

Remembrance Day as seen through the eyes of a Grade 7 student...

The following item was written by Arlene Merkle, 12, a Grade 7 student at St. Ann's School in Penetanguishene.

It was one of three first-place prize winning stories prepared for Remembrance Day in a contest hosted by the Penetanguishene Legion:

What is Remembrance Day? I'm sure many people each year buy a poppy and wear it, but have they really and truly thought about

what that day is all about?

To me Remembrance Day is a day that is set aside each year to honor those who died in both world wars fighting for our country.

The first world war ended at 11 a.m. on November the eleventh, 1918. Soon after it was decided that the dead should be remembered for two minutes silence at 11 a.m. every year on this date.

In most towns and villages, war memorials

were erected in memory of local men who had died fighting in the war. We have such a memorial called the Cenotaph in our town located on the Main Street. Each year our town Legion Branch gets together and forms a procession. They bring flowers and wreaths to pay tribute to the dead of both world wars.

During the first and second world wars many men and women lost their lives on the

fields of Northern France. Although crops were ruined in the fighting, the poppies bloomed and so the blood red poppy became the symbol of the tragedy of war. Artificial poppies are sold during the week before Remembrance Sunday and the money collected is used to help war victims.

To get a better understanding of Remembrance Day I thought it would be a good idea to speak with my great grandmother and ask her what Remembrance Day meant to her? This was her reply. Remembrance Day is a very hard day for me to get through. Each year on this day it brings back many sad and sorrowful memories.

You see, I lost a brother and my son in the second World War on D day in Normandy France in 1944. My son was only 20 years old when he died. As she spoke I could see that it still hurt. You could sense it in her voice. How sad I felt for her when we spoke. My great grandmother also told me she was a silver cross mother which means someone who has lost a son in the second World War. In the Penetanguishene area there are only two silver cross mothers left.

Why did these men and women go to fight in the war? They did it for you and me. They were fighting for two very strong and important causes. "Freedom and Peace". How proud I am of these Canadians who went off leaving friends and loved ones to fight in a cause they believed in.

After doing some reading on the legion and its members, I have

realized that the dead live on through legion members and the work they do.

So on Remembrance Day turn your thoughts to those who made the supreme sacrifice and those who continue to provide a service to their community. I would like to say thank you to those of you in our legion for a better understanding of what you are all about.

I know that when Remembrance Day comes I'll remember and really and truly remember about what the day is all about. It's by remembering that we can stop such tragedies, ever happening again.



He remembers

A Penetanguishene resident stops to chat with Henry Hamelin, just prior to last Thursday's Remembrance Day service at the Main Street cenotaph. Mr. Hamelin is the last remaining veteran of the First World War from Penetang. Mr. Hamelin spent his first

Remembrance Day in the village of Mons, France in 1918, when hostilities ended. He has since attended every Remembrance Day service in the capacity of representative of the province in Penetanguishene.

—photo by Bob Murray

Ladies' Guild raffle

The draw for the 1982 raffle sponsored by the Ladies' Guild of St. James' Church On-the-Lines, Penetanguishene, was held on November 13. The three winners were Irene

Zwicker, 313 Church Street, Penetanguishene; Tanya Papaleo, Concession 16, Penetanguishene; and Kay Spohn, Waterloo, Ont.

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