



Markham District Veterans Association Newsletter

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December 2020



President's Remarks – David Smith

Welcome to December....what a year it has been for the world and it looks like we aren't out of the woods for some time to come, but let us keep the faith!

November was a unique month, as every month has been, for the MDVA which saw:

- A scaled down Poppy Campaign, which Rick Paci and Bill Guiller, along with their band of volunteers ran. They raised a little over \$20,000 which was about 1/2 of what we raised in 2019.
- A Remembrance Day which was virtual as we were not able to congregate and enjoy fellowship with our Veterans and their families.....a Remembrance Day for the history books.
- Gary Bowerman did us proud with a sunrise ceremony to Remembrance Week with the laying of 5 wreaths at the cenotaph with a small group of MDVA members and 5 York Regional Police in attendance.
- The 2nd Markham Scouts gave us a wonderful montage of scouts "Thanking Veterans" which is on display in the MDVA club room (and attached).
- We received no nominations for the 2021 President, Secretary, Treasurer and Directors so there was no election held.
- Dawne Ramkay is stepping down at the end of December from the Board. Dawne was Membership Director so I have asked Larry Lau to assume this responsibility along with Sergeant-at-Arms. When we are allowed to have General Meetings, I will appoint a Sergeant and bring the name forward for acceptance by the membership.
- The Board made Marjorie Nielsen a Life Member for her ardent support of the MDVA for many, many years. Marjorie was thrilled to receive it but sadly passed away last week from cancer. Her presence and support will be greatly missed by all of us.
- The Board made the decision to open the club from Monday to Saturday, 4PM - 8PM. This action was supported by our Bar Stewards who came forward with "volunteering" their time to help us manage the additional expenses of this change. Strict Covid protocols remain in effect, so please help us stay open by following them.



The MDVA has applied for a number of financial grants made available by both the Federal and Provincial Governments and we hope to know by the middle of December if our applications have

been approved. John Craig has done a fantastic job of framing our financial position on the grant applications so keep your fingers and toes crossed.

The Ontario Resiliency Grant application is due on December 9th and that remains our immediate focus. Our ask is for an accessible washroom in the hall, improved air conditioning in the club room and sanitizing equipment and portable air cleaners. A final decision on whether or not our application is accepted will not be until early 2021.

"Thank You" to Janet Morgan who has supplied the club with some lovely poinsettia plants to brighten up the clubroom for the holidays.

While there is light at the end of this pandemic with the approval and early delivery of vaccines, I still see the MDVA remaining closed to General Meetings for the foreseeable future, but your Board will continue to keep you updated via email and newsletters.

Please join me in "Thanking" this year's Board for their hard work and making tough decisions as they manoeuvred the clubs way through the complexities and challenges that the Covid pandemic has presented us with. Normally the board goes on recess from July to September but this year they worked throughout.

As we enter the holidays, I send my best wishes to you and your families for a safe and healthy Christmas and New Year, and let us not forget the many members we have lost this past year and who we will dearly miss.

Please stay safe, follow the guidelines asked of us, and let us look forward to being able to gather again in 2021.

.....**David**



Publicity & Communications Director – Karen Mooney

Remembrance Day weekAlthough the MDVA couldn't do anything formally, several people did show up to Veterans Square & Cenotaph, on November 11th just before 11:00 AM, some from the MDVA but also a number of people from the general public. So at 11:00 AM, those who were there observed two minutes of silence. It was also nice to see how many people brought their children and had them place their poppies on the wreaths.

Markham Remembers



Jack Paley



Helen & John Stuart



Exciting news everyone ! The **recipe book** is finished & has gone to print & will be ready to pick up **before** Christmas ! This book would be a great Christmas gift, that has been assembled from all of our own members and/or spouse favourite recipes !

I would like to thank all of you who sent me your favourite recipe to share ! It was my pleasure to put together ! Thank you to Janet Morgan who suggested doing up a recipe book back in mid March when Covid first hit us.



Please e-mail me mooneykaren@hotmail.com, or phone me at 905-472-9402 to place your order ! This booklet is in full colour & contains 75 + recipes & is selling for \$25.00 per book.



At this time I would also like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah , and all of our Best Wishes for a **Healthy**, Happy & Prosperous 2021 !

Please stay safe, wear a mask & continue to social distance ! **Karen M.**



Service Bureau – Karen Kearns

On Nov 9th our newest member **Nancy Ditomaso** approached us to say she had received 24 beautiful Poppy mugs donated from Marilou Volpe at Ashley Warehouse Sale where Nancy works. We then made a list of our more Senior Veterans ,Nancy had made shortbread cookies to go along with the mugs. That morning along with Karen Mooney, Nancy Ditomaso, Paul kearns and myself we started the deliveries , this was to help as we could not gather for our usual Remembrance Day Service just to let them know they are not forgotten. We did our best to Social distance but one or two were have nothing to do with that as you can see in the picture. Thank you for you help it was a special day for us.



John Robson with Paul Kearns

Our **Jack Paley** Celebrated his **99th birthday** last week with family! Happy Birthday Jack! Let's look forward to next year with a **big PARTY**.

