



**PARADE COLOUR:** Members of the Guelph branch of the Royal Canadian Legion led the parade at Remembrance Day services in Rockwood Saturday followed by the skirling pipes of the Guelph Legion Pipe Band. Parade marshal is Bill Smith.



**VETERANS MARCH:** Rockwood and area veterans from Eramosa and Guelph townships paraded to the cenotaph in the village in Remembrance Day ceremonies as shafts of fall sunlight danced along Alma St.

## Day of Remembrance

# Rockwood woman describes family's experiences as Holland liberated

Remembrance Day service for Guelph/Eramosa township was held at the cenotaph in Rockwood on Saturday morning, November 6, preceded by a parade led by a colour party from Guelph Legion, the Guelph Pipe Band area veterans and Rockwood organizations.



**MARIA DRENTERS**

The parade formed at the old fire hall on Alma St. and proceeded to the cenotaph at the corner of Main St. and Alma with the imposing scene of St. John's Anglican Church in the background. Parade Marshall was Bill Smith.

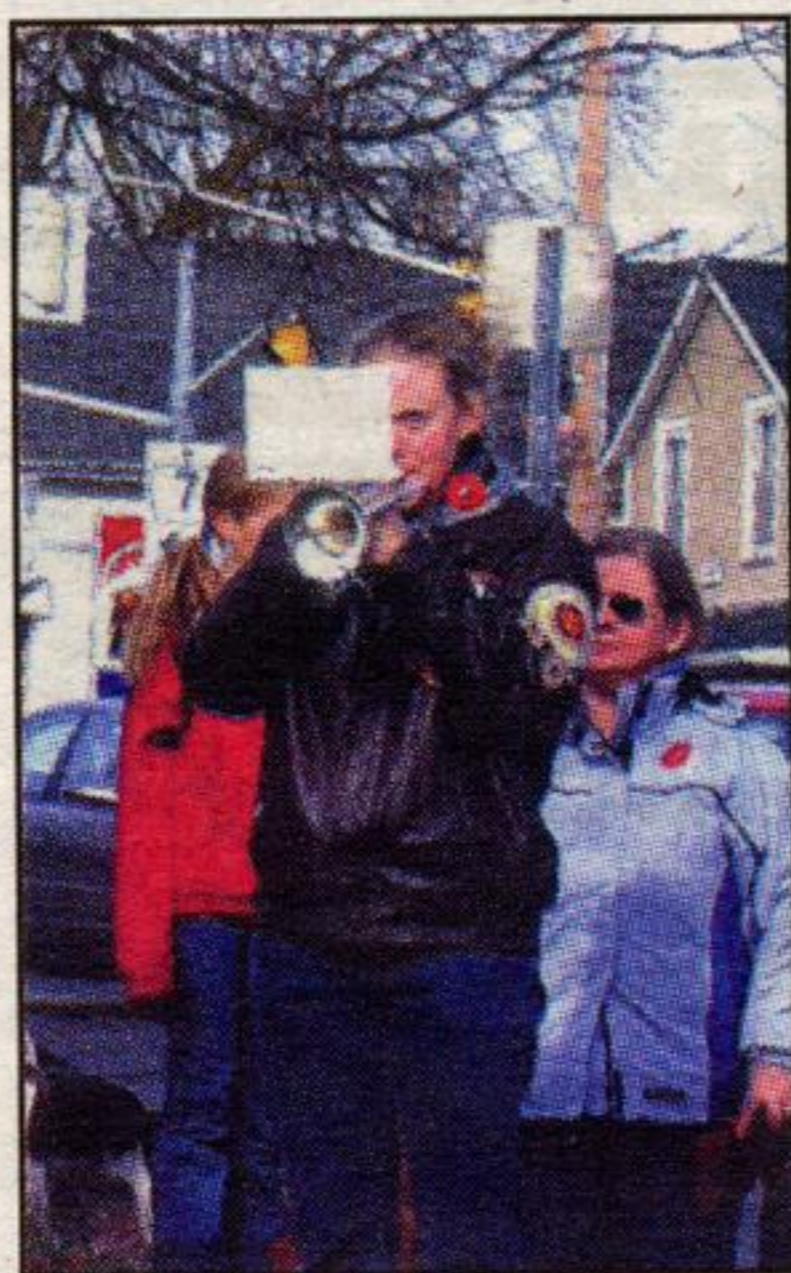
The Legion Charge was read by veteran Jim Milne while Wayne Saunders read the names inscribed on the Soldiers' Memorial and township councillor David McCrae led the assembly of several hundred in the recitation of John McCrae's immortal poem

"In Flander's Fields". Last Post and Reveille was sounded by Heather Brown and a lament played by a piper from Guelph Pipe Band.

A "prayer" by Maria Drenters of Sacred Heart Church, Rockwood, included the story of her family's liberation from the Nazis in Holland at the tail end of World War 2 and it touched many at

the service. Relying on accounts from her parents and brothers she told how the family attended mass early on Sunday morning and were advised by the priest to go home and stay in because "something big was going to happen."

The Drenters family went home and soon fighter planes were streaking across the sky, followed by large planes which disgorged the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne parachute battalion from the United States dubbed "The Screaming Eagles" who disarmed the German soldiers left in town and liberated the area. They were soon fol-



**LAST POST:** Heather Brown sounds The Last Post after Wayne Saunders read the names of those who died in two world wars from Rockwood and area.

lowed by Canadian and British troops who helped consolidate the liberation.

"The Dutch were very grateful," Maria Drenters said and they show their appreciation by tending the cemeteries of those who died in the liberation. Every 10 years the U.S. parachuters who took part in the operation return for a reunion and some celebrate the event by again dropping from the skies despite advancing age.

"Remember today those who gave their lives and say thanks, the speaker said, "and hope there will never be another war."

Laying of wreaths by representatives of the federal and provincial governments, the township and Royal Canadian Legion 197, the RCMP, Fire Department Volunteers, Lions Club, Eden House Nursing Home, Guides, Brownies, Cubs and Scouts, Rockwood Centennial Public School and other family members followed.

The parade then proceeded to Rockmosa Community Centre for a service and refreshments. On the saluting bar were Mayor Clint Martin, Bob Leslie, William Graham and Jim Milne.



**IN FLANDERS FIELDS:** Councillor David McCrae leads in recitation of John McCrae's immortal poem. Veteran Jim Milne, left, presided at ceremonies in Rockwood Saturday.

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