




Royal Canadian Legion



Branch 625 Richmond



Legion  Canada's Largest Service Club

Foxy's Tales



December 2023



The Royal Canadian Legion Richmond, Branch 625
6430 Ottawa St West, Richmond Ontario K0A 2Z0
Phone 613-838-2644

Branch Executive Officers

President	Wendy Ryan	613-838-9696
Past President	Brian Goss	613-838-4269
First Vice President	John Villeneuve	613-838-2548
Secretary-recording	Pat McGrath	613-838-2652
Treasurer	Pat McGrath	613-838-2652
Sgt-At-Arms	Boyd Dulmage	613-838-5055

Branch Executive Committee

Eric Booth
Joanne Heinbuch
Tom Louks
Bill Murphy
Louis Seward

Branch Executive Meetings

are the Third Thursday of each month at 10:30 am.

Branch General Meetings

are the fourth Friday in January, March, June, September and November at 11 am and the third Thursday of May at 8 pm.

Deadline to submit for the next bulletin is always the third Friday of March, June, September and the second Friday in December by 12 noon please

Send to wryan1955@hotmail.com or call me 613-838-9696

Website is: www.richmondlegion.ca

Facebook: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 625

Branch Committee Chairs

Bar	Tom Louks	613-838-3244
Branch Regulations	As needed	
Bursary	Wendy Ryan	rclbursary625@gmail.com
Bulletin	Wendy Ryan	613-838-9696
Cenotaph	Tom Louks	613-838-3244
Coffee	John Villeneuve	613-838-2548
Euchre	Joyce Cook	613-838-8381
Hall Maintenance	John Villeneuve	613-838-2548
Hall Rentals	Tom Louks	613-838-3244
Honours & Awards	Past president ++	
Long Term Planning	Tom Louks & John Villeneuve	
Membership	Boyd Dulmage	613-838-5055
Memorial Boards	Tom Louks	613-838-3244
Poppy	Wendy Ryan	Poppyrcl625@gmail.com
Public Relations	Brian Goss	
Property	John Villeneuve	613-838-2548
Seniors (including exercise)	Pat McGrath	613-838-2652
Sports	Cathie & Tim Lytle	613-868-2489
Telephone	Wendy Ryan	613-838-9696
Veterans Service Officer	Brian Goss	613-838-4269
Ways & Means	McGrath & Ryan	
Website	Wendy Ryan	613-838-9696
Wellness checks	Joanne Heinbuch	613-838-2138
Youth	Elizabeth Douville	613-838-6078

President's Message

At the September general meeting a motion was passed to donate \$750 to the Richmond Food Bank, \$750 to the Minor Hockey Association and \$750 to the Lions Club Christmas Cheer Program. Further inquiries revealed that the Lions Club no longer provides gift baskets to local families in need, but they give all money they raise to the Richmond Food Bank. The executive agreed that rather than donate to the Lions Club which would just duplicate our donation to the Richmond Food Bank, we would up the donation to \$1000 and give it to the Knights of Columbus Winter Coats for Kids program. They work in unison with the Richmond Food Bank and local schools to provide needed winter warmth to locals.

Bytown Lock repaired the damage done to our locks by the teenage hooligans at no charge due to our support of the minor hockey association.

Thank you to Boyd Dulmage & Pat Laninga for decorating the outside of the Branch for Christmas and to Pat McGrath, Johnny Villeneuve, Tom Louks, Bill & Charlene Murphy, Marilyn Munro, Eileen Kavanagh, June Alford, Keith & MaryLou Thurrott, Wendy Virtue and Judy MacKenzie for decorating the inside of the hall.

The barbeques, Friday Night Darts, all the Remembrance & November 11th events and the December Seniors' Christmas lunch were all great successes thanks to the hard work of our members. Keep reading to read about the fall events and all the people that made them such a success.

Last but not least a huge thank you to the executive officers, committee chairs & members for all the support and words of encouragement this past year.

Merry Christmas & a Happy Healthy 2024 to everyone!

Wendy Ryan



Legionnaires (& Knights) Bill Murphy and Brian Goss present Knight Shawn Grant with a donation to the Winter Coats for Kids program. (above).

