



Photo by Noah Park

Dave Dishart, a member of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment, salutes during a Remembrance Day ceremony at Fraser Park Cenotaph in Trenton. For more stories and photos on this special day, see pages 2 and 3.

Gathering to remember

By Lori Christmas

Like every town and city across the nation this Remembrance Day, the people of Trenton gathered around the Fraser Park Cenotaph on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month to pay their respects to those affected by war.

As the wind blew in the cold, the ceremony commenced with a parade of veterans, the colour party carrying flags, and cadets, all in uniform and all wearing bright red poppies. Over a thousand spectators watched from the side in utter silence.

The crowd was asked to rise and to remove their hats for the playing of the

national anthem. As *O Canada* played, veterans, soldiers and cadets saluted.

With the flags at half-mast and the sun shining brightly, Comrade Murray McClafferty, the master of ceremonies, addressed the crowd.

"On this solemn day, we gather together to pay tribute to a group of men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice of dying for their country," McClafferty said.

He addressed all those who have risked their lives for Canada, including those who fought in the First World War to those still serving today.

McClafferty said he believes the reason Remembrance Day is so important is because our lives are safe and free and

those who have kept it that way should be honoured.

"Many have given their lives so we may enjoy freedom today," McClafferty said.

McClafferty then called on the president of the Trenton Legion, Manny Raspberry, for a welcoming address.

Raspberry said of those who have fought for Canada, "This is a moment to honour their memory and strengthen our resolve as a nation, as individuals, to live up to the ideals that they fought and died for."

McClafferty then introduced Padre Jim Craig who preached to the crowd with a scripture lesson, Remembrance Day message and The Lord's Prayer.

Craig's message was that we should rely on God and allow him to guide us.

"O Lord, guide us in the way of moral responsibility, the true masters of brotherly love. O Lord, guide us in the way, in your way, and enlighten us, who are true believers in ethics and justice. Let this be a day of commemoration and honour to those who sacrificed their lives in order to give us liberty and our nation security," Craig said.

The poem *In Flanders Fields* was read by Sergeant Layton followed by a bugler playing *The Last Post*. As *The Last Post* played, the veterans, soldiers, and cadets again saluted.

Silence followed for two minutes while those attending remembered the hardships of war.

Following the moment of silence

was the laying of wreaths traditionally done to honour the fallen. Representatives from the Government of Canada, 8 Wing CFB Trenton, RAF Bomber Command, Veterans of Afghanistan and the Quinte West OPP were just a few of the many organizations to lay wreaths at the cenotaph.

The march of the parade of veterans and cadets left the cenotaph proudly and gathered in the Branch 110 Legion. The cadets standing guard at the cenotaph were from the 173 Royal Tiger Squadron and held post for their 24 hour vigilance.

The crowd was then invited to lay their poppies on the wreaths surrounding the cenotaph.

Veteran recalls his life as an Air Force pilot

By Hayden Morgan

"It was in late September, 1943. I signed up for the Air Force because I had heard some of the horror stories coming out of the army from the first world war, but I was excited to go to war and serve my country."

Lancaster bomber tail-gunner and flight Sgt. Don McTaggart, 92, from Kingston, Ont., is the last surviving member of RCAF Unit 4019. After dropping out of school at Grade 10, McTaggart worked odd jobs; a couple years at the local grocery store and a couple more at the post office.

"My father had originally agreed to letting me sign up earlier but changed his mind because he didn't think the war would last that long."

After a year of base, field and flight training at multiple stations all over Canada, McTaggart flew out for Greenock, Scotland from St. George County, Ont. in June, 1944.

"We were late getting to active squadron because we lost our first pilot who was the navigator. So we had to go back to another station and get crewed up with another navigator so that held us up for some time."

"We had three bombing operations: Remen, Schwandorf and the last one was probably the one I remember most. It was on Longrou Island."

"We had about 400 Halifax and Lancaster bombers. This was the last major operation for the Canadian group and operation No. 84 for our Canadian built Lancaster. Our Lancaster had the record for most operations out of all Canadian Halifax and Lancaster bombers," McTaggart recalled.

"We flew in what's called a 'gaggle formation,' where all planes are in a big group or small clusters. When you fly in a diamond or triangle formation, it cuts



Photo by Hayden Morgan

Flight Sgt. Don McTaggart, reminisces about days long past and yet so present a day before Remembrance Day.

down on wind resistance. We were approaching target but the sub streams were getting pretty hard to contend with so some of the pilots had a hard time holding it straight and level.

"Just before target, I can see from my tail-gunner position on the starboard side two Halifax bombers collide and go down in the North Sea. Then maybe, 15-20 minutes later on the port side, two more Lancasters collided again."

"This time each colliding with another plane as they went down. They completely disintegrated on impact with the water. That made six we lost to turbulence in half an hour before reaching target."

