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Sandra Bolan

OPINION

Superstorm alters writer's marathon hopes

43232. That is my New York City marathon bib number.

10:30 a.m. orange wave No. 3, corral No. 3. That is where I was supposed to start my 42.2-kilometre journey across all five boroughs of New York City last Sunday.

It obviously didn't happen.

A storm I unfortunately share a name with had other plans for me and 47,000 other runners, not to mention millions of New York and New Jersey residents.

We knew the weekend before a storm was brewing. It was initially called Frankenstorm. Then Superstorm Sandy. No one knew exactly what it had in store for the east coast other than it would be unprecedented due to a convergence of three weather systems.

To be honest, I just thought it

See **AGONIZING**, page 3



STAFF PHOTO/NICK IWANYSHYN

The parade makes its way toward the veterans' section of the Stouffville Cemetery during the Remembrance Day ceremony Sunday. Another service will be held this Sunday at the legion.

WE REMEMBER

Number of veterans dwindling

Stouffville lost Korean vet earlier this year

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Local legion membership is on the rise, but the number of veterans is in single digits — seven.

"It's getting harder every year because there's less vets every year," said John McCracken, a veteran, 50-year legion member and Remembrance Day service conductor.

Earlier this year, the Stouffville legion lost its last Korean War veteran.

► Remembrance Day services are Sunday at the legion on Mostar Street at 11 a.m.

However, with in the past

few weeks, it has accepted the first Afghanistan war vet, according to Mr. McCracken.

"It shows the way for the rest and the younger people as well," he said.

"They're still thinking. They've got a lot on their minds.

"It was a dirty war over there because you didn't even know who your enemy was," Mr. McCracken said of why Afghanistan veterans may be slow to join legions.

This year's Remembrance Day service takes place Sunday at the legion on Mostar Street at 11 a.m.

See **SERVICE**, page 20.

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