

# Lest We Forget

### Rockwood marks Remembrance Day



As Rockwood area residents gather at several scheduled Remembrance Day ceremonies in the next few days, they do so at the recently renovated Cenotaph which was rededicated this summer following major work, in part to make the site accessible.

Ninety-three years to the day after Rockwood first formally honoured its sons, brothers and fathers who did not come home from The Great War with the dedication of a Ceno-

We are truly blessed by the sacrifices of our soldiers

taph – literally an empty tomb – the community gathered again on August 29 to rededicate the refurbished Rockwood Cenotaph.

Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong told the crowd the Memorial Program helps Canada to "remember and restore the legacy of those who came before us and who sacrificed so much."

"Our great country was built by ordinary men and women who did extraordinary things. The members of Canada's Armed Forces have willingly stood in harm's way in the face of oppression and tyranny to protect the values that we as Canadians cherish – freedom, democracy and the rule of law," Chong said, ending with "Lest We Forget."

Master of Ceremonies, Guelph/Eramosa Township Mayor Chris White called the Cenotaph the "centre" and "heart" of the community, which

does not have a Royal Canadian Legion branch.

White said the old site was a "bit of a hazard" during ceremonies – "you had to take your life into your own hands trying to lay a wreath," he said, noting the site is now wide open to the street without any barriers, there's more seating, new steps and landscaping.

The original Cenotaph was built by a Rockwood Soldiers Memorial Committee on land donated by

the Anglican Diocese of Niagara. It was dedicated on August 29, 1919. "Today, we honour not only those for whom this Cenotaph was raised, but the all the men and women who have served our country, in the conflicts before and after, many of them paying the ultimate price," White said.

Sergeant Martin Boreczek of the Lorne Scots Regiment, who did two tours in Afghanistan, said they were gathered to reflect and develop the collective memory of all whom fought for Canada.

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