



Markham District Veterans Association Newsletter

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June 2020



President's Remarks – David Smith

Dear Members, I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and safe after another month of lock down.

Things are slowly starting to improve and I hope that things will return to a "new" normal soon. Gary and Eloise continue to look after the building and have done an OUTSTANDING job over the last few months of cleaning, de-cluttering and repairing various things. During this time Gary has done a very comprehensive and detailed building assessment report that will go a long way in helping the Board to decide on projects that need to be tackled as well as provide excellent input for the Trillium submission and other Government grants that we should go after.

Karen Kearns has been doing a fabulous job of staying in touch with all of our veterans and keeps me updated. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of you to stay safe and healthy. If you know of any member that needs assistance, please let Karen, or any Board member, know as she has a team of people that are ready to help in any way that they can.

I will be hosting a virtual Board meeting in the next few days to discuss what our opening options are and what protocols we need to implement based on what we know now. Of course any final decision on opening will be governed by Provincial guidelines.

I know that we don't publish newsletters in July and August, but I will keep you updated by email of what we will be doing, so stay tuned..

Lastly, let me say "THANK YOU" to all of our frontline professionals who put their own health and well being at risk everyday to provide us with the services we require. Stay healthy, stay safe and stay home.....we will get through this together.

.....David

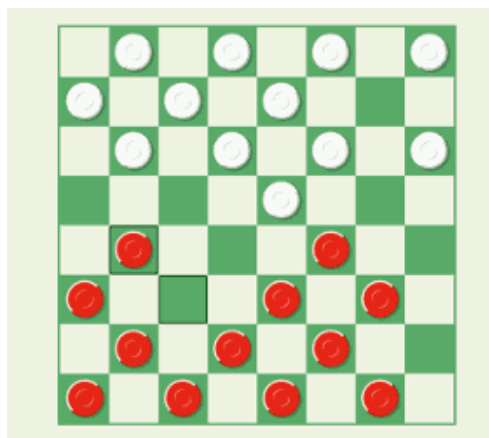
Entertainment & Fund Raising Director – Shara Carr

Hi All,

I hope this month's newsletter finds everyone safe, well and hanging in there! As I'm sure you all know it doesn't look like we'll be able to have large gatherings for quite a while even after we eventually are able to open. As Entertainment Chair that doesn't leave a lot for me to do for you of course. With that in mind, I thought I would source some online activities you may want to try out and share them with you.

[PlayOK - Free Online Games](https://www.playok.com/)

<https://www.playok.com/>



You can join free for 30 days and play all kinds of online games, including Euchre, which I know many of you like! (Please note that I haven't tried this site myself. It may ask for your payment information so they can charge you after 30 days. If you're not comfortable doing that I'd suggest you enter the following into your google search bar and see what you can find "free online card games").

[We are what we do
https://www.meetup.com/](https://www.meetup.com/)



They usually connect you with real world groups that share your interest but during the pandemic restrictions, they are encouraging online meetings. You can look up things like book clubs, music, cooking etc.

[13 Museums You Can Visit Online During Your Quarantine](https://www.buzzfeed.com/andyneuenschwander/13-museums-you-can-visit-online-during-your-quarantine)

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/andyneuenschwander/13-museums-you-can-visit-online-during-your-quarantine>



This one speaks for itself!

[Coronavirus: 101 things you can do at home during quarantine in the UAE](https://gulfnews.com/going-out/coronavirus-101-things-you-can-do-at-home-during-quarantine-in-the-uae)

<https://gulfnews.com/going-out/coronavirus-101-things-you-can-do-at-home-during-quarantine-in-the-uae>



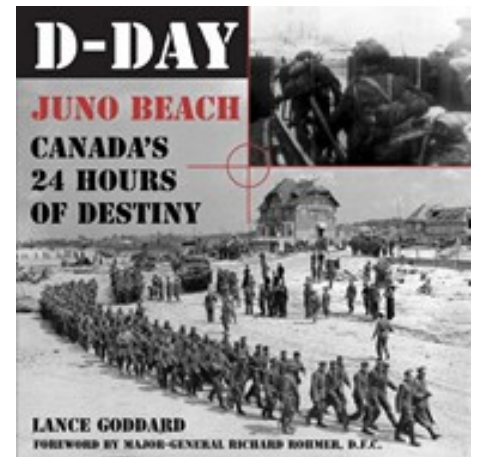
Just some ideas in case you've run out of them!
That's all for now my friends.

Stay safe and hope to see you soon,

Shara Carr

June Dates to remember !

- **June 6th – D-Day Invasion of Normandy**



- **Father's Day – Sunday June 21st**



Service Bureau – Karen Kearns

Hello everyone, I hope you are Staying Home if possible and are Keeping Well. Please don't forget to call me if you need help with anything or know someone that does. Hoping we can see each other soon, until then take care and be Kind to each other.

