



The Lacombe Legion



Volume 2 Number -03-04-4

Zone 3 District 4

March/April 2001

LET'S GET SERIOUS!

It's very important to the image

of the Royal Canadian Legion how the Community perceives us. The old image was that we were a drinking establishment only. The perception of a private club for the smokers and drinkers is being changed! The public still believes members sit in the lounge drinking, smoking and talking about "the war" until closing. The young generation of citizens appear to also have this perception.

The community is only aware of the Legion preceding Remembrance Day and through the Annual Poster and Essay contests.

Misunderstandings result, to the detriment of the community and the Lacombe Branch! Lack of proper information creates misunderstandings and suspicions. Community-minded citizens are reluctant to be tagged with the current image. This results in difficulty attracting capable members!

The Branch is becoming more visible! This will be increased through advertising, news items and personal contacts. Changes are being made to respect the needs of others!

The community should be more aware of the contributions made by the branch through generous financial donations and other support.

As an example, the Legion Hall is provided to non-profit groups at no cost. It is through such generous acts Community Groups are encouraged to participate in Legion-sponsored activities.

There has been some discontent from a few

members regarding non-Legion groups using the lounge and games area. This is negative thinking!

We need to be reminded that serving the needs of the community is one of the main challenges of all Legion branches across Canada. Many organizations are unable to hold social events elsewhere due to limited funds. The games area is accessible to these groups when the lounge is normally inactive. Accepting these groups provides a caring image and is excellent for much needed community acceptance! These 'outside groups' view the Legion as a caring organization . . . and rightly so!

Lest We Forget

Non-members are beginning to have a different perception of

the Legion. Residents of the community get together for an evening out. Having whist parties twice a month on Saturday evenings is excellent for promoting better public relations. Saturday nights are 'slow nights' in the lounge. Card parties ensures patrons in the Lounge. Revenue generated in any acceptable way is better than having the lounge empty. This activity is certainly accepted by the community and enhances the reputation of the Branch. Over time and with patience, the Lacombe Branch will be the place to go for young and old alike.

Let's respect the needs of others. We need their support so the Legion can support others. Let us share our good fortune in having this facility!

Joyce Bradford, President

Leadership training should become a priority for the Legion.

This does not have to be in a structured form, but must not be ruled out. Willing members can, and should learn from those who have been in the Executive. The past committee chairmen,

because of their experience, wisdom, or age, should be at the forefront to help. A person willing to take on a challenge should not be expected to make all the mistakes again, and face the risk of new errors. Criticism of one's failings is counter-productive and will not serve the Legion in any way. Let's cooperate!

The Results Are In!

The District Crib Tournament was held in the Lacombe Branch on February 3. Approximately 75 crib players enjoyed a full day of competitive darts. Branch #79 Legion Pairs team of Irene Belmore and Marie Long won 2nd place.

They advanced to the Provincial Tournament held in Fort Smith. The Lacombe team placed 3d playing against very stiff competition!

District Legion Darts was held in Ponoka on February 10. The Lacombe Branch consisting of Dave and Cheryl Swarbrick, Dave Richardson and Madeleine Babiak placed 2nd, also facing strong opponents! They now advance to the Provincial Tournament in Bellevue.

Congratulations!

Note -

Thank you, Comrades, for sponsoring us!

Lacombe Legion Branch #79

Branch Hours

Monday to Saturday inclusive 3 p.m.-10 p.m.

Weekly Activities

Monday	Bingo	7:15 p.m.
Tuesday	Darts	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Cribbage	7:00 p.m.
Thursday	<i>Open for suggestions</i>	
Friday	Meat Draws	6:00 p.m.
Saturday	Meat Draws	4:30 p.m.
Saturday - 1st and 3d	Whist	7:00 p.m.
Phone Ruth Hoppus - 782-5365 or Marie Long - 782-2186		

Meetings

Lacombe Branch #79

General Meeting	1st Thursday	7:30 p.m.
Executive Meeting	Last Wednesday	7:30 p.m.

