

## Author reads essay

Regent School pupil Jamie Finley read his winning composition, Why I wear a poppy, at the Remembrance Day dinner of Branch 80 Royal Canadian Legion in Midland Tuesday evening.

The 13-year-old was judged to have written the best composition in Branch 80's annual composition contest.

Jamie's essay, which follows below, will go on to further competition on a higher level within the Legion.

Why I wear a poppy  
by Jamie Finley

The reason why I wear a poppy is so other people will know that I am thankful for the men, women and children who fought in the war for our freedom. Today, because of their sacrifice, we live in a democratic country.

Democratic means-by the people, for the people. This means we can choose our government, religion and there are equal rights for all Canadians regardless of race, colour or religion.

During the two minutes silence, I can't remember. I have never seen the battles or the suffering of the First, Second and Korean Wars, but my Grandfather told stories of the First World War.

He told of the bad weather; dirty, smelly fox holes; of friends being killed; of the terrible conditions they lived under.

He told of the mustard gas attacks by the Germans which damaged his chest and lungs.

He also told how proud he was to have fought at Vimy Ridge which was a victory that helped bring about the signing of the peace treaty.

It was on a cold and rainy day on November 11, 1918, at 11 o'clock when the treaty was signed. As the last post sounded, I also think about all the people who gave their lives. He told us of people he saw in the military hospital who had been there for years because the war had shattered their bodies or minds so badly they would never again lead a normal life. They too gave all.

The poppy is a remembrance of all these things. It was chosen because Colonel John McCrae mentioned them on the graves of our service men in his famous poem, In Flanders Fields.

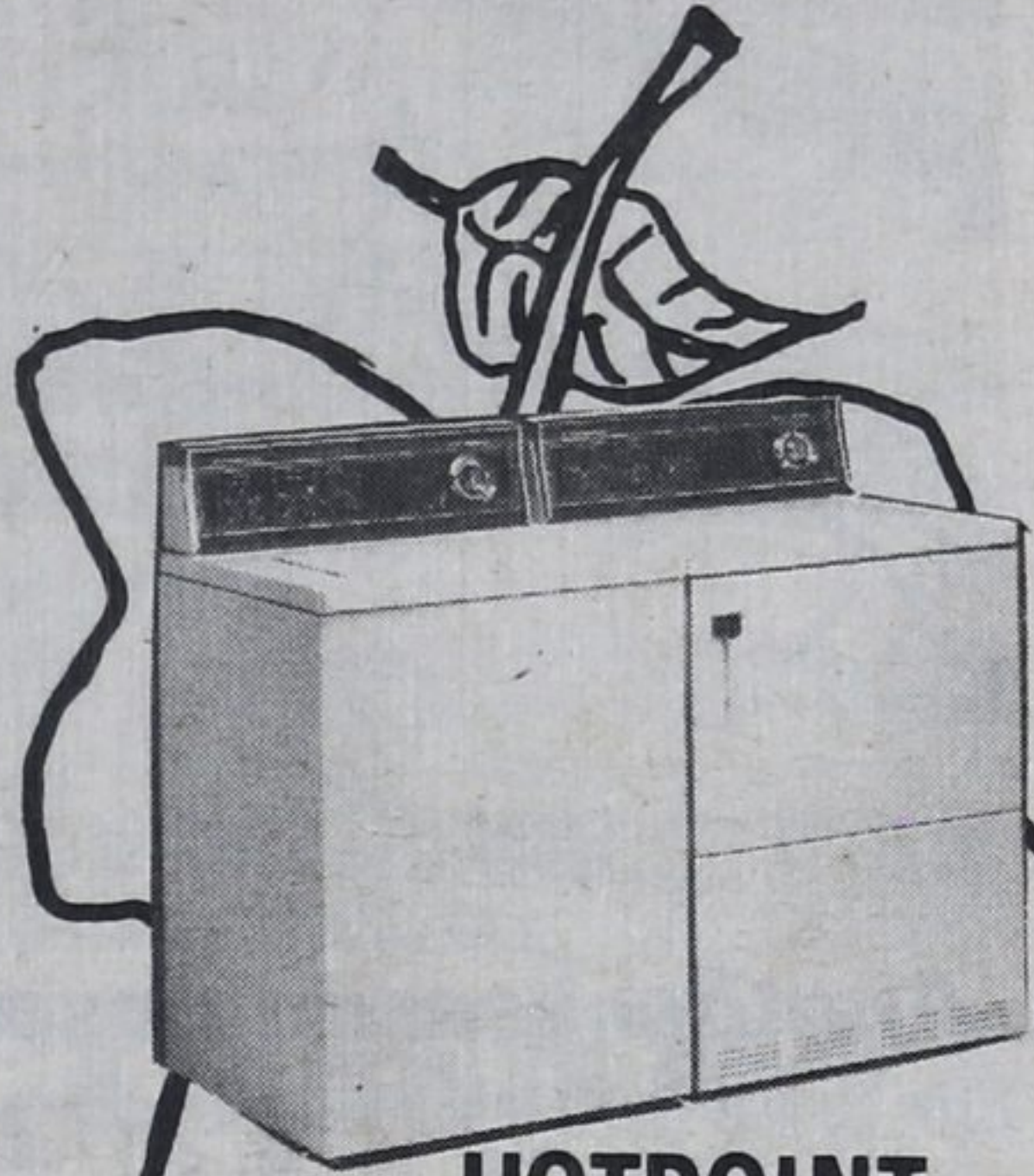
At the monument to Colonel McCrae, there is a torch in Guelph, which he also mentioned in his poem. The passing of the torch for those left behind will keep the peace for which so many fought and gave up so much.

