

*Editorial*

# Give veterans their day

There are many good reasons for our elected officials to consider making Nov. 11 a statutory holiday across this great country.

We don't have to look very far to find other nations where citizens are given the day off to remember the brave men and women who fought—and died—for the freedom of others.

Our good neighbours to the south have set aside two days—Memorial Day in May and Veterans Day on Nov. 11—to honour those who sacrificed their lives during wartime, and the veterans who returned home with the horror of battle forever etched in their minds.

The other more important reason for making Remembrance Day a national holiday is the fact that the men and women who proudly served in the First and Second World Wars and Korea are dwindling in numbers. Only eight Canadians who served during the First World War (1914-18) are still living, while few veterans from the Second World War (1939-45) and Korea (1950-53) are likely to be with us 20-30 years from now.

What then? Who will continue to remember the sacrifices of the thousands of Canadians who volunteered to go to war half a world away all those years ago? Who will march in their honour, lay wreaths by the memorials and speak on their behalf?

We believe a truly national holiday to remember their spirit, persistence and valour in the face of war is long overdue.

Six Canadian provinces (B.C., Saskatchewan, Alberta, Newfoundland, New Brunswick and P.E.I.) and all three Canadian territories (Nunavut, Yukon and Northwest Territories) have already made Nov. 11 a statutory holiday.

While the decision to make Remembrance Day a national holiday does not currently fall under federal jurisdiction, perhaps it should.

Internationally, Canadians are often associated for their leading role in peacekeeping initiatives—and rightfully so. However, we must never forget that when called to war Canadians responded in droves—voluntarily.



## Letters to the editor...

### Town showed its heart in supporting event

Dear editor,

The second annual Weekend to End Breast Cancer 60 km walk has left an impact on me that will be

#### Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be edited.

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etched in my memory forever.

Together with members of my family and some 5,000 others on hand Sept. 12 at Ricoh Coliseum, Exhibition Place, Toronto, I cheered in the walkers. We stood for three hours applauding as wave upon wave of teams reached the finish line.

There were women in wheelchairs, one 80-plus lady with a walker, and many people with tensor bandages on aching knees, some limping due to blistered feet, but all with smiles on their faces proclaiming, "we did it!"

The closing ceremony inside the coliseum was deeply moving. All 4,565 walkers, many of them men, took center floor while more than 200 cancer survivors wearing pink shirts, holding hands in unity, walked silently to center stage.

The weekend would not have been possible without the love and support of many people. My daughter Joanne Daquano's team, The Hungry Hollow Hoooters, were

able to raise more than \$45,000 due to the generosity of family, friends, Jo's students and former students from St. Brigid and St. Catherine of Alexandria schools, the young hockey players who canvassed their neighbourhood, the fundraisers that were held and supported by Georgetown businesses, and the community which supported the fund-raising, as well as *The Independent & Free Press* for their great coverage.

Georgetown truly is the town with a big heart.

Finally, Jo's team of awesome ladies who 'walked the walk' with her, never leaving her side: Joanne Paty, Jennifer Eckert, Sharon Greswell, Sheila Jobin, Denean Jones, Nadine Lamothe, Ann Langley, Donna Simonsen, Kit Laforet, Janice Timmins and Jo's sister Jeannine d'Entremont-Farrar. You are the best.

Kay d'Entremont,  
Georgetown

### Water conservation plan 'insulting'

(This letter was originally sent to Halton Region. Sir,

Having just received your mailer regarding my water conservation efforts I felt compelled to respond.

Living in Halton, specifically Georgetown, creates a special need for water conservation. When a town relies on a limited supply of well water it makes sense that it be carefully managed. On the other hand, a town with limited water supply should be controlling its use by managing growth properly.

I find it rather incredible that while you are promoting water conservation, the town of Georgetown is still allowing new homes to be constructed which will use water that does not exist.

I moved to Georgetown years ago to enjoy (and pay for) a lifestyle of small town living. Since then there has been no end to the fight between local government, citizens and developers over new construction.

Recently it seems that more building was approved based on the discovery of some previously overlooked water source. While your efforts in other parts of Halton may make sense, your efforts in Georgetown are somewhat of an insult. Why should people here conserve water in order to allow for the growth that they don't want?

When home building is stopped until additional well water is found, I will be the first one to conserve. Until then I will use water as I please. Consider it a political statement.

Rob Long, Georgetown

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