

# Our Legacy: We Will

**R**emember the remembered  
Never forget the forgotten,  
And live for those who are dead.

Be brave like those before us,  
Smart enough for those behind us;  
Someday you too may die for those  
beside or behind you.

If you remember the remembered  
Their memory will never fail,  
And their legacy will march on forwards.

But by forgetting the forgotten,  
You'll never hear their untold stories;  
Their stories are simple whispers,  
heard only on the wind.

If you live for those who are dead,  
You shall always honour their sacrifice.  
Your freedom was founded through  
the cost of their sacrifice.

You took this torch, now hold it high.  
Though you may stumble on your journey,  
Please never let this torch fall.

Remember the remembered  
Never forget the forgotten  
Live for those who are dead,  
Your freedom was not free.

– Taken from Veterans Affairs Canada, Canada Remembers Division web site. Poem was written by Lee MacPherson; one of the young people who made the 90th Anniversary of the Somme and Beaumont-Hamel Remembrance journey this summer. For more on this initiative, visit: [www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers).

## We Will Remember – Part II

As reported in the November 2005 *Leader Magazine*, 2005 was designated the Year of the Veteran by the Canadian government. Scouts Canada members were given 150,000 Thank You crests and cards to present to veterans, members of the armed forces and peacekeeping units. It was our way of saying thanks – for our lives and for their sacrifices. It was a resounding success, bringing youth and veterans closer together to share their stories and memories. The following stories and pictures are just a few of the memorable interactions, providing a touching closure to this remarkable year.



Photo: Brian Tremblert

**A proud veteran explains what all his medals mean to a fascinated Cub from 1st United Pack, Gander, Newfoundland.**



**Mary Thompson, a WWII veteran with the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service, shakes hands with Venturer Cassie Tracy.**

Photo: Craig Pengelly



Photo: Manitoba Council

## Women Veterans Honoured

Fourteen ex-servicewomen attended the 1st Laityview Scout meeting in Fraser Valley Area, BC where they were each presented with their Thank You card and crest. Many of the women shared their experiences as servicewomen, relating many of their memories of the time they served our country. The women were extremely honoured by this presentation as they believed it was the first of its kind in Canada (an all-woman presentation). The youth enjoyed spending more time getting to know the ladies.

– Maureen Pengelly, Group Commissioner for 1st Laityview Scout Group, BC.

# I Remember – Part II

compiled by Susan Muehlherr



Photo: Marian Morrison

Cub Jacob Tuitoti presented veteran Joe McIsaac his crest. Mr. McIsaac had been a former Cub leader with the 1st Vedder group years ago.



Photo: Bryan Mireau

Veteran Mike Yakabowich was surprised...



Photo: Layla Wheatley

Veterans and youth pose together at the conclusion of their successful “youth-run” evening.



Photo: Bryan Mireau

... and pleased to accept his crest from Scout Jeremy.

## Fraser Cheam (BC) Area Scouting Youth Honour Veterans

Throughout the year, the youth in Fraser Cheam Area presented Thank You crests and cards to veterans in nursing hospitals, at their homes and during special events. They met veterans who had served as Flight Wing Commanders, Medic Core, Armoured Core, Military Police and the Engineer Core. Venturer Kyle Firkus even met 100-year-old veteran Mr. Bobyn.  
– *Marian Morrison, Group Secretary, Fraser Cheam Area, BC.*

## In A Youthful Way

When the 5<sup>th</sup> Kelowna Scout Troop (BC) decided to honour veterans in their area, they organized the entire event themselves. In order to make the evening more special, they gathered information such as the veteran’s previous title, where the veteran had

served and when. Michael Edis, patrol leader, acted as Master of Ceremonies, while other Scouts gave speeches, played music and showed pictures. Each Scout repeated what they had learned during their phone interviews with the veterans; then presented the Thank You crest and card. Parents were beaming with pride seeing the bonds created across decades – there was no generation gap here.  
– *Nadine Edis, parent, Kelowna, BC.*

## A Day in May

Uniforms of all types, Army, Navy, Air Force and Scouting dotted the park one day last May as young and old met and mingled. Scouting youth presented the crests and cards as the veterans gathered to exchange memories and meet old friends.  
– *Scouter Benjamin Eng, Area Training Coordinator, Regina, SK.*