I wear my poppy proudly in remembrance and thankfulness for those people.

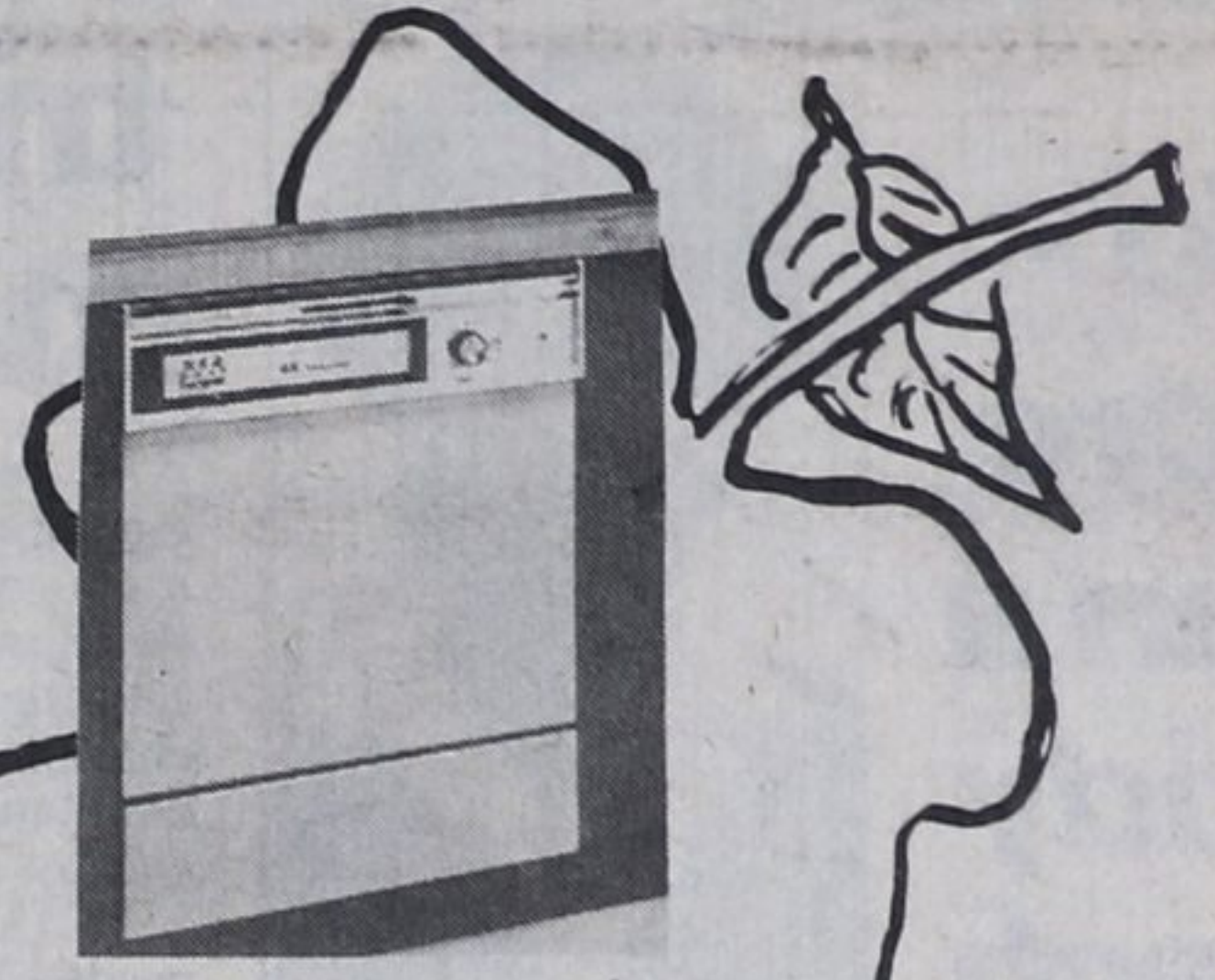
I wear it in hope that we will keep living in peace and never take it for granted.

