



Ways to Remember

Scouting honours our armed forces and veterans throughout the year, but particularly when we participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies. Here are just a few ways that individual Scouting groups creatively remember those who serve.

A Remembrance Tree and More

BY LINDA BOUCHIR

Scouting has been sponsored by St. Andrew's United Church in Mission, BC for at least 40 years. Every year we decorate the sanctuary for Remembrance Day services.

One year we had the youth paint white wooden crosses, then glued one poppy and one Canadian flag on each of the crosses, which we placed in the sanctuary.

Another time, we traced our handprints (leader prints included) on red paper, then cut them out and made poppies using the handprints. After painting a wooden circle green, we glued the poppies onto it, making a wonderful wreath.

Last year, we divided the youth into small groups. Each group was given a sentence to

print/write, from "In Flanders Fields". Making no corrections for spelling or grammar, we then pasted the sentences in order on a flip chart and placed it in the entrance to greet the congregation.

This year I have cut down a small alder tree and will place it in some plaster of paris in a container. Each Cub will trace and cut out a red maple leaf. On the back of the maple leaf each youth will write his/her name with the phrase, "I remember." We will hang the leaves on the tree. Then we will hot glue Canadian flags on the branches as well and place it in the sanctuary. We traditionally take the youth into the sanctuary so they can place the items.

Hope I have provided some ideas for making Remembrance Day special for the youth and their community.

— *Linda Bouchir, 4th Mission Cubs, British Columbia.*

Highway of Heroes

BY DENIS BRASSARD

When the Highway of Heroes (Hwy 401 from Trenton to Toronto, Ontario) was established, the 32nd Oshawa Scouts decided that we would pay homage to our fallen soldiers by attending this new tradition. Every time a soldier is killed on a mission, crowds of people go to the bridges to pay homage. Over the holidays, we gathered to pay our respects to a fallen soldier.

We were the first to arrive, but within 30 minutes 15 - 20 people gathered on the bridge. We could see more on the other bridges as well. While waiting, we were being honked at and waved to by the drivers on Highway 401. We found ourselves overwhelmed with pride; proud to be representing the 32nd Oshawa

Scouts, but above all, proud to be Canadians. Even though it was very cold, we waited for about an hour before we saw the funeral procession driving along the highway. The cold became irrelevant; we were there to pay our respects.

During the wait, we talked about how special it was for our little Francophone troop to not only honour this fallen French Canadian Soldier, but all soldiers who fall serving our country. Much like the military, Scouting doesn't have any boundaries. Once you're a Scout, always a Scout! Scout Toujours!

The same goes for the military; once a soldier, always a soldier. They have chosen to serve and have made the ultimate sacrifice for us, therefore it is our solemn duty to honour and remember them.

— *Denis Brassard, Group Committee Treasurer, 32nd Oshawa Scouts, Ontario.*



Photo: Bryan Bouchir



Photos: Denis Brassard



Photo: Arlene Frank

BY DARRIN DROUILLARD

During the Royal Canadian Legion, Hudson, Quebec Branch's annual Remembrance Day Parade and Ceremony last November, the 1st St. Lazare Scout Group was asked to participate (as they do every year). One Beaver, Cub and Scout laid the wreath at the cenotaph on behalf of the St. Lazare Scouts.

At the previous week's meeting, the Beavers had each made a Thank You card that

read, "Thank You for my freedom and for helping serve our country." After the ceremony, inside the Legion hall, two Beavers distributed these "Thank You" Cards to the veterans that were in attendance.

The veterans were extremely happy to receive the cards from the youth. One of them promised to visit the Beavers the following week to talk about Remembrance Day.

We feel that it is important to remember the sacrifices made by our brave veterans, and to honour those who continue to serve in our armed forces. As one of the veterans said, "We're not here to glorify war, but to ensure that it doesn't happen again."

— Darrin Drouillard, "Chopper", 1st St. Lazare Beavers, Hudson, Quebec.

They are the Future

BY DANYELL HALL

As a leader, have you ever had that light bulb go on in your head, thinking what a great idea you have had! Then as you are about to execute the plan you have major second thoughts? Well, that was me. My bright idea? Why not help the youth to "remember" and honour fallen soldiers by visiting a war memorial cemetery in Italy?

In August of 2007, we took six boys ranging in ages 12 - 18 on an eight hour train ride from Kandersteg, Switzerland to Ravenna, Italy. We had just spent 1.5 weeks living out

of tents at Switzerland's International Jamboree and now we were about to tour Italy.

Hiring taxis, we set out to find the Commonwealth cemetery. Complaints started to drift from the back seats, "I'm tired", "I'm hungry", "Do we have to?" My second thoughts were now kicking in! What was I thinking?

As we pulled in to the War Memorial Cemetery, I took a deep breath thinking, "This is important for them to do. Will they actually remember this in years to come?"

First we walked up a long corridor, framed on either sides with tall trees. As we stepped into the cemetery there was a hush among all the kids, not a

peep. Then one of the youth turned and asked if they could explore. They looked over each stone (the cemetery is the size of a football field), commenting on where the people buried were from. "This one was only 17" (the same age as one of the youth). "This one has the same last name as my best friend." "He flew a plane." "This is an unknown soldier." Finally, we located my great-uncle's grave and left a Thank You badge.

After 30 minutes, it was time to go. It took a while as they filed out and back to the taxis; each youth making sure they had seen everything. Not one leader had to prompt them. As they left the cemetery, you could have heard a pin drop.

Arriving back at the taxi stand and arranging to go home, no-one spoke, then from the back of the taxi I heard a faint, "Thank you Scouter Danyell, thank you". I couldn't breathe. Did I really hear this? More thank yous followed, and as we pulled away, I thought to myself "We will remember."

On this Remembrance Day, remember this. It doesn't have to be enormous; the smallest gesture will help youth to remember the sacrifice others have made so that we can live in a country of freedom. Don't ever underestimate our youth — they are our future. ✕

— Danyell Hall, 1st Wainwright Scouts, Alberta.



Photos: 1st Wainwright Scouts