Royal Canadian Legion

Riverside Branch 255 - December 2025 Bulletin

Twas The Dawn Christmas Morning Poem by Ian Coate "Twas the dawn Christmas morning and a " Were doing our bit, like those in the soldier was sad: He was far from his , So peace has a chance and freedom can last. The soldier family in a nation gone bad. He thought of his children, all tucked nodded his head - this year in bed. He thought of his wife and had been touch: He'd seen a tear he did shed. "Is this warfare and famine and nastier crap all worth it? He said to stuff. He thought of his Merry his mate, " wanna go home," children and thought of not sit here and his wife. And was wait.' His mate thought thankful They had such for a bit, Then said with A fortunate life. Seeing a smile: It's some Shepherds protecting their herds the reason we're here that makes this He suddenly worthwhile. smiled and whispered 'Were tired and - the words. we're cramped Merry in this pit Christmas in the ground. my family -So our really miss you but families are safe and free my presence all year round. right is my present to you.

This Bulletin is published by Royal Canadian Legion Riverside Branch 255 5645 Wyandotte St. E. Windsor, ON N8S 1M4 / 519.945.2012

Visit our website at www.branch255.com

Editor - Elaine Dunn - December 2025



PRESIDENT REPORT

November has been a busy month. Remembrance Day services have been many and well-attended. The Poppy Campaign was extremely successful, considering the fact that it was considerably shorter than last year. Many thanks to our Poppy committee, Ron Marshall, Ken Marshall, Kathy Patterson, and Dianne Vendrasco, and all those who donated their time to distribute poppies. Over \$80,000 was raised, and the donations



are still coming in, which will go a long way towards supporting our veterans' causes.

As an added event to the Remembrance season, Veterans from Branch 255, Branch 261, and Belle River Branch 399 were treated to a fabulous luncheon at Beach Grove Golf Club. Our thanks to the members of Beach Grove for recognizing our local Veterans and the sacrifices they made for our freedom.

With the Christmas season rapidly approaching, there are many events scheduled at the Branch. It is suggested that if you would like to have an event in the next month, schedule it with the bar and/or Marco's Diner as soon as possible so you don't miss out.

During the month of December, there will be an Executive meeting but, because of Christmas and New Years, there will be no General Membership meeting. On behalf of the executive committee of RCL Branch 255, I would like to wish you all a wonderful and safe Christmas Holiday season.

Bruce Tribute President, RCL Branch 255



As most of us sit down with family and friends this holiday season, it's very important to remember those who are protecting our freedom, and giving up the comfort and pleasure of being with their loved ones in order to serve our country. For that, we say thank you, and Merry Christmas wherever you are.





POPPY REPORT - Ron Marshall / Chair

Current Poppy Bank Balance is \$104,575.91

This year's Poppy Campaign was extremely successful. Together we have raised over \$85,000 with more donations to come. This beats last year's total and was done with 6 less days to campaign. None of this would be possible without our Volunteers. We are blessed here at Branch 255 to have the best Volunteers bar none.



I would like to thank all our volunteers, including our store box delivery drivers, our school delivery drivers, our food providers, our money counters and coin rollers, and of course those that distributed Poppies at our many locations, including our Cadets from Corp 2828. Most importantly I want to thank my Poppy Co-Chairs, Ken Marshall, Kathy Patterson and Dianne Vendrasco. Thank you for your dedication as exhibited in the many hours you put into this campaign all year round but especially during the campaign. You are much appreciated. You make 10-hour days not only bearable but fun and rewarding.

Raising funds to assist our Veterans and their families is the most important thing we do as a Legion and participation in the Poppy Campaign is an oath we all took upon becoming a Legion member. If you haven't participated yet, please consider volunteering in next years campaign. Your participation will not only be rewarding but will ease the burden that many of our repeat volunteers take on.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.

BAR REPORT - Ron Marshall / Chair

The bar continues to do well with the many events and activities going on most every day. Check the monthly bulletin for all activities going on in the Branch.

Monthly bar inventory will be made on Saturday Nov. 29th due to the big Craft Show happening on the 30th. Doors open at 10am. Be sure to come out and support our Ladies Auxiliary and the many exhibitors. Great way to start your Christmas shopping.

Please continue to support the bar, non-alcohol drinks are available as well as many selections of alcohol drinks. Our prices are lower than most of our competition and we'll continue to keep our prices low as long as we are profitable.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.

VETERAN BANNER PROJECT COORDINATOR

Branch 255 Veteran Banner Project Coordinator mart Flanagan

Veterans Dinner

We had over 100 folks for the Remembrance Dinner with 31 Veterans attending. The dinner was fantastic. Thank you to LCol Ron Holden for his talk.