Ladies' Auxiliary

General Meeting	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m.
Executive Meeting	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion

**5138 49 Street
Lacombe Alberta
T4L 1J2**

**Phone (403) 782 6441
Fax (403) 782 2077
Kitchen (403) 782 7888
E-mail: rcl79@incentre.net**

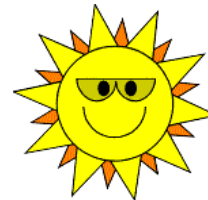
Project 2000

I can appreciate hearing some people that are really wondering when we should be in our new Lounge. I often have wondered the same thing and wish we were there now. After only six months of construction, we have done very well. Drop by and take a peek inside. The tentative opening date is expected to be early April with a Grand Opening being planned for April 20th.

Roy Cucheran, Hall & Building Chairman



Sick and Visiting



No report!

H.D. Cucheran

President's Report

Let me congratulate the participants from our Branch attending Provincial Command Sporting events. We had the "Crib Pairs", Marie Long and Irene Belmore; Mixed Darts consisting of Dave and Cheryl Swarbrick, Dave Richardson and Madeline Babiuk are also representing our Branch.

It was suggested that the Branch should supply 'trading pins' for these members to take as they are representing Branch #79. It is the consensus of Branch #79 Executive that it is the responsibility of the Branch to pay the entry fees, mileage and hotel rooms for all participants. This is a major obligation for a Branch our size is where the obligation of the Branch ends.

Although we are very proud to have our Branch represented at these events, some of the cost has to be the obligation of the participants. It was suggested that if the participants do not wish to purchase Branch pins, the Chamber of Commerce could be approached for Town of Lacombe pins could be obtained for their trading pleasure.

Joyce Bradford, President



Ladies Auxiliary Notes

Elsie Suter, Reporter

February 3 - Thank you to all the ladies who made the lunch for those attending the Legion District Cribbage Tournament.

March 6 - President Jean Bruns initiated two members. They are Gwen Duffy and Amie Collet.

A transferee has also joined the auxiliary.
Lucienne Desautels.
Welcome, ladies to our Auxiliary!

March 11 - The ladies served in the Legion Hall to honour member Ellen Schilling's 80th birthday. It was 'open house' and lasted from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Many happy returns from us all!

March 24 - The Ponoka Ladies Auxiliary is hosting an Executive Workshop from 10:am to 2:00 p.m. Madame Margaret Ferguson will be in attendance.
The cost is \$5.00 per person.

March 26 - The ladies will be hosting an afternoon of B-I-N-G-O at the Senior's Lodge. Please attend and be there before 1:30 p.m.
Your help is needed and appreciated!

