

Fort York rk News

Fort York Branch 165 Royal Canadian Legion

We honour the memory of Reverend Canon Ebert Hobbs



Rev. Canon Ebert Hobbs

April  2023

From Our President



Dear Members,

With the Spring slowly creeping up on us, despite so much that is unhappy in the world at the moment, I hope that you are in a position to enjoy Mother Nature's promise of renewal.

Your Executive committee continues its work as we move forward to develop our social calendar with interesting events for the rest of the year.

I am happy to report that our recent Pub Night was a wonderful occasion for many of us to delight in a casual gathering of like-minds. The elegant atmosphere of the venue was the perfect setting as we partook in succulent and delightful finger-foods and fine wine.

Our knowledge of wool production and everything wool was delightfully expanded. The information was presented to us by our speaker in a most amusing and entertaining way. He provided us with insights into the less - known intricacies of the wool industry. His seemingly encyclopedic knowledge of the wool industry, its historic beginnings and relevance in today's digital environs made for a very interesting presentation.

Our next event is our annual Garden Party to be held at the Rosedale Golf Club. The coordinates for this event will be forwarded to you shortly.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best Regards,

George

Maj George F. Chabrol (Ret'd) CD.

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The Lighter Side of Life . . .



DOES ANYONE KNOW IF TRUMP WILL BE TRIED AS AN ADULT ??

Fort York 165
Events 2023

Thursday 18 May – Garden Party
Rosedale Golf & Country Club

Tuesday 5 December
Christmas/Hannukah Party
Granite Club

Battle of Vimy Ridge 9-12 April 1917

Many historians and writers consider the Canadian victory at Vimy a defining moment for Canada, when the country emerged from under the shadow of Britain and felt capable of greatness. Canadian troops also earned a reputation as formidable, effective troops because of the stunning success. But it was a victory at a terrible cost, with more than 10,000 killed and wounded.

The Canadian Corps was ordered to seize Vimy Ridge in April 1917. Situated in northern France, the heavily-fortified seven-kilometre ridge held a commanding view over the Allied lines. The Canadians would be assaulting over an open graveyard since previous French attacks had failed with over 100,000 casualties.

To capture this difficult position, the Canadians would carefully plan and rehearse their attack. To provide greater flexibility and firepower in battle, the infantry were given specialist roles as machine-gunners, rifle-men and grenade-throwers. These same soldiers underwent weeks of training behind the lines using models to represent the battlefield, and new maps crafted from aerial photographs to guide their way. To bring men forward safely for the assault, engineers dug deep tunnels from the rear to the front. Despite this training and preparation, the key to victory would be a devastating artillery barrage that would not only isolate enemy trenches, but provide a moving wall of high explosives and shrapnel to force the Germans to stay in their deep dugouts and away from their machine-guns. "Chaps, you shall go over exactly like a railroad train, on time, or you shall be annihilated," warned Canadian Corps commander Sir Julian Byng.

In the week leading up to the battle, Canadian and British artillery pounded the enemy positions on the ridge, killing and tormenting defenders. New artillery tactics allowed the gunners to first target, then destroy enemy positions. A nearly limitless supply of artillery shells and the new 106 fuse, which allowed shells to explode on contact, as opposed to burying themselves in ground, facilitated the destruction of hardened defences and barbed wire. The Canadian infantry would be well supported when it went into

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battle with over 1,000 artillery pieces laying down withering, supportive fire.



Attacking together for the first time, the four Canadian divisions stormed the ridge at 5:30am on 9 April 1917. More than 15,000 Canadian infantry overran the Germans all along the front. Incredible bravery and discipline allowed the infantry to continue moving forward under heavy fire, even when their officers were killed. There were countless acts of sacrifice, as Canadians single-handedly charged machine-gun nests or forced the surrender of Germans in protective dugouts. Hill 145, the highest and most important feature of the Ridge, and where the Vimy monument now stands, was captured in a frontal bayonet charge against machine-gun positions. Three more days of costly battle delivered final victory. The Canadian operation was an important success, even if the larger British and French offensive, of which it had been a part, had failed. But it was victory at a heavy cost: 3,598 Canadians were killed and another 7,000 wounded.