## A Surprise for Our Veterans

Zion 8<sup>th</sup> Yorkton Scouts (SK) were quite busy last year visiting veterans’ homes, retirement homes and the Royal Canadian Legion in an effort to present the Thank You crests and cards to all the veterans in the city. At one such retirement home, while they were having their dinner, veterans were surprised by a visit from Scouts. Once they heard the Scouts’ speech of thanks, they were pleased to share their stories with the youth. Over 120 crests were presented.  
– *Scouter Bryan Mireau, Zion 8<sup>th</sup> Yorkton Scout Troop, SK.*

## By Special Invitation

By invitation of Veterans Affairs and the Royal Canadian Legion, Scouting groups in Manitoba Council were invited to join in a commemorative ceremony marking the 88<sup>th</sup> Anniver-



Photo: Jerry Crawford



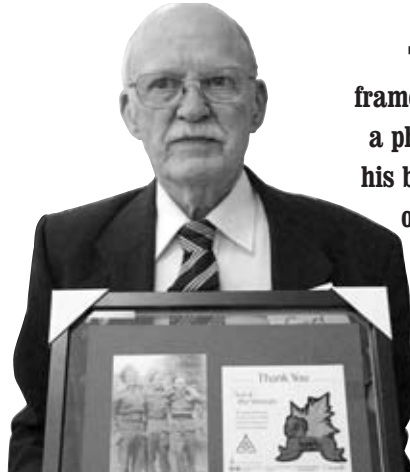
Veterans and MedVents in Toronto shared a turkey supper and stories at this special luncheon in their honour.

### Campfire Fun in Quebec



Photo: Scouter Joanne Stapleton

Outfitted with campfire blankets, veterans joined into the special Scouting spirit with the 60<sup>th</sup> Charleswood Legion Scout Group.



This proud veteran framed the crest beside a photo of himself and his brother in Germany on V-E Day in 1945.

Photo: Kim King



A busy Beaver takes time out to visit with a veteran during Remembrance Day ceremonies in Ottawa.

Photo: Derrick Batten

Posing with their special cake, the 1<sup>st</sup> Ketepec Troop prepares to distribute crests and cake to veterans.

Photo: Telegraph Journal, Saint John, NB



Medals proudly displayed, veterans gratefully receive their Thank You crests from members of Regina Scouting.

Photo: Benjamin Eng

sary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. During the ceremony, the 30+ youth presented the Thank You crests to the veterans in attendance. It was a moving moment for veterans and Scouts alike. – Bill Somers, Manitoba Council Commissioner.

### Toronto Med-Vents Recognize Veterans

Veterans who had served in the Canadian and British Armed Forces were invited to a special Toronto Emergency Services Pioneers luncheon last December. MedVents circulated throughout the room after the opening ceremony, shaking hands and presenting the special Thank You

crests and cards to the veterans. Everyone then enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner, while sharing war stories and memories.

– Scouter Jerry Crawford, 1<sup>st</sup> Downsview (ON) Medical Venturers.

### Nice To Be Remembered

On a cold winter day, 1<sup>st</sup> Port Perry and 1<sup>st</sup> Cartwright Scouting groups (ON) hosted a reception for 41 veterans and their family members. Scouts and Venturers greeted guests at the door and directed them to a guest book. Once everyone was settled, all the sections of Scouting provided the entertainment. The veterans brought their medals, pictures, memorabilia

and lots of stories to share. One veteran said that it was nice to be remembered in such a special way. The interaction between the youth and veterans was very special to see.

– Ellen Greenough, 1<sup>st</sup> Port Perry Scouts, ON.

### Campfire Fun in Quebec

Last November, the 60<sup>th</sup> Charleswood Legion Scout Group (all sections) provided entertainment to veterans (representing World War II to current UN/NATO experiences), in true Scouting fashion. Some of our guests were former Scouts and/or Scouters and brought along their campfire blankets.