Karen Kearns

905 471-5913

Myrtle McCalmont (Laura Chalmers Mom & Michele's grandma) is recovering from a stroke, she is now in RCC at Finch & 400 AS PER COVID 19 No visitors are aloud.**Karen K.**

Building Chair – Gary Bowerman

Good Day Members,

Keep Safe and keep Social Distancing. May was another very quiet month. With the low gas prices, Eloise and I have done some extensive traveling. Wednesday morning grocery shopping, occasional trips to the LCBO and a few trips to the Building at 7 Washington St. Yes, we almost drove 200 kms.

Bad news, since we didn't have any interest from members to plant and maintenance the flowers. We will be putting them back into storage for another year. Good News, more time at the cottage for us.

I have just sent the MDVA Building Assessment Report 2020 to "The Board". This Report is to give direction in maintaining the MDVA Building in a state of good repair over the next few years.

Again Keep Safe

.....**Gary**

Parade Marshal – Gary Bowerman

Good Day Members,

The upcoming D-Day Ceremony on Jun 6th will again be very limited due to restrictions. The City has granted us permission to place one unattended wreath at the Cenotaph at sunrise Jun 6th. Adhering to City guidelines issued, allowing us to place the wreath, we are not allowed to make any advanced announcements for placing poppies on the wreath or host any ceremony. The flags will be lowered to Half Mast by City Operations Staff.

Even with the MDVA Building closed, we will be placing unattended wreaths outside the building as a show of respect for those that fought, lived and died on the Beaches of Normandy.



Moving forward, a small group of us are mulling over the options for Remembrance Week. Over the summer we will continue to expand on these options and have a report to "The Board" available late August.

Enjoy your summer and Keep Safe!

.....**Gary**

Publicity & Communications Director – Karen Mooney

Dear Members, well as each month passes it gets a little more challenging to put a newsletter together when there is nothing happening at the club. So again, thank you so much for sending me your ideas, & submissions for the newsletter ! and Yes, your recipes too ! I'm busy putting a booklet together that I hope to have ready by September & hopefully by then we can all meet up again !

.....**Karen**

Look who turned 95 on May 7th ! Taking great care not to do anything we weren't suppose to, a few of us decided to show up at 11:30 AM to wish Dorothy Jarick a very Happy 95th Birthday! With much distancing, Karen Kearns helped organize a "meet" up on the street. We took flowers, balloons & posters & a lot of noise makers & with the help of Dorothy's grand-daughter Julie, she had Dorothy come out on the front porch at 11:30 am so we could surprise her ! (photos not great as it was very overcast & then just after singing Happy Birthday it started to rain).



Reasons to have a Celebration ! OK maybe not until all of this is behind us but we have missed a few things like Birthday's & Anniversary's so

June – Celebrating Birthday's

June 1 - Sean Chalmers
 June 2 – June Ferguson & Jim Lawton
 June 7 – Lianne Klinck
 June 12 – John McQuade
 June 20 – John Chalmers



Another reason to celebrate !!! Although we're missing either playing or watching most sporting games or activities, like hockey, baseball, & soccer, at least now, the good news is we can **Golf** ! how many of you gone out already? It isn't the same but it's better than not at all so enjoy ! I've had my first game (9 holes at Spring Creek) with Tee Off times scheduled for every Wednesday morning – no socializing after unfortunately & of course distancing but it's better than nothing at all !



Thank you's to our "Front Line" workers ! *I can't believe it's 3 months later & I'm still asking these wonderful women for updates on how they're doing at the various places that they work – all on the front line! So once again, I thought I'd check back in with them !*

Shelley Baker and Jennifer McNeill

Rocking and keeping the main lobby safe at Markham Stouffville Hospital. You can't get past this team that's at the front doors!!

Registration and Switchboard operators are the best!!



So glad to know that you're still, despite the circumstances all around you, that you are healthy & well & obviously still have a great sense of humour ! Thanks for sharing !



Shelley Fazackerley
– **RETIRED** – May 28th (again)
Congratulations Shelley !



“Cadet Corner” – Roger Carlsen

The RC748(ARMY)CC held our 47th (Virtual) Annual Review on Thursday May 28 1830hr the cadets corps has a annual review every year at the end of the cadets training year. Over 45 cadets participated in this virtual parade and awards.

