



Markham District Veterans Association Newsletter

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October 2021



President's Remarks – David Smith

Dear members,

Well it is that time of year again....Thanksgiving and MDVA Election Nominations. I hope that all of you have a terrific Thanksgiving with your families this year as it was discouraged last year thanks to Covid.



MDVA Nominations for 2022 are due this month and I encourage all of our members to seriously consider running for a position as the current Board has been in place for 2 years and it is not fair to those who have served to carry on ad infinitum. If the membership does not step up and help, then at some point the club will be like a ship without a captain and crew going nowhere. I'm sure that none of us would like that to happen.

The club is slowly getting back to a new normal.....with our Covid protocols still in place but now we have had to add vaccination confirmations required if you're visiting the club. Despite the challenges, we have had a few hall rentals, ladies softball on Friday nights and the pool is starting up again. We need a new TV in the Unionville room and once that is in place, Dr. Watson would like to start up his Monday movies again.

Another step towards normalcy, we **will be starting up our monthly General Meetings on Tuesday October 12th at 7:30PM**. Just a reminder, we need a **quorum of at least 25 members present and of that 25, 14 need to be Regular, Life or Relative members**.

We will be stocking the bar with snacks this week and I hope that we will be bringing back the famous Howard Elson hot dogs very soon..We have a terrific selection of beer, wine and coolers in stock so come on by and enjoy some fellowship and support your club !
.....**David**

Secretary – Bridget Wells

October Board of Director Meeting Highlights / Secretary Report

Correspondence received:

- None

Correspondence sent:

- None

Treasurer's Report:

- Treasurers report attached – separate document



General Meetings:

- The Board agreed that monthly General Meetings could be re-started with the understanding that potential future COVID-related restrictions may change that. The first meeting will be Tuesday, October 12th at 7:30pm in the MDVA Upper Hall. We will need 25 Members in order to have a quorum and proceed with the meetings.
- Members are reminded that for this meeting in October, nominations for 2022 Board positions are to be put forward.

Current MDVA Board Vacancies:

- The Membership was advised in early September that there are currently three Board positions that are vacant: Hall Director, Building Director and Membership Director.
- We are asking Members who haven't yet volunteered for a Board position to please come forward and volunteer.

2022 MDVA Board Nominations:

- The Board of Directors of the MDVA is comprised of 11 Members and this is a requirement for the Club to continue to operate.
- A communication was sent to all Members the week of September 6th asking those Members who have not yet volunteered as a Board Member, or as part of one of the Committees, to please consider doing so for 2022. We encourage Members to step forward so that existing Board Members, all of whom have served for two or more years, who wish to step down will be able to do so.
- We are also seeking Members to sit on Committees that support Board positions.
- Those interested can put themselves forward at the Oct 12th General Meeting or contact David Smith before October 31st. Elections for the 2022 Board take place in November.

Trillium and Resiliency Grant Applications:

- We have sent in our application for a Trillium Grant to build an accessible upper level washroom. We will also be submitting an application for a Resiliency Grant in December which would address repairs needed for the exterior of the building.

COVID Vaccination Vetting:

- As of September 22, 2021, Ontarians need to be fully vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination, along with photo ID, to access certain public settings and facilities. Valid proof of vaccination will include either the paper version or PDF vaccine receipt received following the vaccine shot(s). In late October, the province will be launching an enhanced digital vaccine receipt for all to use which will feature a unique QR code.
- All MDVA Members will be required to provide this documentation to enter the Club.

Remembrance Day:

- If permitted relative to COVID considerations, the MDVA will conduct a service on Saturday November 6th. Information is being sought from the City in this regard. More information will follow when available.

Membership:

- (Larry to provide)

..... **Bridget**

Publicity & Communications Director – Karen Mooney

Happy October everyone ! As we wait to hear what we can or can't do for Remembrance Day , please note that every effort is being made to see how we can conduct some sort or ceremony one way or the other.

In saying that I wanted to approach, all of the members about something that John McLaren shared with me last year that the Bowmanville RCL did. Like us, they weren't allowed a parade, a ceremony, basically nothing to "Remember Them" in any meaning full way.

John was fortunate to find & purchase a **lawn sign**, which he proudly displayed on his front lawn, which I drove by & saw & wanted to know more. I don't have a picture of it, but wanted to know if & how many of you might be interested in purchasing one ?

I am soliciting pricing & so far, it looks like they might be in or around \$15 each - .the photos below are 2 designs I have out for quotes.

At this point I'd just like to hear back to see how much interest there is so please let me know as soon as possible by replying to me directly at mooneykaren@hotmail.com

If little interest is shown, I have spoken to the RCL Bowmanville & can always purchase through them – at the same price. However, I don't have an image to show you, but last year's was similar to the 2nd one shown with poppies all over it.