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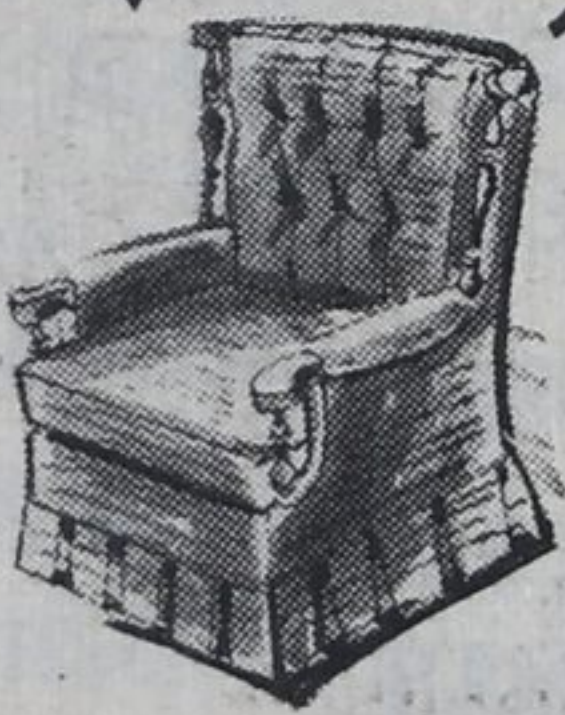


