



Royal Canadian Legion Centennial Branch 614

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Scarborough ON, M1S 2A8
www.rcl614.com

*40th
Anniversary
Serving the
Community
Since 1967*

April May June 2009 Bulletin



BULLETIN DEADLINE

All material to be put into the bulletin must be submitted by Saturday, June 24, 2009. Leave at branch or e-mail me at wayne@arrowspeed.ca.

If you would like to receive the Bulletin by e-mail, please e-mail me at the above e-mail address and I will add you to my list.

RCL BRANCH 614 REPORTS

President's Report

As the end of the 2008 -2009 term is arriving this could be my last report. In many ways I have thought this was a great year and that the Scarborough Centennial Branch 614 of Royal Canadian Legion had changed in many ways but rumors have it that some people feel that we went the other way. Well I strongly disagree with this opinion and this is my right and my reasoning. As a President I feel I have done nothing great for the Branch. We still have a financial problem. I could not find a miracle fix for all our woes. But the Branch itself has done what I have listed below plus more and that I am proud of and thank all.

Branch 614 has an Executive that works hard for the Branch

Branch 614 now has many members that sat in the background before now volunteering what ever time they have to help in some way.

Branch 614 is a branch that has willing members to volunteer their time in zone & district projects.

Branch 614 Ladies Auxiliary is going strong.

Branch 614 is a branch that is willing to help other Branches in anyway possible.

Branch 614 is a friendly Branch and visitors feel welcomed, not ignored.

There are also some sad parts to this term that bothers me greatly. Recently we had brave soul, with little courage to include their name, run around sometime between the hours 11.00pm and 7.00am the next day and tape his/her feelings on all the outside doors. The message he/she sent was not appreciated but he/she is entitled to their opinion. I just wished they had the courage to say it at a general meeting so our executive could ask why this person felt that way. Who knows, some good may have come out of it.

Secondly I heard about an e-mail sent to a certain person that stated that if this doesn't happen they and their friends are leaving our Branch. Again, no courage to say this to the people that it concerns. Maybe if what they are unhappy about was brought out in the open it could have been fixed before it got to this stage. There are other rumors floating around and these could be true or not. There is no proof to them so I will not mention them. The above two are the two that bothered me the worst.

And finally I would like to say that my wife and myself have changed our life around to accommodate the responsibilities we've accepted with this Branch and if only part of the rumors that are circulating are true, we do not deserve them. We have worked hard for this Branch since joining and it is very sad to hear these things.

There is forty-two days left to the elections and that amount of time left for me to decide about the next term. It will be the hardest decision I have had to make in along time. There are a lot of members that want me to run again and others that don't. What is best for the Branch is all that really matters to me and I am the one that has to make this decision for myself.

Wayne Hayes

President

Membership Chairperson's Report

As my term as Membership Chairman is almost over for another term I would like to thank all the executive members as well as the general members for all their help and support in the past year. It has been a pleasure working with you all.

Membership will always be a challenge for this Branch as well as any Branch. The economy is not going to help us much right now although I would think if someone was looking for a way of saving some money that they may become involved with the Legion. Where can you go and have an inexpensive

evening out, have a few drinks, play some darts, horseshoes, karaoke, and DJ for dancing plus socialize with your family and friends and help the Veterans and the community all at the same time. We need to keep getting the word out to everyone. Invite people to come and see what we are all about.

June Hayes
Membership Chair

Honors and Awards

To any member that feels that it's time for an award please fill in the little form below and ask the bar steward to put it in the black Membership Box

Name _____	Phone _____

Address _____	City _____
Postal Code _____	
Membership Number _____	Years of Service _____

Thank You
Shirley Reeves

Service Officer's Report

Comrades All,

This is my final report as Service Officer and I must say that I found the position very rewarding by helping other Veterans, their wives and their widows when they needed it the most. What surprises me the most is that some Veterans seemed reluctant to ask for help. The help is there plus benefits, so go for it, you earned it, if you are on the V.I.P. Program, your wife could benefit if she becomes a widow. If you are a Canadian Veteran, then give it a try. They can only say yes or no. A Veteran from War 2 has a very good chance even if you were not overseas.

I was Service Officer for 5 years plus 2 very successful years as Poppy Chairman. Granted, I had excellent help and I would be remiss not to mention Ken and Jenny Mulholland backing me up. We were a team.

It is time for a younger member to take over the helm and I recommend Kevin Chambers who showed a lot of interest by attending the Service Officer's seminar in Aurora last February. He has excellent qualifications having served in the militia, is in the Zone Colour Party and he comes from a military family.

Being an old sailor, I would like to close with an old sailor's wish. As you voyage through life- may the storms be few and may you always have a fair wind in your sails and a following sea.

Ray Cameron
Service Officer

Poppy Chairman Report

I would like to thank the fifty or more comrades who made this year's Poppy Campaign a very successful drive. What makes me feel is when someone says "Jack you did a good job". I say thanks but it was not just me. If not for all the comrades with their belief and support this would not have happened.

