



Branch 340 Royal Canadian Legion: Monthly Newsletter - December 2025

A Message from the President

Welcome to the winter season. With the ground covered in snow, we are finally getting into the festive spirit. I hope you are all ready for the Christmas season. It is an exciting time for all and it is nice seeing all the Christmas lights shining. There are some shining times at our branch through December. We have turkey raffles all set up for December 6th, 13th and 20th as well as a Friday night meat draw on December 12th. There are also bingo dates of 3rd, 10th and 17th for those who love the game. We will be open every day till Christmas starting at 3 PM. Why not come in and join some of the activities or just come in and see or meet new friends.

I would like to thank all those who participated in our remembrance service. The cenotaph was packed with many of our friends. It was so nice to see. Special thanks goes out to Norma for making all the arrangements and overseeing it all. Great job Norma.

Hope to see you at Branch 340 during December even if just to say hi.

Dan

Dan Kelly President, Branch 340 Royal Canadian Legion

Upcoming Events at a Glance

- **General Meeting:** Our next meeting is on **December 2, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.** Also, mark your calendars for **January 6, 2026**. Location: Upstairs Main Hall.
- **Meat/Turkey Draw:** Every Saturday in December until Christmas. Location: Clubroom
Time: **4:00 p.m.**
- **SPECIAL Friday night Meat/Turkey Draw : Friday December 12th starting at 8pm**
- **Bingo:** Every **Wednesday night** in the upstairs Main Hall. **CLOSED DEC 24 & 31st**
- **Dance Club:** Regular dance programs are on **December 5th, 12th and 19th** in the Main Hall from **7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.** The cost is **\$5 per couple**. Note: **Christmas POTLUCK dinner 6:30pm-9:30pm friendship, fellowship and dancing**
- **Sunday Football:** The club room is open on **Sundays from 3-7pm** - come out and watch football, have a snack and cold beverage
- [Online Calendar](#) check out the online calendar for the latest list of activities



Food and Toy Drive

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 340 is now collecting for the Salvation Army of Saugeen Shores and Community.

We are collecting non-perishable food and supplies and of course toys.

NOTE: Collection will run until Dec 19th. So make sure you stop by and help fill up our donation box in the downstairs club room!

New Year's Day Levee - watch your email and Facebook group for details

The Levee dates back in history to the 1600s with a long military connection. The annual event however, is still hosted by the Governor General of Canada, provincial lieutenant governors, military establishments, municipalities and other institutions, such as the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 340. It has a long tradition in the Canadian Forces as one of the activities associated with New Year's Day. The Levée is also an opportunity to catch up with old friends, reflect on the year that has ended and celebrate the new one. See you there!

Branch 340 League Updates

- **Dart League:** Port Elgin League darts held every **Monday**. **Closed over Christmas holidays**
- **Pool League:** Pool league held every **Tuesday and Wednesday**. **Closed over Christmas holidays**

Zone Sports: 8-ball on November 30th - updates to follow

8-Ball

Date: November 30, 2025
Location: Chesley Branch 144
Entry Deadline: November 14, 2025
Registration time: 10-10:30am
Entry Fee \$10/person



Branch 340
Port Elgin



Moment in History

Sergeant Clifford Alfred Taman

I start this story, thinking that I may not know enough about Soldier Taman to do him the justice that he and his story deserve. I have been putting it off for more than a year, since I met his daughter in Hepworth.

Clifford Taman and my dad, in September of 1939, both enlisted in the Perth Regiment. The Perth began recruitment immediately after Canada declared war on Germany on September 10th. Dad joined up in Stratford on September 29. Clifford was living in Wingham, and he enlisted in Listowel, on September 12th. Note that this was only 2 days after war was declared. Clifford was working as a barber in Wingham, and was a member of the local Militia, the 99th Field Battery.

While still in training, on May 10, 1941, Clifford married Leila Irene Ard from Allenford.

That November, he sailed to Europe. My dad had shipped out from Halifax two weeks earlier than Clifford. Both men had left their wives, home in Bruce County, and were pregnant. I was born on May 29, 1942, and Karen Anne, days later, in June.

My dad returned home to Southampton, and I got to meet him on September 14, 1945.

Karen Anne never got to meet her dad. He died as a result of the worst friendly fire incident involving Canadian troops in all of WWII.

August 8, 1944, was one of the worst days of all for the Canadian Army. The following is from the Canadian Veterans Affairs Normandy 1944 Information file.

“The prolonged confusion of the congested and murky battlefield, combined with obstinate enemy resistance, soon robbed it (the operation) of momentum. In his plan, Simonds expected air support would break the logjam. Unfortunately, American Flying Fortresses dropped some of their bombs on Canadian and Polish troops, killing or wounding 300 of them.”