The capture of Vimy was more than just an important battlefield victory. For the first time all four Canadian divisions attacked together: men from all regions of Canada were present at the battle. Brigadier-General A.E. Ross declared after the war, "in those few minutes I witnessed the birth of a nation."

Vimy became a symbol for the sacrifice of the young Dominion. In 1922, the French government ceded to Canada in perpetuity Vimy Ridge, and the land surrounding it. The gleaming white marble and haunting sculptures of the Vimy Memorial, unveiled in 1936, stand as a terrible and poignant reminder of the 11,285 Canadian soldiers killed in France who have no known graves. **By Tim Cook, Canadian War Museum**



We will remember . . .

Reverend Canon William Ebert Hobbs

1924 - 2023



Legion 

Fort York Branch No. 165

We are saddened by the passing into God's Hands of the Reverend Canon William Ebert Hobbs on Monday, March 20, 2023 at Christie Gardens, Toronto, at the age of 98. Ebert was pre-deceased by his loving wife of 60 years, Audrey Spanswick, and his daughter Roxanne Cooper. He will be dearly missed by his devoted wife of 10 years, Doreen Davies, his children, Debbie (John) Illinois, Chris (Sue) Guelph, Kim (Ron) Melbourne, Australia, son-in-law Gary (Sandra) Trenton, his grand-children Bronwen (Jered), Jennifer (Dan), Erin (Dale), Theresa (Joey), Christopher (Karissa), John (Carmen), Rachael, Gary (Nicole), Megan, Nathan, 15 great grand-children, his step-daughters, Sherrill and Kathy and their families, sister-in-law Joyce, and many nieces and nephews. Ebert (Bim) was born on June 23, 1924, in Ashton, Ontario, son of Henry and Blanche Hobbs. He served in the Canadian Air Force during WW II and as an Army Chaplain after the War. Ebert was awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration. Ebert received his theological training at Bishop's University, Sherbrooke, QC, and St. John's College, Winnipeg. He was ordained in the Anglican Church of Canada in Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa in 1951. Following ministry in Stafford parish and St. Richard's parish, Ottawa, and in keeping with the changes in the Church and society, Ebert was involved in a wide range of creative, new ministries. He was internationally recognized for his work in Resource Development, Church Planning and Communications which included major national programs in Canada, the National Council of Churches in the United States, as well as projects in other countries. These experiences were always closely related to pastoral ministry, which included Executive Assistant to the Bishop of Ohio, several years as Honorary Assistant at St. Paul's



Bloor Street, Toronto, part-time Chaplain for the veterans at Sunnybrook Hospital and Chaplain for the Royal Canadian Legion, Fort York Branch. For his work, Ebert received many awards. Among them was the Arbor Award from the University of Toronto for voluntary service, including conducting the Remembrance Service for 15 years. Ebert made a significant impact on the charitable sector in Canada, including helping to establish and chairing Navion, a leading fundraising consulting firm.

Ebert dearly loved his family and he and Audrey always provided an open door and a listening ear. A yearly cottage reunion which they provided renewed strong family relationships and taught the value of time together. His wife, Doreen, was a cherished companion and caregiver in his later years along with his family.

The family wishes to thank the wonderful caregivers from Christie Gardens and Smart Staffing for their ongoing love and support. The family will receive friends at the Humphrey-Miles Funeral Home, 1403 Bayview Avenue, from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 29. A service of celebration and thanksgiving for Ebert's life will be held on Thursday, March 30, St. Paul's Anglican Church, 227 Bloor St. East, Toronto, at 2 p.m., with a reception in the Great Hall to follow. If so desired, the family has requested that you consider a donation to St. Paul's Heritage Fund, 227 Bloor Street, East, Toronto, ON, M4W 1C8, The Hobbs/Spanswick Leadership Award at Bishop's University, or Christie Gardens, 602 Melita Crescent, Toronto, ON M6G 3Z4 Condolences and memories can be sent through www.humphreymiles.co



From Ebert's 2021 Bio . . .

This month, we are focusing on a member of Branch 165 who served in the RCAF during World War Two – and followed up by finding a vocation that saw him serve in both county parishes and the military chaplaincy.

Rev. Canon W. Ebert Hobbs CD was born on June 23, 1924 in Ashton, Ontario and graduated from Carleton Place High School. He then did what hundreds of thousands of other young Canadian men did in those days – he enlisted.

