



The Royal Canadian Legion



JULY 2024

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 02



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[Website](#)

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♥ **Highlites**

♥ **Pictures**.

♥ **Coming Up** . . .

♥ **Past Events** . . .

♥ **Don't Forget** . .

♥ **Calendars**.

♥ **TGIF Dinner
Schedule** . . .



Newsletter by Arleen Morrow
& Marilyn Deslauriers

July Newsletter

Branch 616 is enjoying a great summer and a somewhat relaxed schedule although, so far, activity hasn't slowed down that much. With every-day chores, meetings, meals, bookings, and preparing for Canada Day, we had a busy month of June!

The renovation crew is still attending to finishing touches and House & Grounds is always working on upkeep and minor repairs. The Membership portfolio is in excellent shape - thanks to all the members in good standing, the reinstatements, and the new recruits. It's not too soon to remind you all of the Earlybird Membership campaign which starts September 1st. By submitting your 2025 fee during the months of September, October and November you are eligible for a refund and a discount. We will remind you again in the September issue.



Branch 616 had an excellent showing at Zone Golf this month. Denise Lyttle and Cindy Delahunt placed first in the Ladies Division, Kevin Johnson and Rob Gallant advanced in the Seniors category, and Tom Watters with partner Eric Currie were first in the Super-seniors. So congrats everyone, good luck at District! *Pics page 3.*

The Ladies Auxiliary also made the Branch proud, doing great at Provincial Darts hosted by Branch 96 Brockville. Of the two 616 teams that had qualified, the foursome of Lynne Wilson, Michele Harlow, Lynda Boland and Cindy Delahunt placed 4th overall. Congrats girls!!



The Branch welcomes you to play Horseshoes in the backyard pits every Friday evening this summer at 7:00 pm. Small entry fee, blind draw for partners, all women and men over the age of 19 welcome. Friendly reminder - all darts and Meals to Wheels are on hiatus.

Last Post:

Another sad goodbye and a great loss to the family, the Branch and the community - Comrade Doctor Roland Armitage has passed on to his next reward. A WWII hero and the last remaining WWII veteran member of Branch 616 (39 years), Roly's legacy and contributions are tremendous. He would have been 100 years of age in February 2025. RIP Comrade, you've earned it. The Branch will pay tribute to Roly during the Veterans Visit on July 13 and hold a Celebration of Life soon thereafter, date to be confirmed. *Obituary on page 7.*

Past Events:

Friday June 7, Meals to Wheels TGIF Dinner:  Brisket & Beans by Peter. The Friday gang finished off the take-out dinner season with a delicious treat, getting 100 meals out the door before 6 o'clock. Sides were Mac & Cheese, Cole slaw and Corn bread, plus Dessert! We're taking a break now - thanks everyone - see you in September!!



Friday June 21, Ladies Auxiliary Barbecue: The L.A. had great success hosting the first BBQ of the season. Fresh never frozen beef for the burgers, double sausage on the bun, jumbo dogs, nice weather – lots of satisfied customers! Thanks to everyone involved!

Monday July 1, Canada Day!! What an excellent turnout for this celebration! What excellent entertainment by Wendell Wilson! Plus the weather was perfect and so were the pigs - perfectly smoked and delicious! Thank you to everyone who made this day a smashing success - the patrons, the musician, the bartenders, the volunteers including the cooks and smokers, everyone who lent a hand from the prep to the closing! *Pics on page 4.*

Coming Up

Saturday July 13, All Veterans Summer Visit! Lunch and Entertainment! The bus from the Perley arrives at 11:30 a.m. The Ladies Auxiliary will serve lunch at noon, Forever Friends will keep the music going! Got your vocal chords oiled up? After lunch the Friends will be open the mics to Karaoke! Come and meet your heroes including currently serving and retired military, sing your heart out, and have a great afternoon! Everyone Welcome!

Friday July 19, Seniors Barbecue: Burgs, Dogs, Sausage, Fries! Hosted by the Sandhill Seniors. Check the Legion 616 Website and Facebook for more details.

Sunday July 28: Private booking.

