

Where and when to pay your respects

Residents will have a couple of ways to mark Remembrance Day this weekend, thanks to the Milton branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

The first will take place

tomorrow at Evergreen Cemetery on Ontario Street, with a short parade at 10:45 a.m. followed by a two-minute silence at 11 a.m.

Sunday, a Remembrance Day

parade will march off from the Legion, 21 Charles St., at 1:30 p.m. and travel to the Cenotaph at Town Hall, 43 Brown St. A service will then take place at 2 p.m.

Nov. 11 emotional day

• from AIR on page A15

'Holy God, it looks like war now.'

Sonoski was stationed in Yorkshire and began to go on bombing raids of Germany. His first raid targeted Duisberg and involved 1,000 planes —

a staggering sight for a boy from small town Ontario.

"Over the target, all you could see was aircraft and great puffs of smoke," Sonoski remembered.

The smoke was from flak, anti-aircraft shells shot into the air at the planes.

"You'd hear pieces of flak falling and you'd all pray for one not to explode directly beside you," Sonoski said.

All around him, he saw planes going down in fiery wrecks. It was while on a similar mission that his plane became one of them.

Hit by a piece of flak, the engine caught fire. Exposed and vulnerable in enemy search lights, the crew found itself with a difficult decision — bail out and become prisoners of war or try to head back.

They chose the latter and made it as far as Tuddenham, England, when they realized the Halifax 3 was going to blow up and they bailed.

On his way down, his parachute slowing his fall, Sonoski saw the plane plummet. He landed in a plowed, muddy field and eventually ended up at an American air base hospital — in the bed right beside the other gunner. Amazingly, all the crew members had escaped and were only banged up.

"It was the luckiest thing that ever happened. It wasn't skill, it was luck," he said.

That wasn't to be his last narrow escape, nor his only plane crash.

Sonoski admitted that the brave front he upheld around his comrades slipped a bit at each takeoff.

"You said a prayer before the pilot put the throttle forward. You'd wonder, 'Is this our night? Are we going to get back?' You'd get used to the idea that if you were going to die, it could be tonight."

Take-off was particularly scary because you never knew if the engine was going to malfunction, Sonoski explained.

It was the little pleasures that sustained them, namely the bacon and eggs before take off and rum upon return, he said.

"I was always glad not to be in the army. They didn't know when their next meal would come."

Sonoski returned home in May 1945. Even while overseas, he hadn't told his mom he was fighting in the war, and his siblings helped keep the truth from her. Sadly, she had a stroke while her youngest son was away, and died three months after his return.

The decades that followed Sonoski's return included more than 30 years managing a hotel, marriage to his wife, Frances, who died in 1991, and the birth of five children.

"My eldest son joined the air force when he was 23," Sonoski said.

It was while serving in Goose Bay, Nfld., that Colin's helicopter crashed, killing him and the other occupant.

