

The background of the cover is a black and white historical photograph showing soldiers on the deck of a ship. They are wearing military uniforms and carrying gear. In the top right corner, there is a red poppy logo with a black outline.

Legion

BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON
COMMAND

MILITARY SERVICE RECOGNITION BOOK

Volume XVI, 2021

In the Service of Canada

Remembering the Canadians at Hong Kong 1941

NO STONE LEFT ALONE



A student pauses to read a veteran's headstone before placing a poppy, as part of a No Stone Left Alone ceremony in 2018.

In 1971, a twelve-year-old girl was having a discussion with her mother who was very ill and near death. The mother, who was a veteran, stroked the child's head and asked her not to cry and to try not to forget her on Armistice Day. Through her tears, the young girl looked into her mother's eyes and nodded, not even understanding what was meant by the word Armistice.

That young girl was Maureen Bianchini Purvis, founder of No Stone Left Alone Memorial Foundation. Her mother was Lillian Mary Bianchini, a proud Canadian Second World War veteran. Maureen never forgot her mother's 11 November wish and every year after Lillian died, she went to the cemetery site to lay a poppy on Remembrance Day. At first, she went alone, then later with her husband, and then finally, as soon as they could walk, with her two daughters. They would all pause at the cenotaph and look out at all the headstones that lay in the Field of Honour in Beechmount

Cemetery in Edmonton. One day her youngest daughter Keely asked, "Why don't the others get a poppy?"

For years, she provided possible reasons until the girls grew up and declared, "Mom, I think we should make sure they all get one." Knowing time was fleeting she decided to try to do that. She started with the help of friends, but the number of headstones was overwhelming. She wrote a letter to the Minister of Veterans Affairs, who gave his blessing and encouraged her to begin. Next, she contacted the Minister of Education of Alberta who connected her with two school principals. Afterwards, she was fortunate to meet with a young Lieutenant-Colonel who understood her vision and said, "We can do this."

But Maureen's goal went beyond honouring veterans one day a year. She and her family saw that the key to ongoing remembrance lay in engaging



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have given their lives for our freedom.*

For this, we are forever in their debt.



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From

A Friend



Beckett Yates, Maureen Bianchini Purvis' grandson, places a poppy on his great grandmother's headstone. Also pictured Sara McNeill (top left), Randall Purvis (lower left), Keely Yates (lower right), Grant McNeill and Maureen Bianchini Purvis (top right).

youth in more meaningful and personal acts of remembrance - so that they can better understand and connect with the sacrifices made for the peace and freedoms we enjoy today and carry that understanding with them through their lives.

No Stone Left Alone was officially launched in 2011 to help ensure an enduring respect and gratitude for the sacrifice of the Canadian men and women who have devoted their lives to the service of peace, at home and abroad. It became Maureen's mission to see that one day all the soldiers' headstones would have a poppy placed in their honour, with truly No Stone Left Alone.

No Stone Left Alone Memorial Foundation and its supporters are committed to implementing an authentic leadership experience for students across Canada, culminating in a moving, hands-on remembrance ceremony. The Foundation's goal is to engage youth in the personal act of remembrance and respect for our veterans, past and present, who came home and those who did not.

After education and preparation, students participate in an engaging, memorable remembrance ceremony that involves placing poppies on every soldier's headstone in cemeteries across Canada. This act occurs during Veteran's Week each year. The No Stone Left Alone experience also helps bring attention to the immense contributions of Canadian veterans, serving soldiers and their families.

Since its founding in 2011, No Stone Left Alone's mission to honour our veterans resulted in unforgettable experiences for those involved and elicited numerous accolades from the community. Maureen Bianchini Purvis and her daughter, Ms. Keely Yates received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of their efforts.

Why Involve Students

Participating in the No Stone Left Alone experience provides students with a meaningful, unique,



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Maureen Bianchini Purvis' granddaughters, Elle and Petra McNeill, at their great grandmother Lillian Bianchini's headstone in 2011.

tunities to develop and demonstrate leadership, and empowers them to make positive changes in their world. Above all, youth experience a personal connection to remembrance which they will carry forward with them throughout their lives.

Making a Difference for Students

Across Canada, students connect with one another to participate and share in solemn remembrance ceremonies. While the act of honouring our military

and authentic experience that raises awareness of the role Canadian service men and women played in history, in war and peace. It also raises awareness of the sacrifices made by our military to this day. Prior to our annual remembrance ceremonies at cemeteries across Canada, school principals, teachers and Canadian Armed Forces members work together to empower students to become more informed about Canada's military history.

Intergenerational Relationships with Our Veterans and Soldiers

No Stone Left Alone works with teachers, youth, and volunteers to create hands on inter-generational remembrance events in Canadian communities every November. Our unique ceremony brings students and youth outside, to these important sites, for an experience that creates knowledge, understanding and appreciation of those who serve and the sacrifices made by Canadians.

Support and involvement from serving military members and veterans, including members of the Royal Canadian Legion, makes these events even more meaningful and moving for students. In fact, in many cases RCL members organize and lead these ceremonies.

Participation in our ceremonies fosters the values of diversity and inclusion, creates oppor-

ties to develop and demonstrate leadership, and empowers them to make positive changes in their world. Through this endeavor, students demonstrate greater self-esteem, build motivation to become global citizens, and gain a greater awareness of the need for peace. All of this is attained while learning more about Canadian military history. Students also develop leadership skills, learn the importance of service to the community, and learn to respect the cemetery sites as a place of honour.

To Learn More

For more information about No Stone Left Alone or to get involved, please visit their website at www.nostoneleftalone.ca, or contact National Coordinator, Michelle Koch at

national.coordinator@nostoneleftalone.ca



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