

# The Independent Weekend & Free Press

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Stewarttown Public School Grade 7 student Kelly Laidlaw, 12, joined with Branch 120 (Georgetown) Legion veteran Orval Paul as they placed candles at the cenotaph in Georgetown's Remembrance Park as part of the Halton Hills Candlelight Tribute Thursday afternoon.

More than 500 school children from 21 schools filed through the cenotaph and were received by veterans (right) as they left the park. The date was significant, being the 58th anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe)-Day.

Photos by Ted Brown

## Five hundred youngsters pay tribute to war veterans

Seeing nearly 500 school children place candles at the base of the Remembrance Park cenotaph during a candlelight tribute to veterans Thursday afternoon illuminated clearly for Morley Barnes the reason he fought in the Second World War.

"You look at all these children and you say to yourself, you know why you went to war—so these children have a free country," said Barnes who admitted to being choked up during the event.

Barnes, who served in the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve, was among the approximately 40 veterans who attended the first Halton Hills Candlelight Tribute in Georgetown.

The afternoon tribute, held on VE (Victory in Europe)-Day, was hosted by the Georgetown branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. Silent walks, hosted by both the Georgetown and Acton legion branches, were planned for both communities last night and members of the public were invited to join in.

Thursday afternoon children from all

Georgetown schools walked together from Georgetown Fairgrounds to Remembrance Park. After they placed the candles they had a chance to shake the hands of the veterans and thank them for what they had done.

Also in attendance were local army and air cadets.

Emily Dobson, a Grade 7 student at Centennial School, said she was pleased to be able to participate in the event so she could symbolize her thanks to her grandfather who was put in an internment camp during the Second World War.

"I thought it was nice to go and show respect for the people who fought for us," said Brittany Kuenzig, another Grade 7 Centennial School student.

Harrison School student Sarah Traynor wanted to thank the veterans for all they did in the war.

"My grandpa was in the war and luckily he survived," said Traynor. "It's just a nice time to celebrate with family and friends."

Ted Gorth, who served in the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1941 to 1945, praised the organizers of the event for what they've "done to make the young people realize the history of Canada."

"It brought back memories of some of my old friends who didn't come back," said Gorth.

Veteran Bob McNeilly, an organizer of the tributes, said he, "was so proud of the children and the schools."

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer



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