What a boost it was to the youth when our guests joined in and did all the silly actions and sang along. Rainbow slowed things down with a Scouter's Five reflecting on what defines a veteran, and how Scouting and veterans are connected, since our Founder, Lord Robert Stephenson Smythe Baden-Powell, was a British Army veteran and hero of the Boer War. Once the campfire was officially closed, the youth were then set loose with the Thank You crests and words of thanks. Many of the active service veterans said "Thank You" back with Year of the Veteran pins. Imagine that ... an impromptu trading session!

With the veterans bringing out their campfire blankets, it really sent a message that the men and women who have served our country, whether they have paid the ultimate sacrifice or not, are real people who had lives before military service.

– Scouter Joanne Stapleton, 60<sup>th</sup> Charleswood Legion Scout Group, QC.

### Remembrance Day Train

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, the Remembrance Day Train, carrying over 200 veterans, was scheduled to stop at Amherst, NS. Scouting youth from 1st Fenwick, 2<sup>nd</sup> Amherst, 4<sup>th</sup> Amherst and 1<sup>st</sup> Cumberland Hills gathered at the train station to pay their respects. They had the crest scanned and made into a huge banner to welcome the veterans. Those veterans who were getting on the train received Thank You crests and cards from the youth, then everyone cheered as the train pulled out of the station.

– Scouter Tom Somers, 1<sup>st</sup> Fenwick Group, Amherst, NS.

### A Special Opportunity

When Beaver Isaac found out that his family was travelling from Newfoundland to Ottawa for the Remembrance Day services, he came prepared to distribute crests to every veteran he saw. The veterans were touched to receive their crests and Isaac was proud to give them out.

– Derrick Batten, parent of Beaver Isaac, from the Mary Queen of Peace Colony, St. John's, NL.

### Wonderful Memories

There aren't enough pages in the *Leader Magazine* to post all the activities that each and every Scouting group across Canada did to say thanks to our veterans during the 2005 Year of the Veteran. Each of the presentations was special in some way and unique to the youth performing them. Thanks to all the Scouters who helped make this so memorable to our veterans — forging a bond between young and old — ensuring that **We Will Remember** for all time. X



Photo: Tom Linnhan

**As veterans travelled to Ottawa on the Remembrance Day Train, they were welcomed by this large Scouting group at the Amherst train station.**

## A Soldier's Watch

'Twas the night before  
Christmas, he lived all alone,  
In a one bedroom house  
made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the  
chimney with presents to  
give,

And to see just who in this  
home did live.

I looked all about, a strange  
sight did I see,

No tinsel, no presents, not  
even a tree.

No stocking hung by the  
mantle, just boots filled with  
sand,

On the wall hung pictures  
from faraway lands.

With medals and badges,  
awards of all kinds,

A sober thought came  
through my mind.

For this house was different,  
it was dark and dreary,

I had found the home of  
a soldier, once I could

see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping,  
silent, alone,

Curled up on the floor in  
this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle, the  
room in such disorder,

Not how I pictured a  
Canadian soldier.

Was this the hero of whom  
I'd just read?

Curled up on a poncho,  
the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that  
I saw this night,

Owed their lives to these  
soldiers who were willing  
to fight.

Soon round the world,  
the children would play,

And grownups would  
celebrate a bright

Christmas Day.

They all enjoyed freedom  
each month of the year,

Because of the soldiers like  
the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how  
many lay alone,

On a cold Christmas Eve in  
a land far from home.

The very thought brought  
a tear to my eye,

I dropped to my knees  
and started to cry.

The soldier awakened and  
I heard a rough voice,

"Santa don't cry, this life  
is my choice.

I fight for freedom, I don't  
ask for more,

My life is my God, my  
Country, my Corps."

The soldier rolled over  
and drifted to sleep,

I couldn't control it, I  
continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours,  
so silent and still

And we both shivered from  
the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave on  
that cold, dark night,

This guardian of honour  
so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over,  
with a voice soft and pure,

Whispered, "Carry on Santa,  
It's Christmas Day,

all is secure."

One look at my watch,  
and I knew he was right.

"Merry Christmas my friend,  
and to all Good Night.

– This poem was written  
by a peacekeeping soldier  
stationed overseas and  
posted on the internet to  
share with others, with this  
request. Please stop and  
think of those Canadian  
servicemen and women;  
think of our heroes, living  
and dead, who sacrificed  
themselves for us.