

Don't forget the meaning of Remembrance Day

Almost everybody is wearing a poppy on their lapel this week as a tribute to soldiers who died in battle over the years.

Do we really think about those who died in war? Or has the poppy become another fashionable decoration, worn between Halloween and Christmas?

God, I hope not.

Years ago, Remembrance Day was observed on the exact date, "at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month," in accordance to the signing of the Armistice. Banks and government offices closed for the day and school children attended cenotaph services.

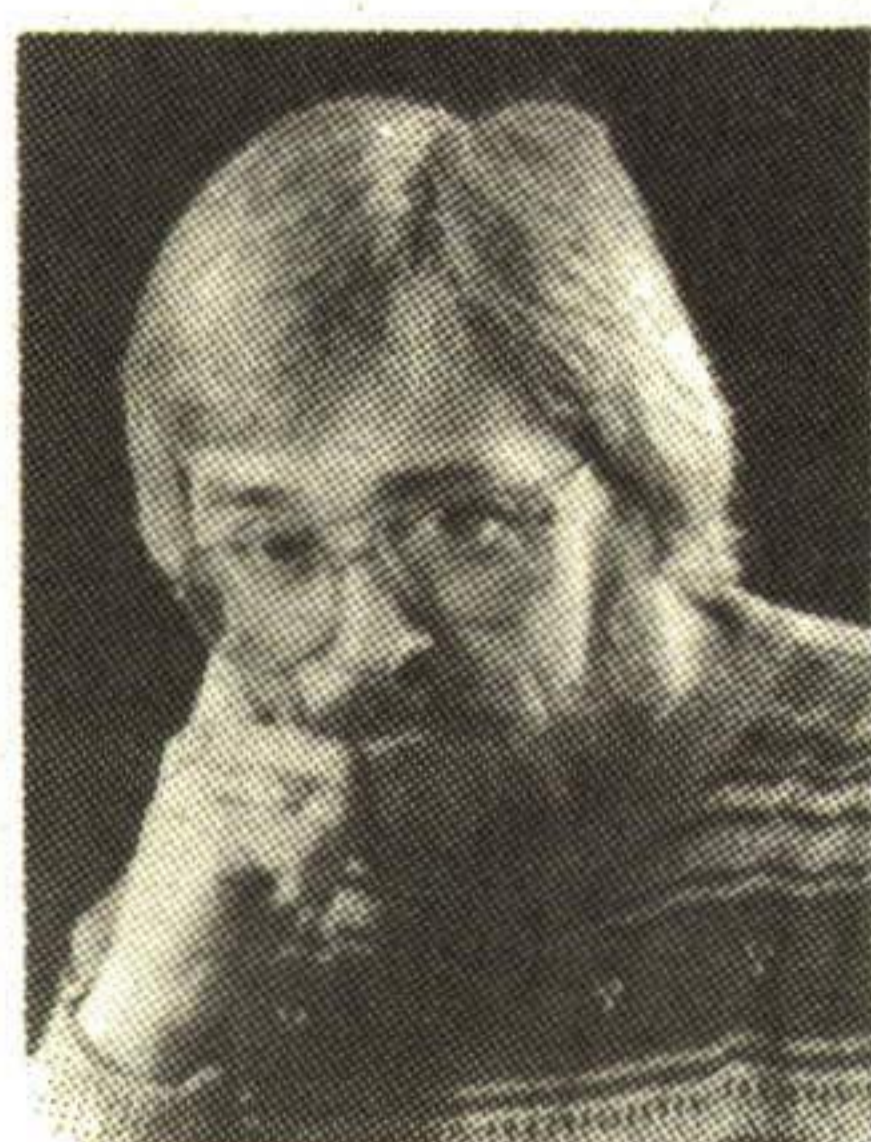
But it's changed. Today, the Sunday prior to November 11 is designated the day we remember. That bothers me a little. I'm afraid it chips away at tradition.

And I wonder how many who attend really think about dead soldiers or veterans who have spent a lifetime on artificial legs suffering from ghostly pain for years.

Do they think about women who lost family members or lovers while waiting helplessly at home for their

A TED BIT

By TED BROWN



return? I'm sure we forget how many lives have been changed by world conflict.

Only veterans who have actually dodged artillery fire, heard bullets whizzing past their ears or felt the burning pain of shrapnel lodging into their bodies, can truly understand the full meaning of Remembrance Day.

Only they remember the young men and women who headed out in their fresh uniforms to fight for their country.

Today's population has never experienced war and is unable to appreciate sentiments of old soldiers who assemble to lay a wreath. We can only watch and reflect on

their behalf.

I've attended Remembrance Day ceremonies for years at local cenotaphs. I've watched veterans march with their color party, and seen sadness in their eyes during the service.

And I've felt the bitter cold of a November day with rain or snow pelting down and listened to the lonely wail of bagpipes and the haunting call of a trumpet cut the silence as dedicated men and women assemble annually, refusing to forget their war dead.

I think it's wonderful.

Watching that group of people gather with dedication makes me realize the importance of Remembrance Day. I'm more determined to observe it.

We must not allow Remembrance Day to become just another day. We must ensure our children are aware of the facts, prices paid and continue to say a quiet thank you to those who died in war or those wounded in battle who are reminded by old scars that still ache on damp mornings.

Tomorrow, when I attend the services, it will probably rain as

usual under iron-gray skies, and my fingers will likely be nipped by cold. But it's a small price for me to pay compared to the people we're remembering.

Don't forget them. Honor them with your presence at the cenotaph in your area. And honor their comrades as well.

We owe it to them.



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TOPOLSEK SEEKS RE-ELECTION

Doris Topolsek, Councillor in the Township of Erin for the past four years seeks your support in the November 12 Municipal Elections.

During my term in office I have, in addition to regular council business, actively served on a number of committees. As a member of Wellington Recycling Committee, I introduced blue bags, blue boxes to rural residents and composters. I have also worked closely with board members for renovations and improvements to the Hillsburgh Community Centre, the development of Jim Bailey Park and a monthly recycling pick-up program for Ballinafad. If re-elected, I will continue to work conscientiously for—the completion of the Official Plan update, improvements in waste management, recycling beyond the blue box, Ballinafad Fringe Area study, a soccer pitch in Jim Bailey Park, continuation of the Pride Program and honest and fair government.

In the interest of conservation I will not be mailing brochures nor erecting signs. My campaign message will instead appear in local newspapers which can easily be recycled.

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