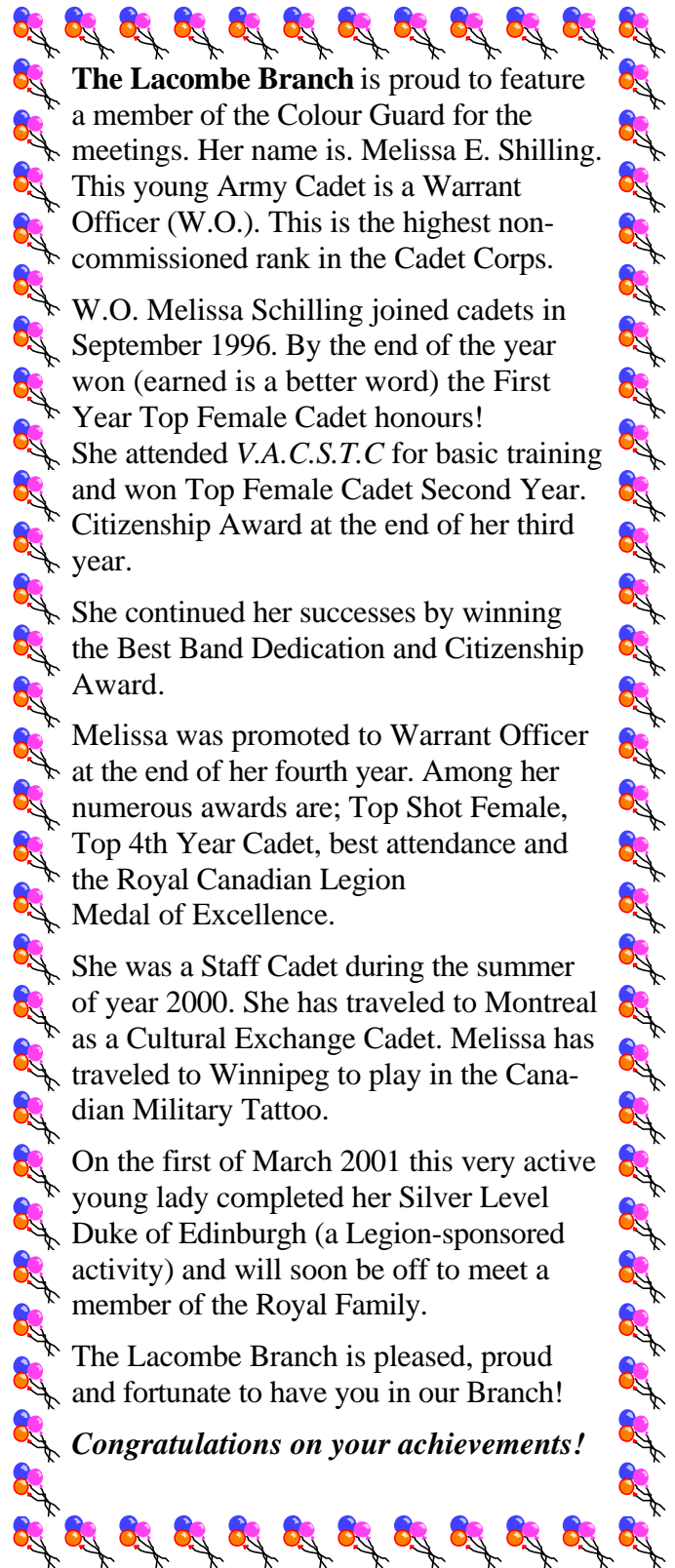
April 7 - The Annual Spring Bazaar will be held on will be held in the Legion Hall from 11:00 am to 3:00 p.m. A light lunch will be available for a small charge.
Come one - come all!

Apr 29 - The District Rally will be held in Innisfail. Registration is from 10:00 a. m. to 12:00 noon.
The charge is \$15.00 per person.

June 10 to 13 - The Provincial Convention will be held in Lethbridge. Trudy Friesen is selected as Auxiliary representative.

Note -

President Jean Bruns is on a three-week vacation in Victoria, B.C. Please direct questions to past President Barb Burnett at phone (403) 782 7876



The Lacombe Branch is proud to feature a member of the Colour Guard for the meetings. Her name is. Melissa E. Shilling. This young Army Cadet is a Warrant Officer (W.O.). This is the highest non-commissioned rank in the Cadet Corps.

W.O. Melissa Schilling joined cadets in September 1996. By the end of the year won (earned is a better word) the First Year Top Female Cadet honours!

She attended V.A.C.S.T.C for basic training and won Top Female Cadet Second Year. Citizenship Award at the end of her third year.

She continued her successes by winning the Best Band Dedication and Citizenship Award.

Melissa was promoted to Warrant Officer at the end of her fourth year. Among her numerous awards are; Top Shot Female, Top 4th Year Cadet, best attendance and the Royal Canadian Legion Medal of Excellence.

She was a Staff Cadet during the summer of year 2000. She has traveled to Montreal as a Cultural Exchange Cadet. Melissa has traveled to Winnipeg to play in the Canadian Military Tattoo.

On the first of March 2001 this very active young lady completed her Silver Level Duke of Edinburgh (a Legion-sponsored activity) and will soon be off to meet a member of the Royal Family.

The Lacombe Branch is pleased, proud and fortunate to have you in our Branch!

Congratulations on your achievements!

Veterans wanting to apply for a medal or for a replacement can write to:
Honours and Awards Division, Veterans Affairs Canada, 66 Slater St., Ottawa, Ont., K1A 0P4.

Sports Report

Irene Belmore and Marie Long went to Provincial Cribbage in Fort Smith N.W.T. They placed 3rd overall. The Branch sponsored their trip.