Boyd Dulmage presents a donation to Richmond Food Bank reps June Perron and Judy Wagdin (below)



Last Post

Jim Becking
September 22 2023

We Will Remember Them...



Membership Report

Our branch membership currently sits at 113 members, an increase of 5 since my last report.

It is that time of year to renew your membership for 2024. If you have not already done so, please remit your \$50 payment prior to 31 December 2023. This can be done by renewing online, by cheque or by cash.



Our Command Headquarters has a Veteran Welcome Program that is open to all Ordinary Members (veterans, RCMP, police, etc) and also their spouses and children over the age of 18. The first year of membership is FREE. They join a data base at Command and then apply for transfer to the branch of their choice.

As always, new members can join by filling out a membership application or by visiting the legion.ca. If they are joining online be sure to let them know to select Richmond and District #625, as there are Legions in Richmond, BC and Richmond, QC.

If anyone has any questions, concerns or comments in regards to membership they can contact me via e-mail at membership625@gmail.com

Boyd Dulmage, CD

Sgt-At-Arms

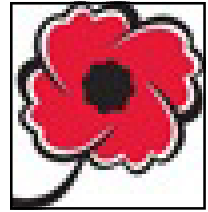
For the first time in a few years I led a parade from the old mall to the cenotaph. I would like to thank the following for making this possible.

Colour Party – Comrade Irwin McCaffrey
Comrade Helene Rivest
Drummer Lawrence King – Ottawa Fire Band
33 Service BN – Major Worsley, Parade Commander
Members of the Richmond Volunteer Fire Department
Retired members of the RCMP and Canadian Armed Forces
Ottawa Police Service

With the arrival of the parade and the playing of the drum, which not only kept members in step, but also created a very solemn and memorable time for those in attendance.

Boyd Dulmage, CD

Poppy & Remembrance



There are so many people to thank for all their work in making all the Remembrance activities such a huge success.

Each of the six cemeteries in Richmond, Munster & Dwyer Hill have Memorial Boards with the location of veterans' graves and there is one located at the cenotaph for veterans who are not in our local cemeteries, so thank you to **Tom Louks** for making sure they are all updated each year. This year the Munster board had to be re-installed.

White crosses are placed at each veteran's grave in the six local cemeteries, so thank you to **Tom Platt & Susan Grant** who did the United cemetery, **Johnny Villeneuve & Tom Louks** who did St Philip, Munster & St Claire. I did St John's & St Andrew's. Thanks to Tom Platt for collecting the crosses from the United and to Johnny Villeneuve who collected all the others!

Thanks to **Johnny Villeneuve and Iain Clogg** for helping me set up the wreath display at the cenotaph and to Johnny & Iain for taking it down again after the service.

Thanks to **Eric Booth** who organized the November 11th service again this year - lots of compliments on the content and timing of the service. It was quite a cold day so the shorter length is appreciated especially by those on parade. Speaking of parades, thank you to **Boyd Dulmage** for bringing back the parade from the old plaza on Perth St to the Memorial Park. Lots of positive comments on how nice it was to see all those uniforms marching down the road.

Thanks to the 33 Service Battalion for bringing such a large contingent of personnel to take part in the parade, lay wreaths and act as escorts for the wreath laying.

Thanks to **Pat McGrath** for taking the lead on the food for the November 11th open house which follows the service each year. Lots of hot chili and filling sandwiches were much appreciated by everyone. Of course the desserts are always a highlight. Thanks to **Chris King** at YIG for donating the wonderful Poppy cupcakes!

Of course lots of hands are needed to provide the lunch so a big thank you to:

The chili makers: **Marylou Thurrott, Eileen Kavanagh, Wendy Virtue, Kerry Cook, Joanne Heinbuck, Cathy Lytle, Roberta Hurman, Liz Douville, Shirley Reddick, Pat & Alan Ham, Marilyn Munro, Susan Grant, Elizabeth Vickers & Pat Laninga.**

The sandwich makers: **Charlene Murphy, Eileen Kavanagh, Pat McGrath, Judy MacKenzie, Wendy Virtue, Sharon Murphy, Marilyn Munro, Marylou Thurrott, Elizabeth Vickers, June Alford, Georgia Read.**

The square & treat makers: **Eileen Kavanagh, June Alford, Marilyn Munro, Janet Brown** who also provided bags of cheezies for all the tables.