To mention everyone by name would take too much space in this report and I am sure I would miss someone. However I would be remiss if I didn't say thanks to Ray Cameron Trevor Strong and especially Rosemary Hiscock.

In parting I would like to thank all the donors. The schools, the churches the Ladies Auxiliary, the Army Cadets and the Air Cadets.

I would like to recommend that since our senior Veterans are rapidly getting fewer each year that our younger comrades take up the torch as we will need new replacements if we are to make the Poppy Campaign a success.

For those people who have been asking, we realized donations of \$43,716.02. A 30% increase over last year. I know we can better this with more help next year.

Again a big thanks.

Poppy Chairman

Jack Harper

Sick and Visiting Report

Happy Spring to all of our Comrades! I hope that the sunshine, flowers, new growth and births will bring everyone renewed hope, happiness, prosperity and good health.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of the Executive and each member of Branch 614 for your continued support over the past year. I have learned so many valuable lessons and each of you have encouraged me while fulfilling my position of Sick and Visiting. While serving on this Executive, I have learned the importance of working as a Team. There is no "I" in Team. We have tried our best to bring new ideas to our Branch with hopes of improvement and success. We always ask ourselves the important question, "Will it benefit our Branch?" If the answer is yes, then we proceed. Now that I have personally experienced the many long, dedicated hours of volunteer work, can I only now truly appreciate the whole picture of what makes a Branch. The more hands, the less work. We also have so much fun working together. I have made many new friends at our Branch who have added much to my own personal happiness. What's important is that we do work together as one to benefit our Branch. We want to stand proud and always remember why we are doing what we do. It is the origin of the Legion.

It is always with sadness that I report the loss of our dear Comrades. Presently under Last Post are: Dawna Bounds, Marion Tremblett, Monica Shortell, Albert Crothers, John Jeffery and Bill Weller. Our condolences are sent on to their beloved Families and Friends. Our Comrades will truly be missed and we will remember them.

I have continued with my visits, phone calls and sending cards to Comrades who are ill. Conversations, cards, phone calls and Bulletins with much information, allow our Comrades to continue their much needed connection with our Branch. They show their appreciation with their smiles and thank yous from their hearts.

At Sunnybrook Vets Residence we visited with two of our Comrades. Doug Ganton's smiles, laughter and tears always have us leaving with a sense of gratitude. Dougy reads his cards several times and then thanks us very much. Together we read about all the activities that are offered for our Vets. Here is a list of a few: movies, storytelling, crossword puzzles, breakfast groups, trips to restaurants, bingo (which is one of Dougy's favourites), sing a longs, casino day, vaudeville marionette shows, bands, dancers and Arm Chair Travel. Arm Chair Travel is about Ireland for March. This is where you sit in your chair and relax and pretend that you are travelling to a specific destination through videos, pictures, information, etc. Other activities include gourmet cooking classes, "Circus Fun", and a trip to the Art Gallery of Ontario. Staff encourages and helps the Veterans to become active both emotionally and physically. They even have the latest game craze called, "You, Mii and Wii" where you can choose either golf or soccer. They can also enjoy the game of, "The Price is Right". Dougy remains in great spirits. He often mentions the special table where he used to sit at in the Club Room. When Dougy reminisces about the good times with his friends, he often has smiles on his face and tears in his eyes. Doug sends his hellos to everyone and he wishes that he could visit our Branch again.

Bert Thistle is also at Sunnybrook. Bert does not want his name on the Bulletin Board. He has been ill during the past little while but he is recovering now. Bert is always so happy to see us. He served in the Army in Normandy. Bert was telling us how thankful he is that he is still able to get out and visit a couple of times a week. His nephew brought him to our Branch to pay his Membership dues and then again to pick up his Membership card. Wow- what dedication and love of the Legion! Bert welcomes any visitors to Sunnybrook.

Herb Baker is becoming a bit stronger day by day. He remains at home and hopes to return to the Branch soon. We visit at his home where we have our usual good conversation, tea and dessert. Even Herb's cat Sapphire welcomed us. Herb continues to miss his beloved wife Joan and he speaks of her with such love and devotion. It was Herb's Birthday in

March and I called and sang Happy Birthday to him. He was so happy. I was glad to hear that Herb's dear friends took him out for dinner and then back to his home for cake. Herb sends his best wishes to all his Comrades. He loves phone calls and visits so please feel free to call him.

Norma Parsons is now at home recuperating after knee surgery. She continues to experience quite a bit of pain but she does manage to give a little laugh and keep up her spirits. She truly misses visiting our Branch. Norma says hello to everyone. She welcomes phone calls and visitors.

