



# Markham District Veterans Association Newsletter

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April 2021



## President's Remarks – David Smith

Dear members, well here we go again.....another shutdown for 4 weeks. It certainly put a damper on the Easter weekend. While we may not have that many Covid cases in Markham that is not the case in other parts of the GTA, so it is for the greater good.

With the amount of vaccines that Canada is now receiving each week, hopefully we will be able to ramp up the number of people that can be vaccinated each day, maybe the strategy can be changed to help us get on top of this pandemic, and we can return to some form of normalcy.

If you need help in getting a vaccine appointment or need help in getting to a clinic, please let Karen Kearns (Service Bureau) know and she or her team will assist in any way that they can. Karen can be reached at (416) 885-0908 or [pk4150.kk@gmail.com](mailto:pk4150.kk@gmail.com). I know a number of people have used Markham Vaccinates as well.

Membership - We still have a number of members who have not paid their annual membership dues yet. According to the Constitution memberships not paid by January 1st lose Club privileges and those not paid by March 31st are removed from the membership list.

Because of the Covid shutdown and that, membership fees are critical in supporting our ongoing operational expenditures; the Board has waived the late penalty charges and reached out to those members to resolve the overdue memberships. If you have not yet paid your membership fees, please do so as soon as possible so that we are not put in the unenviable position of having to enforce the Constitutional membership conditions.

Membership can be paid during the closure in the following ways:

- 1) mailing a cheque or dropping it off in the MDVA mailbox
- 2) interac email transfer to [markhamveterans@rogers.com](mailto:markhamveterans@rogers.com)

We lost our very dear veteran **Don Rattle** last month. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family and his many friends on their loss. May he Rest in Peace..

## **April 9th is Vimy Ridge Day.**

Vimy Ridge was a particularly important tactical feature of WW1. Its capture by the Canadians was essential to the advances by the British Third Army and of exceptional importance to checking the German attacks in the area in 1918. Unfortunately, we cannot gather to honour those that served and lost their lives during this important operation but let us take a moment on Friday to Remember them.



The Mourning Statue – also called “Mother Canada” looking over Douai Plain also known as “Hill 145”, Vimy Ridge

It looks like Spring is starting early so take time to go outside and enjoy the warm weather and let us look forward to when we can gather again.

Until then, Stay safe.

.....David

### **Secretary – Bridget Wells**

April Board meeting highlights are as follows:

· Treasurer's Report, including Covid-related grant loan applications status, is attached. The Board is exploring all possible Covid funding opportunities and to date we are pleased to have secured two loans and four subsidies, with three additional subsidies pending. The Financial Statements for the MDVA as at December 31, 2020, as prepared by Kreston GTA LLP, have been reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee and the Board.

· Covid-19. the Ontario government has imposed a "province wide emergency brake" due to a surge in COVID case numbers. This means, among other restrictions, that restaurants and bars are not open for inside or patio dining for at least four weeks as of Saturday, April 3, 2021. The MDVA falls under this restriction and as such is closed until further notice. The Board will monitor the situation and advise the membership accordingly.

· Membership renewals. We continue to remind those members not yet paid for 2021 that payments are due. To date we have 222 active members, with several members outstanding for payment. Many thanks to those members who have paid their 2021 dues.

· Upper Hall and Kitchen. A small committee of Board members has undertaken a project to assess possible additional uses of the underutilized upper hall and kitchen with a view to providing a community gathering centre for social interaction, a sense of belonging, and perhaps a chance to volunteer. As we are currently closed this will be assessed further in the coming months

.....Bridget

### **2021 Veterans Banners: Rick Paci**

There are 14 new poles made available this year for sponsors to hoist a Veteran's banner. Four are already reserved leaving 10 available. The location for the 14 is on the east side of Hwy #48 starting at the corner of Hwy #7 and proceeding down the hill. Vehicles going north on Hwy #48 would certainly see the banners from the bottom of Vinegar Hill.

The price of this year's banners is the same as before, \$141.25 (tax in). Anyone interested can contact me at 905-640-2803, or [rpaci@sympatico.ca](mailto:rpaci@sympatico.ca). I can provide the order form by email or have copies at the MDVA for pick-up. I am also available to provide any assistance with your order form and photo being delivered.

If I can't be reached, please contact Dave Watson at 905-471-4827 or [watloon@hotmail.com](mailto:watloon@hotmail.com), or at the MDVA when he is the bartender on duty.