The serving & clean up helpers **Charlene Murphy, Judy MacKenzie, Pat McGrath, Marilyn Munro, Wendy Virtue, Roberta Hurman, Cathie Lytle** had a huge assist from the four students from South Carleton High School: **Brett H, Kamar C, Sirus A and Brennan G** - best student workers in a long time!

Continued on next page....

The Poppy campaign itself raised over \$12, 000 this year and there are many people to thank for a lot of hard work.

Charlene Murphy, who is not even a member, produced a list of all businesses in Richmond and area which was a big help and this list was then divided into 4 quadrants using Perth & McBean Street co-ordinates to make up areas to be canvassed for business donations. **Gerry Blair, Bob Leighton, Bill Murphy** all returned for yet another year of covering the businesses with **Lynn Owen** helping for the first time. There were some businesses not on any of these 4 so **Kerry Cook** worked on this list. These volunteers were also responsible for having the businesses display counter boxes of poppies - in the past this part of the campaign was separate from the business donations but a shortage of canvassers meant this group stepped up and added this part to their list of things to do. Unfortunately Gerry Blair took sick and was unable to do the canvassing but **David Vickers** readily said yes to step in. Unfortunately David took sick so I ended up filling in for Gerry. **Liz Douville** took care of the local schools.

Bill Murphy spent several weekends at the Richmond Arena with Poppies, toques, caps & wristbands and **Boyd Dulmage** did the same at King's YIG and at a couple of Farmers' Markets.

The Door to Door campaign was discontinued several years ago due to lack of canvassers but this year **Cathie Lytle** organized a few people to do this in Munster and **Karen & Mark Carter** (none members) had poppies at the Saunders Farm Halloween event.

Pat McGrath organized the counting party which included **Sharon Murphy, June Alford, Eileen Kavanagh, Tony McGrath, Bill Murphy** and myself. The saying many hands make light work was proven true once again because it was all taken care of in 2 hours or less!

Of course **Johnny Villeneuve** was always on hand to do whatever needed doing including setting up the needed tables and chairs for the open house, the meetings, the counting and helping put everything away again.

Thank you does not begin to cover the gratitude to all of the above people who gave of their time and energy to get things done once again this year. You all made my job of Poppy Chair and campaign organizer so much easier.

I hope I have not left anyone out - if I have please let me know!

Wendy Ryan



33 Service Battalion's group photo on November 11th, 2023

Youth Report

Our Remembrance Contests brought in some great entries this year.

We sent 7 first place entries on to the Zone Level of competition that includes 9 Branches of Ottawa.

Zone awards are presented in January or February .

Elizabeth Douville

Liz Douville presents Sierra King with her bursary on November 11th, 2023 (



November 11th, 2023



2023 Poppy Campaign Results.

The following is posted on our website and Facebook page.

The Richmond Legion 2023 Poppy Campaign raised over \$12,300 and we could not have done it without the support of all the businesses, community groups and individuals in Richmond & District. These funds will be used to donate to local entities that support veterans as well as for bursaries. Thank you to everyone for every Poppy worn, every loonie, toonie or more that was dropped in a counter box, every wristband, ball cap & lawn sign purchased. Whether you sponsored the wreath rack, made a donation, put money in the counter boxes or donated at the check outs, it all added up to another great result. You all continue to be a great support to the Legion. Thank you to all the members of the Poppy Campaign Committee who worked so hard to collect donations.

Thank you to the following for their generous donations & support:

Bayview Window
Blue House Pet Grooming
Bosco's Barbershop
Bosco's Barbershop customers
Bright Hearing Tinnitus
Brokerlink Insurance
Car-O-Practor Autopro
Cedarstone Homes
Chin Hon Restaurant
Christopher's Meat Market
CIBC
Cook, Kerry in Memory of George McCallum
Country Quilter
Crabbe, Edna
Danby's Road House
Diguer Plumbing Service
Dwyer Hill Training Centre
Eye Tech Optical
Fish, Terry in Memory of Steve Fish
Flynn Landscaping
Gather and Grow
Goodwood Apartments
Hair Expectations
Harvey Sheds