Friday August 16, Ladies Auxiliary BBQ: Again, freshly ground beef for the burgers, courtesy of an L.A. member, straight from her farm! Menu will be posted on 616 Facebook page and Website!

Don't Forget:

Next L.A. Meeting – **Monday August 19, 7:00 pm.** Joint meeting with the Branch

Next Branch Meeting – **Monday July 15, 7:00 pm.**

Hall Rental: We have an 80 to 100 capacity space to rent - please call the Branch for info **613-832-2082**

Standing Dates:

Monday: Every 1st Monday: Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 pm.

Every 3rd Monday: Branch Executive Meeting 6:30 pm.

Every 3rd Monday of June*, September, November, January, March, May: Branch General Meeting 7:30 pm. *The Legion fiscal year starts in June. July & August general meetings are suspended.

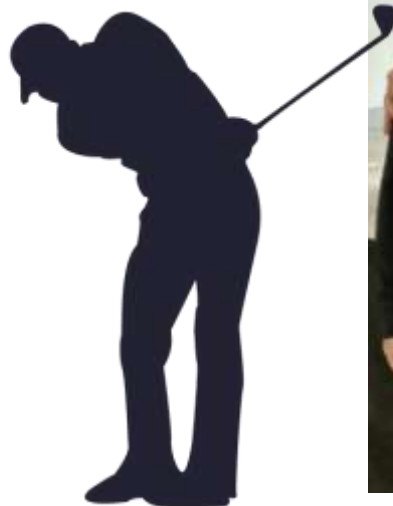
3rd Monday of February & August: Joint Meeting Branch/LA, 7:00 pm.

Tuesday: Ladies' Darts 7:00 pm. On hiatus
Every 2nd Tuesday: Seniors Potluck & Meeting 12:00 noon
Thursday: Men's Darts 7:00 pm. On hiatus
Friday: Mixed Darts 7:00 pm. On hiatus
Every 2nd Friday: Meals to Wheels TGIF Dinner 5:30 p.m. \$20.00 On hiatus
Canada Day: every July 1st
Legion Week: 3rd Sunday in September to following Saturday
Branch Remembrance Day: Saturday prior to November 11
New Year's Day Levee: every January 1st
St. Patrick's Day Celebration: every March 17
Children's Easter Party: every Easter Sunday

RED FRIDAYS - Please show your support for our troops and their families and to the families of the 158 soldiers killed in Afghanistan.



Zone Golf



CANADA





| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------|--|---------|-----------|----------|------------------------------|--|
| | 1 Canada Day Pig Roast | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Horseshoes 7:00 pm | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 Horseshoes 7:00 pm. | 13 All Veterans Summer Party |
| 14 | 15 Exec mtg 7:00 pm. | 16 | 17 | 18 | BBQ Horseshoes 7:00pm | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Horseshoes 7:00 pm. | 27 |
| 28 Private Party | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|------------------------------------|---------|-----------|----------|---|----------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 Horseshoes 7:00 pm | 3 |
| 4 | 5 Holiday | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 Horseshoes 7:00 pm | 10 |
| 11 | 2 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 L.A. BBQ Horseshoes 7:00 pm | 17 |
| 18 | 19 Exec. Meeting 7:00 pm. | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Horseshoes 7:00 pm | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Horseshoes 7:00 pm | 31 |



Roland (Roly) Montgomery ARMITAGE
February 8 1925 – June 19, 2024

Passed away peacefully on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 at the age of 99 at the Perley Rideau Veterans Residence, Ottawa, Ontario.

He was born February 8, 1925 at the family homestead in South March, Ontario.

Predeceased by his parents Godfrey and Joan (Foot) Armitage. Also predeceased by his siblings and their spouses, Maxwell (WW2), Robin (Lu), William (Shirley), Frank (Kay), June Pye (Brian), and Peggy Scott (George). He is survived by his brother Kingsley (Heather).

Roly was married to Mary Spearman in June, 1947, who passed away in 1985, and is the much loved father of Maxwell, Ann Webster (Robert), Blake (deceased 1981), and Donald (Glenda). Special grandfather of Shaun Armitage (Shannon), Emily and Margaret Armitage, and great-grandfather of Blake and Katie Armitage.

