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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Do you think Cranbrook should stiffen its fines to force dog owners to pick up after their dogs?

- Yes, there is a dog excrement problem in Cranbrook.
- No, most dog owners are responsible, and such a bylaw is practically unenforceable.

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Home » News » **Local News**

Cranbrook poppy campaign launches



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OCTOBER 19, 2011

ANNALEE GRANT
ANNALEE@DAILYTOWNSMAN.COM

The Cranbrook Legion Branch 24 has kicked off the annual Poppy Campaign in the city, and donation boxes are expected to be set up towards the end of the month.

Right now, Legion volunteers are hitting the streets to solicit donations for wreaths to be placed at the cenotaph on November 11.

Behind the scenes, volunteers are organizing the placement of donation boxes to be distributed to local businesses in the last week of October. Starting Oct. 28, there will be Legion representatives selling poppies throughout town on the weekends. That will be the first day that donors can pick up a poppy. The local Cadets will also be selling poppies at various locations.

Les Radcliffe, poppy chairperson for the Cranbrook Legion, said most of the money raised in Cranbrook stays here, with a bit saved to help out smaller Legion branches across the province.

Last year \$10,000 was donated to the fund for new mammography equipment at the East Kootenay Regional Hospital, and some was contributed to the Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome program to help returning veterans.

Radcliffe said that new veterans who have served in Afghanistan need support just like those returning from previous wars.

"They have the same needs for integrating back to civilian life as those in the Great Wars," Radcliffe said. "Our poppy funds are more than willing to be spent on new veterans."

That means that in 2011, the Legion has not lost its importance in the community of Cranbrook, with a new crop of Canadian soldiers reintegrating into society after tours in the Middle East.

"We are trying to update ourselves to reflect the modern day age," Radcliffe said.

The Legion has hosted events to welcome back newer veterans and continues to engage them in any way they can.

"We're there if they need our help," Radcliffe said.

The money also goes towards bursaries for students and support for the local Cadet branches. At the end of the campaign year, which just passed on September 30, 25 per cent of the fund goes to a blanket poppy fund in Vancouver to help out Legion branches in smaller towns that can't raise the funds as they need. Radcliffe estimates the amount to be around \$1,000 each year. Finally, funds are given out to veterans who find themselves in emergency situations and need a little help.

On November 11 at the cenotaph, located in Rotary Park in downtown Cranbrook, the annual Remembrance Day ceremony will be held. Once again, the Legion will be involved in the proceedings. Radcliffe said that at

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- Veterans Garden unveiled downtown
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- Legion Zone Convention
- Cranbrook photographer recognized with ultimate Legion award
- Local Legion charges into the new year
- Vote for Cadets program
- Longtime Cranbrook resident Jim Scanland passes away
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9 a.m. that morning, the poppy office, located on 12th Ave, across from the old fire hall, will open its doors to the public to come and pick up a previously-purchased wreath, or to buy one to lay at the cenotaph.

The Legion's location at 803 Cranbrook Street N will be open to members of the Remembrance Day parade and veterans starting at 1 p.m. on the day of the ceremony, and will open to the public at 2 p.m. for a day of remembrance.



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