Kelly's Custom Bookkeeping
Kerr Karpentry
King's Your Independent Grocer
Kinkaid Konstruktion
Kosar, Patricia in Memory of Jack Todd
Lawrence, Hazel in Memory of Joseph & Marion Goodenough
Lefebvre, Cathy in Memory of Jack Todd
Lemyre, Jack & Eunice
Loyal Orange Lodge 151 Richmond
Merry Maids of Ottawa West
Murphy, Heather in Memory of George Murphy
My Car
Owen, Lynne in Memory of Ray Guay
Pet Value
Pharmasave
Prospect Builders
QEL (Quatrosense Environmental)
Rabb Construction
Rainbow Roofing
Refresh Nail Spa
Remax Realty (Bonnie Jensen)
Richmond BMR
Richmond Curling Club
Richmond Gourmet Restaurant
Richmond L.C.B.O.

Richmond Lions Club
 Richmond Medical Clinic
 Richmond Motorsport
 Richmond Village Dentistry
 Richmond Village Pharmacy
 Royal LePage Realty - Cydney Green
 Ryan, Gayle in Memory of Archie Barrington
 Ryan Family in Memory of Benny & June Ryan
 S&S Service Station
 Saand
 SCG Canada Inc
 ScotiaBank
 Scouts Canada - 1st Richmond Scout Group
 Seabrook Heating & Air
 South Carleton Physiotherapy
 South Paw Contracting
 Spotlight On Hair
 St Andrew's Presbyterian Church
 St Clare's CWL
 St John's Anglican Church
 St Philip Catholic Church
 St Philip Knights of Columbus
 St Philip Ladies Auxiliary
 St. Paul's United Church
 Stittsville Goulbourn Horticultural Society
 Sue's Hair Advantage/Premier Massage
 33 Service Battalion
 Talos Custom Homes
 TD Canada Trust - customers
 Tercon & Son Heating
 Tim Horton's
 Todd, William in Memory of Jack Todd
 Tweedie, Selena



1st Battalion Black Watch (RHR) of Canada Pipes and Drums

As some of you may recall I travelled to the Netherlands as part of a WW2 Pipe Band from 3 - 10 May of this year. (2023). This trip was to have originally taken place in May 2020 to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands and the end of the 1939 -1945 War. Unfortunately due to the Covid out-break we had to keep delaying the trip.

We recreated the 1st Battalion Black Watch (RHR) of Canada Pipes and Drums, and wore period uniforms, played period music, in addition the drummers used period rope tension drums. This pipe band did not exist other than for this trip. We had members come from every walk of life and from six different provinces as well as the USA, the UK France and Switzerland. We also had with us current serving members of the Black Watch (RHR) of Canada and Le Régiment de Maisonneuve. In total we had 67 persons, including some of our partners.



The Richmond & District RCL Branch 625 played an intricate role in this trip in that back in 2019, when Jane Louks was President, the branch provided us wreaths and poppies. Special ribbons were created for these wreaths and they were placed at every cemetery as well as at every memorial where a Service of Remembrance was conducted. I converted some of the poppies to look like the original paper poppies from the 1940's to be worn on the period uniforms. The remainder of the poppies were distributed at a ceremony on 04 May in the municipality of Bergen op Zoom. For the Dutch, 04 May is Remembrance of the Dead (Dodenherdenking), much like our 11 November.



They also celebrate Liberation Day (Bevrijdingsdag) on 05 May. On this day we participated in a very large parade in Wageningen, which is where the German Forces in the Netherlands surrendered in 1945.



Holten

We had a busy but meaningful trip, where we attended 12 municipal ceremonies and six cemeteries. Many of the wreaths were picked up afterwards to be re-used by local RCL and Remembrance organizations.

Here are some links to our photos:

Public Web page: <https://rhcholland2023.my.canva.site/>

Public FB Page: <https://www.facebook.com/1bnrhc>

Video links Defilé Ritzema Bosweg in Wageningen – YouTube

Nancy and I stayed longer and visited the Town of Veurne, Belgium, where photos of her father were taken during the war. We visited these locations as well as met a local historian. Nancy's father, George, was with the Royal Canadian Engineers and was making potable water for the troops and the locals. He is second from the right.