Top Green: Chen Veness –CI Wong

Top Red: Wang Charly -2Lt Chen

Top Silver: Lam Irene -Capt Stagg

Top Gold: Law Carmen -Lt Heaton

Instructor of the Year: -Wang Lena -2Lt Chen

Top Marksman: Chen Vincent -Capt Carlsen

Cadet of the Year: Nicole Yan -Capt Carlsen

NCO of the Year: Adam Jahnke -Lt Heaton

Gung Ho: Pranoy Narayan -Lt Heaton

Citizen of the Year: Nicole Yan -CI Lavergne

Mccabe Sheild: DSM Priscilla Ma -Capt Stagg

Legion Medal: Wang Lena -Capt Carlsen

These cadets were **promoted to MWO**

AYYAPPAN

JAHNKE

MA DSM

MALLON RSM

THYAGARAJAN

Cheers

Capt Carlsen CD

News Around Town (you might find interesting ?)

- **Markham Village Music Festival June 19th & June 20th** - Since the street version of the Markham Village Music Festival is not possible this year, the organizers have decided to go fully online in the first ever **virtual** version of the festival. There will be more than 50 amazing

music and dance performances that cross the span of genre and cultures. Plus there will be local business profiles, a Virtual Vendor Village, historic Markham moments, a Beat-Box battle and much more! Visit <http://www.markhamfestival.com> for more information.

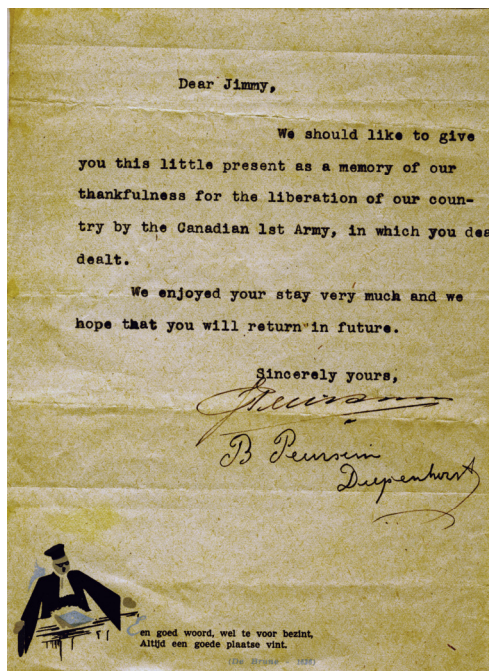
From our member Ian Munro – sorry I didn't have this note in time to include in the May Newsletter but thought our membership would enjoy this note from him
.... **Karen Mooney**

A little bit of personal family info on this VE Day anniversary:

Immediately after VE Day my father, Pte James Macready Munro, & the rest of the SD&G Highlanders were sent from Germany to the town of Hilversum in the Netherlands where they were billeted with local families for several weeks. The Dutch were, and still are, very grateful to the Canadians responsible for their liberation.

Here is a letter received, after my father returned home to Toronto, from the Peursum family with whom he was billeted. It was accompanied by the half-teaspoon also pictured here. I use this tiny spoon daily because it doles out just the right amount of sugar for my coffee. Without this rationing mechanism I would no doubt consume more. A fine remembrance!

After my father's death in 2008, I was casually browsing the internet on the SD&G Highlanders when I came across a posting from a Dutch fellow searching for any info on Cdn troops stationed in Hilversum at the end of the war. I responded and he sent the other picture above the SD&G survivors which shows my father in the top row 2nd from our right. This fellow, Wigger Van der Horst, was a young child at the time of the billeting and, having found this picture, has made himself a project to identify and honour each man in the photo to remember as a true liberator. I helped him with what I could and he has since donated his findings to the SD&G Headquarters in Cornwall ON for their museum.
Ian Munro



Last month we did a little article about Capt. Tom Moore, of Britain, who raised money by walking 100 laps before his 100th Birthday ! he raised more than **£23m for the NHS**.



Well, he is a true inspiration & it looks like this idea has caught on !

TORONTO -- A 99-year-old Ontario veteran of the Second World War is vowing to walk 100 kilometres by his 100th birthday to raise money for medical research to help stop COVID-19.

George Markow, 99, who lives in Newmarket, has a goal & wants to walk 100 kilometers by the time he turns 100 in 2021, & raise \$100,000.

Markow says that 75 per cent of the money raised will be donated to [Sunnybrook Research Institute](#). The remaining 25 per cent will go to the Southlake Regional Hospital Foundation's [COVID-19 Action Fund](#)

Not to be outdone !

Nova Scotia woman plans 102 walks before 102nd birthday to raise money for VON



Joy Saunders is shown with her dog, Prayer, in 2017. The Lunenburg centenarian has set a goal of walking 102 times before her 102nd birthday this October.

She may be "nearly blind" and 101, but nothing will keep Joy Saunders from using her daily walk for a good cause

She has mapped out a 800-metre route around her hilly neighbourhood. She walks the half-hour circuit every day, unless it snows, with the help of her trusty walking poles.

