

## STOUFFVILLE LEGION MARKS 60TH ANNIVERSARY



In 1954, the Stouffville Legion team won the town bowling league trophy. Seen here are Donald ("Dinty") Hodgins, Walt Smith, Len Buckland, Bill Malloy, Del Jennings and Cy Bellman.

By Kate Gilderdale  
Stouffville Free Press

On April 14 the Stouffville Legion Branch 459 will celebrate its 60th anniversary at 1:30 p.m. with a special ceremony, open house and community barbecue, followed by a dance at 8 p.m.

In 1999, World War II veteran Walt Smith wrote a history of the organization as part of a commemorative book dedicated to the men and women of Whitchurch-Stouffville who served their country in times of war (see below). The project was undertaken to mark the International Year of Older Persons and was compiled by Mr. Smith, his wife Aurelia and Marion Lewis.

Mr. Smith joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in London and received his basic training at Galt. An aircraft rigger, he moved to Camp Borden and was drafted overseas in 1942. "I volunteered for what they called the AOP (Aircraft Observation Post) Squadron in London, and went over to Europe where I served in France, Holland and Germany."

It was an experience he will never forget. "There were some very bad days and some very good days," he said. "My hope is that there will never be another war."

All comrades and friends are invited to join members of the Legion and the Ladies Auxiliary in their 60th anniversary celebration on April 14.

### Royal Canadian Legion Branch 459 By Walt Smith

When the veterans of WWII returned home and began their lives as civilians, the "boys" felt that something was missing - comradeship.

Consequently, some of them took the initiative and decided to do something about it. Initially they met at Dr. Stanley Ball's office and also at the Odd Fellows' Hall, which was located over the hardware store on Main Street. Those ambitious WWII vets were supported in their cause by veterans of the first war; in particular Dr. Stanley Ball, Del Jennings and Bert Lickorish. Branch 459 of the Royal Canadian Legion received its Charter on April 11, 1947. Comrade George Abell served as the initial president.

That was just the beginning! The vets now decided they needed to build a

permanent meeting place. Spurred on by their cause they attended a village council meeting, presented their case and were granted a piece of land on Main Street near the Ninth Line. After further consideration the location was moved to the present site with a donation of land by Win Timbers. "Dinty" Hodgins generously contributed money for the mortgage, Dr. Neil Smith served as chairman of the building committee, and the work began. Jack Barkey, Len Buckland, Fred Castle, Bert Clarkson, Jack Garrett, Bill Malloy, Harold Morden and Walt Smith were some of those who rolled up their sleeves and went to work. The result of their labour is the edifice you see today on the Ninth Line.

The Veterans Memorial Hall, today known as the Legion Hall, was THE place to be in those days. It became a centre of comradeship and social activity within the town. In order to raise funds to complete the building and pay off the mortgage, the veterans organized and hosted bingos, street dances, horse shows and car raffles. This ambitious group were constantly supported in their cause by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Royal Canadian Legion. The ongoing support from this hardworking group of women continues to the present day.

Throughout the years there have been a few changes. Structurally, a new heating and cooling system have been installed and the hall is wheelchair accessible. The makeup of the membership has changed since many veterans have passed on. Today's members include relatives of previous veterans and affiliates dedicated to continuing the work of those who started it all.

The Royal Canadian Legion today is the largest service club in the country. Locally, in excess of twenty thousand dollars is donated to support the needs of veterans and their families, youth groups, school activities, track and field events and seniors' activities. The annual Poppy Campaign in November focuses on promoting the concept of Remembrance and funds raised are directed to scholarships for veterans' families, and to the purchase of mobility aids for those in need. The vision of supporting one another which began so many years ago continues today.



### TALKING BOOK LIBRARY

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If you are comfortable working with personal computers, would like to learn something new, and are available 1/2 to 1 day per week, this opportunity may be for you.

CBMI's Talking Book Library is located at 3844 Stouffville Rd, 5 minutes west of the center of Stouffville.

For further information contact:

Roy O'Boyle  
905-640-6464

rob Boyle@cbmicanada.org



TALKING BOOK LIBRARY

## Managing Your Money

Contributed by Jim Priebe, MA, CEA

### Your essential tax credit check up - new credits now available

Are you paying more taxes than necessary? Could be - unless you're taking advantage of all the tax credits available to you. Every Canadian taxpayer is entitled to certain non-refundable tax credits that directly reduce the actual amount of your tax bill. And, for the 2006 tax year, there are changes and increases in the tax credits that may apply to you. So here's the latest news in tax credits - aimed at saving you money:

#### Tax Credit changes/increases for the 2006 tax year

Basic personal credit - raised to \$8,839.  
Eligible dependent credit - raised to a maximum of \$7,505.  
Federal pension income credit - increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000.  
Age credit (for persons age 65 or older) - increased from \$4,066 to \$5,066 and begins to be clawed-back at an income level of \$30,270, totally disappearing when the person's income exceeds \$64,043.  
Federal and provincial dividend tax credit - rates 'enhanced' for eligible dividends paid from public companies.  
Capital gains inclusion rate - reduced from 25% to 0% on publicly-traded shares or mutual funds donated to charity on an 'in-kind' basis after May 2, 2006.  
GST - reduced from 7% to 6% effective July 1, 2006.

#### New Tax Credits for the 2006 tax year

Canada employment credit - a maximum of \$250 for 2006.  
Federal textbook credit - a full-time student can claim \$65 for each month of post-secondary enrolment; a part-time student can claim \$20 per month.  
Federal tax credit for the cost of monthly

or annual public transit passes.

Credit for employees required to provide their own tools for the job - claim up to \$500 of the cost of new tools in excess of \$1,000. Self-employed persons will receive an increase from \$200 to \$500 on the limit of the cost of tools that are eligible for the 100% capital cost allowance deduction.

#### Other Tax Changes for 2006

Universal child care benefit - \$100 per month for each child under 6 years of age, taxed to the lower-income spouse. All scholarship or bursary income received by a post-secondary student is now tax-free.

#### Other Tax Credits used by many Canadians

Spousal amount  
Medical expenses  
Charitable donations  
Canada Pension Plan and  
EI contributions  
Disability credit  
Caregiver's credit  
Tuition fees

You'll trim your taxes when you take advantage of all your eligible credits and deductions (such as those allowed for Registered Savings Plan contributions). A professional advisor can help ensure you make the best strategic use of the tax breaks available to you and your family.

For more information please contact  
Jim Priebe at (905) 640-6429 or e-mail to  
jim@investorsgroup.com.



Jim Priebe,  
MA, CEA

Investors Group

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