Janet Wells is still at Shepherd Terrace. She keeps herself active by walking and exercising. Janet gets involved in the daily activities offered. I joined Janet in a Church Service called, "World Day of Prayer 2009." It was presented by a group of women from the Committee of Papua New Guinea. Janet and I sang hymns and said prayers together. I also had a nice visit with her. Janet remembers our Branch and sends her hellos to all.

Hewlett White is also residing at Shepherd Terrace. Hewlett served in the Navy and he has a keen sense of memory. He shares many an interesting story and I am always fascinated to hear about the Family business that operated on our Branch property so many years ago. Hewlett will be celebrating his Birthday in April and we wish him happiness and good health.

Don Aitken is still at Cedarbrook Lodge. He always enjoys it when I visit. Don is very appreciative of his cards and Bulletins. He continues to enjoy reading his, "National Geographic" and "Time" magazines. It made me very happy when Don was able to attend our Honours and Awards Ceremony in January along with his wife and daughter. They all attended the Chinese New Year as well. Don thoroughly enjoyed being back at our Branch for a visit. Hopefully Don and his Family will visit us again soon.

Bill and Edith Hughes continue to reside at Craiglee Nursing Home. I often speak with Bill on the phone and he lets me know when he is up to a visit. Bill always enjoys our visits and he engages me in conversation that is so informative and humorous at times. Bill appreciates the cards and well wishes from all of his Comrades. He sends his and Edith's regards to all his Comrades.

Presently, Grace Jeffery is at Leisure World. I had a nice visit with her and she enjoyed her card, especially the stickers and the encouraging words. Grace gave me some smiles and we looked at some Family pictures together. When I left, Grace was having a nice cup of tea and a cookie and was watching a black and white movie on the TV. Grace sends her regards to her Comrades and she wishes everyone well.

Many of you have put a variety of beautiful cards into my mailbox. I thank you very much. Your Comrades appreciate these cards. As I have mentioned before, some of our Comrades do not want their name on the Bulletin Board or in our Bulletin. Some only wish a card to be sent to them. I do respect their wishes. I have visited and sent out cards to some of our Comrades who have not been mentioned here in this Bulletin due to their wishes. I assure you that they do appreciate the cards and visits.

Please continue to remember our Comrades who have passed on and those who are ill. They all need our care, support and understanding, especially during their time of need. Thank you to the Comrades who have taken the time to call, visit or send a card. We want our Comrades to know that they are in our daily thoughts and prayers. Cherish each other. Support each other. That is what Comradeship is all about. I would like to share a poem with you called, "Friendship's bouquet" by Helen Steiner Rice.

**Yours in Comradeship,
Deanna Aspden**

Ladies Auxiliary Report

Well it sure is hard to believe that the Ladies have been back in force for a whole year. Thursday March 19, 2009 we held our meeting and then had a celebration. The support that we have received from the Branch as well as our members has been fantastic.

We're off and running again for another year and will be holding elections for the 2009/2010 year on Thursday April 23, 2009 7.30 in the Stan Lister hall if anyone would like to join us. With several bookings already in place for 2009 and one for 2010 we're off to a good start.

As always we are looking for help, I know it can be a big commitment, but if you don't want to join but have sometime you would like to volunteer that would also be very helpful.

Last but not least I would like to THANK EVERYONE that has made this year so successful.

**June Hayes
President**

LAST POST

Lest We Forget

*They shall not grow old
As we that are left grow
old
Age shall not weary
them
Nor the years condemn
At the going down of
the sun
And in the morning
We will remember them
"We will remember
them"*

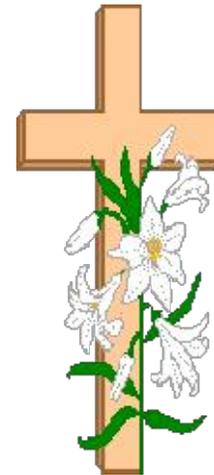
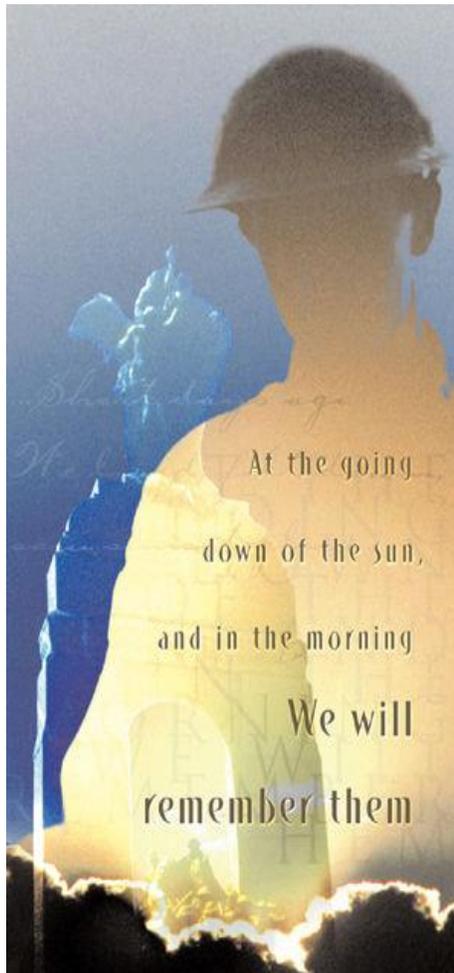
Lest We Forget

John Jeffery

Albert Crothers

Monica Shortell

William Weller



*We Will
Remember
Them*

In prayer to you this day, O God, we commemorate the service and sacrifice of our fellow countrymen and women in the Battle of the Atlantic.