Remembrance Ceremony at the Cenotaph

There were approximately 150 people who came out as we held our Ceremony at the Cenotaph at Miracle Park. Many of those joined us at the Branch afterwards for comradeship.

Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Branch

We had approximately 60 people attend our service on the 11th with many staying at the branch afterwards.

Remembrance Week is only successful as the efforts of the volunteers to help put this on and this year is no exception. I'd like to thank the following for their help and support starting with the senior leadership at #255, President Bruce Tribute, 1st Vice Ron Marshall and 2nd Vice Ken Marshall. Jim & Elaine Dunn, Dennis Holmes, Tim Copland, Ken Dault, Keith Bremner, Olga Schutz, Terry Lauzon & Patricia Bezaire also deserve thanks. Appreciations to Maureen Fracas & Ruth Anne Reaume for laying wreaths at our ceremonies and to our fantastic Colour Guard for being top shelf as always. Kudos and thanks also go out to Marco and his kitchen staff for the Remembrance Dinner & pasta lunch. Appreciations to Sharron Jarvis, Sue Yablonsky, Lynn Girard and Diane Vendrasco for helping with the hotdogs and to Chantale's son, Kegan for distributing the programs at the Cenotaph. Thanks to those who donated to the Brenners Hotdogs and Cecil (Wonderbread) for the donation of buns. A shout out and Bravo Zulu to the Commanding Officer, Officers & Cadets of 2828 Army Corps who helped and paraded over the Remembrance week. To the Bartenders, a most sincere Thank You for their hard work. I appreciated the help from Jordan and Scott Beach...Thanks Lads. I can't say thank you enough to the core four in this branch, Ron Marshall, Ken Marshall, Kathy Patterson and Dianne Vendrasco. Even though they were going all out with the Poppy campaign they had my back in many efforts and for that I am forever thankful. I'd also like to finally thank all the Veterans, Legion Members and the Public for their involvement. Ceremonies such as these cannot fade away and your attendance and the efforts of the above mentioned make sure of that... Thank You all so very much. If I forgot anyone, I sincerely apologize.

VETERAN BANNER REPORT - Marty Flanagan / BIA Liaison

The Banners came down on Sunday Nov. 23rdth. Thanks to the ENWIN Volunteer crews for their efforts. The crews were unable to be hosted by us due to an emergency that required most of them to leave right after the banners. We plan on hosting to say thanks in the near future. The banners are to be handed back to the sponsors on Saturday November 29th. Information for the 2026 Veteran Banner Program will be announced in the New Year around April. Next year will the 5th year of this Program. Many thanks to Frank Cleminson (ENWIN), Candyce Mollard (BIA), Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac, Barb Perry and Bill Sherman for their help this year. I appreciate all you have done for this project.

OLDE RIVERSIDE BIA REPORT - Marty Flanagan / BIA Liaison

The Branch had a Holiday mural done on the front doors compliments of the Olde Riverside BIA. Many thanks the BIA for this.

The BIA is setting up a large, illuminated selfie frame on the property of The Dotte from Dec 1 to Jan 31. They're running a fun selfie contest to encourage people to shop, explore, and enjoy the district. There will be two winners:

- Best Selfie \$100 gift card to any business in the district
- Best Pet Selfie \$100 gift card to any business in the district (we couldn't leave out the furry friends)

To enter, people will scan the QR code on the posters or flyers, which takes them to a submission form on our website. It's a great way for the community to discover our new site while joining in the fun! Please support the Olde Riverside BIA as they support us on many of our Veteran Projects

VETERAN SIDEWALK REPORT - Marty Flanagan

At the end of October, Branch #255, in cooperation with the City of Windsor created a Veteran Sidewalk. This took a lot of planning and coordination. I'd like to start with Councillor Gary Kaschak and Ron Marshall who got the idea rolling. Ron was the heartbeat of this thing and was a driving force on getting it done this year. Councillor Jo Ann Gignac (and Mayor Dilkens) was on board right away and after some design concerns, we were able to get the sidewalk approval. Appreciations to Maple Ridge BC and Branch #88 for use of the main design that they have. Thanks to Kathy Patterson, Olga Schutz and Terry Lauzon for their input and help. Thankful to Katherine Clark and her offer to help us work on the Legion Walkway. Can't wait till the spring to see her work. Finally, to the City Staff who supported this and got it painted and ready in less than a week. We now have a token of Remembrance year-round thanks to efforts of everyone involved. Bravo Zulu!