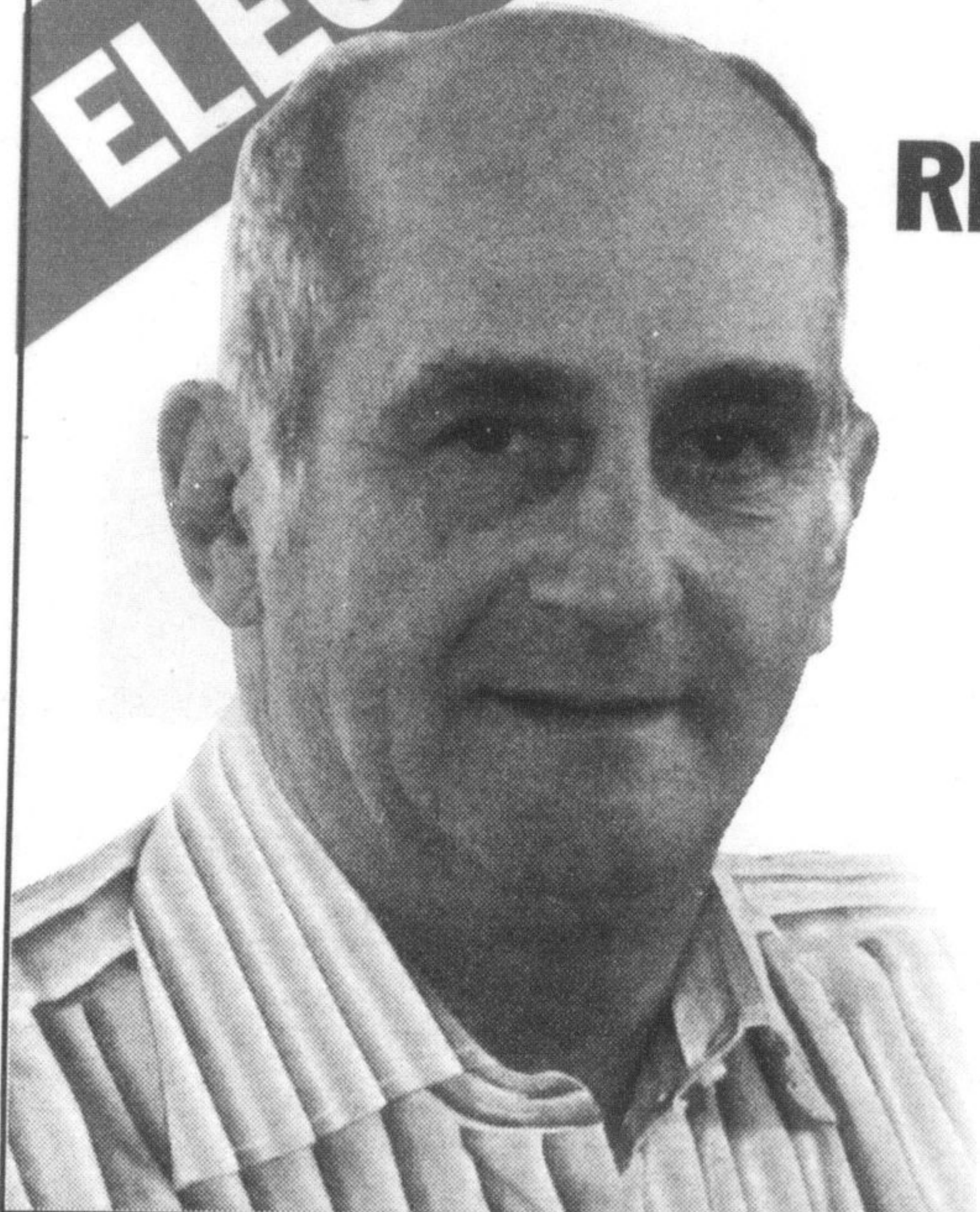
Sonoski chalks his survival up to luck and his son's death to a lack thereof. A monument was erected at the crash site, which Sonoski visited last year.

Understandably, Remembrance Day is an emotional time for Sonoski, as it is for veterans around the world.

"I always come to tears when they start playing O Canada."

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

ELECT



RICK MALBOEUF

REGIONAL COUNCILLOR WARDS 2 & 4

BECAUSE...

Rick has the political experience and background needed to ensure that the concerns of Milton residents are heard and dealt with by Council. His business experience enables him to bring common sense to the decision making process at Council.

Rick has family and friends throughout the community who keep him informed and apprised of the issues facing Milton. Honoured with a medal for valour, his military background proves he can handle the tough fight. Rick has never abandoned his principals for political gain and has always put the interests of his constituents first.

*We Need Rick Malboeuf On Council
So He Can Get Milton Back On Track!*

For More Information About Rick Visit
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To the Voters of Ward One

RE-ELECT

BRIAN PENMAN



MUNICIPAL COUNCILLOR WARD 1

On your behalf, Brian has served in the following capacities:

- Town of Milton, Councillor for Ward 1
- Chair:
 - Administration, Planning & Budget Committee
 - Town Hall Expansion Committee
 - Conservation Halton
 - Milton Meals On Wheels
- Co-Chair:
 - Milton Economic Development
- Foundations:
 - Milton Hospital and Conservation Halton
- Member:
 - Conservation Ontario
- Steering Committee:
 - Halton & Hamilton Source Water Protection

- BRIAN PENMAN**
- takes PRIDE in Solving Your Problems
 - is a Seasoned & Experienced Politician
 - possesses a Strong Environmental Track Record
 - is Fiscally Responsible
 - has a Vision for the Future of Our Community
 - has been a Staunch Defender of the Rural Landscape in Milton

TOGETHER WE WANT:

- A cost effective and accountable local government.
- A well-managed pattern of growth.
- A safe, livable community.