On behalf of the 1st Bn Black Watch (RHR) of Canada Pipes and Drums (recreated) I wish to thank RCL Branch 625 for its kind support.

***Eric Booth
Organizer***



Nancy & Eric



Remembrance Day - Lest we Forget

I SPOKE TO YOU IN WHISPERS

By Neil Andrew

I spoke to you in whispers
As shells made the ground beneath us quake
We both trembled in that crater
A toxic muddy bloody lake
I spoke to you and pulled your ears
To try and quell your fearful eye
As bullets whizzed through the raindrops
And we watched the men around us die
I spoke to you in stable tones
A quiet tranquil voice
At least I volunteered to fight
You didn't get to make the choice
I spoke to you of old times
Perhaps you went before the plough
And pulled the hay cart from the meadow
Far from where we're dying now
I spoke to you of grooming
Of when the ploughman made you shine
Not the shrapnel wounds and bleeding flanks
Mane filled with mud and wire and grime
I spoke to you of courage
As gas filled the Flanders air
Watched you struggle in the mud
Harness acting like a snare
I spoke to you of peaceful fields
Grazing beneath a setting sun
Time to rest your torn and tired body
Your working day is done
I spoke to you of promises
If from this maelstrom I survive
By pen and prose and poetry
I'll keep your sacrifice alive
I spoke to you of legacy
For when this hellish time is through
All those who hauled or charged or carried
Will be regarded heroes too
I spoke to you in dulcet tones
Your eye told me you understood
As I squeezed my trigger to bring you peace
The only way I could
And I spoke to you in whispers.....



The hall lit up for Christmas above and decorated for December 3rd below.



Seniors Christmas Lunch

December 3rd, 2023 was a cold, wet, windy day with ice pellets, freezing rain, flurries and rain but at least 60 or so hearty souls still made it to the Legion for the annual Seniors' Christmas lunch.

Lots of people worked very hard to make this happen and I couldn't have done it without Ray Huet taking charge of the meal and Pat McGrath taking charge of the rest of the fixings (meaning the rest of the food!) So thanks to Ray Huet for organizing the turkey dinner. Ray did all the shopping then he along with Bernie Roosen, Dean Pierunek, all 3 are Knights of Columbus at St Philip Church prepped, cooked and delivered the food to the hall. I'm pretty sure Maureen MacAulay was overseeing the entire operation! Pat McGrath and Eileen Kavanagh cooked 2 of the 7 turkeys needed.

The following people made pies (note not all are Legion members!): Charlene Murphy, Shirley Reddick, Eileen Kavanagh, Marlyn Storey, Pat McGrath, Barb Lecompte, Georgia Read, Marilyn Munro, June Alford, Mary Kavanagh, Cathie Lytle, Roberta Hurman and June Craig.

Set up of the tables etc was done on December 2nd and thanks to Johnny Villeneuve, Pat & Tony McGrath, Bill & Charlene Murphy, Iain Clogg, Georgia Read and Judy MacKenzie for helping me. Once again note that not all are Legion members.

On the 3rd, lots of helping hands showed up with Irwin McCaffrey at the front door, keeping the entrance cleaned out and assisting people in and out of the vehicles. Cathie Lytle & Roberta Hurman did the coat check, Tony McGrath checked everyone in (names were needed for the door prizes) and Bill Murphy was the official greeter. Sharon Murphy was in the bar and Iain Clogg provided live music that was very popular. Ray Huet, Maureen MacAulay, Dean Pierunek & Pat McGrath were plating the food; Roberta Hurman, Cathie Lytle, Judy MacKenzie, Irwin McCaffrey, Marilyn Munro, Charlene Murphy, Georgia Read, Mary Roosen, MaryLou Thurrott, Elizabeth Vickers, student volunteer Brett and Meaghan Meads and her boyfriend Jason all served the meal, dessert, tea & coffee. Everyone helped to clean up including Bruce Munro, who came back to help after driving someone home!

We had 20 small poinsettias (thanks to Pat for picking them up) and 22 small gifts for door prizes, including 2 very nice ever green arrangements made & donated by my sister-in-law Gayle Ryan. Thanks to the lovely lady at Michaels who gave me an extra 10% off ! Everyone took home a pack of Christmas napkins & a box of Lindt candy.