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY - Kathy Patterson (via facebook)

Thank you to everyone who participated and attended our Remembrance Day Ceremony. Once again, Lifetimes Retirement Hone provided us with two beautiful cakes. Thank you to Marco and his staff for a delicious meal and to Linda Faubert for providing desserts. We Will Remember Them.







BINGO REPORT - Kathy Patterson / Chair

In December we had 4 bingo assignments. We received \$3,291.94 from Breakaway Bingo for these assignments.

If anyone else would like to volunteer for bingo assignments the work consists of clearing the tables of discarded bingo cards and food tray. As well, there are times there are no bingos going on so we must sit at the barin the slot machine room for two hours. It may seem boring but this is



required by the OLGA in order to be given our money each month.

If you know of anyone who would like to take over as the coordinator for the bingos please let me know.



Support the Legion Branch 255 Charities fund by going to bingo. There's a new place to be every Wednesday! Win it BIG without breaking the bank playing HALF PRICE BOOKS for all sessions on Wednesdays! Location: 655 Crawford Ave. Windsor, Ontario.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - Ken Marshall / Chair

We had 11 new members either join online or at the branch. They are:

•	Patrick Martin	•	Affiliate	WELCOME
•	Tyler Durocher	•	Affiliate	
•	Alan Wheatley	•	Associate	COMRADES



Paul Sexton
Anthony Quinlan
Christopher Lundy
Leonard Atkins
Affiliate
Ordinary
Ordinary

Peggy Winch

The winner of the October early draw was Gary Spratt.

Renew your membership early for a chance to win back your dues in November.

BRANCH 255 DONATIONS REPORT - Sue Yablonsky / Chair

Month of November, 2025. \$1200.00 each was given to four charities total of \$4800.00.

1. Big Brothers / Big Sisters-Windsor / Essex County 2. Canadian Mental Health Association 3. Feeding Windsor 4. Family Services - Windsor Essex County

HONOURS AND AWARDS REPORT - Olga Schutz / Chair

Our Committee would like to recognize **Associate member, Robert Hutnik**, who was recently presented with his **45-year Pin** by Ken Marshall since our last meeting.

We will continue to give recognition to our valued volunteers who help promote and give generously of their time and efforts to make Branch 255 a home and place for all to enjoy and be proud of!

Please be reminded that in order for you to receive your "year of recognition pin" or "bar awards", you are required to fill out a form which is located in an envelope pocket at the front entrance door, and then handed in to the bartender. Once validation of request is confirmed, a presentation will be made at the next General Membership meeting. Also if you "move" or have an "address change" please notify the Branch in the same manner.

SPORTS Dan Crockett / Chair

November was a busy month. We had 3 zone tournaments and we hosted two of them for darts.

I'm happy to say we have teams qualified for District in all 3 events. One team for 9 Ball, one team for Senior Darts and about 15 children for Youth Dart. All Districts will take place in the New Year.





Also in November ,Cheryl put on a Pool Tournament that was very well received and fun was had by all. Every 2 month's Cheryl puts up a Tournament on a Saturday, sign up for the next one and have some fun.

Congratulations to first place Ron and Aiden and 2nd place Kurt and Linda.

Picture taken by Cheryl Donaldson

SPORTS REPORT

Dan Crockett / Chair

I would like to thank the Optimist Club of Riverside for a very generous donation to our Youth Dart League of \$900.00.



HONOURS AND AWARDS

Bob Hutnik receiving his 45 year pin.
Congratulations Bob!!





🏻 👺 A BIT OF (HRISTMAS HUMOR JUST FOR LAUGHS!





By Scott Hillburn









BOOK YOUR NEXT EVENT

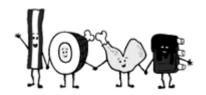
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YOUR AD CAN GO HERE

Email elainedunnis@gmail.com or leave your business card information with one of our bar stewards.



WEEKLY MEAT DRAW

Meat up for our Raffle" Enjoy some comradeship!! MEAT DRAW & 50/50 DRAW Every Saturday 2-5pm
"The friendliest Legion where everyone knows your name."...

2828 ARMY CADETS CORPS REPORT

Olga Schutz / Liaison

Fundraiser's:

- "Halenda's" Pepperoni Stix fundraiser continues to be promoted.
"What's Poppin" Popcorn fundraiser orders are still being taken by the Cadet Support Committee. There are 13 different varieties of flavors to choose from and they are all exceptional! We had to move the previous December 12th pick-up. The Popcorn orders will now be available for pick-up on Thursday, December 18th here at Br. 255.



