

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir:

Although the problem has been mentioned annually, once again this Remembrance Day, the education concern has been repeated. The question of national heritage and its significance has been affronted once again.

In Ontario there is no policy regarding the real significance of this important day. Schools remain open while public institutions such as the Canada Post and federal, provincial, and municipal service remain tightly closed.

Meanwhile, the traditional memorial services are conducted by people who understand and deeply care.

While watching televised news commentaries of what happened from St. John's to Ottawa to Vancouver, the extreme callousness of the Province of Ontario becomes increasingly evident.

Each televised news presentation had pictures of Canada's youth actively participating in the public displays of remembrance. Thunder Bay's accounts were much more limited in scope.

The city's school children were practically eliminated from any public participation in the day's events which memorialize those who have ensured Canadian liberty and freedoms for its citizens including those same children who were practically denied any participation or viewing of these dramatic learning situations.

If our legislators cannot see it possible to make this important day into a provincialwide Remembrance Day, cannot our city's fathers not make it a civic holiday or our Boards of Education make some provision for at least one or two grades, perhaps seven and eight, to attend our public exercises at City Hall or Waverley Park?

Admittedly, schools have their own Remembrance Day assemblies, but the students are denied the living opportunity of seeing the uniformed men and women who have made this freedom possible. Is this not irresponsible?

Canada's military heroes from the past are aging; their importance has not been and will not be recognized by those who have no opportunity to see them while they are still alive.

This situation is a matter of educational concern, both here in Thunder Bay and throughout Ontario. To forsake living history in favor of any Professional Development or Professional Activities Day is intolerable.

I call upon our educators to correct this impossible situation which is a slur against Canada's rich past and a blot against its present and future.

Eliminate one Professional Development or Activities Day, replace it with a day of extended and memorable learning, and Canada's future will be brighter as a result.

William J. Beaucage, 366 Foley St., Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7B 1P8.



St. Martin School Teacher, Mrs. Nesbitt, is shown above with three of her students, Jesse McGrath, Natasha Moskwa and Amy Helmink.

Their poems were chosen from over 1,100 others and will appear in a book called, 'Catching the Spirit'.

Interest in development

At the last meeting of the Terrace Bay Council, it was agreed that Reeve Chapman will accompany union representatives of the local 655 to Ottawa to protest the 15 per cent tariff on softwood products.

The trip was slated for early this week.

The Aguasabon Gorge Development was discussed and Town Clerk-Co-ordinator Larry Simons said that there is definite interest in the plan.

But Councillor George Ramsay added that this recent surge of interest may or may not last. It has reached a crescendo before, he said, but has died out.

Clerk Simons told council that he knows of a group of people who are seriously interested in the development project.

Reeve Chapman asked Simons who this group is and he replied he doesn't know.

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