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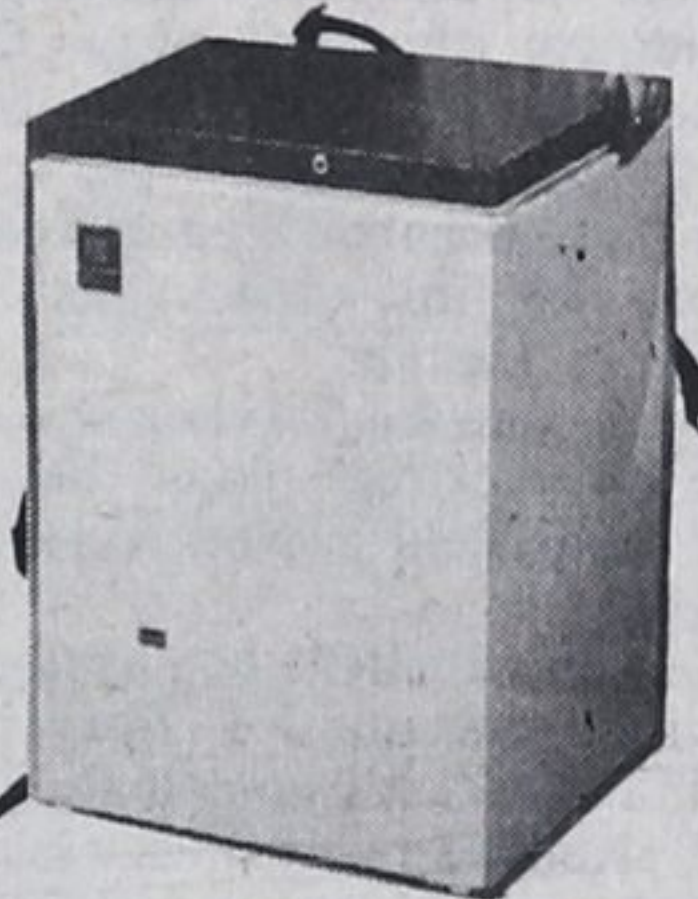
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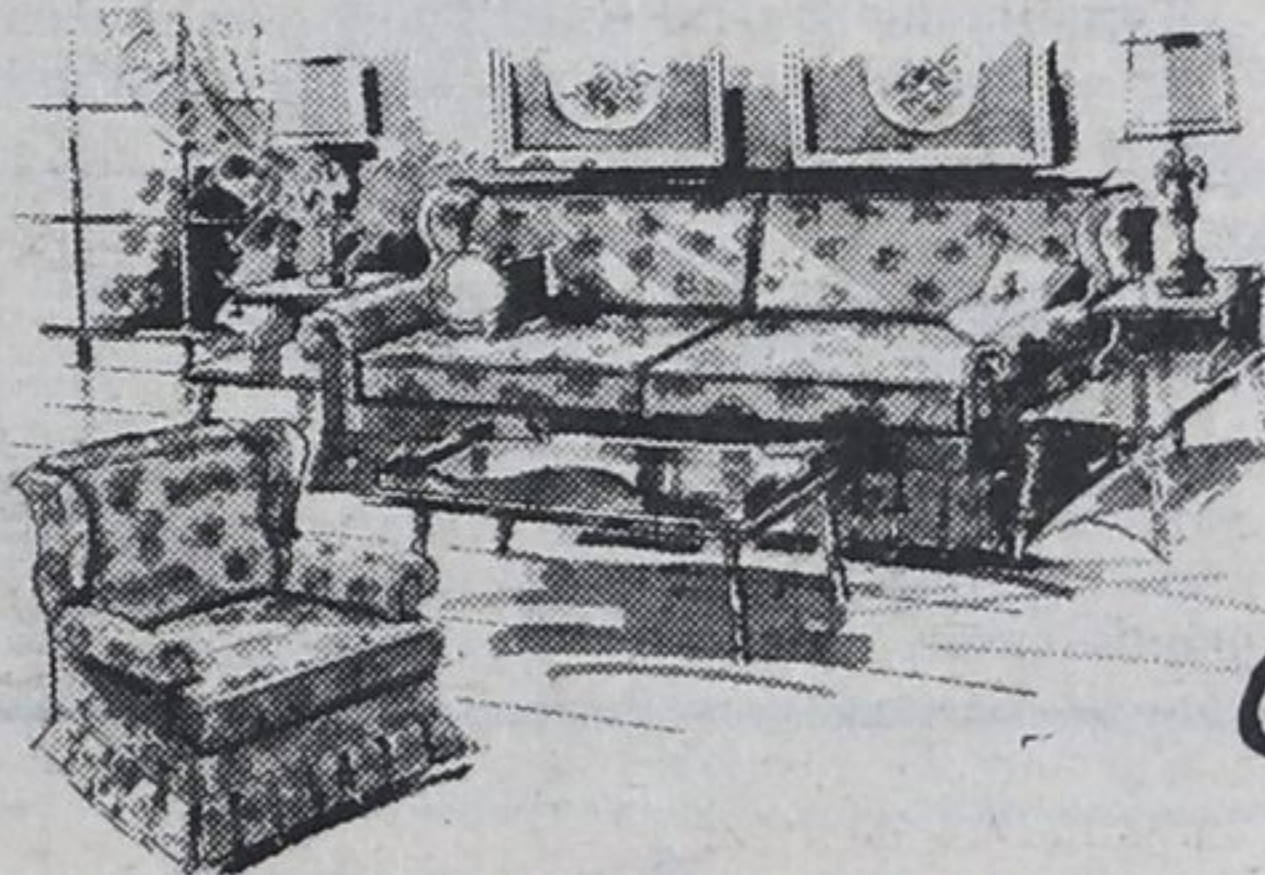
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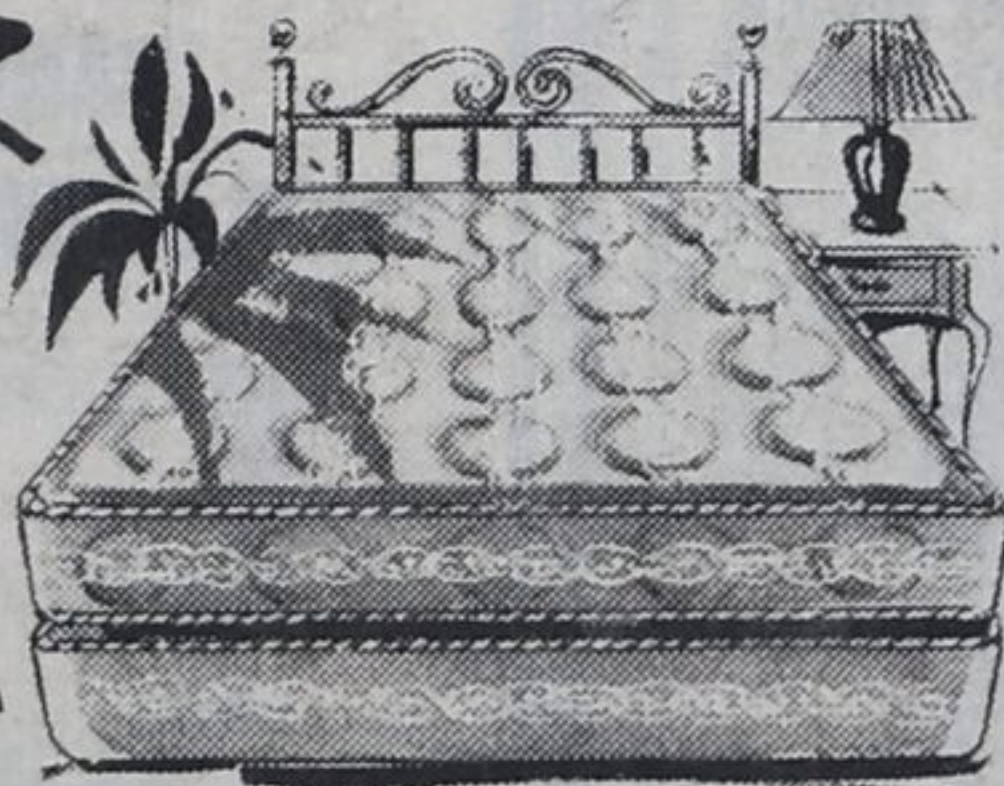