Hobbs joined the RCAF in 1943 and embarked on pilot training. Accidents were fairly commonplace in those days and such a mishap marked the end of Hobbs' pilot training.

It didn't mark the end of his service with the RCAF, as he next found himself working in Flight Control operations in the north, including Whitehorse, at an isolation station which was used by the Americans.

The word 'isolated' probably doesn't do justice to the remote settings of these postings. But it was an important theatre with American forces in Alaska and the Yukon due to fears of an attack from Japan. It was also the scene of a massive construction project – the building of the 1,200-mile Alaska highway, built to connect the lower 48 American states with Alaska and the Yukon territory.

Hobbs left the RCAF in 1946. His postings in remote areas were certainly an opportunity to do some serious thinking.

His interest in the Ministry began during his air force days. This increased thanks to his work with Eldon Davis, who served as an Army Chaplain during the Italian campaign. But what also cemented his desire to become a priest and serve God was the strong Christian faith of his parents.

"His folks were great Church people with his Dad playing the organ during services," his daughter, Debbie Heim, recalled.

Davis and Hobbs worked with Anglican youth in Ottawa. Following a year working with Davis, Hobbs attended Bishop's University in Lennoxville, Quebec to study theology.

Hobbs was ordained in Christ Church Cathedral in Ottawa in June, 1951. He then joined the Canadian Army Chaplain Corps, just in time for service in the Korean War.

In fact, he was scheduled to be posted there but he broke his leg in a night parachute jump.

Following that, the Bishop of Ottawa asked Hobbs to leave the Army Chaplain Corps in 1956 and become a

Parish Priest, starting a new parish in what is now Nepean, outside of Ottawa.

A number of appointments followed, including Executive Director, National Department of Information and Stewardship, Anglican Church of Canada and National Director, Anglicans in Mission, Anglican Church of Canada.

Hobbs was also a pioneer in producing radio and TV programs to reach people who couldn't make it to their church.

Hobbs was also mindful of recognizing the ongoing need for financial resources to provide better facilities and conditions for spiritual growth, good health care, education and social programs. To that end, he, along with three others, started the fundraising company Navion. He retired from that post at age 75 as Chairman of the Board. The company continues to thrive.

Along the way, he also served as chaplain to many units in the Canadian Army including the Sherbrooke Regiment 1947-51, the 30th Field Regiment in Ottawa 1956-60 and Queen's York Rangers in Toronto from 1962-66.

Hobbs was a prominent figure at Remembrance Day events. Among other events, he conducted the Remembrance Day service at the Soldiers Tower University of Toronto for 15 years.

For this volunteer service, U of T presented Rev. Hobbs with the Arbor Award in September, 2013.

But a major highlight was his service at Sunnybrook Hospital, where hundreds of veterans live. His post as Chaplain (part time) saw Hobbs conduct Sunday services in the Veterans Chapel for nine years, along with his partner chaplain, Mary Jo McDonald.

Ms. McDonald recalled that a full time chaplain didn't exist for Sunnybrook back in 2004 when she and Hobbs applied for the job. It was a great deal for both as they wanted to job-share with another chaplain.

Ms. McDonald herself was a 49-year-old newly-hatched hospital chaplain (and a lay Roman Catholic woman, at that) pursuing doctoral work in Theology.

The two set out to form what she called "a truly Christian community, a church within the walls of the beautiful but small Sunnybrook Veterans chapel."

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She remembered that the veterans of the day "yearned for rites, rituals and hymns that connected them to the church experiences of their youth."

With his military background, ministerial gifts, sense of humour and caring heart, Rev. Hobbs tended to all of the Veterans needs. In return, he gained the love and respect of all.

How popular were the weekly services?

"At one point, there was not enough room in the chapel on a Sunday," said Ms. McDonald.

"Veterans in their wheelchairs spilled out into the hallway."

She recalled a high point of their joint service at Sunnybrook was when one of the student volunteers who also attended the services asked to be baptized.

"The baptism took place with both Ebert and I presiding at one of the Sunday services. Everyone clapped. We were a community together welcoming a new member. It was a moment that brought much joy."