Past President Brian Goss welcomed everyone then introduced our City Councillor David Brown, who said a few words, then Brian said grace and serving began. Thanks to both Brian and David and David also drew the names for the door prizes.

Lots of compliments on the food, the door prizes and the people who worked so hard to get it all done - by 3 pm it was just us left to finish the clean up.

If I have missed any names, please let me know. Thanks again to everyone!

Wendy Ryan

Christmas

Christmas, Christian festival celebrating the birth of Jesus. The English term *Christmas* (“mass on Christ’s day”) is of fairly recent origin. The earlier term *Yule* may have derived from the Germanic *jōl* or the Anglo-Saxon *geōl*, which referred to the feast of the winter solstice. The corresponding terms in other languages—*Navidad* in Spanish, *Natale* in Italian, *Noël* in French—all probably denote nativity.

The German word *Weihnachten* denotes “hallowed night.” Since the early 20th century, Christmas has also been a secular family holiday, observed by Christians and non-Christians alike, devoid of Christian elements, and marked by an increasingly elaborate exchange of gifts. In this secular Christmas celebration, a mythical figure named Santa Claus plays the pivotal role.

Origin and development: The early Christian community distinguished between the identification of the date of Jesus’ birth and the liturgical celebration of that event. The actual observance of the day of Jesus’ birth was long in coming. In particular, during the first two centuries of Christianity there was strong opposition to recognizing birthdays of martyrs or, for that matter, of Jesus. Numerous Church Fathers offered sarcastic comments about the pagan custom of celebrating birthdays when, in fact, saints and martyrs should be honoured on the days of their martyrdom—their true “birthdays,” from the church’s perspective.

The precise origin of assigning December 25 as the birth date of Jesus is unclear. The New Testament provides no clues in this regard. December 25 was first identified as the date of Jesus’ birth by Sextus Julius Africanus in 221 and later became the universally accepted date. One widespread explanation of the origin of this date is that December 25 was the Christianizing of the *dies solis invicti nati* (“day of the birth of the unconquered sun”), a popular holiday in the Roman Empire that celebrated the winter solstice as a symbol of the resurgence of the sun, the casting away of winter and the heralding of the rebirth of spring and summer. Indeed, after December 25 had become widely accepted as the date of Jesus’ birth, Christian writers frequently made the connection between the rebirth of the sun and the birth of the Son. One of the difficulties with this view is that it suggests a nonchalant willingness on the part of the Christian church to appropriate a pagan festival when the early church was so intent on distinguishing itself categorically from pagan beliefs and practices.

A second view suggests that December 25 became the date of Jesus’ birth by a priori reasoning that identified the spring equinox as the date of the creation of the world and the fourth day of creation, when the light was created, as the day of Jesus’ conception (i.e., March 25). December 25, nine months later, then became the date of Jesus’ birth. For a long time the celebration of Jesus’ birth was observed in conjunction with his baptism, celebrated January 6.

Christmas began to be widely celebrated with a specific liturgy in the 9th century but did not attain the liturgical importance of either Good Friday or Easter, the other two major Christian holidays. Roman Catholic churches celebrate the first Christmas mass at midnight, and Protestant churches have increasingly held Christmas candlelight services late on the evening of December 24. A special service of “lessons and carols” intertwines Christmas carols with Scripture readings narrating salvation history from the Fall in the Garden of Eden to the coming of Christ. The service, inaugurated by E.W. Benson and adopted at the University of Cambridge, has become widely popular.

Contemporary customs in the West: None of the contemporary Christmas customs have their origin in theological or liturgical affirmations, and most are of fairly recent date. The Renaissance humanist Sebastian Brant recorded, in *Das Narrenschiff* (1494; *The Ship of Fools*), the custom of placing branches of fir trees in houses. Even though there is some uncertainty about the precise date and origin of the tradition of the Christmas tree, it appears that fir trees decorated with apples were first known in Strasbourg in 1605

. The first use of candles on such trees is recorded by a Silesian duchess in 1611. The Advent wreath—made of fir branches, with four candles denoting the four Sundays of the Advent season—is of even more recent origin, especially in North America. The custom, which began in the 19th century but had roots in the 16th, originally involved a fir wreath with 24 candles (the 24 days before Christmas, starting December 1), but the awkwardness of having so many candles on the wreath reduced the number to four. An analogous custom is the Advent calendar, which provides 24 openings, one to be opened each day beginning December 1. According to tradition, the calendar was created in the 19th century by a Munich housewife who tired of having to answer endlessly when Christmas would come. The first commercial calendars were printed in Germany in 1851. The intense preparation for Christmas that is part of the commercialization of the holiday has blurred the traditional liturgical distinction between Advent and the Christmas season, as can be seen by the placement of Christmas trees in sanctuaries well before December 25.