- Holiday Gift Basket Giveaway is being promoted here at our Branch and is on Facebook as well. It is packed with amazing goodies and perfect for the festive season. Items included are a premium alcohol selection of Kahlua Original, JP Wiser's 10-yr Whisky, JP Wiser's Deluxe Whisky, Lot No. 40 Canadian Rye, and Malibu Original Rum; as well as, Chocolates, Mixed Nuts, Ice cube trays, 2 Glasses & 4 shot glasses, and 2 decks of playing cards for your enjoyment.

Raffle opens: Nov 13th thru Sunday, Dec. 21st.

Ticket prices: 1 ticket \$10.00; 3 tickets \$25.00; and 5 tickets \$40.00.

Payment: By e-transfer to, Divey1111@outlook.com.

Reply "Sent" so entry can by confirmed.

- Our second **Bottle Drive** will be hosted by the 2828 Army Cadets here at Br.255 on **Saturday**, **January 3**rd, **2026**, **from 2:00 pm 5:00 pm**. Cadets will help package, load and unload collections. Posters are up in our Branch.
- Friday, January 16th, 2026, the 2828 Army Cadets are partnering with the Windsor Express Basketball team at the WFCU Centre, game time 7:00 pm. A cadet will hold the flag during the opening National Anthem prior to start of the game. The fundraiser is VIP Sideline tickets for a discounted price. Approximately \$7.00 from each ticket sold goes back to the 2828 Cadet Corps.
- Wednesday, January 23rd, 2026, the Cadets are hosting their Windsor Spitfires fundraiser with puck drop at 7:05 pm at the WFCU Centre. The theme is "\$1.00 Hot Dogs" The Cadet Corps will be recognized & have discounted tickets. Approximately \$7.00 from each ticket sold goes back to the 2828 Cadet Corps. More information will be forthcoming re purchase of above tickets to both games.

Our Support Committee meeting was held on Monday, November 24, 2025 at the Armouries.





Members and friends of 255 as this will be my last bulletin that I put together, I want to thank Kristina Patrick who will now be taken over as editor.

May your Christmas sparkle with moments of love, laughter, and goodwill. I'm wishing you a new year full of joy and prosperity.

Have a Merry Christmas!

Regards *Elaine Dunn* ♥

2009-2025

SENIOR POEM, ESSAY, MEMOIR, SHORT STORY 2026 COMPETITION DEADLINE - SATURDAY, March 21, 2026

- 1. Open to all seniors aged **55+** (do not have to be a Legion Member)
- 2. Must complete and attach official registration form
- 3. Must be original, written by the contestant and be unpublished
- 4. Must be submitted in English or French
- 5. Must not exceed the line or word limits specified
- 6. Must be **ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION ONLY NO HARDCOPIES A ACCEPTED**Name on application and title page only contestants may submit only one entry in any / each category
- 8. Submission must include a cover page stating the title, author's name and entry word count if a family member or volunteer types the entry, please indicate in body of email
- 9. Biographies that are submitted must include written consent of the subject, if living Entry forms are available upon request. EMAIL tjmacdonald@amtelecom.net and submit entry with entry form to the above clearly marked email.

SENIORS - Sue Yablonsky / Chair For the month of November we spent \$1200 for entertainment. This also includes the cost of having guests in from the seniors home. Just a reminder there will be no seniors dance on December 30th.

VETERANS

Starting January 1, 2026, veterans and members of the Canadian Armed Forces can ride for free on UP Express when travelling with their Veteran's Service Card or a Canadian Military Service ID. This includes regular and reserve force members

How to take advantage of the new fare type

Starting January 1, you just need to make sure you have your Veteran's Service Card or a Canadian Military Service ID whenever you are travelling on UP Express to qualify for free travel.

If you are carrying your valid ID after January 1, there is no need to tap your PRESTO card. If you do, you will be charged a standard fare. Accepted National Defense Identification (NDI) cards include:

- Valid permanent Canadian Forces Identification Card NDI 20
- Canadian Armed Forces Veteran Service Card NDI 75
- Temporary National Defense Identification Card NDI 10

Veterans who do not have a Veteran's Service Card can **apply for one through Veterans Affairs**.

MILITARY RECOGNITION BOOK - Jim Dunn / Chair

As the "Keepers of Remembrance", Ontario Provincial Command is proud to publish an annual Military Service Recognition Book to identify and recognize many of our Veterans who have or are living in the Province of Ontario. Veterans who have either served or are still serving in our Canadian Armed Forces, the Commonwealth or Allied Forces qualify for a submission publication. Volume 12 is in. Now taking application for Volume 13.



COLOUR PARTY - Chantale Davis / Sergeant at Arms

November 2nd Woodslee Remembrance Day celebration. November 8th Miracle park for branch Remembrance Day service. November 9th St Mary church for the blessing of the colours November 11th We are part of the service downtown.