"Ebert has been a gift to many. His generosity in sharing his gifts has modelled so many of the Christian values that we all know so well from the Beatitudes. I am honoured to have been his co-worker and friend."

He also served as chaplain for Branch 165 of the Royal Canadian Legion (Fort York).

By Malcolm Morrison, Sergeant-at-Arms, FYB 165

From The Varsity, 2010 University of Toronto

Rev. Canon W. Ebert Hobbs, then took to the stage and introduced the bands and other speakers. "One of the many reasons we are here today is that we remember," he said. "We remember the soldiers that volunteered to stand between us and forces of destruction." He then pointed to a wall of stone engravings attached to the tower, and said: "Over one thousand University of Toronto students, alumni, and staff are engraved on this tower. We remember them because we are a people of hope. Let us sing the Naval Hymn." A small, five person band began to play. The trumpeters, along with the trombone and tuba players, played the melody, and the crowd sung along.

FYB 165 Past Presidents

Major Dr. Lorne Ambrose Lockwood DSO, MC

March 30, 1888-1982

By Terry Sleightholm

Ambrose Lorne Lockwood, President of Fort York Branch 165 in 1942, was born on March 30th, 1888, in Westport, Ontario. His parents were Hiram Wallace Lockwood and Julia Agnes Lockwood (nee Hanna). Ambrose died circa 1982.

He attended Westport Public School, Athens High School and went on to McGill University for medical training. In 1914 he enlisted in the Canadian army and was sent to the front lines of the surgical medical unit. He became a pioneer in thoracic surgery.

There are entries for him in *Who's Who in American Medicine 1925* and the *Canadian Who's Who (Toronto) 1972*.

The Lockwood Clinic in Toronto was established in 1921 by Doctor Ambrose.

He served in France and Belgium, disembarking from Canada on August 27th, 1914.

Dr. Lockwood was decorated for surgery techniques that he developed during the First World War. He was one of the first surgeons on the battlefield to attempt a before-unheard-of lung surgery on wounded soldiers that were, before that, put into wards to die as they were considered unable to be saved.

Dr. Lockwood would, upon his return after the war, start the Lockwood Clinic in Toronto. He also worked at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

In 1987, Dr. Lockwood's nephew Hiram "Buster" Lockwood, Director of Lockwood Foundation, approached the village of Westport to revitalize a park. The baseball diamond was created at the time and funded by the Foundation. This is the same foundation that gave a \$100,000 grant to the village in 2015 to add many of the new features including the

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basketball court and walking path. When several of the submissions to name the "red dog" were "Buster", the panel felt this was another way of recognizing the commitment that the Lockwood family has made to the Village of Westport.



Buster

Wins More Honors.

Word has been received that Major A. L. Lockwood, M. D., whose parents reside at Westport, has won additional honors overseas. He has been awarded the Distinguished Service Order for gallantry under fire with the Royal Army Medical Corps. When war broke out Major Lockwood, who is a graduate of McGill University of the class of 1910, was studying in Germany with a classmate, Captain Hopburn. Making their way by the Hook of Holland to England they immediately took out commissions in the Royal Army Medical Corps and within a very short time had reached France, where their services were in much demand to meet the casualties resulting from the earlier British operations. Major Lockwood at that time was a lieutenant and soon was promoted to the rank of captain. In 1916 he was decorated with the Military Cross for gallantry while acting at an advance dressing station, and still later won the Mons Star for participation in the early fighting of 1914. Last year he was at his home in Westport on leave for a short time. Major Lockwood is nephew of Mrs. A. E. Hanna, Perth.

WESTPORT DOCTOR SERVING IN FIELD HOSPITALS

**Dr. Ambrose Lockwood Tells
Interesting Story of Work
Among Wounded**

WHAT IS BADLY NEEDED

Lieutenant Dr. Ambrose Lockwood, a native of Westport, is serving in one of the field hospitals at the front. He was in Berlin at the outbreak of the war, taking some studies in the latest methods in modern surgery, but managed after a while to get over to England, and offered his services to the British Government. He is now serving with No. 12 Stationary Hospital, British Expeditionary Force, but the location of these hospitals is carefully concealed and even his friends do not know precisely where he is. A letter, written three or four weeks ago, has been received from him. He writes as follows:

"As regards articles of clothing, etc., necessary for the soldiers, certain things are especially required. We are very well equipped with clothes, such as pants, coats, etc., but there are certain things very necessary to give at least a little comfort to the soldiers in this country.