We give humble and hearty thanks that in our Country's hour of need, your great gift of courage was so freely bestowed to that generation of Canadians upon whose shoulders would rest the mantle of security for their home and native land.

We commend to you in prayer those of their fellows here present at this ceremony; respectfully acknowledging their legacy of honourable service to Crown and Country and remaining steadfast in our determination to follow their good example.

But most especially, we remember before you all those who, having selflessly dedicated themselves to the protection of their country in the terrible turmoil of battle on the seas and in the air, were called into your nearer presence and are at peace.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O God, and may light perpetual shine upon them.

For they shall not grow old as we that are left grow old,

Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn;
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We shall remember them.
Amen.

Weekly Activities

Listed below are activities that go on throughout the year. At this time I have tried to inform you as to which are going through the summers months and the ones that will resume in the fall. If there is something on this list that you are interested in, please check at the branch and you will find a contact name for each activity.

Activity	Day	Time
Ladies Darts	Monday	1.30pm
Mixed Dart Leagues	Tuesday	7:15 pm - 9:30 pm
Line Dancing Lessons	Tuesday	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Euchre	Tuesday	7:15 pm - 9:30 pm
Seniors Carpet Bowling	Wednesday & Thursday	9:30 am - 11:30 am
Karaoke & Dancing Danny Mak	Wednesday	8:00 pm - 10:30 pm
Bid Euchre	Thursday	12:45 pm - 3:00 pm
Swing Dance Lessons	Thursday	7.30pm – 9.30pm
Cribbage	Thursday	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Karaoke & Dancing Carlos	Friday	8:00 pm - 1:00 am
Corn Hole	Cancelled Until	Further Notice
Meat Roll	Saturday	3.00pm – 4.30pm
Disc Jockey & Dancing	Saturday	8:30 pm - 12:30 am
Karaoke & Dancing Carlos	Sunday	3.00 pm – 8.00 pm

Saturday Night Dance Disc Jockeys

This list is as of printing time and could change. Please check the Branch for updated calendar.

April 4, 2009	Lillian Charkow	
April 11, 2009	Paul Evans	Birthday Party
April 18, 2009	Bill Van Huyse	
April 25, 2009	John Semple & Company	Live Band
May 2, 2009	Grant Smead	
May 9, 2009	Paul Evans	Birthday Party
May 16, 2009	John Sigvaldason	
May 23, 2009	Larry McCallen	
May 30, 2009	Brad Snell	
June 6, 2009	Grant Smead	
June 13, 2009	Bill Van Huyse	Birthday Party

June 20, 2009
June 27, 2009

Paul Evans
John Sigvaldason

Special Events

Hot Five Jazz Makers Sunday April 5, 2009 3.00pm Tickets at Bar \$15.00
District Public Speaking Finals, Saturday, April 18, 2009 12.30pm
Neil Diamond Tribute show Saturday April 18, 2009 8.00PM Tickets at Bar
Annual & Elections Meeting May 24, 2009 1.00pm Also Pub Day after General Meeting
The 19th Annual Massed Band – Tattoo Sunday August 16, 2009
Warriors Day Parade at the Canadian National Exhibition Saturday August 22, 2009

MEMBER'S CORNER

This is an area for our bulletin that is designated as the “Members Corner”. This is your area to express your opinions, share your event photos or just sound off. As long as the content is not immoral or illegal we will do our best to include it as space permits.

The editor reserves the right to edit content as deemed necessary. Contributors must agree to have their name accompany the article. Please send in your notices to the branch or e-mail me at this address

wayne@arrowspeed.ca.

Before I let you read the very touching story below I would like to put some information out to you about how proud we can be of our Branch. Back in December we started our Large Jar Troop Moral Fund campaign. As individuals passed this jar they would donate any amount they wanted to contribute. A fair amount was donated to the jar through December and January. It was also decided at the January Executive meeting that the suggestion that Provincial Command put forth that all Branches should think up some kind of Troop Moral Fund raiser that we could run on February 14th. Our Ways and Means committee put forth their proposal of donating one dollar of every ticket sold for our Valentine Dance to be donated to the fund. All accepted this donation. Next came our Ladies Auxiliary they said they would donate one dollar for every plate sold at the Valentine Dance. Again all accepted this donation. The Ladies Auxiliary also donated twenty-five cents on each sale at the Zone Euchre Day. The night of our dance we had an unnamed member donate another hundred dollars. Our thanks go out to you.