McTaggart was discharged in northern England in September, 1945, precisely two years after joining the Air Force in Kingston, Ont. After one year in training and one on bombing operations, McTaggart was happy to be flying home, first to Newfoundland then on to home in Ontario. Fewer than 20 percent of the Halifax and Lancaster pilots or gunners are still alive today, with currently only two planes still functioning in the world: one at Mt. Hope Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum and the other at the Britain Memorial in Coningsby, Lincolnshire.

For Remembrance Day, McTaggart donned a simple vest with medals and beret for the ceremony at the Belleville Cenotaph on Station Street. Although being the only member left of his unit, he was not alone as the turnout was veterans, both young and old, as well as cadets, families and even daycare and elementary school classes, all paying their respects to soldiers both lost and still with us.

"I feel a great honour and respect for our troops both alive and lost when I see how much support our citizens show every year."

A cadet, illuminated by a spotlight, stands guard at Trenton cenotaph on Remembrance Day eve.

Photo by Curtis O'Connor



It was a beautiful Remembrance Day celebration at Old City Hall in Toronto. Members from the Canadian Forces came out to show respect and gratitude to fallen soldiers.

Photo by Liam Smyth



(Above) A member of the RCAF salutes the Canadian flag as it is lowered to half mast. The flag is lowered in remembrance for those that sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the country. Remembrance Day was celebrated at Belleville's cenotaph.

Photo by Emily Kertcher

Cadets from 704 Air Force City and 173 Royal Tiger Air Cadet Squadron exchange their posts at the cenotaph during the Remembrance Day ceremony in Fraser Park in Trenton. They started guarding the night before. Several hundred people arrived early for the service and surrounded the park in downtown Trenton.

Photo by Beatrice Serdon





Bob Mitchell, 94, hugs his great-grandson at the Remembrance Day commemoration in Belleville. Mitchell, a Second World War navy vet, attended the ceremony with his wife, granddaughter and great-grandsons.

Photo by Vivian Tabar



(Above) Dianne King, along with all those gathered at the cenotaph in Fraiser park, repeat the words, "lest we forget," as a young member of the cadets reads the poem, In Flanders Fields in honour of Remembrance Day.

Photo by Taylor Bertelink



(Right) Mike Ranta was the first person to solo canoe across Canada in one season. His motivation: veterans. He collected sticks and twigs from across Canada and made a wreath that he placed on the war memorial in Ottawa on Nov. 11.

Photo by Martine Foubert



(Above) Bob Blake, a member of the Air Force Association, stands next to the cenotaph at Belleville's Remembrance Day commemoration. Hundreds attended the ceremony paying respect to Canada's veterans.

Photo by Vivian Tabar

(Right) Hundreds of people came to the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Old City Hall, Toronto, to pay their respects to war veterans and present military personnel.

Photo by Aman Parhar





(Above, top) Diane King of the Trenton Legion gets emotional during a Remembrance Day ceremony in Trenton.
Photo by Noah Park

(Left) A veteran leads the colour party carrying flags the Remembrance ceremony at Fraser Park in Trenton.
Photo by Lori Christmas

(Right) Corporal Selby licks his nose during the Remembrance Day ceremony in Trenton. He is part of the 173 Royal Tiger Air Cadet Squadron.
Photo by Beatrice Serdon

Who to remember on Remembrance Day

By Assad Sharifi

Every year on November 11, Canadians, young and old, gather around a cenotaph to remember those who have lost their lives, suffered anguish, traumas and pain in times of war. But Remembrance Day is not only about those in military uniform. In every war, there is more of the civilian population that suffers, both physically and mentally, than the military.

While it is true that soldiers are usually entrenched in battlefields, fighting wars, keeping peace and protecting Canada, the families they leave behind suffer equal anguish. They live in constant fear that some bad news might knock on their door at any moment.

There are those mothers who, year after year, stand silently and thoughtfully, while bright tears, like summer raindrops, twinkle on their mournful faces. They have lost their sons or daughters in service of their country.

Kathy Bulger is one of those mothers who carries a Silver Cross that dangles above her heart, like a twinkling morningstar. She lost her son, Nick Bulger on July 3, 2009 in Zhari District of Kandahar Afghanistan.

Every Nov. 11, Kathy joins hundreds of Canadians around a cenotaph to remember their fallen heroes. But few know the unspeakable pain of losing a son on the battlefield.

Mama Bulger, as she is amicably called around the Township of Selwyn, near Peterborough, is a proud mother. Throughout the entire Remembrance Day ceremony, she stands

silently, while the fountain of her eyes swells and a stream of hot tears embraces the cold November breeze on her sad face.

"I am very proud of my son. He was a great father, an excellent older brother and a fantastic son," she says, with a knot of grief in her throat.