It was an honor to be part of so many great ceremonies. We are in our quieter time I am sure we will take time to enjoy the up coming holidays.



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BREAKFAST with SANTA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

Breakfast served between 9:30 - 10:30am. Doors open at 9am. Breakfast - Buffet Style :Eggs, Sausage, Hash Browns, Pancakes Coffee, Tea / Juice

Children 3 & under are FREE Children 4 to 12 are \$7 Children 13 & up and Adults \$10

Must purchase tickets in advance. Cannot be purchased the day of the event.



UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20th at 8pm

Come ROCK your Ugly Christmas Sweater with the CROWBAR HOTEL Band .. Make it a Night to Remember!! \$\$\$ Cash Prize for UGLIEST Sweater



// YEARS EVE PARTY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST / 2-6PM

Entertainment - JUJU REVIVAL Band

Tickets with meal \$30.00 / without meal \$10.00

Other details incomplete please watch for posters in the branch, facebook and our website at www.branch255.com

Ball drop at approx. 5-5:30pm.





NEW YEARS DAY LEVEE 2026

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1st, 2026

New Year's Day levee, a long tradition in Canada affiliated with the Armed Services. Branch 255 Legion welcomes members and non-members alike for an afternoon of camaraderie.



BRIGHT LIGHTS WINDSOR

Experience the magic of Bright Lights Windsor as it returns to Jackson Park! Bright Lights Windsor will be open nightly from November 28, 2025, through January 7, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. ADMISSION IS FREE.



DECEMBER 2025 RIVERSIDE BRANCH 255 LEGION CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
THE PARTY OF THE P	1 PM OPEN CRIBBAGE CUT THROAT PEPPER 6PM MIXED POOL 6PM WOMENS DARTS 7PM	SENIORS DINNER & MUSIC JUJU REVIVAL BAND 3:30-6:30 MEN'S DARTS LEAGUE 7:30PM	1PM MIXED CRIBBAGE 6PM EUCHRE MIXED DART LEAGUE 7PM	1PM MIXED CRIBBAGE	FISH FRY 3-8:30PM LOW VISION DARTS 4PM MENS ANGLO DART LEAGUE 7:30PM	YOUTH DARTS 9AM MEAT DRAW 2-5PM BB AND THE JS BAND 8PM
7 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA DOORS OPEN AT 9AM	1PM OPEN CRIBBAGE CUT THROAT PEPPER 6PM MIXED POOL 6PM WOMENS DARTS 7PM	SENIORS DINNER & MUSIC MICKEY BAND 3:30-6:30 MEN'S DARTS LEAGUE 7:30PM	10 1PM MIXED CRIBBAGE 6PM EUCHRE MIXED DART LEAGUE 7PM	11 29 1PM MIXED CRIBBAGE	FISH FRY 3-8:30PM LOW VISION DARTS 4PM MENS ANGLO DART LEAGUE 7:30PM	YOUTH DARTS 9AM MEAT DRAW 2-5PM BB AND THE JS BAND 8PM
14	15 1PM OPEN CRIBBAGE CUT THROAT PEPPER 6PM MIXED POOL 6PM WOMENS DARTS 7PM	SENIORS DINNER & MUSIC TRAXX BAND 3:30-6:30 MEN'S DARTS LEAGUE 7:30PM	17 1PM MIXED CRIBBAGE 6PM EUCHRE MIXED DART LEAGUE 7PM	1PM MIXED CRIBBAGE EXECUTIVE MEETING	FISH FRY 3-8:30PM LOW VISION DARTS 4PM MENS ANGLO DART LEAGUE 7:30PM	YOUTH DARTS 9AM MEAT DRAW 2-5PM CROWBAR HOTEL BAND 8PM
21	1PM OPEN CRIBBAGE CUT THROAT PEPPER 6PM MIXED POOL 6PM WOMENS DARTS 7PM	SENIORS DINNER & MUSIC CROWBAR HOTEL BAND 3:30-6:30	CHRISTMAS EVE OPEN 12-5	25 CLOSED MERRO CIRCINIOS	BOXING DAY WERE OPEN	MEAT DRAW 2-5PM CROWBAR HOTEL BAND 8PM
28	29	30	NOON YEARS EVE PARTY 2-6PM JUJU REVIVAL BAND	JANUARY 1st 2026 HAPPY NEW YEAR NEW YEARS DAY LEVEE Legion	ATTENTION ALL SPORTS PLAYERS PLEASE CHECK WITH PERSON IN CHARGE TO SEE IF THERE ARE ANY CHANGES OR CANCELLATIONS DURING THE HOLIDAYS	