

# Acton Legion hosts District 'B' Spring Convention tomorrow

Starting tomorrow afternoon, the Legion delegates to the District "B" Spring Convention will start descending on the Legion by the lake.

For the second time in its eighty-plus year history, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 197 Acton will host a District "B" Convention.

This prestigious event will take place beginning tomorrow, Friday April 9 and continue until Sunday April 11.

Branch 197 Acton President Wes Kutasienski, invites the citizens of our town to share in the welcoming of these delegates and their spouses from as far as Niagara Falls, Port Colborne, Simcoe, Woodstock, and of course Brampton, Oakville and Erin.

Those with memories better than mine will remember the first District "B" Convention hosted by Acton branch in the fall of 2007.

That we have been asked to host the Spring Convention this year must be largely due to the welcome that you the citizens of Acton accorded the delegates in 2007.

Since the District "B" Council approached Branch 197 President Wes Kutasienski late last year, a committee of dedicated volunteers, led by Convention Chairman Comrade Wayne Young, has been working hard to ensure the delegates and their spouses have a wonderful time during their visit to Acton.

The Districts within the Ontario Command of the Royal Canadian

Legion hold their conventions twice annually, in the spring and the fall. District "B" comprises 61 branches from southern Ontario. The semi-annual convention provides the opportunity for the members of the District Council to update the Branches on the status of the various portfolios that they manage. It is also the venue for the Branches to debate issues that are important to them at the local level.

While the purpose of the convention is the business of the Royal Canadian Legion, there will also be plenty of time set aside for relaxation and comradeship. Meals and entertainment will be available at the Legion by the lake all weekend. The citizens of Acton are welcome to visit the Branch and join in the fun, starting Friday night and ending late Sunday afternoon.

Convention Chairman Wayne Young would like to thank the merchants of Acton for their generous support.

"Time and time again, the merchants of this town amaze us with their generosity. Any time we approach them for a donation of any kind to help with our events, they come through for us in an overwhelming way; even more so at this difficult economic time," Young said. "I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has donated in any way to help us put on a great convention. We are doing our best to show off the Town of Acton and our

Branch to all of our visitors."

Volunteers are lined up to ensure the weekend goes smoothly for the delegates and the members of the Branch. The Ladies Auxiliary has donated their services for preparing and serving the Convention banquet set for Saturday night. This dinner is reserved for Council members, delegates, Legion members and their guests.

The weekend wraps up with a parade from the Branch to the Cenotaph at Trinity United Church. The parade which will have many colour parties, bands and marching units is scheduled to depart the Branch at 1 p.m. A Service of Remembrance will take place at approximately 1:45 p.m. at the Cenotaph. Shuttle buses will be available to return the marchers to the Branch at the conclusion of the ceremony. We will then have a social gathering and BBQ on the patio.

Convention Chairman Young wants to make it clear who is responsible for all the preparation work that has gone on to date.

"I cannot give enough praise to the efforts and leadership shown by all of the Sub-committee chairmen. We will do our Branch and Town proud."

I am giving the last word to Branch President Wes, "I wish my comrade delegates a productive and enjoyable Convention, and I give my sincere thanks to the Branch 197 team who have worked so hard to put this Convention together."

BRANCH  
No. 197



LEGION NEWS  
By James Hayes  
P.R.O.

Comrades,

The Branch joins with our Ladies Auxiliary in mourning the passing of Kay James, a Past President of Acton Legion Ladies Auxiliary.

The District "B" Convention delegates will start arriving tomorrow (Friday) afternoon and we welcome them to our town. In addition to the schedule of Convention business, a full weekend of entertainment will also be in progress during the time set out for leisure.

Branch members and citizens of Acton are invited to share in the social events on the weekend. The tickets for the Dinner on Saturday April 10, are on sale at the bar now, \$15 each. They will be available to delegates, Legion members and guests.

Ladies Appreciation Night, April 17. This is the evening the Branch executive and members return the service to our Ladies Auxiliary that we have received from them in the past year. Ladies mark your calendars.

Branch Service Officer Dave Crook advises me that the Home Heating Grants have been approved and the cheques will be out shortly.

Branch Elections will be held on Monday, May 3.

*Yours in Comradeship,  
Jim Hayes, Br.197 PRO*

## Ladies Auxiliary News

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the families of our comrade Kay James. Comrade Kay will be remembered for her years of service with the Ladies Auxiliary holding most executive offices including President. Kay was a life member and at our Appreciation, Honours and Awards Night was to receive her "60" year pin. A Ladies Auxiliary tribute was held Monday evening at Blue Springs Funeral Home.

Our Ladies Auxiliary is welcome to parade at The Legion Zone "B" Parade. If you wish to parade please meet at the Legion parking lot at 1 p.m.

*Yours in Comradeship  
L.A. President  
Annamarie Lowin*

# HHS hospitals cuts beds and staff

Five complex continuing care (CCC) beds will be cut at the Georgetown Hospital, part of 23 beds being cut by Halton Healthcare Services at three hospitals, which could lead to cutting or re-deploying staff.

Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital will lose five CCC beds, while Milton District Hospital will lose five CCC beds and two full-time and two part-time nurses.

HHS will also cut eight of its 262 acute care beds at Oakville-Trafalgar to help the hospital corporation's efforts to balance its budget. At the three hospitals, the CCC beds handle sicker patients, often with chronic conditions, who are patients for months at a time, even until they die.

The reduced usage of the CCC beds is due to the efforts of the Mississauga-Halton Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), to cut the amount of appropriate/alternative level of care (ALC)

patients staying in hospital beds. ALC generally describes older patients suffering from chronic conditions or dying.

The goal is to find alternative health services including the in-home Home First and palliative care initiatives, convalescent and restore programs.

While fewer of the CCC beds in Milton are being used, the hospital's 43 acute care beds are full almost all the time. Eight of those beds are for obstetrics patients – more than 1,000 babies are born there annually.

The Province's budget last Thursday announced a 1.5-per-cent increase in funding for hospitals' base budgets, which is lower than inflation in hospitals. That inflation rate includes negotiated wage hikes with unionized workers and cost of supplies.

The Ontario Nurses Association condemned the Province's budget as a "nail in the coffin" of

health care in the province, and cautioned it would result in service and nursing cuts. The Ontario Hospital Association is disappointed the Province didn't approve a two per cent increase in base hospital budget funding, as requested, but it is too soon to predict the impact on services and staff.

As part of its budget, the Province announced it would freeze for two years levels of compensation, including salaries and

benefits, for non-unionized public sector workers including hospital employees. Local residents and hospital unions have criticized the salaries of hospital administrators in recent years. The Province's public sector salary disclosure, or "Sunshine List," showed that HHS President and CEO John Oliver received \$500,919 in salary and taxable benefits in last year, \$134,000 less than his salary and benefits from 2008.

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