

Leave Remembrance Day alone

In Tuesday's issue of *The Independent & Free Press*, there was an editorial regarding Remembrance Day.

The editorial told how Lisa MacLeod, MPP for Nepean-Carleton, has put forward a private member's bill, to have Remembrance Day designated a statutory holiday.

I'm totally against the idea.

Now I'm all in favour of statutory holidays. We all need a long weekend from time to time to recharge our batteries.

But not for Remembrance Day.

Making Remembrance Day a stat, like Family Day, or Civic Holiday—well, I fear it just wouldn't be observed as a tribute to the veterans who died or were maimed during all the past conflicts.

It would become a day off school and time to get some early Christmas shopping in.

And you can bet if it fell on a Tuesday or Thursday, the schools would have a Professional Development Day on the Monday or Friday, the same way it coincidentally happens for Thanksgiving weekend, giving the kids a four-day weekend.

When I was a kid, Remembrance Day (or Armistice Day, as it was called then) was a school holiday, and there was a valid reason for it.

Most of the kids in school back then had parents and grandparents who had served in either the First World War or the Second World War.

In some cases, they'd served in both.

Having the day off school gave kids the opportunity to attend the Remembrance services with their parents—the very people the day was intended to honour.

As my age group of students got older, the vets got older too. It didn't seem to be that important to attend the services anymore. Apathy set in, and as a result, the day was no longer a school holiday.

If Remembrance Day becomes a stat holiday, I'm certain the same would happen, all over again. Sure, for the first few years, we'd faithfully trudge to the local Cenotaphs, ready to observe that two minutes.

But in time, I'm sure that giving Canadians a day off from their jobs in chilly November, most would simply stay home and not attend any local Remembrance Day ceremonies or watch the national ceremonies on television.

Worse still, the holiday could eventually be bumped to the closest Friday or Monday, to be more convenient for

Ted Brown



the businesses to accommodate the holiday.

That's already happened to Canada Day—lots of businesses give their employees a day off closer to the weekend. And many employees are happy to comply.

That goes against the very principle of the anniversary date marking the end of the First World War, commemorating the signing of the Armistice, at the 11th hour, on the 11th day, of the 11th month, ending 'the war to end all wars'.

We cannot let the memories of those thousands of Canadians who fought and died for this country fade away through empathy.

McLeod's private member's bill has most likely been put forward with the very best intentions, but I don't think she, and her supporters, have thought out the full implications.

Last Saturday night, I sat at the annual Remembrance Dinner at Branch 120 of the Royal Canadian Legion. During the course of the evening, Legion president Ray Clarke spoke to the group about McLeod's private member's bill.

An overwhelming percentage of the group there—veterans, Legion members, and civilians like myself—were dead against the concept.

"Leave Remembrance Day alone. Don't let it become a simple holiday," was the feeling there.

If McLeod and her supporters want to make Remembrance Day more significant, perhaps she should strive to have the efforts of our vets, both past and present, be given more prominence in the classroom.

And November 11?

How about we have teachers organize a field trip to the local Cenotaph.

And be there, at the 11th hour, on the 11th day, of the 11th month.

And most importantly, stand silent for two minutes—in rain, sleet, snow or sunshine.

In doing so, they will remember much more than they ever would on a statutory holiday.

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GEORGETOWN

Wednesday, November 17th, 10 am - 12 noon

Yoyo Japanese Restaurant 357 Guelph St., (beside Ford dealership)

ACTON

Wednesday, November 17, 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm

The Hide House (Eastern & Mill)

20 LB. BOX OF FLORIDA
Seedless Navel Oranges
or Ruby Red Grapefruit

\$23.00
PER BOX

GEORGETOWN SOCCER CLUB SECOND SESSION OF INDOOR SOCCER AND SKILLS!

Online registration will be available on November 17 for the indoor soccer house league and is available now for skills sessions starting in January 2011

Please check the GSC website at
www.georgetownssoccerclub.com for further details.

CORRECTION NOTICE

In the Georgetown Toyota advertisement in The Independent & Free Press on November 9, 2010 should have read:

2010 Yaris

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\$218
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TRADE EQUIVALENT AND
\$500 CASH REBATE
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TOURSPORT

Build Your Own Sports Packages™

<p>SEE IT LIVE!!</p> <p>NFL!!</p> <p>Detroit Lions vs Buffalo Bills</p> <p>Sunday Nov. 14</p> <p>Package Includes: Luxury Motor Coach Ticket to game BBQ - Tailgate Party</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$139.00 pp</p>	<p>Leafs @ Montreal</p> <p>Friday Nov. 19 - Sunday Nov. 21</p> <p>Package Includes: Two night hotel Round trip Motorcoach Tickets & Dinner</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$399.00 pp/dbl</p>	<p>Leafs @ Ottawa</p> <p>Sat. Nov. 27 - Sun. Nov. 28</p> <p>Package Includes: One night hotel Round trip Motorcoach Tickets to game</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$249.00 pp/dbl</p>	<p>Flames @ Detroit</p> <p>Sunday Nov. 21</p> <p>Package Includes: Round trip Motorcoach Tickets to game Same night return</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$99.00 pp</p>	<p>FEEL IT LIVE!!</p> <p>Double Header</p> <p>Leafs @ Buffalo Leafs @ Ottawa</p> <p>Friday Nov. 26 - Sat. Nov. 27</p> <p>Package Includes: Two night hotel Round trip Motorcoach Tickets to both games</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$399.00 pp/dbl</p>
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