But there is one part of her son that even she doesn't know. Nick was a great soldier and an excellent friend. He was funny, youthful, loyal and hardworking. To the enemy, he had heart of lion, but to the children, he was as compassionate as a father.

He loved the malnourished, dehydrated and hopeless children of Kandahar countryside. It was his dream to one day return as a civilian, open a school and educate those poor Kandahari children. Whenever he saw the village boys running after the convoy during patrols in the villages, his frustrated voice would echo on the radio, "Why are they not in school?"

In Canada, Nick has touched so many hearts and communities, that he is remembered from coast to coast. Summerside, P.E.I., the Township of Selwyn in Ontario, Peterborough, Edmonton, Toronto and British Columbia, all remember Nick.

Kathy keeps her son's legacy alive by travelling from Summerside to Selwyn to participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies.

Every year, the township people welcome Mama Bulger back with open arms to celebrate Nick's life together. Nick is as much their hero as he is hers. The community of Selwyn is replete with Nick's photos and placards.



Photo by Assad Sharifi

Kathy Bulger (right) and Maryam Monsef, minister of democratic institutions and president of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, shares a warm moment during a pre-Remembrance Day ceremony.

Now that Remembrance Day is over, where peace awaits her, and next year, Watching her is watching history in action.
Kathy will return to Summerside, she will make the same journey again.



A young boy proudly holds his poster at a protest earlier this month at Queen's Park in Toronto. He was among hundreds who gathered to rally against the Dakota Access Pipeline. The Toronto rally helped to bring attention to those protesting on the front lines at Standing Rock in North Dakota.

Standing with Standing Rock

Photos and story by Vanessa Tignanelli

Thousands of people screamed "Water is life!" from Queen's Park in Toronto earlier this month in protest of the Dakota Access Pipeline, a proposed oil pipeline that will cross the Missouri River and destroy sacred indigenous burial grounds near Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota.

The front lines of the Standing Rock protest have become treacherous, with peaceful protestors being controlled by a strong military presence using pepper spray and attack dogs.

In Toronto, both non-indigenous and indigenous people stood in solidarity for those holding their ground at Standing Rock, as well as to voice their concerns for the state of clean drinking water worldwide.

Their march down University Avenue to Nathan Phillips Square ended with a powerful traditional round dance, all hand-in-hand and moving to the beat of the drums in the traditional prayer for what water provides.



Hundreds of peaceful protestors marched down University Avenue to Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto, bringing public awareness to the plans for the Dakota Access Pipeline to cross sacred indigenous grounds and add more risk to the planet's drinking water crisis.

Tyendinaga Reserve Unity Camp supports brethren

Story and photo by Agnes Finkle

The Unity Camp on Tyendinaga Reserve at Shannonville is one of many solidarity camps to spring up across North America in support of the Sioux Tribe in Standing Rock, North Dakota.

The Oceti Sakowin Unity Camp Tyendinaga is an extension of the Oceti Sakowin Unity Camp, an environmental conservation organization and non-governmental agency in Cannon Ball, North Dakota. It was created because of the treatment the Sioux and other tribes have received there over the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Protestors say the pipeline will deprive the Sioux of clean land near their reserve and broken pipelines could lead to contamination of the water supply in Lake Michigan. The Great Lakes are connected to Lake Michigan and 60 per cent of North America's water comes from here. There have been many similar accidents already.

As many as 200 tribes have joined the fight to prevent the almost 3,000 kilometre Dakota Access Pipeline from continuing near the Sioux Reserve.

This has been declared a non-violent protest by all tribes involved. Instead of being labelled "protesters" people are declaring themselves as "water protectors" and that "Water Is Life."

Unarmed demonstrators, including women and children, at Standing Rock have been assaulted, maced and attacked by dogs. The video records of this treatment posted online have brought support from all across North America and as far away as Japan.



The Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory Unity Camp protestors straddle the yellow lines on Highway 2 and Shannonville Road handing out flyers in support of the Standing Rock North Dakota's fight to prevent the Dakota Access Pipeline near the Sioux reservation there. The flyers were handed out on Nov. 16.

Now the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory is joining the fight in Ontario.

Volunteers in Tyendinaga handed out almost 1,000 pamphlets to show solidarity with Standing Rock yesterday to drivers on Hwy. 2 and Shannonville Road and

to increase awareness of the situation.

"Everything we're doing here is not really for us or the community - we're doing this for everyone. This isn't just an aboriginal problem because once something happens to either the water, or the

food source, the second the ground gets saturated with oil and poison -- everyone's gone," said Henri "True" Maracle, one of the many volunteers at the site.

The Oceti Sakowin Unity Camp Tyendinaga Facebook group has been started

to track progress in Shannonville and seek donations.

The Unity Camp is operating 24 hours and the fire is being kept lit. It is considered sacred ground, a place to discuss issues and where all are welcome.