On Friday February 13th Our Public Relation Officer, John Fung, Arranged for a Captain Albert Lai to speak to the members attending the Friday Night Karaoke. The Captain had spent time in Afghanistan at a base just closed to Kandahar. He told of how much pleasure Tim Hortons brought to the Troops and how when someone from his base was going to Kandahar they would have to bring back Tim Hortons on their return. He also reinforced how much the Troop Morale Fund means to our Troops in Afghanistan and he thanks us for our support.

Branch 614 you can be proud of yourself again because all said and done we will be donating over a thousand dollars to the Troop Morale Fund. That is a lot of coffee and donuts. And from all our Executive and myself I thank all who contributed.

And now you can the story below about a lady who went to Kandahar and worked at the Tim Hortons for six months. Her story will also tell us that our donations to this fund does make some difference in Afghanistan.

Tim Hortons in Kandahar, Afghanistan: An insider's view

Jennifer Jones spent six months working at the Kandahar Tim Hortons. Here's how her stint in war-torn Afghanistan gave her a greater appreciation for our soldiers - and our country.

My alarm goes off just before 5 a.m. I pull on my bathrobe, pad down the hallway and open the plywood door to a gravel road and a line of large rounded tents surrounded by concrete highway dividers. The sun is already up, and hundreds of birds have congregated in the few trees to bid the morning welcome with their cheerful chatter. It is almost cool, but the promise of 50-degree heat hangs in the air. I walk over sand and gravel to the shower trailer. This early in the morning I have the place to myself, which doesn't happen often. The trailer is ripe with the smells of chlorine and disinfectant, and I hurry back to my tent where I'm living for six months and change into my uniform. I put on sand-coloured pants and a shirt, my name tag and a desert camouflage hat. As I arrive at work, there's already a line up, so I hustle in the side door. My coworkers are bustling about, making coffee and stocking cups. I grab a hairnet, put it on under my cap and take my place as the doors open. Not an average job. This is no ordinary Tim Hortons. I work on the Kandahar military base in Afghanistan. The store is roughly in the middle of the base. In the centre is a large sand-and-gravel field where the Americans play football and the Brits play cricket. There's a ball hockey rink right outside our store where we watch the Canadian troops play enthusiastic games of hockey in the sweltering heat. Other food outlets and stores line two sides of the boardwalk in the sand. The store is actually a trailer and in the mornings, with six people behind the counter, it's a busy place. We rush about in a practiced ballet of coffee and doughnuts, calling out orders and dodging the bakers as they come to fill up the showcase. Sometimes I marvel that we don't crash into one another. The usual. We can often tell what someone will order just by looking at the uniform. The Canadian troops usually just want a double-double, known as a NATO Standard over here. Sometimes we tempt them into an apple fritter. The Americans prefer honey dips with a regular coffee, whereas the Brits can't turn down a Boston cream or a Canadian maple. They're also partial to French vanilla cappuccinos. When the cappuccino machine is temporarily out of service, we almost have a mutiny on our hands. "No French vanilla?" a group of four British soldiers gasp and moan. "What are we supposed to do?" "What will you do when you go home?" I ask. "You'll have to start a franchise in Sussex." "Oh, we'll just order the French vanilla online then." They grin and buy two cans of the mix to tide them over. I enjoy seeing our regulars as well as the new faces that arrive all the time. Good mornin', m'love! And how're you today?" one of the older soldiers from Newfoundland lilt. His face is tanned and his blue eyes sparkle as he smiles. I return the smile and say, "Just great! And you?" "Oh, livin' the dream," he laughs and orders his morning coffee. I know he'll

be back three or four more times before the day's end.

The Tim Hortons caps we wear are perhaps the most in demand. "Can I have six double-doubles and a hat?" "How much for your hat, darlin'?" We hear these questions all day long. Conversation is mostly casual and light hearted. "Make my coffee better than his," one soldier jokes, pointing to his friend. "Give him the old stuff." "Are you still here? I thought you'd be home by now! When do they let you out?" "We're prone to rocket attacks 'Of course, we're the only Tim Hortons where the majority of customers come in fully armed. But by now I'm used to the sight of a soldier with a rifle in one hand and a coffee in the other. We're also prone to rocket attacks on the base, and when the alarm sounds, we have to get all the Customers out of the store and sit in the back until the all clear sounds. There's a heavy thud, a feeling of impact and then the eerie wail of an old air-raid siren. The signal to get to a bunker, or to the back of the store, if I'm working. The first time I experienced this I wasn't really scared, but it gave a note of seriousness to my job that hadn't been there before. We sat on the floor and waited until the all-clear alarm went off like a British police siren. Some days are harder because of the hot weather, we make a lot of iced cappuccinos, and I often dance a little when I make them. I sway back and forth, moving my hips to the sound of the mixer. I tell the customers it tastes better that way. It never fails to get a smile. There are days when it's hard to be upbeat, though. We've had six ramp ceremonies since I've been here. A ramp ceremony is when we send soldiers home in the very way we don't want to - in a coffin. It's a very formal event, with the troops marching out in formation. Those of us with the Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency are put in our own ranks. We march behind our troops and take our place on the tarmac in front of the plane that

will fly the bodies' home. Other than the sound of marching feet, all is silent. A brief service is usually conducted by the padre, a military minister.