How is Christmas Eve celebrated? Toward the end of the 18th century the practice of giving gifts to family members became well established. Theologically, the feast day reminded Christians of God's gift of Jesus to humankind even as the coming of the Wise Men, or Magi, to Bethlehem suggested that Christmas was somehow related to giving gifts. The practice of giving gifts, which goes back to the 15th century, contributed to the view that Christmas was a secular holiday focused on family and friends. This was one reason why Puritans in Old and New England opposed the celebration of Christmas and in both England and America succeeded in banning its observance.

The tradition of celebrating Christmas as a secular family holiday is splendidly illustrated by a number of English "Christmas" carols such as "Here We Come A-Wassailing" or "Deck the Halls." It can also be seen in the practice of sending Christmas cards, which began in England in the 19th century. Moreover, in countries such as Austria and Germany, the connection between the Christian festival and the family holiday is made by identifying the Christ Child as the giver of gifts to the family. In some European countries, St. Nicholas appears on his feast day (December 6) bringing modest gifts of candy and other gifts to children. In North America the pre-Christmas role of the Christian saint Nicholas was transformed, under the influence of the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (or "'Twas the Night Before Christmas"), into the increasingly central role of Santa Claus as the source of Christmas gifts for the family. While both name and attire—a version of the traditional dress of bishop—of Santa Claus reveal his Christian roots, and his role of querying children about their past behaviour replicates that of St. Nicholas, he is seen as a secular figure. In Australia, where people attend open-air concerts of Christmas carols and have their Christmas dinner on the beach, Santa Claus wears red swimming trunks as well as a white beard.

In most European countries, gifts are exchanged on Christmas Eve, December 24, in keeping with the notion that the baby Jesus was born on the night of the 24th. The morning of December 25, however, has become the time for the exchange of gifts in North America. In 17th- and 18th-century Europe the modest exchange of gifts took place in the early hours of the 25th when the family returned home from the Christmas mass. When the evening of the 24th became the time for the exchange of gifts, the Christmas mass was set into the late afternoon of that day. In North America the centrality of the morning of the 25th of December as the time for the family to open presents has led, with the exception of Catholic and some Lutheran and Episcopal churches, to the virtual end of holding church services on that day, a striking illustration of the way societal customs influence liturgical practices. Given the importance of Christmas as one of the major Christian feast days, most European countries observe, under Christian influence, December 26 as a second Christmas holiday. This practice recalls the ancient Christian liturgical notion that the celebration of Christmas, as well as that of Easter and of Pentecost, should last the entire week. The weeklong observance, however, was successively reduced to Christmas day and a single additional holiday on December 26.

Church bulletin board

The following appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing 'Break Forth Into Joy'.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm – prayer and medication to follow.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours.'

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Compiled by Max Bowen

The firefighter was asked why he laughed while saving this old woman...He said that the elderly woman said to him:

"You reminded me of my wedding night.."



Ever wonder why old Irish Cottages had such small windows.

In the 1690s English monarch William III introduces Window Tax. As the name suggests, this was a tax levied on the windows of a property.

Irish cottagers used their own unique and innovative approach to avoid paying the tax by using the half-door. It was possible to leave the bottom half closed, thus keeping children in and chickens and other animals out; while leaving the top half open thus maximizing the amount of light coming in.

Forgotten Ireland

Because the light coming through was from a door, rather than a window, they avoided paying the tax, and in the process became daylight robbers!.

In Celtic culture, knots and ropes were often used in the binding of oaths and agreements. The act of tying knots represented a sacred commitment. Breaking an oath bound by ropes was seen as a grave offense.



