



Preserving, promoting, and developing Wellington North's unique cultural resources to build a vibrant community and a prosperous economy.

CULTURAL MOMENT FOR JUNE 5TH CELEBRATES, THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION ARTHUR BRANCH 226.

The mission of The Royal Canadian Legion is to serve Veterans and their families, to promote Remembrance, and to serve our communities and our country. There are more than 1350 branches across Canada. Community involvement includes supporting local Veterans and seniors; supporting youth sports and other programs; volunteering to help those in need; and offering a place for your community to gather.

In March 1932, the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 226, Arthur, received its Charter. We commend the many members and other volunteers for their dedication to this branch all these years later. One dollar was all it took in the late 1940s for the 48 Legion members to obtain a red brick building at the corner of George and Isabella Streets. It was meant as a permanent hall, but memberships grew and a larger facility was in order, so the building was sold.



In 1955, a 2-story cinderblock building on George St. was constructed; but in 1969 it suffered fire damage. The Legion's Ladies' Auxiliary and other volunteers contributed to the successful rebuilding and caretaking of the Branch. As with churches, it is the people that are the Legion.

Legion involvement in the community is extensive. The Arthur Legion offers financial support to Arthur Minor Sports, Guides, Scouting, area Cadets, other youth groups and many community events. Arthur Legion also gives \$1500 annually to Groves Memorial Community Hospital and Louise Marshall Hospital.



Veterans' children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are eligible for bursaries supplied by the Legion. Our young people are encouraged to apply. Cadets graduating from high school programs receive a yearly membership to the Legion. Local schools also hold Remembrance Day essay and poster competitions. Winners from the area have gone on to receive Dominion of Canada recognition. Such events contribute to students' awareness of our Veterans' efforts.

Funds raised from local poppy sales and lotteries are held in trust for community use. And as a contribution to protecting the environment, the Legion's 1,923 poppies and cenotaph wreaths for Remembrance Day will be biodegradable.

In 1942, a headline in the Toronto Star read "Arthur Village Gives Sons, Money to Aid War Effort". Within a population of about 900, 100 were in the Armed Forces. The government ran campaigns to raise money for war efforts. Arthur Village led all comparable communities in Canada with fundraising. In 2002 David Tilson, MPP for Dufferin Peel Wellington Guelph, moved in the Ontario Legislature that Arthur be formally recognized as "Canada's Most Patriotic Village". We will always remember the ultimate sacrifice of our Veterans, members of this most patriotic community, and of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 226

Submitted by Faye Craig on behalf of the Wellington North Cultural Roundtable