

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

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NOVEMBER IS ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
Nov 17: Wendy Whitter	
Nov 22: Laurie Anderson	
Nov 23: Lynda Lawrence	

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Nov 17: Constable Russell Ridge Meadows RCMP Briefing	Nov 24: Maria Perretta Ridge Meadows Seniors Society	Dec 01: Kirsta Shaw Maple Ridge SPCA
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OUR CLUB LAST WEEK'S MEETING:

President **Clint Callison** presided.

(Note: due to further restrictions imposed by our health authorities, caused by the recent alarming increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in BC, "in-person" Rotary meetings have been cancelled until further notice).

Guests: **Mark Stewart**, from the Salvation Army
Heather Todd, cousin of Roger Powley

Program: Lest We Forget - presented by **Roger Powley**



Roger stated that he wanted to put on this program so that we could show our gratitude to those who have served and given so much for our country, and for those who are still serving our country.

Lest we forget: in the battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917 there were almost 11,000 Canadian casualties, including over 3,500 killed.



The following are the statistics of Canadians killed or wounded in the various wars:

War	Deaths	Wounded
Boer War	267	252
World War One	61,000	172,000
World War Two	45,000	55,000
Korea	516	1,200
Afghanistan	158	1,800
Peacekeeping	267	252
Total	107,208	203,504

Especially in the First World War, the sacrifice was great. Canada was a small country, and many Canadian soldiers came from small communities and villages throughout Canada, so the loss was felt severely.



Roger invited club members to honour family members and friends who have served in the military:



Lynda wished to honour her birth father **Peter Browne**, who was born in London, England. He was with the RCAF in World War II, where he served as an air gunner. He was also a flight sergeant in the Italian campaign. He died after the war just before Lynda's third birthday.



Sharon wished to honour her brother-in-law **Charles Harrison Kyle** who was based in Halifax, with the RCAF in World War II. On June 12, 1944 he was a co-pilot and flight engineer on a bomber that was sent over France to disrupt the enemy's rail supply lines, when the plane was shot down and six of the seven crew members died in the crash. The only survivor was the pilot who was held as a prisoner of war. Charles Kyle was first buried in Germany, but later moved to his final resting place at Vimy Ridge in France. The Canadian government reissued all of Charlie's medals to Sharon's son Scott Kyle who was researching Charlie's history in the Canadian Air Force.



Brenda's mother lost two older brothers in World War II. Her mother was only six years old when they enlisted, and as a result

did not have much of a recollection of these two soldiers. Brenda's uncles were **Ken Barker** who died on March 15, 1944 at the age of 23 and **Lloyd Barker** who died on November 21, 1944 at the age of 22. Both of these uncles grew up in Saskatchewan, where they were memorialized by having a small lake and a small island named after them. Also, grandma Barker was honoured by being named a Silverstar Mother and asked to lay a wreath at a war memorial. Unfortunately due to health reasons she was unable to attend to carry out this honour.

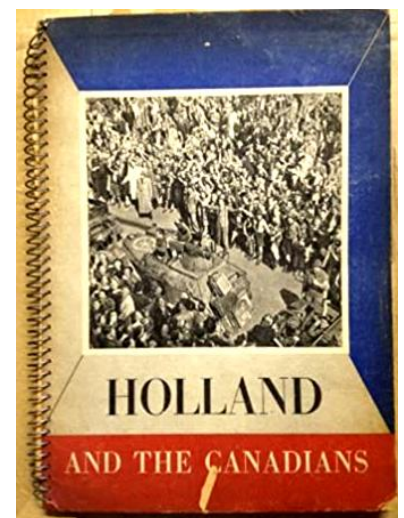
Brenda also wished to honour two other uncles on her father's side, namely **Harry Chow** of Vancouver and **Victor Wong** of Victoria. Both of these men were in the same battalion, and both served on a secret mission in which they were each given a \$10 gold coin and a cyanide pill, which they could use to either bribe their way out of captivity or end their lives if they felt that the circumstances warranted it. Fortunately, both survived the war to live long happy lives. Each of these men married sisters of Brenda's father (and thus became brothers-in-law). Victor Wong is still alive today and last year marched in a memorial parade in Victoria.