Initially, I was aware of Ralph George Black from Saugeen Township, Angus Monroe McLeod from Southampton, and Stafford David Nawash from Saugeen First Nation, all who had died as a result of this most unfortunate error. Then, when researching my fathers military history, I came across the reference to Clifford Taman as having been in the Perth Regiment with dad and having died. The reference to Allenford, in his military record, sent me on a search for family descendants. I checked the phone book, and there was a person named Taman in

December 2025



Branch 340
Port Elgin



Hepworth. When I called and said who I was and what I wanted to chat about, the lady told me that the phone line had been her mothers, who died in 2013. She thought that she had an unlisted number all these years.

Her mother was Leila Irene Taman (Ard), the wife of Clifford Taman, and she was Karen Anne Kocher (Taman), the daughter of Clifford Taman. Karen Anne is almost totally blind, only capable of seeing shapes and movement. She was most thankful for learning more about the “father she never got to meet”.

We need to keep in mind that war was declared on September 10 th , and Clifford signed up on September 12th, 2 days later. This tells us a lot about him as a person. He is buried in the Canadian Military Bretteville-sur-Laize cemetery in Normandy, France.

There are 2,791 Canadian soldiers buried there with him; Ralph George Black and Angus Monroe Mcleod are amongst them.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM Researched and written by G. William Streeter (For Karen Anne)

In Memory Of

Lance Sergeant CLIFFORD A. TAMAN ,
Service Number: A/31094 , 7 Medium Regt.,
Royal Canadian Artillery who died on 08
August 1944 Age 31





National Notable Dates: December 2025

The Royal Canadian Legion recognizes several national dates in December related to military history and international observances.

Notable dates in December include:

- **December 3:** International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- **December 5:** International Volunteer Day (the Legion encourages members to help their local branch).
- **December 6:** Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion (1917).
- **December 10:** Anniversary of the Nobel Prize for Peace awarded to UN Peacekeepers (1988).
- **December 20:** Evacuation of Gallipoli (Royal Newfoundland Regiment) (1915).
- **December 25:**
 - Christmas Day (the Legion supports Operation Santa Claus).
 - Anniversary of the Fall of Hong Kong (1941).

Success is like failure...It's what you do with it, not how you achieve it.
Stephen Sondheim

Veteran Profile

Do you have a story to share? We would like to feature a veteran's story in each newsletter. If you are a veteran and are willing to share your experiences, please contact us at Branch340@eastlink.ca.



Veteran Support: We Are Here for You

The Royal Canadian Legion is committed to supporting veterans and their families. Branch 340 is your local resource hub for vital services, including:

- Assistance with Veterans Affairs Canada claims and benefits
- Mental health support and resources
- Support for homeless veterans
- Financial aid and benevolent funds
- If you or a veteran you know needs assistance, please contact our Branch Service Officer, **Janice Pepe**, at **519-389-4139** or **Branch340@eastlink.ca**. All inquiries are confidential.

Introducing the LEGION 100 WIN BIG GIVEAWAY!

2026 is the Legion's Centenary year and one of the exciting ways we're celebrating is by partnering with Ford Dealers of Canada to offer every Legion Member three chances to drive away in a brand-new Ford F-150!

This promotion is designed to encourage Members to renew and stay connected with the Legion.

- **Current Members:** Renew your membership for **2026** to be automatically entered into the *Legion 100 Big Win Giveaway*.
- **New (Free) Members:** Those who join during the free membership offer in 2026 will need to **renew for 2027** to be entered in the Giveaway.
- **Lifetime Members** will automatically be eligible and receive this initial contest entry.
- **Any new member who paid to join for the 2026 year before the Free Membership promotion was offered** is automatically entered.



Branch 340
Port Elgin



Youth & Education Programs

National Youth Remembrance Contests: The Legion National Foundation invites Canadian youth to honour Veterans through submissions of posters and literary works, visual art, writing, and video productions.

Local participation by the numbers.....

Poster Contest

Primary Colour: 104 Entries

Primary Black and White: 32 Entries

Junior Colour: 158 Entries

Junior Black and White: 177 Entries

Intermediate Colour: 9 Entries

Intermediate Black and White: 4 Entries

Senior Colour: 0 Entries

Senior Black and White: 0 Entries

Literary Contest

Junior Poems: 2 Entries

Senior Essay: 1 Ent

Stay tuned for entry results.

- **Bursary Assistance Program:** Financial assistance of **\$1,250 per scholastic year** is available to qualifying students who are members, veterans, or their family members. The deadline for applications is the last Friday of March 2026.

For more information, please visit the bursary section of our [website](#) or contact the Program Coordinator at bursary@on.legion.ca or **1-888-207-0939**.



Remembrance Day 2025 Reflection by Norma Dudgeon

This year turned out to be cool but we didn't get the predicted snowfall; whatever the weather, it never deters our community, school children and legion members from joining us at the cenotaph to pay their respects and honour our Veterans and Fallen Comrades.

We are very lucky to have Pastor David Baker and Brad Johnston of the South Port Family Church to live-stream our service so that our Veterans and Seniors could watch at home or at the legion and we can't thank them enough for all their efforts. Thanks to Garry Winnitoy for looking after the clubroom TV technology!