Happy to see I guess what might be the last sunflower of 2021 – thanks Busy Betty ! Let's remember how pretty & beautiful the sky is to get us through the upcoming winter months!

Welcome Back !



We would like to extend a "Welcome Back" to the Thursday night Pool players! They start this Thursday Oct. 7th! So glad to have you back! & thank you to Carl Amyotte for organizing!



Birthday's & Anniversaries !

- **Oct. 1st – Stan Hems** - *this photo was sent in to Karen Kearns as she keeps in touch with Stan's daughters ! They sent this photo in & we want to wish Stan a belated, Happy Birthday to Stan on his 99th Birthday*
- **Oct. 10th – David Smith**
- **Oct. 10th – Jacquie**
- **Oct. 26th – Rick Paci**

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 !



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

mooneykaren@hotmail.com OR markhamveterans@rogers.com

OCTOBER CALENDAR

This month's name stems from Latin *octo*, "eight," because this was the eighth month of the early Roman calendar. When the Romans converted to a 12-month calendar, the name October stuck despite that fact that it's now the 10th month!

Dates to Remember –

October 11th – Thanksgiving Monday



October 31st – Halloween



October Zodiac Signs:

Libra (Balance): September 23–October 23

The October flower is the "Marigold & Cosmos"



The October birthstone is the "Opal"

*The October birthstone, **opal**, symbolizes faithfulness and confidence. The word comes from the Latin opalus, meaning "precious jewel." Necklaces with opals set in them were worn to repel evil and to protect eyesight.*

Remembering Passchendaele! **October 1917**

Other reasons to think about our fallen as our Canadian troops played such a significant part in the First World War or "Great War" as it's been referred to & who we've all heard about is the battle of Passchendaele.

Canadians have a proud history of bravely serving in the cause of peace and freedom over the years. A name from Canada's First World War military heritage that still stirs emotions is "Passchendaele." On a muddy battlefield in northwest Belgium, Canadians overcame almost unimaginable hardships to win an impressive victory in the fall of 1917.



Canadian Pioneers carrying trench mats with wounded and prisoners in background during the Battle of Passchendaele.

In the fall of 1917, the Canadian Corps—after its great success at Vimy Ridge that April—was sent north to Belgium. It would be all-too-familiar ground for the Canadians who had seen heavy fighting there earlier in the war.

Ypres

The Ypres area of Belgium—where the village of Passchendaele is located—was the scene of several First World War battles, including **the first use of poison gas when the Germans unleashed** deadly chemical attacks there in April 1915. The Ypres salient was the last portion of Belgium that was not in enemy hands after the initial German advances of the war and, as a result, held great symbolic meaning to the Allies.

The Canadians at Passchendaele

Early in October 1917, the Canadians were sent to Belgium to relieve the battered ANZAC forces and take part in the final push to capture Passchendaele. Canadian Corps commander Lieutenant-General Arthur Currie inspected the terrain and was shocked at the conditions he saw. He tried to avoid having his men fight there but was overruled by his superiors. As at Vimy, the four divisions of the Canadian Corps would see action. However, the ubiquitous mud, flat terrain, and relative lack of preparation time and artillery support would make Passchendaele a far different battlefield than the one the Canadians had encountered at Vimy Ridge.

Canadians begin their offensive

Currie took as much time as he could to carefully prepare and on **October 26**, the Canadian offensive began. Advancing through the mud and enemy fire was slow and there were heavy losses but our soldiers clawed their way forward. On an exposed battlefield like that one, success was often only made possible due to acts of great individual heroism to get past spots of particularly stiff enemy resistance. Despite the adversity, the Canadians reached the outskirts of Passchendaele by the end of a second attack on **October 30** during a driving rainstorm.

Capturing the village

On November 6, the Canadians and British launched the assault to capture the ruined village of Passchendaele itself. In heavy fighting, the attack went according to plan. The task of actually capturing the “infamous” village fell to the 27th (City of Winnipeg) Battalion and they took it that day. After weathering fierce enemy counterattacks, the last phase of the battle saw the Canadians attack on **November 10 and clear the Germans from the eastern edge of Passchendaele Ridge before the campaign finally ground to a halt. Canadian soldiers had succeeded in the face of almost unbelievable challenges.**

Can any of us even imagine what our troops went through ? Bless them all !

Service Bureau – Karen Kearns

If any member is interested in becoming the Service Bureau Director, the elections are here and you can let me know and I would be willing to nominate you and help you if you needed, so think about it, as it is a very rewarding position in the Club.

As Fall has arrived and we are going to be staying inside again. If you need ANYTHING even if it is only to hear another voice just pick up the phone and call me and we can chat 416 885 0908 for a while as I would love to talk to any of you.