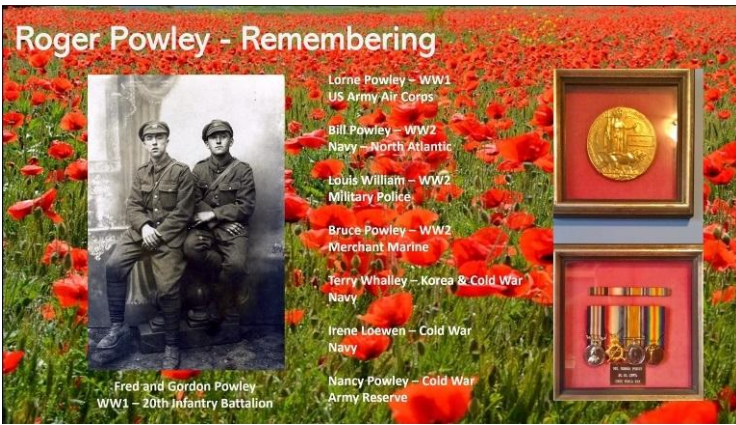


Matt reminded us of the role that the Canadian soldiers played in liberating Holland in 1945. On November 10, 1944, the German army attacked the town where he lived, and 52,000 of the 70,000 men (ages 17 to 40) were marched off into forced labour camps. Matt's dad was one of them. He survived the ordeal but came back a broken man. The German forces officially capitulated to the Canadian Army on May 5, 1945. 7,600 Canadian soldiers died to liberate Holland.

Matt noted that the government of Holland gave to 50,000 Canadian soldiers a copy of a book about Canada's role in the liberation, entitled "Holland and the Canadians". The book was published in 1946.

(Matt received a copy of the book several months ago.)





Roger's family has served in the military for over 100 years. His great uncle **Fred Powley** and his grandfather **Gordon Powley** (brothers) both served in World War I and were trained together as machine gunners. They both fought in several battles and in the battle of Vimy Ridge, where his great uncle Fred was killed. Roger's grandfather Gordon did not want to talk about his war experiences, and even Roger's father didn't know that Roger's grandfather had served during the war, or that he had been awarded a military medal for bravery. Another of his great uncles, Lorne Powley, also served in World War I, and his uncle Bill Powley (the father of our guest Heather Todd) served in World War II. His father-in-law Louis Williams served in World War II, and helped liberate Holland.

Roger's own father **Bruce Powley** was deemed medically unfit to serve in active combat, but he did serve in the Merchant Marines.

Other family members whom Roger wished to honour, were his uncle **Terry Whalley** as well as Terry's wife **Irene Loewen** (who served during the Cold War). Last but not least, Roger's own wife **Nancy Powley** was an Army reservist. Roger's own military career spanned over 20 years.

Roger said again that we must not only remember and honour those who lost their lives in previous wars, but also members of the military who are now serving.

As recently as October 31, 2020 **Cpl. James Choi**, a member of the Royal Westminister Regiment based in new Westminster, died as a result of a gunshot wound sustained while training at the Canadian Forces Base in Wainwright, Alberta.

Following a video, showing pictures of young men who died in Afghanistan (40,000 Canadian soldiers served and 158 died there), one minute of silence was observed to honour all those who have served and are now serving. We then listen to the Last Post and the Rouse (Reveille). For Remembrance Day ceremonies, the "Last Post" is played telling the dead soldiers that they are free to go – that their time on earth is done – and the Rouse is for the living, telling them to come back to us and live again.

Mark Stewart, executive director of the local Salvation Army, advised that his father was in the Army for 30 years. He also noted that the Salvation Army has taken part in every war since 1885 as ministers to the soldiers, and many of those ministers also lost their lives.



Mark also noted that the Salvation Army's Kettle Drive will start on November 14, and that they are inviting volunteers to man the kettles.

Presidents closing Quotes:



Submitted by **Laurie Anderson**