Life's Truisms

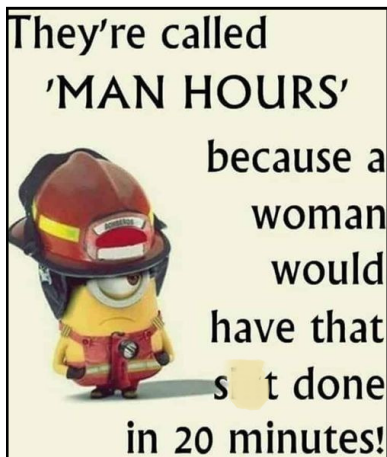
01. If a bottle of poison reaches its expiration date, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?
02. Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?
03. Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned?
04. Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.
05. The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims".
06. Over 100 years ago, everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.
07. If people evolved from monkeys, why are monkeys still around?
08. Why is there a 'D' in fridge, but not in refrigerator?
09. As I've grown older, I've learned that pleasing everyone is impossible, but pissing everyone off is a piece of cake!
10. I'm responsible for what I say, not for what you understand.
11. Common sense is like deodorant. The people who need it the most never use it.
12. My tolerance for idiots is extremely low these days. I used to have some immunity built up, but obviously, there's a new strain out there.
14. It's not my age that bothers me - it's the side effects.
15. I'm not saying I'm old and worn out, but I make sure I'm nowhere near the curb on trash day.
16. As I watch this generation try and rewrite our history, I'm sure of one thing: it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.
17. As I've gotten older, people think I've become lazy. The truth is I'm just being more energy-efficient.
18. I haven't gotten anything done today. I've been in the Produce Department trying to open this stupid plastic bag.
19. If you find yourself feeling useless, remember: it took 20 years, trillions of dollars, thousands of lives and four presidents to replace the Taliban with the Taliban.
20. Turns out that being a "senior" is mostly just googling how to do stuff.
21. I want to be 18 again and ruin my life differently. I have new ideas
22. I'm on two simultaneous diets. I wasn't getting enough food on one.
23. I put my scale in the bathroom corner and that's where the little liar will stay until it apologizes.
24. My mind is like an internet browser. At least 18 open tabs, 3 of them are frozen, and I have no clue where the music is coming from.
25. Hard to believe I once had a phone attached to a wall, and when it rang, I picked it up without knowing who was calling.
26. My wife says I keep pushing her buttons. If that were true, I would have found mute by now.



Elizabeth Vickers	06-Jan
Marilyn Munro	07-Jan
Jennifer McNeely	19-Jan
Roger Bourgeois	29-Jan
Susan Popowicz	30-Jan

Randy Jones	07-Feb
Brian Beyer	10-Feb
Elizabeth Douville	11-Feb
Colleen Jones	14-Feb
Eric Booth	20-Feb
Wendy Virtue	28-Feb

Tom Duffy	02-Mar
Rebecca Kelly	02-Mar
Irwin McCaffrey	08-Mar
Kira Cook-Brown	11-Mar
Kelly McKenna	16-Mar
Gerry Levesque	26-Mar
Sheila Payne	26-Mar
Ansar Abraham	30-Mar
Rene Douville	30-Mar



**NO I CAN'T DO SNAPCHAT
OR TIKTOK BUT I CAN WRITE
IN CURSIVE, DO MATH
WITHOUT A CALCULATOR
AND TELL TIME ON A
CLOCK WITH HANDS.**

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ACTIVITIES



Coffee: Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 10 am

Exercise: Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 9 am

Euchre: Fridays at 1 pm

Darts: Fridays at 7 pm

Executive meetings: the third Thursday of each month at 10:30 am

General meetings: the fourth Friday of January, March, June, September & November at 11 am.

Annual General Meeting: the third Thursday of May at 8 pm.

Thank you to Bright Hearing, who are the latest local business to sponsor the cost of the Branch bulletin & website. They advise that: *"we provide complete hearing testing, hearing aid fitting and servicing, tinnitus evaluations and treatment plans and are proud to serve veterans. We are a DVA service provider."*



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to Everyone!

If you move or change your email address, please let me know by emailing me at wryan1955@hotmail.com so I can keep my contact list up to date and keep you up to date with relevant information via email.



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