

Huge crowd marks Acton Remembrance Day



Bugler John Burgess



Piper David Stewart



St. Joseph School Choir

A larger than usual crowd honoured The Glorious Dead in a music and prayer filled Service of Remembrance at the Acton Cenotaph Sunday morning. The sunny, breezy weather may have helped with the encouraging turnout of people at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 197/ Town event which include silence for those who did not come home.

Elderly veterans stood beside fresh-faced Cadets to honour those who made the supreme sacrifice at the service which included a military parade, an Honour Guard of "C"

Company Lorne Scots, and the Legion Charge by President John Wagg who asked the crowd to pause and think reverently those who laid down their lives for their Sovereign and their country. "Their sacrifice will ever inspire us to labour on to the end, that those who survived who need our aid may be assured of our assistance."

Representatives of groups and individuals laid wreaths and crosses at the Cenotaph, and then the horror of war and its aftermath was made real in a poem, *Have You Thanked a Vet Today?* Read by Legion member Tom Grant.

In it the author asks, in part:

Have you felt the sorrow of a combat Vet? Or would you rather just forget?

That war has pierced his hardened heart, And torn this soldier all apart?

Would you rather our heroes just fade away? Or will you stop to thank a Vet today?

Veteran and Legion member Mac Mackenzie had the honour of reading the 45 names of those who did not come home from all wars and conflicts as he intoned words heard at Cenotaphs across the

Commonwealth on Sunday, "At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them."

Then, the air was filled with the solitary notes of The Last Post played by Acton Citizen Band bugler Adam Burgess. The plaintive skirl of the bagpipes came as Pipe Major Davis Stewart of the Georgetown Pipe Band responded with the traditional Lament *Flowers in the Forest*, followed by Burgess playing Reveille.

Music continued to play a central role in the ser-

vice, which began with *O Canada* and ended with "The Royal Anthem" – *God Save the Queen*, both played by the Acton Citizens Band. The Acton Citizens Band played the hymn *Abide by Me*, and the choir from St. Joseph Catholic School sang *Let there be Peace on Earth*.

For Acton's Carolyn Elston-Ryder, who carried nine-month poppy-wearing daughter Kaylyn, attending the service as part of St. Alban's Anglican Church was about honouring those who fought for freedom, and setting a good example. "I just

think it is really important that we not only remember, but we also demonstrate that remembrance because children learn through actions, and by being here we show our children how important this is," she said, adding the Sunday School message to her three-year old was the service was to remember those who "kept us safe."

Following the Cenotaph service, guests were invited back to the Legion for a reception/luncheon which included hymns, prayers of thanksgiving and a minute of silence.

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SETTING AN EXAMPLE: St. Alban's Anglican Church member, Acton mom Carolyn Elston-Ryder brought her daughter Kaylyn, nine months, and an older child, to Sunday's Service of Remembrance in Acton to set a good example to her family. – Frances Learment photo

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