(Sample Banner)



The deadline for orders to get to Artisan Streetscapes, with the photo in digital or hard copy format, and the order form filled out is August 31, 2021.

Regards, Rick Paci

### **Publicity & Communications Director – Karen Mooney**

Spring is officially here ! and wasn't Easter Sunday the best day this year ! I hope everyone had the opportunity to get outside even for a little while to enjoy the day !

I would like to thank all of you who have taken the time to communicate with me by sharing moments or photos of special days – let's keep them coming in !

The **Exchange of Jigsaw Puzzles, Books & DVD's**, took place on Wed. March 10<sup>th</sup> – lot's of books, DVD's, & puzzles were dropped off, & exchanged. We took the "left-overs" inside to the Unionville room, where they are currently all on display.

We will leave everything in the Unionville room until we can open up again. Once open, please drop by to pick up or make an exchange. Whatever remains by the month end of May, will be donated to Salvation Army or Value Village or if any of you have a suggestion to donate them elsewhere, please let me know !

### **St. Patrick's Day Celebrations !**



Nicki was up early on St. Patrick's Day making Irish Soda Bread !



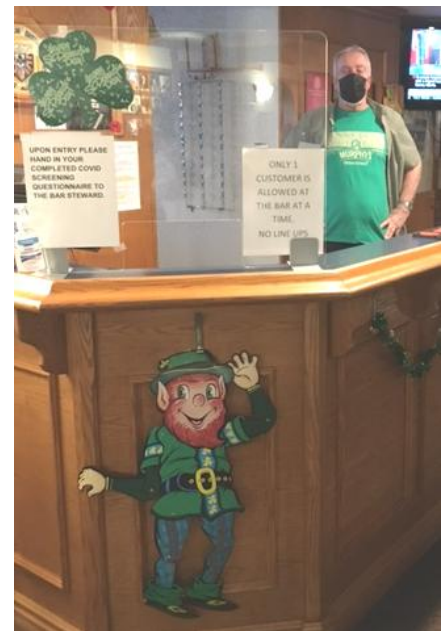
Whiz & Shara celebrating at home!



Happy Hour started at 4:00 pm for Jim Dibblee !



After 4:00 PM at the MDVA on St. Patrick's Day



Rose Kelly's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday !



Paul Kearns 80<sup>th</sup> !!!!



**Birthday's & Anniversaries !**    **Happy Be-lated Birthday's to:**

- **Mario Folco – March 5<sup>th</sup>**
- **Margaret Bibby – March 15<sup>th</sup>**



**April :**

- **April 1<sup>st</sup> – Dave Armstrong**
- **April 4<sup>th</sup> – Barbara Paley – special Birthday – Happy 90<sup>th</sup> !**
- **April 14<sup>th</sup> – Mike Johnson**
- **April 15<sup>th</sup> – Janet Whitely**
- **April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Jean Keen**
- **April 28<sup>th</sup> – Karen Kearns**



**Congratulations to  
Barbara Paley on her  
90<sup>th</sup> Birthday – Easter  
Sunday & what a  
beautiful day !**



## Happy Belated 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Mario Folco !



**Will you marry me? She said YES !!!**

**Congratulations to member Wendy McGinnes (Shelley Fazackerley's daughter) & Adam Bonneveld on their engagement last week !**



**Do you have a special day, Birthday or Anniversary in May ? please let me know !**

**[mooneykaren@hotmail.com](mailto:mooneykaren@hotmail.com) OR [markhamveterans@rogers.com](mailto:markhamveterans@rogers.com)**

**What have you been doing over the past few months to keep busy ! please share !** We've seen Helen's quilting, Busy Betty's knitting & planting .... Have any of you taken up a new hobby ?

## **APRIL CALENDAR**

### **THE MONTH OF APRIL**

The month of April gets its name from the Latin word *aperio*, meaning "to open [bud]," because plants really begin to grow !

### **APRIL CALENDAR**

- **April 1** is All Fools' Day—otherwise known as "**April Fools' Day.**"
- **April 2** is **Good Friday.** .
- **April 4** is **Easter Sunday.**
- **April 9<sup>th</sup>** – **Vimy Ridge Day** – "**Let us Remember Them**"
- **April 12** marks the start of **Ramadan**
- **April 22** is **Earth Day.**
- **April 30** is **National Arbor Day** – the day we observe this day honoring trees  
(really ? who knew?)



