

Branch #123 Waterford 2015-2017

Executive

President/Nevada/Sick and Visiting	Ruth Anne Masecar
Past President/Seniors/Bar	Sharon Anderson
1 st Vice President/Honours&Award/ Co House and Grounds	John Toms
2 nd Vice President/ Poppy/ Public Relations	Norma-Jean Kennedy
3 rd Vice President/Finance Chair/ Treasurer	Wayne Jenkins
Sgt.-at-Arms	Sueli Heise
Secretary/Membership/Bylaws/ Artifacts/LA Liaison	Barb Taylor-Gagné

Executive Committee

Sports/Bulletin	Herb Taylor
Co House and Grounds	Henry Zalefski
Veterans' Services	Bill Arthur
Youth Education/T&F	Peggy Taylor
Training, Organizational Development Officer	Louise Turner
Hall Rentals	Barb Runions
Web Master	Matthew Taylor
Padre	Rev. Adolph Hahn
Entertainment	Bill Danyluk

Ladies' Auxiliary Executive

President	Mary Hipson
1st Vice President	Sharon Whitehead
2nd Vice President	Lynda LaPlante
Secretary	Abby Gerber
Treasurer	Elaine Woloshyn
Sgt.-at-Arms	Corrie Judge
Sick/Visiting Convenor	Evelyn Babineau
Social Convenor	Anne McSherry
Sports Officer	Dianna Vranken

The Royal Canadian Legion Waterford Branch #123

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“They serve till Death! Why not we?”

**News Bulletin and Calender
February/March 2017**

President's Report

The busy month of December is over and we are well into the New Year. We look forward to 2017 with hope and optimism for another successful year.

On New Year's Day , we celebrated with the President's Levy, which appeared to be a tremendous success. It is a way to bring in the New Year with comrades , as well as family. Thank you to any and all, who helped to make the event successful.

As we progress into our new year, I want to thank all, who supported us in 2016 and we look forward to your continued support this year.

February is a little quieter month with the exception of our Super Bowl Party and our regular events. In March, the fun begins again with several outside bookings.

Congratulations to the Ladies' Auxiliary who celebrated Canada's 150th Birthday with a tea on January 14th. The Hall was tastefully decorated in red and white and I think a good time was had by all who attended. They are to be congratulated for their efforts.

As we near the end of this Executive's term, I want to remind all, that this is a group who has worked very hard to make our Legion one of the best in our Zone. Personally, I think it is **the best**.

At the end of April, the Annual/ General Mtg. and Elections will be held. It is hoped that many of the Executive will run for re-election. That is not to say that we don't encourage new individuals to step forward. New people bring fresh ideas and without change, you cannot progress.

Regardless of who may form the new Executive, our mandate remains the same. We are here to support our Veterans, Seniors and Youth in our Community. As our W.W.II and Korean Veterans gradually leave us, it is important that we, as a Legion, continue to show support for all of our Veterans, both past and present . **We Will Remember!**

President,
Ruth Anne Massecar

Nevada Report

Nevada sales continue to progress well. The license, which started on November 17th, is close to completion. The Committee will meet in the very near future to discuss donations from the next license which is in house and ready to go.

When we apply for a new Nevada license, it can no longer be issued on the spot. We have to drop it off at Norfolk County and I have been told by Marie Potter-Cook, that we may have to wait up to a week before a new one can be issued. Nevada has become more intense and complicated in the areas of both application and reporting.

Since our membership is so generous in this area, we will continue to persevere. Our Community and our Legion have both definitely benefited, from this programme. Many thanks to our public minded and faithful supporters.

Nevada Chair,
Ruth Anne Massecar

Membership

Our total membership is 410. Of that number, 329 have paid their 2017 dues. February will be, "Show Your Card" month. Be proud of your membership and show it when asked. If you have yet to pay your 2017 dues, you may be asked to sign in.

Membership cards that have been processed are available in the clubroom. Please keep in mind that when dues are received at the Branch, it can take almost two months for all the paperwork to be completed through Command. If you do not receive the Legion magazine, it may be that your membership was not processed by Command by February 6th.

Your receipt for paid dues will be honoured at most Branches. There have been reports that some U.S Posts in Florida are refusing entrance to Canadian Associate or Affiliate members, even with their up to date cards. Just as Branch 123 has the autonomy to set its own clubroom rules for admission, so do the U.S. Posts.

Membership Chair, Barb Taylor Gagné

Legion Brunch!

Delicious omelettes, pancakes, eggs, hash browns
bacon and sausage, The works! And don't forget the
fresh homemade goodies!

Public Relations

If you are in charge of an event, please put information
pertaining to the event in the Event Book at the bar. More
information results in better advertising of your event.

Public Relations Officer,
Norma Jean Kennedy

Zone B1 Sports

Feeling sporty! Darts, cards and crib boards are available in the
bar. Just ask the Bar Steward. Don't forget about the pool table!
Zone Sports are ready to kick off. Sign up sheets are in the foyer
of the Club Room for Euchre, Cribbage and 8 Ball. Sign up your
team early and enjoy.

