

OUR VIEW

Sacrifice doesn't dissipate over time

This Saturday will mark 99 years since the end of the First World War.

Ninety-nine years - it's a long time. You'd be hard pressed to find anyone within your community who actually lived during our planet's first significant global conflict from 1914-18, let alone someone who vividly remembered it.

Canada's last known First World War veteran passed away seven years ago at the age of 109. Articles at the time stated that John Babcock's death 'marked the end of an era.' This may be true, but it also doesn't close the books on what was given up on the battlefields of Ypres, the Somme and Passchendaele.

Canadians have always shown the proper respect to those lost, those still fighting and the countless veterans across our great nation through Remembrance Day every year, and for this we should be proud. Ideally, this respect should expand beyond Nov. 11 year-round, because all of the daily freedoms we enjoy are a direct result of the sacrifices made by our brave men and women since the birth of our country a century and a half ago.

The First World War inflicted nearly 40 million casualties (killed, wounded, missing; estimated 17 million killed) across its participating nations. Twenty years later, The Second World War would eclipse those figures with an estimated 60 million people (military and civilian) killed - approximately three per cent of the global population in 1940. This number includes millions of innocents murdered in the Holocaust; Jews, Soviets, Poles, homosexuals and gypsies.

Years later, Canada sent troops to support its allies in the Korean and Vietnam wars, and then United Nations-led peacekeeping missions to countries like Somalia, Bosnia and Rwanda. Most recently, our soldiers and military personnel have further cemented our country's incredible reputation abroad in conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

No sacrifice in any of the engagements listed should stand above another; they all served their purpose in standing in defiance of oppression, for the benefit of the oppressed.

We recognize Nov. 11 as our national Day of Remembrance, pertaining to the conclusion of the First World War. It's only fitting that this is the case. The First World War witnessed the emergence of Canada as not only as a skilled military power, but also our emergence as a significant voice at the table of world leaders. In perilous times such as these, that voice is needed today more than ever.

This Saturday, wear a poppy, attend a cenotaph ceremony or thank a veteran. Better yet, do all three. Whether the sacrifice was made on a trench-filled field in France 99 years ago, or in a dusty, mountainous valley nine years ago, they are one in the same.

Respect them, honour them, remember them.



More will be killed on deadly road

Re: Article Resident fed up with speeders after deadly crash, Page 1, Oct. 26, 2017.

We live on 32nd Side Road (Wellington Road 42). The speed travelled on this road is highly dangerous. In our area, we seldom see a police presence.

From the starting point of Trafalgar Road, the speed is 50 kilometres per hour then moves quickly to 80 km/h.

We take our life in our hands just crossing to get mail some days.

I have tried to no avail to have the speed limit changed from 80 km/h to a reasonable 50 to 60 km/h. I have contacted the Town of Erin about this issue unsuccessfully.

LETTERS & COMMENTARY

We firmly believe that with enforced lower speed limits and a police presence, another tragedy could be averted.

The situation has become worse since my last communication.

We now have many gravel trucks passing by and even many of these vehicles are exceeding the posted limit of 80 km/h by a large margin.

This area is also extensively used by bike enthusiasts who travel in groups recreationally.

I fear one of the speeders will crest a hill and be surprised by one of these groups.

We have lived in this area for six years, Georgetown for 27 years. We moved to the country seeking a quieter area.

It is more dangerous than any of the three other

houses we have owned and lived in, in other busier areas of Georgetown.

We have had a car hit a telephone pole in the middle of the night with enough force to break the pole and leave car parts behind.

This tragedy has renewed our focus on speed in our area.

We hope the town will review this issue again and back it up by police presence on these country roads.

I am sure many vehicles would be towed because of the racing law of speeds of 50 km/h over the limit.

Trevor Duckett

Santa Claus needs your help

For more than 86 years the Georgetown Lions

Club has organized and staged the annual Santa Claus Parade.

For the last few years the parade has been an evening event with literally thousands of spectators enjoying the parade. Hundreds of volunteers' hours are required to run the event.

Many residents believe that the Town of Halton Hills runs the event; while they do provide assistance, the Lions Club provides most of the volunteers and the funding comes from our corporate and private sponsors. Each year, our costs continue to rise as we endeavour each year to produce a great parade, however it is becoming more and more challenging.

We will require many

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