

Elwood Cochrane in 1955

By Suzanne Schroeter

The Elwood Cochrane story is really the story of Cochrane's Dairy, a landmark in the Russell area. With his father Hubert, Elwood began the dairy as early as 1929 when they drove a horse and cutter to the Ottawa Market to sell milk.

Mr. Cochrane's ancestors came over from the Old Country

and initially settled in the Loucks' Bridge area. Later they decided to move to the quieter location near Regional Rd. 6. That was to be home for 4 generations of Cochrane's.

In 1920 Elwood bought his present farm while working on his father's dairy farm with brother Clare. During the 20's the milk was sold to Canadian Milk Products in Russell. In 1929 the firm closed and the Cochrane's took their milk to Ottawa. As routes in Cochrane's Dairy became an established business.

In 1932, Elwood moved his family to the present Cochrane home. During these years Elwood and Irene raised six children in addition to running the dairy. Elwood can remember the days when the Castor River was high enough to float logs down to the lumber mill in Casselman.

By 1966 the business had expanded to include 140 cows and a modern milking parlour. The delivery routes now included new subdivisions in Ottawa as well as surrounding rural villages. Relying heavily on the help of sons Floyd and Jeff and grandson Barry, Elwood had added many other items to his delivery list including fresh eggs from Berr's orange juice, lemonade and yogurt.

Despite the growing market, the availability of hired help was dwindling. In 1974 Elwood made the decision to sell the cows. Now all the milk is bought from the Milk Marketing Board. Between 18 and 20 thousand pounds are shipped daily to the dairy. Each shipment is graded by Floyd or Barry, then pasteurized and packaged.

Fire struck the dairy in 1975 while Elwood and Irene were shopping at Billings Bridge. The

cause do the fire was never determined. Fortunately only the barn was destroyed - a speedy firecrew saved the dairy!

To service the 50 or 60 stores as well as the city and rural routes, the dairy employs six men plus the manager in the

plant, two women in the office, one mechanic and 10 drivers.

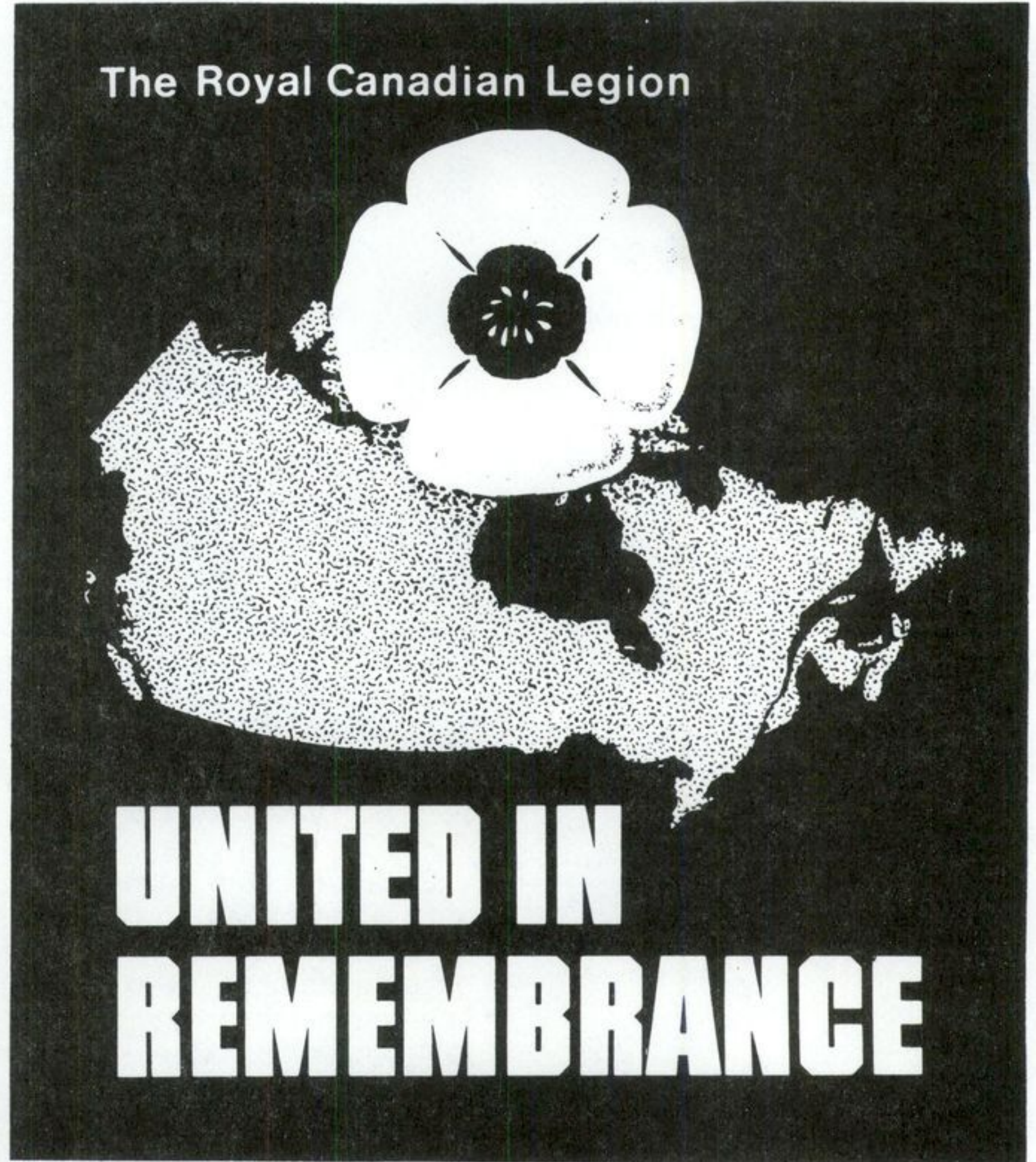
Although he used to play the accordion years ago Elwood now relaxes at the Senior Citizens Drop-In Centre and this year was honoured with a Life Membership in the Russell Lions Club.



"Sh-Sh-Shudder"

Don't panic . . . the Martians haven't landed. The odd assortment of creatures pictured above are Russell Public School students who dressed up for a costume contest prior to Halloween.

These students were winners in their respective classes. If these were the winners, the losers must have been something else. — Photo by Mary Rowsell.



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