Congratulations!

Red Deer - Lacombe Dart Challenge February 24. Thirty players attended and had a great time. The first place team was from Lacombe. Derek Kelly, Yvonne Rajchert, Dave Swarbrick.

High In - Dave Swarbrick, 160.

High Out Dave Swarbrick, 105.

Dave and Cheryl Swarbrick, Madeline Babiuk, Dave Richardson participated in District Darts in Ponoka on February 10 and they placed 2nd. They now get to go on to Provincial Darts in Bellevue, Alberta (Crow's Nest Pass), March 16, 17, 18.

Congratulations!

Check the Bulletin Board for Sports Events

Dave Swarbrick, Sports Chairman



Lounge & Bar Report

Hours of operation have been increased to 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

Monthly inventory was completed on February 28, 2001.

April 20, 2001, Grand Opening of New Lounge

Prize for *Name the New Lounge* will be a one-year Legion membership.

Doug Handford, Lounge Chairman.

Membership

Membership Dues were due January 1, 2001. Please feel free to mail them in if you can't make it down and we'll mail your cards to you.

New Members

Christopher Norman Gregory, Lacombe

Carol Jean Gregory, Lacombe

David Kierluk, Lacombe

Kristopher Coleman, Lacombe

Greg Gordon, Lacombe

Sharon Pollard, Membership Chairman.

Treasurer's Report

The year 2000 books have been turned over to Phyllis & Ken Tweit Accounting. We should have our financial statements fairly soon. Bernice has completed all year-end. She has also prepared unaudited statements in the interim.

We have adopted our new *years' charting* accounts. I will be having projects set up. This is really important to know whether or not events are making money.

Bernice has developed a system whereby we can track our inventory and cost our goals etc.

She has developed a set of new forms to make our jobs easier. With the co-operation of all committees in using these forms and systems, we will have a fiscally accountable Legion. Thanks for Branch co-operation.

Faye Chomoway, Treasurer

President's Report

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We had the "Crib Pairs", Marie Long and Irene Belmore; Mixed Darts consisting of Dave and Cheryl Swarbrick, Dave Richardson and Madeline Babiuk are also representing our Branch.

It was suggested that the Branch should supply 'trading pins' for these members as they are representing Branch #79. It is the consensus of Branch #79 Executive that it is the responsibility of the Branch to pay only the entry fees, mileage and hotel rooms for all participants. This is a major expense for a Branch our size and is where the obligation ends.

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Joyce Bradford, President



Branch Members Pin Presentations - April 2001	
FIVE (5) YEARS	TWENTY (20) YEARS
Vernon Dool	Neil Davidson
John Robinson	Marie J. Lewis
Dave Chomoway	TWENTY FIVE (25) YEARS
Faye Chomoway	Tony Hopkins
Carol Cleveland	Fred Powell
Marie Cleveland	THIRTY (30) YEARS
Doug Corrigan	Jack Thompson
Merle Craven	THIRTY FIVE (35) YEARS
John Samson	Andy Anderson
	Swen Odland
TEN (10) YEARS	FORTY (40) YEAR
Jack Collett	Victor Szabunio
Donald Dahm	FIFTY FIVE (55) YEARS
Deborah Edlund	Jack Towle
Les Mullins	
Leslie Walker	
Lyle Brown	
Gary John Evanyshyn	
Randy Gimble	
Douglas Hand	
Debbie Sanderson	
Dennis Smith	
FIFTEEN (15) YEARS	
Russ Henley	
Harvey Allen	
Charles Fobert	
Kenneth Long	
Al Walushka	
Stan Coultis	
Donald Haworth	
Bill McAdam	
Anne Nimmo	
Roy Richmond	
Babette Dorn	

The Golden Rule - Whoever has the gold makes the rules.

Ryan's Law - Possessions increase to fill the space available for their storage.

Darwin's Law - Nature will tell you a direct lie if she can.

Rule of the Great - When somebody you admire seems to be thinking deep thoughts, they probably are thinking about lunch.

Hartley's Second Law - Never sleep with anyone crazier than yourself.