We pray, and then the troops salute the caskets draped in Canadian flags, which are carried high on the shoulders of other soldiers. A bagpiper follows behind. I don't think I'll ever hear the sound of bagpipes

again without remembering these ceremonies. Sometimes I cry, a little – for lives lost, and for families I've never met. When we get back to work the mood is somber; soldiers come in with grief on their faces. They give their order quietly, avoiding eye contact. I can sense that tears are close for them. It can be hard to speak in those moments. Yet most of the soldiers appreciate our smiles and jokes. When we celebrate life, it helps us all deal with death a little easier. In need of a change I applied for this job in August 2006. I was wrapping up a contract job with an arts festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont. processing donations and sending out membership packages. I was looking for something different to do with my life; something that would feel like I was helping out a larger cause. I didn't think I would get this job. I'm 35, and although I'm not married and don't have children, I assumed I'd be bypassed in favour of younger adventurers. But I found a range of ages and experiences when I was accepted into the two-week training course. One of my coworkers, Chantal, 24, from Timmins, Ont. signed up because her husband is a soldier here and she wanted to support him and their friends who are serving in this mission. We work long hours, and there are no days off. By the end of a shift, I'm tired as I walk back to my tent. My little room is home, for now, and though it's only the size of small car garage, it's comfortable. I have a bed sheet for a door and a curving tent wall above my head. When it rains hard, as it sometimes does, the tent often leaks. Missing home I miss simple things, like having a bathroom in the same building as my bedroom and walls that go all the way up to the ceiling. I miss picking berries and making pies and jam. I have a friend who recently died of cancer, and I wish I could have visited her, or at least called her more easily and frequently. I have even missed winter. But at night in Kandahar, I look up and see the same familiar constellations that hang over the sky in my hometown of Thunder Bay, Ont., and I know I'll be back there before long. I rest easy knowing that my home is where roadside bombings and landmines are unheard of. I have a huge appreciation for Canada - I always did - but this experience is magnifying it.

Making a difference

This job has given me more patience and shown that I can live through difficult circumstances with a smile on my face. I came here with very little understanding of the military culture, and I will leave knowing that our soldiers are proud to serve us this far from home; they want to make the world better for their own families and their country. For the soldiers, being able to feel normal by ordering "the usual" helps make their tour more bearable. Just the other day, a soldier told me, "If it weren't for this place, I'd have gone crazy by now." So when a young soldier comes in and gives me a thankful grin because he can finally get an iced cappuccino after six weeks out in the desert, I feel that, even by just serving a coffee, I can make a difference.

Jennifer Jones worked at Tim Hortons in Kandahar for six months. When she wrote this essay, she was a month away from returning home.

Sent in by a Higher Up

An Australian Definition of a Canadian - Written by an Australian Dentist

You probably missed it in the local news, but there was a report that someone in Pakistan had advertised in a newspaper an offer of a reward to anyone who killed a Canadian - any Canadian.

An Australian dentist wrote the following editorial to help define what a Canadian is, so they would know one when they found one.

A Canadian can be English, French, Italian, Irish, German, Spanish, Polish, Russian or Greek. A Canadian can be Mexican, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Australian, Iranian, Asian, Arab, Pakistani or Afghan. A Canadian may also be a Cree, Métis, Mohawk, Blackfoot, Sioux or one of the many other tribes known as native Canadians.

A Canadian's religious beliefs range from Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu or none. In fact, there are more Muslims in Canada than in Afghanistan. The key difference is that in Canada they are free to worship as each of them chooses. Whether they have a religion or no religion, each Canadian ultimately answers only to God, not to the government, or to armed thugs claiming to speak for the government and for God.

A Canadian lives in one of the most prosperous lands in the history of the world. The root of that prosperity can be found in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms which recognize the right of each person to the pursuit of happiness.

A Canadian is generous and Canadians have helped out just about every other nation in the world in their time of need, never asking a thing in return.

Canadians welcome the best of everything, the best products, the best books, the best music, the best food, the best services and the best minds. But they also welcome the least -the oppressed, the outcast and the rejected.

These are the people who built Canada. You can try to kill a Canadian if you must as other blood-thirsty tyrants in the world have tried but in doing so you could just be killing a relative or a neighbor. This is because Canadians are not a particular people from a particular place. They are the embodiment of the human spirit of freedom. Everyone who holds to that spirit, everywhere, can be a Canadian.