She said she chose the VON since she'd volunteered at its local foot clinic for 30 years. She has also used VON services in the past.

The VON nurses and staff go into people's homes, "no matter what," Saunders said, which is especially nerve-racking in the middle of a pandemic.

She also added she was thinking about the organization after learning two of the 22 victims of last month's mass shooting, Kristen Beaton and Heather O'Brien, were VON employees.

"I'm a World War II veteran, too, (referencing Tom Moore) but I didn't fly Spitfires. But I was overseas with the army on VE-Day .."

Joy is planning to walk her .8km route 102 times before her 102nd birthday in October. Joy would love it if you would make any size donation through this link: www.von.ca/donate-Joy.

If she completes her goal, Saunders will have walked more than 80 kilometres. She's already reached the 17-km mark. Joy doesn't have a specific amount in mind – just whatever she can raise....



Saunders thinks she'll easily reach her goal "long before" her birthday. "I don't want to waste any time because I might not make the last round, you know. I'm not going to live forever," Saunders said with a chuckle!"

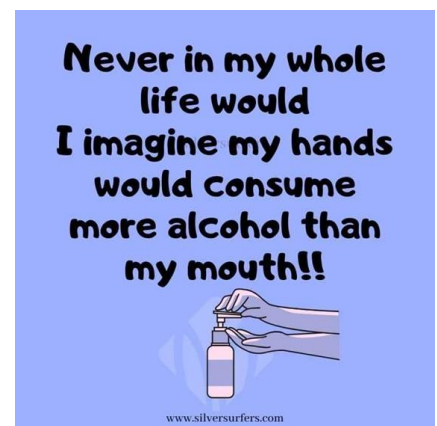
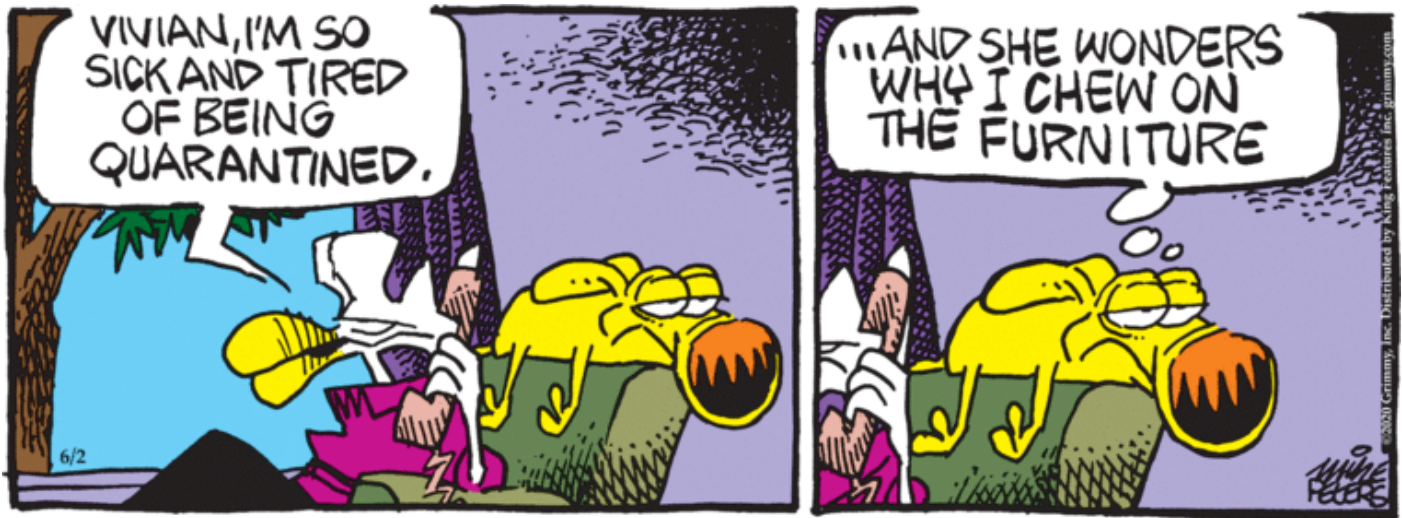
Trivia Time – did you know ?

Q. Which day are there more collect calls than any other day of the Year?

A. Father's Day

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase....
'Goodnight , sleep tight'
..... Karen M.





To all the grandparents who are missing their grandchildren.
When this is over you can have them for a month.
Promise.



www.familiesmagazine.com.au

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 UNIONVILLE • 905-947-9990

AMICA
SENIOR LIFESTYLES

Let's continue to break the chain of transmission of COVID-19.

We are all in this together! The battle against this virus is not over yet. It's very important that we continue to practice physical distancing, wash our hands frequently and avoid unnecessary outings.



Stay Safe & Healthy!

**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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