.....**Karen M.**

## **Service Bureau – Karen Kearns**

Well again, March and April, weren't kind to the Club as we had to close down again.

We lost one of a kind WWII Veteran Don Rattle. Don passed away in his sleep at Sunnybrook Veterans Wing where he had just moved to (March 25<sup>th</sup>) and the next morning March 26, Don was found to have passed away. Our condolences go out to his daughters Anne, Jane and Nancy and their families, plus many friends at our Club and the Lions Club where Don was a member for many years. RIP Don, you will be missed by all of us.



Our condolences go out to Surjit his wife Surinder Basarke and family on the loss for their son, we will keep you in our thoughts at this time of sorrow .

Also condolences to Barbara Leach her family and her sister Terry and her family in England on the passing of her Mom in England . Many of us knew Barb's Mom from her visits here to the Club what a wonderful Lady so full of life and a beautiful smile to go with it.

Carl Amyotte's wife Lise (aka Lisa) spent 9 days in Hospital with heart problems but I was very glad to speak to her at home where she is now recovering.

Robert Kowalski is recovering in his Transitional Housing in Toronto. He is starting to venture out now so once we open up again maybe he will be able to come for a short visit, which would be wonderful. Keep up the great work Robert.

Please Stay Safe and if you need anything please call.

If you still need help with booking vaccine appointment, call and I will see if I can help.

**416 885-0908**

***Karen Kearns***

## **Membership Director / Sgt. @ Arms – Larry Lau**

Dear Members,

As of March 31st, we have the following memberships:

Honorary	7	Relative	83
Life	17	Associate	75
Regular	40		

Total: 222 Members

On April 9th (Friday), we are unable to have an in person memorial for the Battle of Vimy Ridge. I would like to share some facts of the Battle as it pertains to our Canadian involvement:

## **The Battle of Vimy Ridge - April 9- 12, 1917**

- The assault on Vimy Ridge, the northern part of the wider battle of Arras, began at 5:30 am on Easter Monday, April 9, 1917.



*Lest We Forget ....*

- It was the first occasion on which all four divisions of the Canadian Corps attacked as a composite formation.
- The Canadian achievement in capturing Vimy Ridge owed its success to a range of technical and tactical innovations, very powerful artillery preparation, sound and meticulous planning and thorough preparation.
- At Vimy, the Canadian Corps and the British XVII Corps on their immediate southern flank had captured more ground, more prisoners and more guns than any previous British Expeditionary Force offensive.
- Vimy Ridge was a particularly important tactical feature. Its capture by the Canadians was essential to the advances by the British Third Army to the south and of exceptional importance to checking the German attacks in the area in 1918.
- The Canadians had demonstrated they were one of the outstanding formations on the Western Front and masters of offensive warfare.
- Four Victoria Crosses (VC) were awarded for bravery. Of these, three were earned on the opening day of the battle:
  - Private William Milne of the 16th Battalion.
  - Lance-Sergeant Ellis Sifton of the 18th Battalion.
  - Private John Pattison of the 50th Battalion (April 10).
  - Captain Thain MacDowell of the 38th Battalion. MacDowell had also earned the Distinguished Service Order on the Somme. Of the four Vimy VCs, only Captain MacDowell survived the War.
- The Canadian success at Vimy demonstrated that no position was invulnerable to a meticulously planned and conducted assault. This success had a profound effect on Allied planning.
- Though the victory at Vimy came swiftly, it did not come without cost. There were 3,598 dead out of 10,602 Canadian casualties.
- After Vimy, the Canadian Corps went from one success to another, to be crowned by their achievements in the 1918 "advance to victory". This record won for Canada a separate signature on the Versailles Peace Treaty ending the War.



.....**Larry Lau**

### **Cadet Corner !!**

RC748(ARMY)CC will be holding their Virtual Annual Review Thursday May 27 1830hr. this year.

Last May the cadets had their first Virtual Annual Review never thinking we would have another. Unfortunately we will be virtual again this year.

I will be posting in next newsletter a Zoom link for all member to use this year.

Stay safe everyone !  
 Cheers !  
 CO Capt R. Carlsen CD  
 RC748 (ARMY) CC

**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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# Happy Easter!



To keep informed on Markham and Ward 4 issues, visit:  
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