep thanks is always held tight.

We honour those soldiers, their courage held high,  
And those who now rest beneath the vast sky,  
These outstanding deeds are forever our guide,  
Their service and strength in our hearts shall abide.

***Madeline Pasqua,  
Intermediate Poem,  
1st place Branch 34 and Zone E5  
3rd place District E***