The Lacombe Branch

has received a letter from WWII veteran who taught school in Lacombe. He was a member of the Lacombe Branch. He served with the United States military forces. He sent a book titled, "The Story of Wake Island". Canadian prisoners captured by the Japanese in Hong Kong would have experienced similar conditions as a "Prisoner of War".

Frank's parents were citizens of the USA and this gave him dual citizenship. He was born in Carsland, Alberta in 1917. He lived in Lacombe during the years 1978 through 1982.

The book is his story. A copy is in the Branch library and can also be purchased directly from Frank Rice.

He can be reached at ,
Frank R. Mace
 2709 N Oxford Ln
 Cheney WA 99004-2195
 phone number 1-509-559-5833



The new Lounge is nearing completion. A suggestion has been made to give it a name as is done in other Branches. A prize will be awarded for the chosen name.

Place your name on a slip of paper include your name, address, phone number and your selected Lounge Name.

Place this information in a sealed envelope marked

“*President, Lacombe Branch #79
Lounge Name Contest*”

The date and the prize will be announced later.

The company president told his sales manager, "To quiet consumer criticism, I've decided to offer a ten-year guarantee on our product."

"But, chief," the manager protested, "our product falls apart in three years."

"I know," said the president, "but we'll print the guarantee on paper that fall apart in two years."

Welcome New Members

Comrades

?? Colin Campbell, *Blackfalds*

?? Gordon McKay, *Lacombe*

?? Jean Hore *transferred from Red Deer*

?? Derek Kelly *transferred from Ponoka*

?? William Kinley *from Victoria*

?? Bernadette Siermachesky *Lacombe*

?? Cliff Benedictson *transferee
from Fort McMurray*

?? Jim Bruns *Lacombe*

?? Jacques Fyfe *transferee
from Red Deer*

?? Valerie Hawes *Lacombe*

Social Events

March 30, 31 and April 1 - A Charity Dart Shoot is being held in Ponoka on This event is being held to raise money for *Baby Cassidy* who was injured during child birth. Make up your team(s) and support this important event!

April 7 - The Annual Spring Bazaar will be held on will be held in the Legion Hall from 11:00 am to 3:00 p.m. A light lunch will be available for a small charge.

April 11 - Vimy Night and Honours and Awards. Get Acquainted from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.

April 14 - "Jim Gordineer Memorial Dart Shoot" (first 12 teams only) Mixed Triples. Entry fee is \$10.00 per person. For information and registration phone the Lacombe Branch at 782-6441 after 3:00 p.m. Every one is welcome!

April 29 - The District Rally will be held in Innisfail. Registration is from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. The charge is \$15.00 per person. Mixed Triples Entry fee is \$10.00 per person.

May 5 - Bunkie Memorial Dart Shoot (first 12 teams only). Mixed triples.

May 7 & 8 - Casino. We need volunteers. Contact Jack Thompson

May 9 - **Vet's Dinner.** All Lacombe area veterans are invited.

June 10 to -13 - The Provincial Convention will be held in Lethbridge. Details later.

Check the Bulletin Board for other events!

Who Can Join?

Canadian and German Branches

You may be eligible for membership in a Canadian or German branch of The Royal Canadian Legion if you are a **Canadian citizen or Commonwealth subject** and are of federal voting age.

All applications for membership are subject to the General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion and approval by the local branch to which the application is made.

There are four membership categories, each with different qualifications. The criteria for each category are as follows:

Ordinary Membership -

You may be eligible for Ordinary membership if you have served or are serving in:
 The Canadian Armed Forces or Her Majesty's Armed Forces (regular force or reserve force with class "C" service); or
 the Armed Forces or underground forces of any of Her Majesty's allies in a war or police action in which Canada was involved; or
 the Merchant Navy or non-military services in an actual theatre of war in which Canada was involved; or
 Her Majesty's reserve force including Cadet Instructors on the Cadet Cadre. Must have at least one year (12 months) service; or The Royal Canadian Mounted Police or The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary for not less than one year; or
 the Armed Forces of a country while that country was a member of NATO or NORAD; or
 the United States Forces; or
 the Vietnam War with the Armed Forces of the

United States, Australia, the Republic of Korea or South Vietnam, and were a Canadian citizen or Commonwealth subject at the time of service.