Sent In By Anna Wilkins-McCallen

Although the definition of Veteran written below is about an American Veteran I feel this definition is true about our Canadian Veterans, the UK Veterans and all our Allied Veterans. As matter of fact any Veteran who fought for Freedom or is still fighting for Freedom, will fall under this definition. I would like to apologize to the person that had sent me this definition. When I copied this to my short story file I neglected to copy your name also. I thank you for this.

What Is A Veteran

Father Denis Edward O'Brien USMC

Some veterans bear visible signs of their service, a missing limb, a jagged scar, a certain look in the eye. Others may carry the evidence inside them: a pin holding a bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg or perhaps another sort of inner steel the soul's ally forged in the refinery of adversity.

Except in parades, however, the men and women who have kept America safe wear no badge or emblem. You can't tell a vet just by looking. What is a vet?

He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.

He is the barroom loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, whose over grown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.

She or he is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

He is the POW who went away one person and came back another or didn't come back AT ALL.

He is the Quantico drill instructor who has never seen combat but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no-account rednecks and gang members into Marines, and teaching them to watch each other's backs.

He is the parade riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.

He is the three anonymous heroes in The Tomb of the Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all the anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep.

He is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket palsied now and aggravatingly slow who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

He is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, the greatest nation ever known.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say Thank You. That's all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded.

Two little words that mean a lot, "THANK YOU."

RCL Branch 614 Humour Corner

This is a Members section and if you have some good clean family joke or a funny short story, please let us know and we may use it in this area if space allows. Anyone submitting to this section must agree to have their name listed as the person sending it in. E-mail wayne@arrowspeed.ca

Boots

Anyone who has ever dressed a child will appreciate this one!

Did you hear about the Texas teacher who was helping one of her kindergarten students put on his cowboy boots?

He asked for help and she could see why. Even with her pulling and him pushing, the little boots still didn't want to go on. By the time they got the second boot on, she had worked up a sweat

She almost cried when the little boy said, "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet." She looked, and sure enough, they were.

It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on.

She managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the boots back on, this time on the right feet.

He then announced, "These aren't my boots."

She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream,

"Why didn't you say so?", like she wanted to.
Once again, she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his little feet.
No sooner had they gotten the boots off when he said,
"They're my brother's boots. My Mom made me wear 'em."
Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry. But, she
mustered up what grace and courage she had left to wrestle
the boots on his feet again.
Helping him into his coat, she asked, "Now, where are your mittens?"
He said, "I stuffed 'em in the toes of my boots."
She will be eligible for parole in three years.

Dear Deidre,

I have never written to you before, but I really need your advice. I have suspected for some time now that my wife has been cheating on me.

The usual signs; phone rings but if I answer, the caller hangs up.
My wife has been going out with 'the girls' a lot recently although when I ask their names she always says, just some friends from work, you don't know them.'

I try to stay awake and look out for her when she comes home, but I usually fall asleep. Anyway, I have never broached the subject with my wife. I think deep down I just did not want to know the truth, but last night she went out again and I decided to finally check on her.

Around midnight, I hid in the garage behind my golf clubs so I could get a good view of the whole area when she arrived home from a night out with 'the girls.'

When she got out of the car she was buttoning up her blouse, which was open, and she took her panties out of her purse and slipped them on.

It was at that moment, crouching behind my golf clubs, that I noticed a hairline crack where the grip meets the graphite shaft on my 3-wood. Is this something I can fix myself or should I take it back to the pro-shop where I bought it?

Sent In By Tom Walker Oakville

Tap On The Shoulder

A passenger in a taxi leaned over to ask the driver a question and tapped him on the shoulder. The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb, and stopped just inches from a large plate glass window. For a few moments everything was silent in the cab, and then the still shaking driver said, 'I'm sorry, but you scared the daylights out of me.' The frightened passenger apologized to the driver and said he didn't realize a mere tap on the shoulder could frighten him so much. The driver replied, 'No, no, I'm sorry, it's entirely my fault. Today is my first day

driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years."

Sent In By Robert Crone

The Mountie

A woman went into a bar in Newfoundland and saw a Mountie with his feet propped up on a table. He had the biggest boots she'd ever seen. She asked him if was true what they say about men with big feet. The Mountie grinned and said, "Sure is, little lady. Why don't you come over to the barracks and let me prove it to you?" The woman wanted to find out for herself, so she spent the night with him. The next morning she handed him a \$100 bill. Blushing, he said, well, thanks, ma'am. I'm real flattered. nobody ever paid me for my services before. "She told him, "Don't be flattered...take the money and buy yourself boots that fit."

Sent In By Jennie Mulholland

Youth Education

Five youths in District "D", one from Branch 66, one from Branch 258 and three from Branch 614, placed in the top three of their category at the Provincial 2008-2009 Poster & Literary Contest and one is on his way to the Dominion Contest. In order for these children to advance as they have, they most go through competition at the Branch Level, Zone Level, District Level and then Provincial Level and then to The Dominion Level. We are privileged to have one of these children going to the Dominion Level representing Branch 614.