Great news on the Darts front. Our Senior team won the B1
tournament in Cayuga and thus our Branch will host the event
next year. Congratulations and good luck in the next level of
competition in February. Members of the team are: Ian Simpson,
Scott Hooper, Mike Bishop, and Al Pearson.

Our Cribbage team will be off to Fort Erie in February to
compete in the Zone B tournament. Good luck and safe travels.

Sports Chair, Herb Taylor taylorhe@hotmail.ca

Youth and Education Report

Come and support our youth by attending our local Speech
competition. It will be held on Sunday, February 19th at 12:00
noon and feature students for the Waterford and district schools.

Youth and Education Chair, Peggy Taylor

Senior's Report

Calling all Seniors! Please keep Thursday, March 30th, 2017
between 2 and 4 p.m. open in your schedule. This is when our
annual, "Seniors' Spring Fling" will be happening. It will be a
huge celebration featuring "CANADA 150" events. Post it on
your calendar today. Hope to see you there
Any Senior requiring "Foot Care" assistance should contact
Sharon at 519-443-7567.

Senior's Chair,
Sharon Anderson

Poppy Report

Comrades: Donations from the Poppy Trust Fund have been
approved by Ontario Command. The presentation of cheques will
be made at the February General Meeting. Attend to see your
time and effort make a difference in our community

Poppy Chair, Norma Jean Kennedy

Bar Report

The Branch 123 Bar has been full of surprises. Throughout the
past couple of months we have dealt with illnesses, education
upgrading and accommodating staff with other jobs or seeking
different employment opportunities. This has led to a variety of
staff working a variety of shifts. One never knows which smiling
face will greet you from day to day. This keeps the bar fresh,
unpredictable and interesting!

Thanks for treating all members of our Bar Staff courteously and
respectfully. They deserve it!!

If you have any bar concerns, please contact Sharon to initiate an
immediate remediation.

Bar Chair,
Sharon Anderson,



St. Paddies Day “Do Over”

If you have a hard time remembering St Patrick’s Day then you are in luck.

Join us for a Green Beer Do Over
Saturday, March 18th, 2017
Music by Trysted Sister

Honours & Awards

Congratulations to Barb Taylor- Gagne on receiving her Life Membership and also to those who received Branch Medals and Appreciation Certificates at the Awards Banquet.

Membership year pins were passed out to those present and anyone who has a pin coming to them can get it at the bar. The list of names is included in this bulletin.

Honours & Awards Chairman John Toms

We’re on the Web

Check out the Branch #123 web site at www.waterfordlegion.ca for all of the latest pictures, events, news and more!

The Waterford Legion has been on the Web for over a year now and it has been a raging success. Our viewership has steadily risen and now many members and community individuals can find out what is happening at our busy branch.

Here are numbers to chew on.

In 2016, over **3000** individuals have visited our web site and viewed **14,000** pages.

The most visitors are from Canada. The Canadians viewed over 5700 pages. That is to be expected! But, we have nearly as many visits from Ukraine. They viewed over 4600 pages.

These are followed by visits from Americans, Russians and the Chinese. Isn’t the Internet an interesting and amazing place?

Vimy 1917-2017

After the initial German advances of the war, the battle on the Western Front quickly turned into a stalemate of trench fighting. By the spring of 1917, neither side was able to make significant gains. As part of an Allied offensive, a major attack was planned for April in the area of Arras, France. In this attack, the Canadians would be tasked with capturing Vimy Ridge.

The Canadians moved to the front lines across from Vimy Ridge in late autumn 1916. The Battle of Vimy Ridge would be the first time all four divisions of the Canadian Corps worked together as one formation. The planning and preparations for the battle were extensive.

Extensive “mining” operations were undertaken in which the Allies dug tunnels beneath the German lines and set huge explosives to be detonated when the time for the attack came. Elaborate tunnel systems with train tracks, piped water, lights, and huge underground bunkers to stockpile supplies and arms were also established to aid the Canadians in the battle.

The Battle of Vimy Ridge began at 5:30 a.m. on Easter Monday, April 9, 1917. The first wave of 20,000 Canadian soldiers, each carrying up to 36 kilograms of equipment, attacked through the wind-driven snow and sleet into the face of deadly machine gun fire.

The Canadians advanced behind a “creeping barrage.” This precise line of intense artillery fire advanced at a set rate and was timed to the minute. The Canadian infantrymen followed the line of explosions closely. This allowed them to capture German positions in the critical moments after the explosions but before the enemy soldiers emerged from their underground bunkers.

Battalions in the first waves of the assault suffered great numbers of casualties, but the Canadian assault proceeded on schedule. Most of the heavily-defended ridge was captured by noon. Hill 145, was taken on the morning of April 10. Two days later, the Canadians took “the Pimple.” The Germans were forced to withdraw three kilometres and the Battle of Vimy Ridge was over. The cost: 3,600 fatal casualties and 7,400 wounded. At Vimy Ridge, regiments from coast to coast saw action together in a distinctly Canadian triumph, helping create a new and stronger sense of Canadian identity in our country..