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Ruby Gaeler lays a wreath at the base of the cenotaph on behalf of the Legion Ladies' Auxiliary members.



School children from Chesley Public School stand quietly and watch members of Legion Branch 144 and the Ladies' Auxiliary parade by them on Friday morning.  
(Golem photos)



Flag bearers Les Christie and Mary Slumskie stand at attention during the cenotaph service.

## Taking time to remember

by Mary Golem

Together, Chesley remembered its war dead on Friday morning, November 11th.

The sun shone brightly and the weather was mild for the annual service of remembrance, unlike other years when bitterly cold winds, freezing rain and snow have been common.

Once again, members of the Chesley District High School concert band played prior to the outdoor service, and students from the Chesley Public School walked to the cenotaph to witness members of Chesley Branch 144 of the Royal Canadian Legion, the Legion Ladies' Auxiliary and members of council marched from the Legion to the cenotaph. Comrade Dennis Kerr read aloud the honor roll from the First World War 1914-1918 and from the Second World War 1939-1945.

"Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them," he concluded.

Wreaths were placed at the base of the cenotaph by Kerr on behalf of the province of Ontario and by Mayor James Jacklin on behalf of the town. Also laying wreaths were representatives of the Legion Branch 144, the Legion Ladies' Auxiliary, Women's Institute, Kinsmen Club, Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Chesley Senior Citizens, Chesley District High School, Elderslie Central School, Chesley Public School, Chesley and District Lions' Club, Forest Lodge No. 393 AF&AM, the Optimist Club and the Dobbinton Cubs and Dobbinton Beavers.

CDHS student Michelle Frook played The Last Post, as Comrade Morrell Schwartz lowered the Canadian flag to half mast.

Following the two minutes of silence and reveille, the

service proceeded to the Chesley Pentecostal Church, where Rev. Jim Perrie gave the invocation, reminding those in attendance to give thanks to God for "the goodness we enjoy as a nation and remembering those who died in service to their country."

In his tribute, Mayor James Jacklin recalled his memories of the year 1939 - the year the Second World War began. It was also the year he lost his father in a blasting accident at the age of eight. He recalled childhood memories of his mother knitting for the war effort, investing in War Savings Bonds, using ration books and then recalled how everyone celebrated in 1945 when the war was finally over.

"We still do not have the peace we strove so hard to get," Jacklin commented. "We still have soldiers on the front today. We must remember not only those who have gone before, but also those who still serve."

In an emotionally-filled, challenging address, Pastor Sheilah Fletch of the Sullivan-Williamsford Lutheran Parish urged those in attendance to "not only listen to God's word, but to do what it says."

As she spoke with deep concern about the state of the country's educational and health care systems, along with politicians "who promote their own agenda", Fletch said "the Lord has convicted me of my apathy . . . Christ's church needs to ask for forgiveness . . . we have looked at His word and have then gone away not witnessing to others," as she asked the non-Christians to forgive those who call them Christians "for breaking faith."

"We are called to be his servants . . . there is little time left and we need to seek his guidance. . . God gives second chances and He will give a second chance to us and our country," Fletch said, as she quoted from Psalm 51, a psalm that she says "gives us hope."