

Fort York rk News

Fort York Branch 165 Royal Canadian Legion



Juno Beach, 6 June 1944

June



2024

Fort York Legion Branch 165
1421 Yonge Street
P.O. Box 69009
Toronto, ON M4T 1Y7

<https://fortyorkbranch165.wildapricot.org/>

Future Events

Sept 11... Dinner, Toronto Hunt

Dec.....Christmas Dinner
(Granite Club)

Newsletter Staff

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Writer..... Capt Larry Rose
Editor..... Ann Unger

All Fort York 165 members should have received a Legion lapel pin. If you need one, please contact us.

If you require a name tag, please contact the secretary and he will arrange to have one made for you. The cost is \$5.00. Indicate whether you prefer a magnet or pin closure.

f.mccague@rogers.com

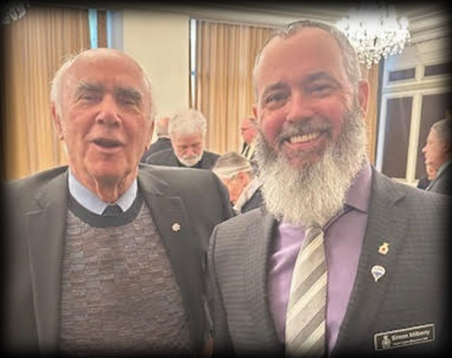
Executive 2024

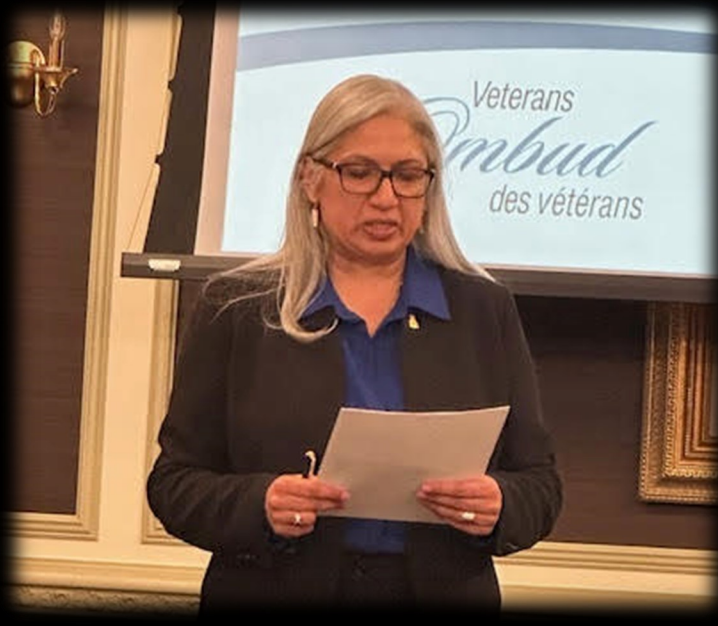
President..... Col Geordie Elms
Immediate Past President Maj George Chabrol
1st Vice President..... Vacant
2nd Vice President..... Bill Utton
Secretary..... Col Fred McCague
f.mccague@rogers.com
Treasurer..... Leonard Feldt
Membership Officer..... Patricia Luna
Events Team..... Malcolm Morrison-Chair
LCdr D. Murakami
Bill Utton
Joyce Lloyd
Simon Milberry
Chaplain..... Maj Gillian Federico
District D, Zone 5 Rep.... LCdr Donna Murakami
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Sergeant-at-Arms..... Barry Downs
Public Relations Officer. Sgt Peter Moon
Remembrancer..... Terry Sleightholm
Branch Services Officer. Cdr Ed Sparling
Sunnybrook Rep..... LCdr D. Murakami
RCMI Liaison..... Susan Cook
Members-at-Large..... Sam Billich
Glenn Carter
Kathryn Langley Hope
Tom Pam



March Dinner Party at RCMI







Fort York Branch No. 165
Royal Canadian Legion

Fort York Branch 165 Dinner

Wednesday 20 March 2024
1800 for 1900



RCMP



1855.....	Guests seated
Welcome.....	President Col Geordie Elms
Grace.....	Maj Gillian Federico
Dinner	
Introduction of Head Table.....	Col Elms
Loyal Toast.....	Maj George Chabriol
Recognition of Past Presidents.....	Col Elms
Introduction speaker Nishika Jardine.....	Col Elms
Closing remarks.....	Col Elms







Our Newest Members 2024



Dianne Love
Stephen Love
Stephen Selznick

Welcome to
Fort York Branch 165

Our Sunnybrook Veterans

On March 2nd, the LFSE unit of Sunnybrook Veterans Centre had a party to celebrate Spring.

Richard Ratcliffe made a surprise presentation of a 100 Club vest to a thrilled Brenda Reid!

The vests are highly coveted by the *Centurions* at Sunnybrook .

Many thanks to the Fort York 165 Legion Branch for their support of this program.



Brenda Reid



Richard Ratcliffe





Spring Fling and 100 Club Presentation!

