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WESTMEATH & DISTRICT  
RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Welcome

**DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER**

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For Newsletter inquiries:  
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to the Community – the Tremblay's Maggie Tremblay and her daughter Julie, best of friends, moved to Westmeath recently from Kanata. They chose Westmeath, not only to be closer to family but because of familiarity of rural roots at one time.

They were also attracted to the scenery of this area, especially a view of the Ottawa River from their home. Possibly, there will be some fishing in the river someday. The property has a long back yard, ideal for their dogs, Willie and Judy. Now, much closer to provincial parks is a bonus. Camping is in their DNA.

Maggie was involved with darts previously and is anxious to see a league begin in the Community Hall. Julie played fastball in Kanata and will resume it once COVID has ended. They have met many of their neighbours already, fantastic neighbours as they describe them. One of them, Dave, recognized Julie from a softball game he was umpiring in the Ottawa area.

On a positive note, Julie wants to volunteer in the community, once she has settled in.

**3rd ANNUAL  
Tree Lighting  
IN  
Westmeath!**

DEC. 12  
6:30 pm  
Ball diamond

We'll honk our horns  
for Christmas...

ENJOY A  
BEVERAGE AND  
COOKIES

BRING AN ORNAMENT YOU  
CAN HANG ON THE TREE.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND PAPER GAMES

(REMEMBER YOUR MASK AND  
SOCIAL DISTANCING)

- Parking along the fences or on the ball field itself is recommended
- All must wear a mask and do social distancing
- Hot chocolate and cookies can be served at the cars, prepared by the WDRA committee
- Bring a Christmas bulb to add to the decorated tree
- Items for the Food Bank will be collected and distributed by 4-H'ers
- About 6 volunteers needed to help



## THE HOUSE THAT WAS

It happens that this story is about a house that could see every day from my living room window that faced north.

This house had some special significance in the past. It had sold recently. One day it completely disappeared. An excavator came and demolished it. The remains were trucked away and at the moment it is an empty lot.

According to locals this same house had been Marleau's Shoe Repair. In 1926 it was bought by Richard (Dick) du Manoir who was married to Maggie Deschamps. Dick's father living in France had the title of Count du Manoir Juaye du Manoir. On the death of his father in 1929, Dick and Maggie inherited the title of the Count and Countess Du Manoir. Instead of resuming a life of privilege in France, they decided to stay in Westmeath. Dick had built a small store beside his house which sold paint and hardware. Dick had talents not only as the village's decorator but a pianist as well. He died at the age of 73. Afterwards the paint store was demolished.

*For a full account of the du Memoirs, go to [hwtproject.ca](http://hwtproject.ca)*

Prior to the advent of automobiles, the busy downtown, the lower side of the bridge running through the center of it, was the hub of businesses and activity.

As well as Marleau's Shoe Repair, the was Kilgore's Harness Shop, Carlson's Tailor Shop, Conroy's Butcher Shop, Cecile's Hotel and Reid's General Store, as well as a couple of Blacksmith business's. Dr. ET Woods, well known for custom medicines, had an office on the other side of the bridge.

Conroy's Store later became Kenny's Store, Brian and June Kenny resided in in the house beside it, formerly Cecile's Hotel.

At this time there was continuation school or high school at the Westmeath Public School. Some of the high school girls saved tobacco from cigarette butts until they enough to get out of sight below the bridge and enjoy a smoke..

## Electronic Version of Newsletter

If you are interested in receiving the WDRA newsletter electronically please send a message to [wdranewsletter@nrtco.net](mailto:wdranewsletter@nrtco.net)

## DARTS

The WDRA is still investigating the possibility of a dart league and are looking for dart boards that people may wish to donate and or wood supplies to build a stand for each of the dart boards. If anyone is available to help please contact Beth at 613-587-4294 or send an email to [wdra@nrtco.net](mailto:wdra@nrtco.net).



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PARADE HAS BEEN CANCELLED  
THIS YEAR!**



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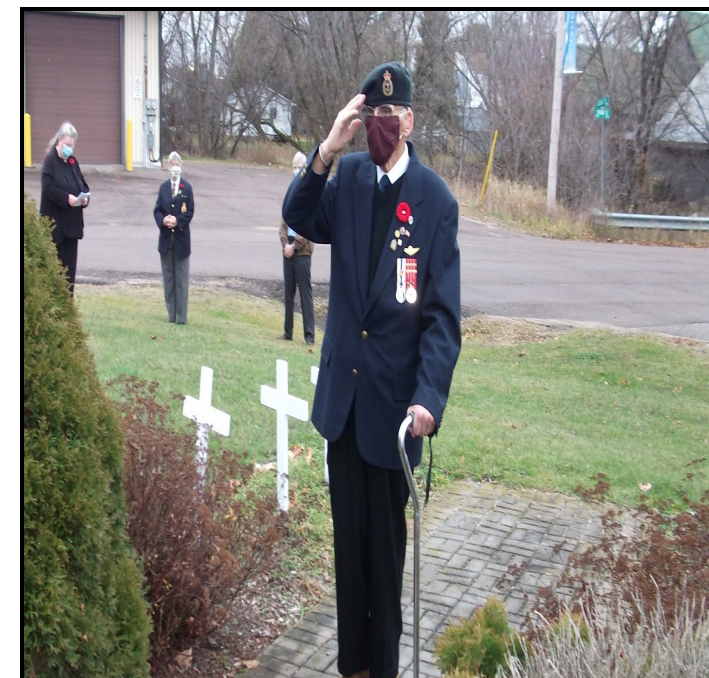
## Westmeath Cenotaph – “Lest they be Forgotten”

Remembrance Day is that special day which honours the deceased soldiers of the World Wars, as well as a tribute to our armed forces. It is celebrated on November 11<sup>th</sup> - also known as Armistice Day.

We are forever indebted to these souls and take oath to stand by their courageous acts forever. At the Westmeath Cenotaph, Remembrance Day wasn't forgotten despite Covid-19. Art Plume for the Federal Retirees, Paul Stewart for the Riverview Social Club, Bob Grylls for the Westmeath & District Recreation Association and Ardell Thomas for the Elim Pentecostal Church laid wreaths. Paster Anita conducted the service and said prayers.

It was a somber and unusual event this year without the whole community in attendance. It was also unusual for the balmy weather. For the first time in recent memory, it wasn't bitterly cold.

Though they don't live to tell their story, their story will be told over and over to let generations know of their bravery.



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