Associate Membership - If you do not qualify for Ordinary membership you may be eligible for Associate membership if you:

are the child, stepchild, grandchild, sibling, niece/nephew, widow/er, parent or spouse of someone who is or was eligible for Ordinary membership; or
 are the child of an Associate member; or
 have served in The Royal Canadian Sea, Army or Air Cadets for not less than 3 years; or
 have been a cadet civilian instructor for not less than 3 years; or
 have served as an officer in the Navy League of Canada for not less than 2 years; or
 have served on a city, municipal or provincial police force for not less than 1 year; or
 have served in the Polish Armed Forces after WW II;
 are the spouse, parent or sibling of an associate member who qualified subject to the above criteria.

Affiliate Non-Voting Membership -

If you do not qualify for Ordinary or Associate membership but support the aims and objects of The Royal Canadian Legion you may apply for Affiliate Non-Voting membership.

Affiliate Voting Membership -

An Affiliate Non-Voting member may apply for Affiliate Voting membership after two years (24 months) of continuous membership.

For further information, please contact your nearest Legion Branch.

In Flanders Fields

December 8, 1915

The first appearance of *In Flanders Fields* appeared in the lower right corner of page 468 in Volume 149 of *Punch*, or *The London Charivari*. (Source - The Maple Leaf, vol. 3, No. 44, 2000)

Some of the Benefits

By joining The Royal Canadian Legion you will have the opportunity to make new friends, become involved with your community and to develop and share your leadership skills. You will help to perpetuate the Remembrance of those who gave so much for the freedom and prosperity we enjoy today and the proud heritage of this great Canadian organization will be enriched by the enthusiasm, energy and new ideas that you bring to it.

Here are just some of the many benefits membership in The Royal Canadian Legion brings:

Social Activities -



Most branches have recreational facilities and may have licensed lounges. Members can enjoy a wide variety of social events such as dances, barbeques, entertainment and a host of other special events.

Member Participation Sports -



The Legion has sporting events such as darts, curling, cribbage and golf, with competitions ranging from local, provincial to national levels.



Community Service -

You can serve your community by assisting with the many Legion programs in support of youth, seniors, the disabled and others. The Legion also provides bursaries and scholarships to students from Secondary School to the University level and is the largest single supporter of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. It is also a major supporter of sea, army and air cadets.

Leadership -

You will have the opportunity to grow within this great organization. The Legion needs members who can take on the Leadership challenge. If this is where your interest lies you can become involved by serving on the branch executive. You may even wish to go to higher levels such as zone, district or provincial. You may even aspire to the national level. Every Dominion President who has served in this capacity over the past 75 years started out as a branch member. You, too, could one day be President of the largest community service organization in Canada.



Service -

As Canada's largest volunteer organization, tremendous intangible benefits are gained through the commitment of members to fulfill the mandate of remembrance, service to the community and our country. Our fallen comrades served in battle, you have "*another way to serve*" by joining The Royal Canadian Legion.



Legion Magazine -

Your membership includes a subscription to the Legion Magazine which is published five times a year. It contains articles on various topics including history, current events and general interest stories, as well as keeping members up-to-date on the many and varied Legion activities. It also contains a section dedicated to the recognition of those who served their country.

The many opportunities and programs offered by The Royal Canadian Legion are identified throughout our web site or you may wish to

The Royal Canadian Legion

Web address and Home Page

www.legion.ca

Lacombe Branch #79

E-mail address

rcl79@incentre.net

I was talking to my Dad about current events the other night.

I asked him what he thought about the shootings at schools, the computer age and just things in general.

He replied: "Gee, let me think a minute

.....
I was born before television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, Frisbees and the pill.

There weren't things like radar, credit cards, laser beams or ball-point pens.

Man had not invented pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners; and he hadn't walked on the moon."

"Your Mom and I got married first, then lived together.

Every family had a father and a mother, and every kid over 14 had a rifle that his dad taught him how to use and respect.

Until I was 25, I called every man older than me 'sir'."