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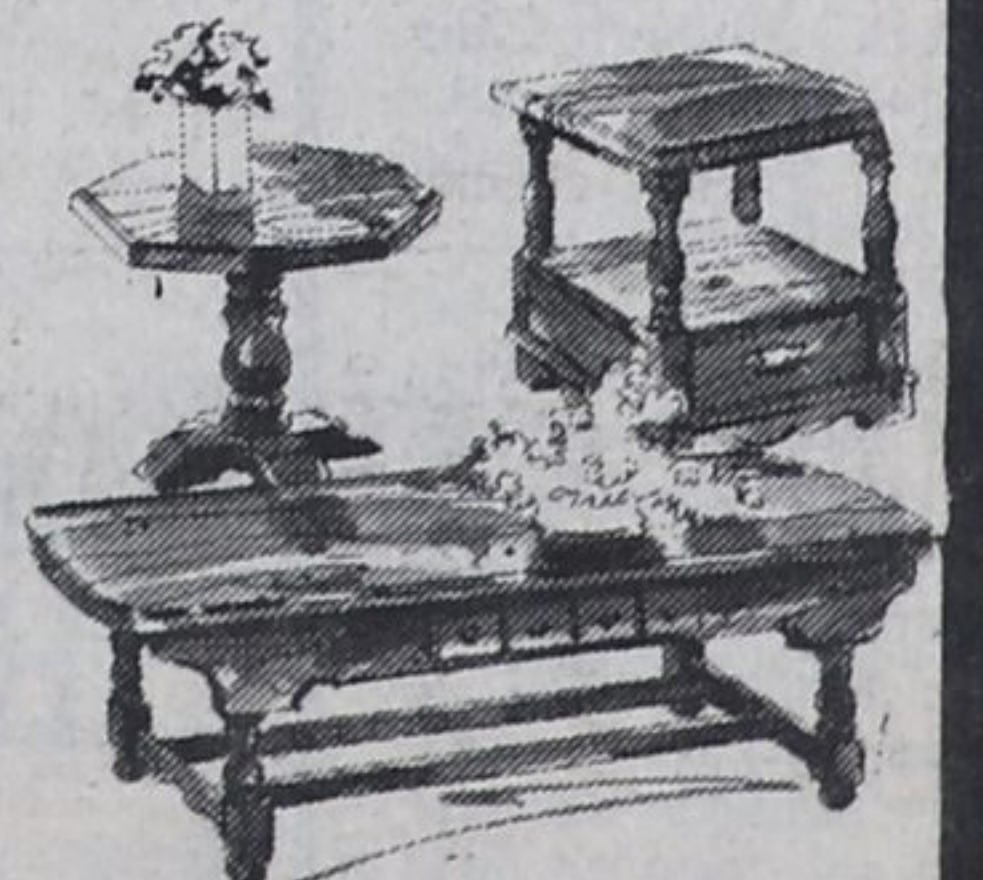
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