Remembrance Day takes many weeks of planning and organizing and I would be remiss if I didn't thank all the volunteers who physically helped me behind the scenes as there lies a lot of the work; hopefully, I haven't missed anyone.

Sound System: Pastor David Baker & Brad Johnston

Wreaths: Cenotaph Setup & Dismantle / Pickup and Put Away

Dan Kelly, Curt Virtue, Les Virtue, Brad Davies, Mike Hobson, Bob Harrison, Craig Bell, Tanya Thede, Ken Martin, Rob Atkinson, Allan Curtis, Gord Kelly, Blair Eby, Greg Briggs & Jacob, Sam Galante

Wreath tags: Anne Eby who has helped me for many years as it's quite a consuming job

Yard Detail: Greg Briggs and family ensured site was ready for ceremony

Bugler: Jonathan Birinyi

Singing of Anthems: Erin Milley Patey

Flag at half-mast: Greg Briggs

Media: Saugeen Times - Sandy Lindsay who gave us great news coverage

This is only the tip of the iceberg of the preparation but it all comes together for ½ hour on the 11th day of November. A few key people that help make our special day a success are:

Parade Marshal: Mike Hobson / Colour Sgt: Robert Harrison

December 2025



Mike and Bob had everyone in precision marching to the Pipe Band; seeing our Colour Party with the flags blowing in the wind makes us all so very proud to be a Canadian.

Cenotaph Sgt at Arms: Andrew Reinhart

Andrew has been my Cenotaph Sgt at Arms and my right hand for many years; he also has the significant job of escorting the wreath bearers; I am so lucky to have Andrew at the cenotaph to look after any little glitches that may occur; he also commanded the Air Cadet Honour Guard – after all these years, he can read my mind and we're on the same page – thank you Andrew for making everything go smoothly and adding to our success.

Poppy Chair: Elizabeth Eby

Elizabeth spent countless hours on the poppy campaign and we were joined at the hip for a couple of weeks and it all came together; congratulations Elizabeth and your volunteers on a well-run poppy campaign – it was a pleasure working with you

The trailer to haul and store the wreaths was once again donated by Curt Virtue – not sure where we would put all the wreaths and get them to the cenotaph without the trailer – Thanks Curt & Les for all your help!

A special thank you to the ladies who put on a beautiful lunch for everyone to enjoy: Bernie Ribey, Linda Virgo, Pat Smith, Sally Clarence, Gail Allan, Hailey Ashton and Don Dudgeon for bringing the food to the clubroom

We thank Pastor David Baker for his words of prayer and compassion to our Veterans and community. Until we meet again on November 11th my thanks to everyone.

Remembrance Day Chair

Many thanks to our sponsors and donors as listed in the [Saugeen Times](#) on November 18, 2025

Poppy Store

Lots of new items to celebrate the 100th year of the Royal Canadian Legion. Check out what is available at the [POPPY STORE](#)



In memoriam

KEITH STILES – ORDINARY MEMBER PORT ELGIN LEGION

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Keith Stiles on November 9, 2025 at the age of 75.

Keith is survived by his beloved wife of over 43 years, Debra Stiles (nee. Russell). He will be missed by his brother Ken Stiles (Judy).

Loving father of Crystal (Paul), Paul (Pam), Amanda, and Stephanie. Grandfather of Morgan (Lee), Zackary, Tony, Kris, Jasmine, and Jake. Great grandfather of Lee, Maddie and Charlie.

Keith was blessed with a loving blended family when he married Debra. He embraced his role, adding warmth, steady guidance and a dad's love.

Keith was an active community member who supported, participated in and embraced the Masonic Lodges, Shriners and the Royal Canadian Legion. He retired from Bruce Power with a long and storied career.

Dad, Pops, Papa and Papa Keith.

The man, the myth, the legend.

Private family service has taken place.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be to the Masonic Foundation of Ontario Charity #2531 either by cheque made out to Masonic Foundation of Ontario 2531 and mailed to Eagleson Funeral Home or by e-transfer to donations@tmfo.ca Please include the Charity number 2531 in your message.

Branch 340 business arising from General meeting November 2025

We Need You! We are always looking for volunteers to help with events and activities. Your time and talents are invaluable! Sign up at the bar or email us at Branch340@eastlink.ca.



Branch 340
Port Elgin



Editor's Desk

Do you have information you'd like to share with the membership? Please send it to branch340newsletter@gmail.com for the next newsletter. A heartfelt thanks to regular contributor Bill Streeeter; his stories and insights are valued by all.

New Website coming soon: www.portelginlegion.com

Connect With Us!

- **Address:** 630 Green St. PO Box 359, Port Elgin, ON
- **Phone:** 519-832-2903 (Office)
- **Phone:** 519-389-9917 (Clubroom)
- **Email:** Branch340@eastlink.ca
- **Website:** www.portelginlegion.com (COMING SOON - mid December)
- **Facebook:** Royal Canadian Legion Branch340 Port Elgin

Disclaimer: Details may change. Please check our website or contact the Branch directly for the most up-to-date information.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please respond to the email with a note in the subject line "remove me please".

