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### OPINION

## ACTON LEGION REOPENS AND PROGRAMS BACK UNDERWAY

ALL COVID-19 PROTOCOLS ARE IN PLACE, WRITES DAVID MALONEY



David McLean photo

The Acton legion's David Maloney wishes fellow veteran Sytske Drijber well on her 102nd birthday.



DAVID MALONEY  
Column

As you may know, the Acton legion reopened last week, with all COVID-19 protocols in place. These include QR code proof of vaccination, the wearing of masks and capacity limits.

Tuesday mixed darts and the Wednesday ladies' darts league have both resumed, as has the men's cribbage league.

We have also restarted our usual Saturday afternoon social activities, so come and join us.

We started the year on a sad note, with news that our oldest veteran, Cecil Curtiss, passed away on Jan. 2 at 107 years old.

Cecil was a Second World War veteran and a member of Branch 197 for almost 50 years. Peggy Graham, who has been visiting Curtis in recent years, was in touch with his family, and expressed condolences on behalf of the branch.

We will be resuming our monthly general meetings, to be held on the second Monday of each month, with the following dates booked on the calendar: Feb. 14, March 14 and April 11. Meetings start at 8 p.m. Your voice needs to be heard.

On Jan. 29, Sytske Drijber turned 102. Sytske is a Second World War veteran

who served in the Royal Netherlands Army during the war and in the postwar Dutch East Indies (now known as Indonesia).

Sytske has been a member of Branch 197 for almost 20 years. Recently I was privileged to visit Sytske along with Laurie MacNab, Kati Legg and David McLean. The ladies presented her with flowers and a small gift.

We all wished her happy birthday on behalf of all our members.

Please check the webpage at [legion197.com](http://legion197.com), and in addition we will be posting information on social media.

*David Maloney is the public relations officer for the Acton Legion Branch 197. He can be reached at [rclbr197@cogeco.net](mailto:rclbr197@cogeco.net).*

### NEWS

## STUDENT, SCHOOL STAFF ABSENTEEISM INFO AVAILABLE ONLINE

MELANIE HENNESSEY  
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Halton parents can now

find out details about absenteeism in their children's schools through a new provincial reporting tool.

The percentage of students and staff who are absent at each school throughout Ontario will be posted online daily.

While the initiative comes as part of the Ford government's pandemic measures, the data will include all school absences, not just those related to COVID-19.

Schools are no longer required to share informa-

tion with parents about COVID-19 cases in the classroom and will instead notify them when overall school absenteeism reaches 30 per cent.

The webpage also includes information about school closures. The latest data indicates 16 of Ontario's 4,844 schools have been closed "due to operational impacts of COVID-19."

For further details and to look up individual schools, visit <https://bit.ly/3fVE9ai>.

## legal matters | Matrimonial Home Buy-out

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### Q

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**If I am separating and my spouse wants to buy our home how is this done?**

### A

In normal times if your spouse wants to keep the matrimonial home, I would be suggesting an appraisal from an appraiser (not a real estate agent) and you base the purchase price for your spouse on the appraised value. However, the real estate market has been so volatile over the past year this is not a reliable way to get a true value. An appraisal sets the value of your home based on other sales in the neighborhood often 2, 3 or even 6 months earlier. Prices have been going up so fast recently and so unpredictably that an appraisal basing the value of a home in the area that sold 6 months earlier can be easily \$100,000.00 or more off the mark. The only way to get a true value while the market is so volatile is list the home for sale. The sale goes to the highest bidder, on the open market. If your spouse's offer is the highest then let them buy it. I know you must factor in the real estate commissions when you do this but I can tell you I have had dozens of clients tell me in this market they have received numerous offers and sold for \$100,000.00, \$200,000.00 and even \$300,000.00 over what they thought their home was worth.

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