Andrew McCully is at home recovering from a double heart by-pass, we wish him a safe recovery.

Dec 3rd in the morning, we lost a valuable member of our club, **Marjorie Nielsen** passed away at home with family present. Marjorie was a true volunteer in every meaning of the word at our club and in the community, she will be missed. We offer our condolences to her family and special friends.



As Christmas and the Holiday season approaches please take care of each other, be kind and if you are alone please reach out to us even if it is just a phone call. You can call me anytime my number is at the below.

Karen Kearns , 905-471-5913



Sergeant-at-Arms & Membership Director : **Larry Lau**

Your 2021 Membership card is ready to pick up at the bar.

You may pay your membership dues (\$45 for Regular/Relative, \$50 for Associate)) at the bar by cash or cheque; you could pay by credit card but a 2.5% handling fee will be applied. In addition, we are accepting payment by interac email transfer to markhamveterans@rogers.com ; please put your full name in your e-transfer remarks and indicate it is for membership dues.

A late payment charge will be applied after January 1st, 2021, for \$5 per month; maximum late payment charge is up to 3 months.

Thank you very much and I wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season.
Stay safe and healthy.

..... **Larry**

Entertainment & Fund Raising Director – **Shara Carr**

Hello Members,

May the magic of the holiday season fill your home with joy and peace. Sending lots of love to you and yours, looking forward to the day when we can see you again, gather together and share warm hugs. Wishing all who celebrate a Merry Christmas or a Happy Hanukkah and a safe and healthy 2021.

.....**Shara**



Parade Marshal & Building Director – **Gary Bowerman**

With 2020 coming to a close and news that a vaccine for Corona Virus -19 is now being distributed in the United Kingdom, most of the people I speak with virtually say they are looking forward to the end of the year 2020. Hindsight is supposed to be 20/20, but somehow this does not seem to apply with the Corona Virus-19. All we can ask are for everyone to continue keeping safe.



2 CER Christmas in Iraq 2017



German Soldiers Christmas Truce 1914

Wishing ALL , a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season! Keep Safe.

.....**Gary**



Trivia Corner :

Canadian Christmas Fun Facts

Christmas is the time of year when many Canadians get together to enjoy the holiday season with family and friends – well maybe not in 2020 !

Like our American neighbours, Christmas in Canada is celebrated with a mish-mash of different traditions' brought about by different geographical regions and cultures.

For example, a German immigrant, Baron Friederick von Riedesel, first introduced Canada to the Christmas tree in 1781 in Sorel, Quebec.

And, while roast beef and goose are still on the menu in many households, today Canadians more often follow the tradition of serving roast turkey on Christmas Day.

Of course, Christmas is also the time of year when Canada's stores are usually packed with shoppers looking for holiday eats, sporting goods, electronic games, toys, and other gifts that remain popular year after year. The difference this year, is that most of us who would normally go out to the Mall to do our shopping, most of us this year are doing our shopping "on-line".

Shop 'til you drop

\$549 million — The value of consumer electronics, such as televisions and audio and video equipment purchased at large retailers in Canada in December, with a 127% spike compared to average monthly sales.

\$435 million — The value of toys, games and hobby supplies, including video games, purchased at large retailers in Canada in December, up a whopping 184% from average monthly sales for this category.

Canadian Christmas - It's time to party

6.7 million litres — The volume of commercial sales of eggnog in Canada in December. Virtually all eggnog sales are in November and December.

\$449 million — The amount of monthly sales of candy, Christmas chocolate and snack foods sales at large retailers in December, the month with the highest sales.

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree

2,381 — The number of farms that grow Christmas trees in Canada. The most Christmas tree farms are found in Ontario, with 647 farms.

55 acres — The average area of land per farm allocated to growing Christmas trees in Quebec. Christmas tree farms in Quebec are, on average, the largest in Canada, followed by Nova Scotia with an average size of 52 acres per farm.

Festively named places in Canada:

For the most festively named place in Canada, **Christmas Island**, Nova Scotia. Then again, there is Gift Lake in Alberta, and **Reindeer Station** in the Northwest Territories, At Christmas, also give a shout out to **Chimney Lake**, British Columbia, **Sled Lake** in Saskatchewan, and the decoratively named **Holly, Ontario**.





Again this month & like so many this year we would like to **Thank & remember** all those who continue to keep us healthy & safe ! **We wish them all Happy Holidays !**

Don't forget to "mask up" !



Please - please support these businesses!



SOON.

We're so grateful for the efforts of our community when it comes to prioritizing the health and safety of our residents. When the time is right, we will once again open our doors to families and friends and to everyone interested in senior living at Amica Swan Lake and Amica Unionville. Until that time comes, we're here to answer any questions you may have.

For the latest updates and re-opening information, please contact us.

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AMICA
SENIOR LIFESTYLES

*Merry
Christmas
& Happy New Year!*



*"May your holidays bring
you the gifts of love, peace,
and good health"*



**Karen
Rea**
Ward 4 Councillor

To keep informed on Markham and Ward 4 issues, visit:
www.karenrea.ca or email: krea@markham.ca

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