March 2, 2024

I arrived in Toronto from Florida on February 22nd to visit my mother, Brenda Reid in the Veterans Wing, unit LFSE, of Sunnybrook Hospital. My mother's friend Earl was keen to have a party on LFSE because the Christmas Eve party we had planned was cancelled due to a quarantine. We decided on a party to celebrate spring (and leap year, and the third anniversary of my mother becoming a resident in the Veteran Centre and whatever else anyone wanted to celebrate!).



My mother will turn 100 in August. She has been greatly looking forward to joining the Sunnybrook 100 Club and getting the coveted white vest proudly worn by centurion veterans!

As Mother and I planned for the Spring Fling party on March 2nd, we decided it should also be a party that she had been wanting to give her friends on the floor to celebrate turning 100 in 2024!

She mentioned this to co-host Richard Ratcliffe and Richard came up with a secret plan.

When Richard gave the welcome address to the Spring Fling, with 15 veterans assembled for a beautiful supper, he surprised us all with a presentation of the 100 Club vest to a thrilled Brenda Reid! A memorable evening indeed. Many thanks to Fort York Legion 165 for support of the 100 Club with their donation of vests!

Pamela Reid



"Howard, I think the dog wants to go out."

An off-duty soldier took a train. When the train reached its first stop, a general walked in, and the soldier stood up. The General said, "At ease soldier, sit down." The train reached its second stop, again the soldier stood up, and the General once again said, "At ease soldier, sit down." When the train reached its third stop, again, the soldier stood up. This time, the General looked at him and said, "You don't have to salute every time we reach a stop." The soldier replied, "I want to get off, Sir. I missed my stop 2 stations ago."

Fort York 165 Past Presidents

LCol Alan Cockeram DSO

1894-1957

LCol Cockeram was elected President of Fort York Branch for the year 1945, following distinguished service during the war.

He was a mining executive, military officer and Canadian politician who sat in the House of Commons of Canada in the 1940s. He is well known for having given up his York South seat in order to give Conservative leader Arthur Meighen an opportunity to enter parliament only to see the upstart Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) defeat Meighen in a by-election.

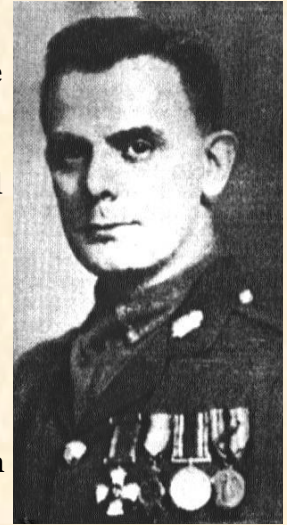
Cockeram was born in Devon, England and emigrated to Canada in 1913, where he found employment with the Canadian Bank of Commerce in Montreal. He later transferred to a bank branch in Brockville, Ontario. When World War I broke out he enlisted as a private in the 21st Battalion of Kingston with which he saw service in France, earned three field commissions, was wounded three times, and awarded the Distinguished Service Order after wiping out a German machine-gun nest. On his return to Canada



he joined the F. M. Connell Mining, Exploration and Development Company. In 1929 he joined the Irish Regiment of Canada, becoming lieutenant colonel and commanding officer of the reserve regiment in 1935. He helped organize the defences in Halifax at the beginning of World War II.

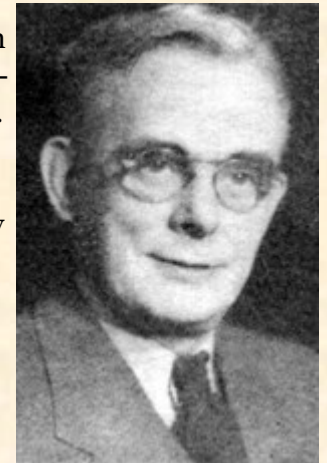
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Cockeram was first elected to the House of Commons in the 1940 federal election as a National Government candidate, which was the banner under which Conservatives were running in that election. He served as parliamentary whip until he rejoined the Irish Regiment, first battalion for active service in World War II as second-in-command, with the rank of major.



Major Cockeram

He resigned from parliament on November 27, 1941, in order to enable newly elected Conservative leader Arthur Meighen to contest York South in a by-election; however, Meighen was defeated in what had been a safe Tory seat by CCF candidate Joseph Noseworthy in an upset victory which gave the socialist party a major breakthrough in Ontario. Cockeram defeated Noseworthy in the 1945 federal election and was defeated by Noseworthy four years later in the 1949 federal election.



Alan Cockeram, MP

Returning to his career in mining, Cockeram served as president of Peruvian Mines and Minerals and of Merchant Mining Ltd.

He died in New York in 1957 while en route to Peru.

“The DSO was established for instances of meritorious or distinguished service in war. It was a military order, until recently for officers only, and typically awarded to officers ranked major (or equivalent) or higher, with awards to ranks below this usually for a high degree of gallantry, just short of deserving the Victoria Cross.”



Annual Garden Party: May 16th



The winner: Richard Ratcliffe!