If you have ever wondered where some of the money goes that people donate to volunteering Taggers during the Poppy Campaign, this is one. A small portion of the Poppy Campaign money helps support the Royal Canadian Legion's Youth Programs. It is mind boggling to see the creative talent that these children, from a junior age right up to seniors age, display in their posters or the writing in their poems and essays. Their imagination in drawing their Posters or the creative writing of their poems or essays on subjects that most if not all of these children have never lived in an area or close to an area of war. It really makes you feel good to know that these children do understand what the cost of freedom was and that they will always remember those who have paid that price to allow us to live in peace in this Great Country of ours.

This is where some of the money goes and I for one hope it continues for a long long time. Here are the names of the five children that made it to Provincial Level and placed in the top three of their category.

2 nd Place	Junior Poem	Rachel Simone Ebanks	Branch 258
2 nd Place	Intermediate Colour Poster	Binghao Zhang	Branch 66
2 nd Place	Senior Black & White Poster	Sabrina Leung	Branch 614
3 rd Place	Intermediate Black & White Poster	Kevin Tieu	Branch 614
1 st Place	Junior Black & White Poster	Jeremy Hon	Branch 614

Congratulations to all five children from all of us at Branch 614. A job well done and we wish Jeremy the best of luck at the Dominion Level.

I can also add to this Youth Education Report now that Jeremy Hon did in fact win his category at the Dominion Command Level. Congratulations Jeremy. Job well done.

PROVINCIAL TRACK & FIELD RESULTS FOR DISTRICT "D"**Girls 17 and Under 200m Dash****2nd place Sade Lewis (District D)****Boys 17 and Under High Jump****2nd place Rohan Bhalla (District D)****Girls 17 and Under Pole Vault****1st place Emily Kukovica (District D)****2nd place Christine King (District D)****3rd place Allesandra Taraglia (District D)****Boys 17 and Under 3000m Run****3rd place Eric Dillon (District D)****Boys 17 and Under 1500m****2nd place Eric Dillon (District D)****Boys 15 and Under 60m Dash****1st place Joel Odoma (District D)****Girls 15 and Under 400m Run****1st place Christina Kyritis (District D)****2nd place Tehel Gabriel (District D)****Girls 15 and Under 800m Run****1st place Christina Kyritis (District D)****Girls 15 and Under Long Jump****1st place Elaine Venditti (District D)****3rd place Celine DeCarolis (District D)****Girls 15 and Under Long Jump****2nd place Celine DeCarolis (District D)****Boys 17 and Under Shot Put****2nd place Adam Karakolis (District D)****Girls 15 and Under 800m Run****1st place Christina Kyritis (District D)****2nd place Vanessa McLeod (District D)****Girls 15 and Under 400m Run****1st place Christina Kyritis (District D)****Girls 17 and Under 400m Run****1st place Leanne Fernandes (District D)****Girls 17 and Under 800m Run****1st place Leanne Fernandes (District D)**

Congratulations to all participants for a job well done from Branch 614

Branch Officers

President	Wayne Hayes	416-298-7571
1st Vice President	Chin Tam	905-841-5070
2nd Vice President	Heather Vanslack	416-299-4314
3rd Vice President	George West	416-293-3221
Secretary	Shirley Reeves	416-332-8433
Treasurer	Ray Johnston	416-267-9564
Imm. Past President	John Harris	416-293-3498

Executive Committee

Sergeant-At Arms	Frank Yip	416-232-8942
Poppy	Jack Harper	416-492-7136
Ways & Means	Brenda Tam	905-841-5070
Entertainment	John Fung	416-564-8737
Service Officer	Ray Cameron	416-267-1558
Sports	Peter Vanslack	416-299-4314
Membership	June Hayes	416-298-7571

Executive & Standing Committees

Honors & Awards	Shirley Reeves	416-332-8433
Public Relations Office	John Fung	416-564-8737
Youth Education	Heather Vanslack	416-299-4314
Hall Liaison	June Hayes	416-298-7571
Track & Field	Heather Vanslack	416-299-4314
Walkathon	Wayne Hayes	416-298-7571
Seniors Liaison	Trevor Strong	905-881-1784
Regalia	June Hayes	416-298-7571
Building & Grounds	John Harris	416-293-3498
Bar Chairmen	John Harris	416-293-3498
Finance Committee		
Wayne Hayes	Chin Tam	Benny Tam
Bulletin	Wayne Hayes	416-751-3398
Cadet Liaison	George West	416-293-3221
Sick Visiting	Deanna Aspden	416-266-2933
Padre	Prue Chambers	416-691-6352
Chaplains	Sheila Harris/Frank Dvorak	416-293-3498/416-438-8583

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