It was nice to see **Lisa Amyotte** out at the Club for a short visit as she goes through recovery of her heart issues, we wish her the very best.

Helen Stuart has made a few beautiful Quilted Chair Blankets that we will be giving out soon to those who could benefit from them for the winter coming. Thank you so much Helen for your Support of the Club in this way, it means a lot to the people who receive them .

Service Bureau
Karen Kearns
416 885 0908

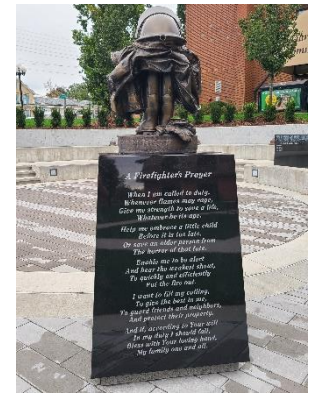
Going forward, as we announced in the September newsletter, we as your Board would like to have a “Celebration Of Life” at the Club when things open up more and it is safe to do so, just so all of you that are members, or families of a member know we have not forgotten your loss. This is being planned and we will be in touch with you individually, to see if you would like to participate the Celebration of Life, as it will be your choice.

Please take care and if you know of anyone that needs help with anything please call.

Service Bureau – 416-885-0908

..... **Karen Kearns**

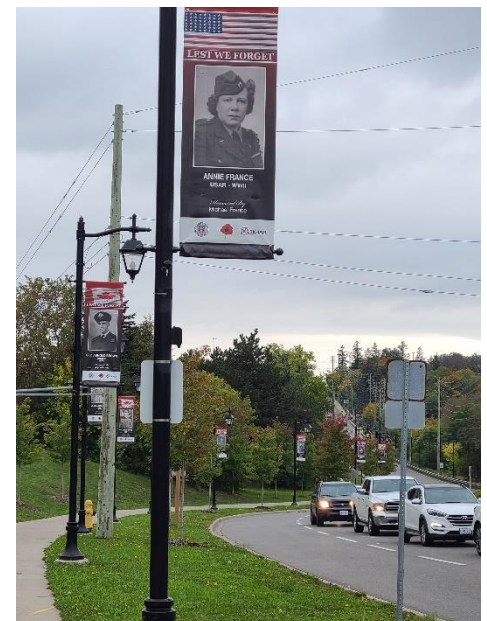




On September 25th, 2021, the Markham Firefighter Memorial was unveiled at Veterans Square. The memorial was made possible with the collaboration of Markham Fire & Emergency Services, Markham Professional Firefighters Association & the City of Markham. Family members of the five fallen firefighters memorialized on the plaque were in attendance to mark the occasion.

It is a beautiful tribute and I highly recommend going and paying your respects to those who have fallen. While you are there it is a great opportunity to see the banners that now hang along Main St. South.

Michele



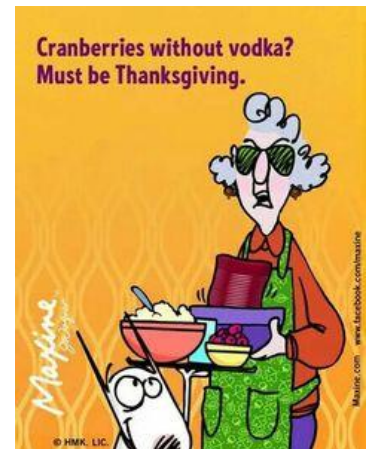
Membership Director / Sgt. @ Arms – Larry Lau

Dear Members, The update membership numbers are as follows:

Associate 91
Relative 93
Regular 45
Life 17
Honorary 7

Total 253

.....Larry Lau



Cadet Corner !!!

748 Army Cadets are able to start training Oct. 1 2021.

The cadet's first priority with permission is using the MDVA for 1.5 hrs on a night that's preferably Thursdays.

Cadets generally meet at 120 Rouge Bank Community Centre ,which has not opened yet and might not open until Nov/Dec.

The Canadian Forces has very strict covid group gathering rules, above the City of Markhams, covid protocols.

We are just very happy to be getting our boots on the ground after 20 months of virtual training.

The approach for the cadets will be a CRAWL,WALK, RUN...

The good news is, Cadet Summer Training Centres are planning on opening for summer camps 2022.

Capt Carlsen
Captain | Capitaine Roger Carlsen, CD
Commanding Officer, 748 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps Canadian Armed Forces
roger.carlsen@cadets.gc.ca TEL: 416-576-2722



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Thanksgiving!

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peace & good
health!



**Karen
Rea**
Ward 4 Councillor
Tel. 905.479.7751

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

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