He was predeceased by son-in-law Wayne Shepherd (1995), and twin great-granddaughters, Sarah and Brooke Armitage (2002).

He is also predeceased by his second wife, Karen Flahven (2013).

He will be fondly remembered by daughters-in-law Mary Lou Carrier-Ellis, Patti Sheppard-Armitage, and Mary Nelson, his god-daughter niece Joanne Pye-Milligan, his brother-in-law George Spearman (Helen), the Spearman family, and many nieces and nephews, in particular Kelly, Paul and Cassidy Atkins, and Jeff and Sheila Armitage.

Roly joined the army at the age of 17 (before he was officially eligible), and served in World War II in the 3rd Medium Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery, landed in Normandy shortly after D-Day in June 1944, and participated in the Battle of Normandy through to the Liberation of Holland in 1945. After the war, he completed his high school, then attended Guelph Veterinarian College. He graduated in 1951, and set up his veterinary practice in Shawville, Quebec shortly thereafter until moving to Dunrobin, Ontario in 1968, where he was a Standardbred owner, breeder and manager of Armstead Farms, along with sons Blake and Donald.

His many accolades and accomplishments include Citizen of the Year in Shawville in 1960, race track veterinarian at Connaught Park in Aylmer, Quebec, named Veterinarian of the Year by the Ontario Veterinary Association (1982), President of the Canadian Standardbred Horse Society (1972 to 1974), and the Canadian Trotting Association (1974 to 1980), inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame (1999), Mayor of West Carleton (1990 to 1994) (with the Community Complex named after him), General Manager of Rideau Carleton Raceway (1981 to 1990), inducted into the Ottawa Sports Hall of Fame (2000), recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal (2000), Key to the City of Ottawa (2006), Order of Ottawa (2019), Order of Ontario (2022), General Manager of Carp Airport for nine years (with Terminal named after him), and appointed Honorary Lifetime Member of OXA Ottawa representing Pinecrest Cemetery (2023).

Roly was author of a trilogy of books reflecting on his life as a proud war veteran, a dedicated veterinarian and his extensive knowledge of horses, in particular the sport of harness racing.

His culinary talents were often contenders at the fall Carp Fair, where he entered his homemade jellies and pickles.

He enjoyed solving the daily Jumble puzzle with daughter Ann by email or phone. He did very well, even though he considered himself the world's worst speller!

Roly was a strong community supporter, having contributed to the development of the Carp Farmers Market, in addition to the West Carleton War Memorial Project Committee with the successful completion of a Carp Cenotaph in order to honour the residents of West Carleton and March Townships who served and died during the First and Second World Wars.

Roly will be fondly remembered by his family and many, many friends (locally, and world-wide) for his quick wit and great sense of humour, his warm smile, his MANY stories, his immense generosity, and his love of people. He loved social get-togethers with family and friends. We always said he couldn't stand his own company!

He made numerous trips to Normandy, France and Holland for the post-war commemorative celebrations, the most recent being the 75th Anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy in June, 2019, and the 79th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland in May, 2023. He was very disappointed to miss out on the 80th Anniversary ceremonies in Normandy, France this past June, 2024 due to ill health.

Roly lived in his home in Dunrobin until the age of 98, where he enjoyed country living, his apple trees, all the birds and animals, visiting the horses next door at his son Donald's stable, and his many visitors. In October, 2023, he moved to the Perley Rideau Veterans Residence. He loved it there, and considered it his new home very quickly. He loved all the many activities available, and especially the benefit of the pub, where he could share a drink with friends and family. He and his family are very appreciative of the care he received from the wonderful staff there (he loved them, and they loved him).

A special thank you to his PSWs who cared for him at home, Allan Reid and Carl Manning, his noon helper and "soup maker", Susan Jinarak, his favourite PSW, Barbara Curvan, and Dr. Cuong Ngo-Minh at Perley Health.

The world won't be the same without him in it. As Dad often said, "That's The Way The Cookie Crumbles".

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Highland Park, Carp, Ontario on July 13th, from 1:00PM to 4:00PM. A private interment will be at the Anglican Church Cemetery, South March, Ontario alongside his beloved Mary, and Blake, in addition to Noordwijk, The Netherlands