"At present the days are quite warm (September 28), but towards evening it begins to get quite cool. About 6:30 the sun sets and by 8:30 or 9 p.m., it is very cool; one must wear a heavy overcoat to walk in. The nights are real cold, and usually with a heavy dew, so that everything is damp in the morning. One night this week we had ice on the water in a bucket. We have had about ten days' rain continuously, which I can assure you makes it rather uncomfortable for sleeping outside, or even if one is in a tent.

"As regards food we are well supplied.

"Now under such conditions the things we need mostly are: shirts

sizes 15 to 16, grey flannel or khaki; collars attached. Socks, good weight, knitted. Pyjamas, for hospital use, sizes, 34 to 38. Wristlets, khaki colored, if possible. Sleeping mitts, and a few woolen gloves.

"Regarding smoking material, the men are supplied with pipe, tobacco, but not with cigarettes, and the poor convalescent wounded gets great comfort from his cigarettes. Usually he has one arm or a hand bound up and cannot fill his pipe.

"Chocolate in bar, sweet, is much appreciated, and is very nourishing.

"Many things might be added to make things comfortable, but these are necessities, and help to keep up the wonderful spirit that animates every officer and soldier in this greatest of world struggles."

Dr. Lockwood says they have accommodation for 250 men in tents and if necessary 400 men. Within a radius of a mile and a half there are 5,000 beds for sick and wounded.

"We are very busy. It comes in bunches. Saturday night, 9 p.m., we got 120 wounded in one crowd. Dr. Hepburn and I are doing all the surgery, so we have lots of work."



Ambrose, the young athlete,
in Westport, Ontario

Our Newest Members 2023

Ricardo Dumlao

Leonard Feldt

Nadira Agnes Fraser

LCdr Christopher Henry Grant, RCNR

Ki Hyung Han

Jacqueline Lalonde

Justin Lee

Kevin Love

Michael MacDonald

Michael Barry McWeeney

Raymond Pettipas

Imran Shaikh

Peter Stewart Smith

Dennis Vincent Torpy

Keith Tozer

Joy White

Welcome to
Fort York Branch 165



Pub Night April 6





C.E.F. Reunion Toronto 1934

In August of 1934 there was a weekend celebration in Toronto of the Canadian Corps. Tens of thousands flooded the streets. It was a weekend to recollect the old days and to celebrate the brotherhood of war times.

The August 4th weekend was chosen because a mid-summer weekend ensured warm weather. The 4th was also the 20th anniversary of the Declaration of War. The planning was left to Lieutenant-Colonel H.R. Alley, the director of the General Centennial Committee, and F.J. Picking, President of the Legion's Ontario Command.

However, the Depression made it difficult for those outside of Toronto to attend. Once the dates were announced to the public, people began to raise funds that would in turn be used to bring out-of-towners in to the city for the big weekend.

As the date of the celebration drew closer, veterans from across the nation made their way to Toronto with the help of a wide variety of means. 75 men from Vancouver rode to Ontario's capital on a train they operated. George Sargent of New Brunswick hitchhiked from the east. In total, the estimated number of veterans stood at 90,000. Some arrived from Australia, while others travelled from France, New Zealand and the US.

The Venerable Archdeacon F.G. Scott of Quebec, known by most as Canon Scott, preached a sermon on the Sunday afternoon from a text he used almost two decades earlier at Valcartier. Scott, chaplain to many Army and Navy veterans, told his audience of 300,000 at Riverdale Park that "men from every walk of life had rushed to the defence of the principles of our common heritage".

It truly was a weekend to remember! One group of men stole a piano, put it on a streetcar, and eventually played it on Yonge Street. In another recollection, an ex-cavalryman tried to get a horse on top of the King Edward Hotel but gave up because the horse wouldn't

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fit into the elevator. It was a weekend that brought veterans back to life.



Reunion Pin 1934



Toronto's Riverdale Park held an estimated 300,000 people for its celebration. The Vimy Monument in the background is actually a painted cardboard replica.

Terry Sleightholm, 2023

