

# Remembering our fallen heroes

## Join legion for ceremony

# Nothing moved ...

Members of the Royal Canadian Legion in Stouffville invite residents to join them for Remembrance Day ceremonies tomorrow and Tuesday, to honour the veterans who fought and gave their lives to preserve our freedom.

The first will take place at 1 p.m. at the Memorial in Stouffville Cemetery tomorrow and a service will be held Sunday afternoon at 2.30 p.m. at the

Legion Hall on Ninth Line North. The community will also gather for the annual ceremony at 10.30 a.m. Tuesday at the Cenotaph in Civic Square.

The Princess Diana Memorial Garden at the Legion is now ready for winter, with spring bulbs and cedar globes planted and the new flagpole in place. A special plaque in memory of the late princess is on order and will be placed at the site.

### JOHN GALT Special

The 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month.

How many times have we heard that phrase, and what does it mean? It happened before I was born. But I remem-

ber as a school kid, standing, shivering, listening to that mournful bugle.

The 'old' veterans standing quietly as the hymns were sung and the Union Jack was lowered.

The men looked so old and weary. Someone would read a list of names of those 'old' men who had died in a far off land.

I wasn't sure how I felt. We lived in a small town where everyone knew everyone else.

I suppose everyone knew those who didn't come back from a war that I knew little about.

It was a railroad town where the steam engine plied back and forth. But on that day, at 11 o'clock in the morning - nothing moved, not a sound for two minutes.

There was coughing and a few handkerchiefs would be wiping away tears.

They were 'old' people, I didn't really understand. I was 10.

Later in the classroom the teacher would explain what it was all about.

That some country far away started a war. That we, as Canadians answered the call for help

- and our young Canadians went away to some far off land and that some didn't come home.

It seemed so far away, so big - so cold.

Then I grew up. I was 17. And someone else started a war, I started to understand those 'old' veterans.

I joined the navy. It wasn't only because I was a young patriotic Canadian, at that time it seemed to be exciting - an adventure, a uniform. I was turned down in Montreal.

They said I was too young, so I went to Quebec City and they enlisted me. I was a sailor. I was in for the 'duration of hostilities'. I wasn't even sure what that meant.

After learning the difference between my left and right foot I was sent to Halifax.

For more training, where I became a seaman torpedoman. It was on my first ship that I realized the difference between the Army, Air Force and the Navy.

The two others could see the enemy. For the most part, we couldn't. We were on the 'Newfie Derry run'.

It was then I began to understand what those cold days standing at the cenotaph meant.

We heard about the sinking of the St. Croix, the Charlottetown, the Athabaskan which were among the 24 ships sunk during the war. I knew some of the men on those ships.

I remembered them. I began to realize why it was and is important to remember them.

Now I stand with the other Veterans here in Stouffville on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month to remind myself and hopefully to remind others of those men and women who served but didn't make it back home.

Was it worth it? I just have to look out my window, listen to the radio, to see and hear the freedom of a country made possible by those who served. I remember.

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