

# Honoring fallen comrades

When I bought my rosy red poppy on a beautiful Indian summer morning a millennium of wartime memories tumbled through my head. As I pinned Colonel John McCrae's immortal symbolic flower of Flanders to my blue serge lapel, I couldn't help but give my distinctive comrade a gentle, paternal pat of respect.

How could I live here a lifetime and not immediately think of those familiar boyish names etched in bronze on the cenotaph in Memorial Park, and I think of buddies whose names I'm sure are inscribed on cenotaphs in Estevan, Vulcan, The Pas, North Bay, Kirkland Lake, Montreal, Sudbury, to name a few.

The honor roll is read with dignity on November 11th while bereaved families, friends, communities, Canada and comrades stand in grateful silence grieving together.

I pass the park nearly every day on my walk downtown and sometimes I stop occasionally to spend a moment or two with my old pals, whose names will once again be called on Sunday.

A comrade will call handsome young dark haired Willie Murphy, blonde John Bowman, Reg Blair, George Latimer, Claude Dillon, Eddy Doyle, Hubert Tost, the Wylie boys, till every name has been read.

There will be no audible reply of "here, here, here," but they will answer just the same as they always have since that day all was given for their country.

Once or twice while I have lingered in the park to rest and catch my breath I have given the artistically ornamented bronze plaque a gentle pat as my fingers fall reverently over the inscribed names.

In a silent moment or two I reflect on how the town has changed since they last saw it as young airmen, sailors, soldiers.

These are moments when I want to tell them how things have changed. To hear them laugh with outrageous glee when my



## Have You Got A Minute?

Stories by W. Steamer  
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memories reveal Chapel Street School was demolished. Gone like the wind. To some it was their only school.

What would they think if I told them their old hometown isn't named Georgetown anymore, but Halton Hills?

Would they say why Steamer, why? I wonder the same.

If I told them the old Roxy Theatre, once the centre of small town Sunday night band concerts and weeknight movies was a theatre no more but replaced by television, VCR's, would they listen to me in disbelief?

How could they imagine man landed on the moon and returned. Could they comprehend a world of instant communications through computers, satellites, micro-chips and fibre-optics.

Could they believe from here to Norval was no longer scenes of farmers haying, plowing, Holstein cows grazing on farms they knew as the Cleaves, Sinclairs, Skanes, Hughes, Emslies and Reids.

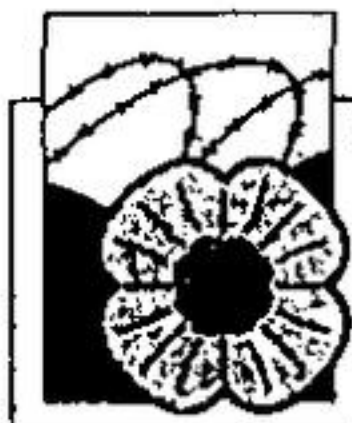
No longer do kids hike to the Glen or Stewarttown or Norval to play hockey on the Credit or village ponds.

Do you think they would be surprised if I told them we had added another arena and that both now had artificial ice?

In a moment how could you tell them what they had missed and all of us enjoyed because of their sacrifice.

Would I cause their resentment if I told them what it was like for a guy like me to enjoy a ride

through the beautiful Caledon Hills and the Hockley Valley when the autumn leaves are at their finest. I'm sure they would understand the thrill of a granddaughter being taken by his kindergarten class as her show and tell project. Your sacrifice has provided us with many treasured moments of small town life that could have been gone but for you and the few aging veterans who will muster on Remembrance Day to pay their respects.



## TAKE TIME TO REMEMBER

When you pin your poppy on for this unforgettable day in our history, I hope you give it a gentle pat.

Many a Silver Cross mother and veteran and those on the Honor Roll will appreciate your thoughtfulness.

They shall not grow old,  
As we that are left grow old.  
Age shall not weary them,  
Or the years condemn.  
But at the going down of the sun  
And in the morning  
We will remember them.

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# NDP to battle GST

THUNDER BAY - The Minister of Revenue, the Honourable Shelley Wark-Martyn assured Ontario consumers recently that, if a new federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) is implemented as presently scheduled for January 1, 1991, they will not have to pay provincial sales tax on top of the federal GST.

This message follows last week's statement by the Treasurer, the Honourable Floyd Laughren, and fulfills the commitment made earlier by Premier Bob Rae's new government. Specifically, it reverses the decision of the previous government to "piggy-back" Ontario Retail Sales Tax (RST) on the GST, as announced in the April, 1990 Budget.

"It's no secret that this government is strongly opposed to the federal GST," said Wark-Martyn. "We believe it is unfair, horrendously complex, and will further worsen the economic situation. We are also well aware of the uncertainty and complexity people face in dealing with the new federal GST, and we certainly don't wish to add to the confusion."

"Consequently, I shall be introducing legislation in the next session of the Legislature to ensure that GST will not be automatically included in the RST base as required by existing legislation. In the meantime, my ministry will undertake a comprehensive communications strategy to immediately inform vendors and consumers of this change in policy, and to deal with their questions."

First, a special notice will be included with the monthly tax return cards which will be routinely mailed to about 300,000 RST vendors in late October. This notice will provide instructions and a toll-free number for further information. Second, a more detailed bulletin will be mailed in November to all vendors, and generally to tax accountants, lawyers and business organizations.

Third, to reinforce these actions, advertisements will be placed in all Ontario English and French daily, weekly and ethnic

newspapers.

Finally, Shelley Wark-Martyn noted that, in certain limited circumstances, some Ontarians may have already paid RST on GST levied since September 1990 for goods and services to be delivered after December 31, 1990. "Where this has occurred the tax will be refunded," she said. "Vendors will be authorized to repay any RST previously paid on GST upon customer request. Alternatively, refunds will be paid by our Retail Sales Tax Branch."

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