"Sunday was set aside for going to church as a family, helping those in need, and just visiting with your neighbors."

"We were before gay-rights, computer dating, dual careers, day-care centers, and group therapy. \

Our lives were governed by the Ten Commandments, good judgment and common

On behalf of Dale Johnston MP, veteran Ivan Stonehocker placed the Province wreath on the Cenotaph.

As a navigator in the Canadian Group of the RAF, he showed exceptional diligence in 32 missions in finding the targets and reaching the destination on time. The Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) was awarded to Flight Lieutenant Ivan Stonehocker for his contributions during WWII.

Ivan is also a former teacher and also a former MLA for the Lacombe constituency.

sense.

We were taught to know the difference between right and wrong, and to stand up and take responsibility for our actions.

Serving your country was a privilege, living here was a bigger privilege."

"We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent.

Having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins.

Draft dodgers were people who closed their front doors when the evening breeze started.

And time sharing meant time the family spent together -not condominiums-."

"We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, CD's, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt or guys wearing ear rings.

We listened to the 'big bands', Jack Benny, and the political speeches on the radio.

I don't ever remember any kid blowing his brains out listening to Tommy Dorsey."

"If you saw anything with 'Made in Japan' on it, it was junk!

The term 'making out' referred to how you did on your school exam.

Pizza's, McDonald's and instant coffee were unheard of."

"I suppose that means I'm just too old to accept the things going on today".

The company president told his sales manager, "To quiet consumer criticism, I've decided to offer a ten-year guarantee on our product."

"But, chief," the manager protested, "our product falls apart in three years."

"I know," said the president, "but we'll print the guarantee on paper that fall apart in two years."

"Give a husband a bed that is comfortable, food that's hot, a flagon of ale beside the fire, let him talk about himself - and he'll love you forever."

Old Hungarian Proverb

"What we should do for others is to share the most of what we have the most!"

(From Shannon)

From the Internet

“By joining The Royal Canadian Legion you will have the opportunity to make new friends, become involved with your community and to develop and share your leadership skills. You will help to perpetuate the Remembrance of those who gave so much for the freedom and prosperity we enjoy today and the proud heritage of this great Canadian organization will be enriched by the enthusiasm, energy and new ideas that you bring to it.

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Through the efforts of Branch member, Comrade Faye Chomoway, this branch has acquired a new computer at a reduced cost.

This was realized through a program initiated by the Federal Government to assist volunteer organizations in their operations and management. The use of the internet for gathering information and communication is a practical need for service organizations to continue their community involvement.

This Branch is now ‘on-line’ and has begun utilizing the Internet. The above article is an example of what can be ‘downloaded’! With input from members and the community the Lacombe Branch can reach out

major supporter of sea, army and air cadets.

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and be more effective in its aims and objectives.

Please send your news and reports through this new and effective medium. We will continue to use paper, but the internet saves everyone time and also, money. Please note the addresses for articles pertaining to the Royal Canadian Legion and also, the Lacombe Branch #79.

The Royal Canadian Legion

Web address and Home Page

www.legion.ca

Lacombe Branch #79

E-mail address

rc179@incentre.net

An interesting perspective.

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it look something like the following:

There would be:

57 Asians

21 Europeans

14 from the Western Hemisphere, both north and south.

8 Africans

52 would be female

48 would be male

70 would be non-white

30 would be white

70 would be non-Christian

30 would be Christian

89 would be heterosexual

11 would be homosexual

6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and

all 6 would be from the United States.

80 would live in substandard housing 70 would be unable to read

50 would suffer from malnutrition

1 would be near death; 1 would be near birth

1 (yes, only 1) would have a college education

1 would own a computer

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective,

the need for acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent.

The following is also something to ponder.

If you woke up this morning with more health than

illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace...

you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If your parents are still alive and still married you are very rare, even in the United States and Canada.

If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you, and furthermore,

you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all.

Someone once said:

What goes around comes around.

Work like you don't need the money.

Love like you've never been hurt.

Dance like nobody's watching.

Sing like nobody's listening.

Live like it's Heaven on Earth.

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