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# Press

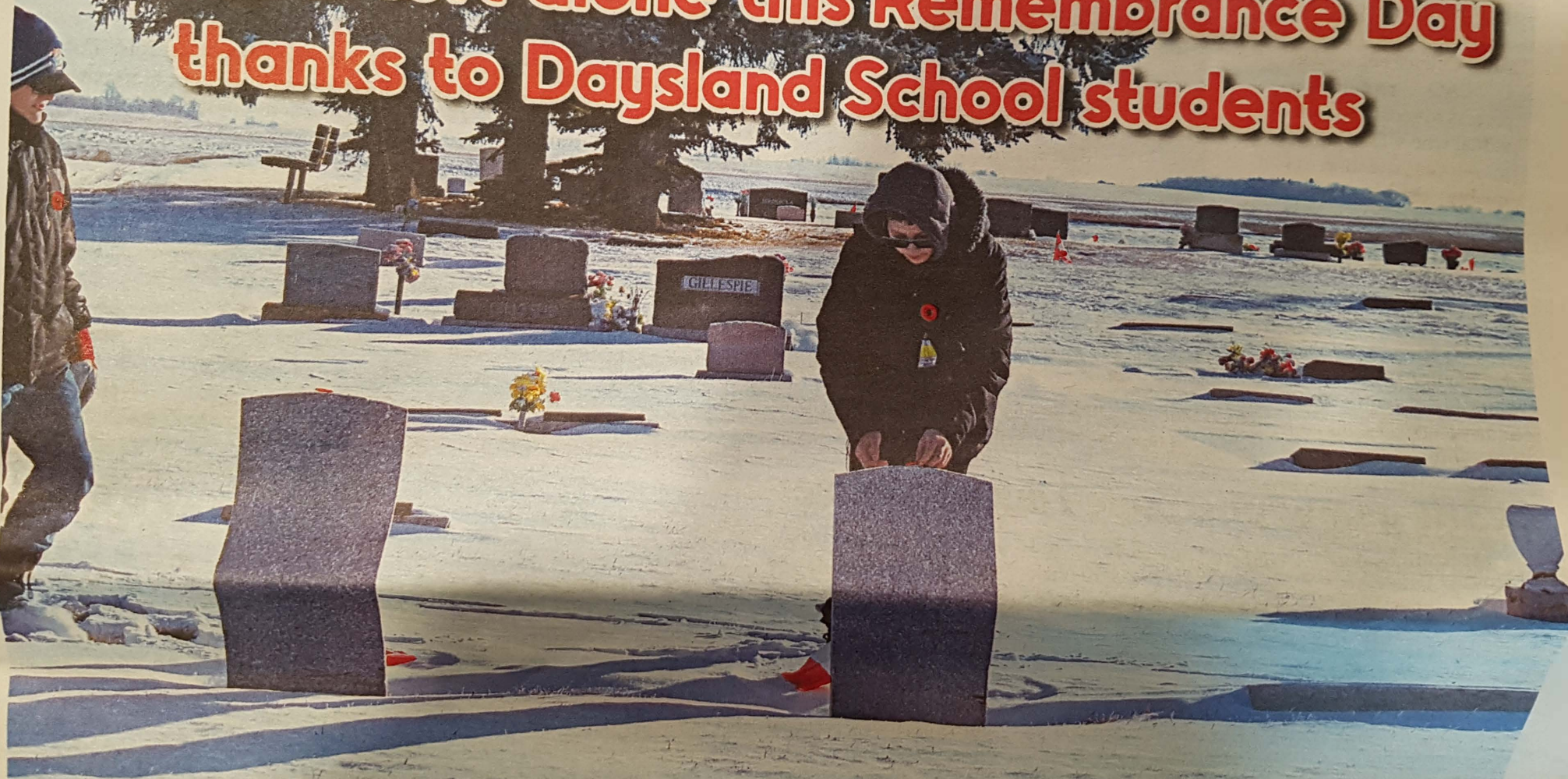
## Lest We Forget

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# No stone left alone this Remembrance Day thanks to Daysland School students



Grade 8 and 9 students from Daysland School visited the Daysland Cemetery on Friday, Nov. 4 along with members of the Daysland Legion in a 'No Stone Left Alone' ceremony. After a short memorial, students honoured the graves of every veteran buried in Daysland by placing a poppy on the headstone. See full story Page 10.



# Daysland Legion and School team up for 'No stone left alone'

Leslie Cholowsky  
Editor

Daysland Legion Branch President Gordon Pennycook recently approached Daysland School Principal Wes Wilson about bringing the 'No Stone Left Alone' initiative to the region.

On Friday, 38 students visited the graves of 65 veterans, laying poppies on their gravestones to remember and honour them.

Wilson said he had not heard of the program before hearing about it from Pennycook, but he's very glad he brought it to the school's attention. "I am very enthusiastic about the No Stone Left Alone program.

"It was a great way for students to show respect for Veterans who have passed from within our community and to make sure their contributions to our freedom, as well as their connection to our local area, are recognized."

As the Grade 8 and 9 students, under the supervision of teachers Vicky Zimmer and Casey Johnson, arrived at the cemetery, Legion President Pennycook, Vice-President Jim Gillespie, Minister Rob Johnson, and Piper Carl Symondson were on hand to greet them.

The official program included a short introduction by Pennycook and a brief description of the No Stone Left Alone initiative.

He told the students that of the over 60 Veterans buried at Daysland, only Sgt. Steve Wasylyke and Pvt Standly Charles Barker died during wartime on Canadian soil. "All those here in Daysland Cemetery are the so-called lucky ones, who returned home from their various deployments alive, but not necessarily well.

"Some would have come back partly disabled due to injuries or disease caused by weeks and months in the trenches, some were suffering from PTSD, or shell-shock, as it was called back then. Many would have left friends and family members behind.

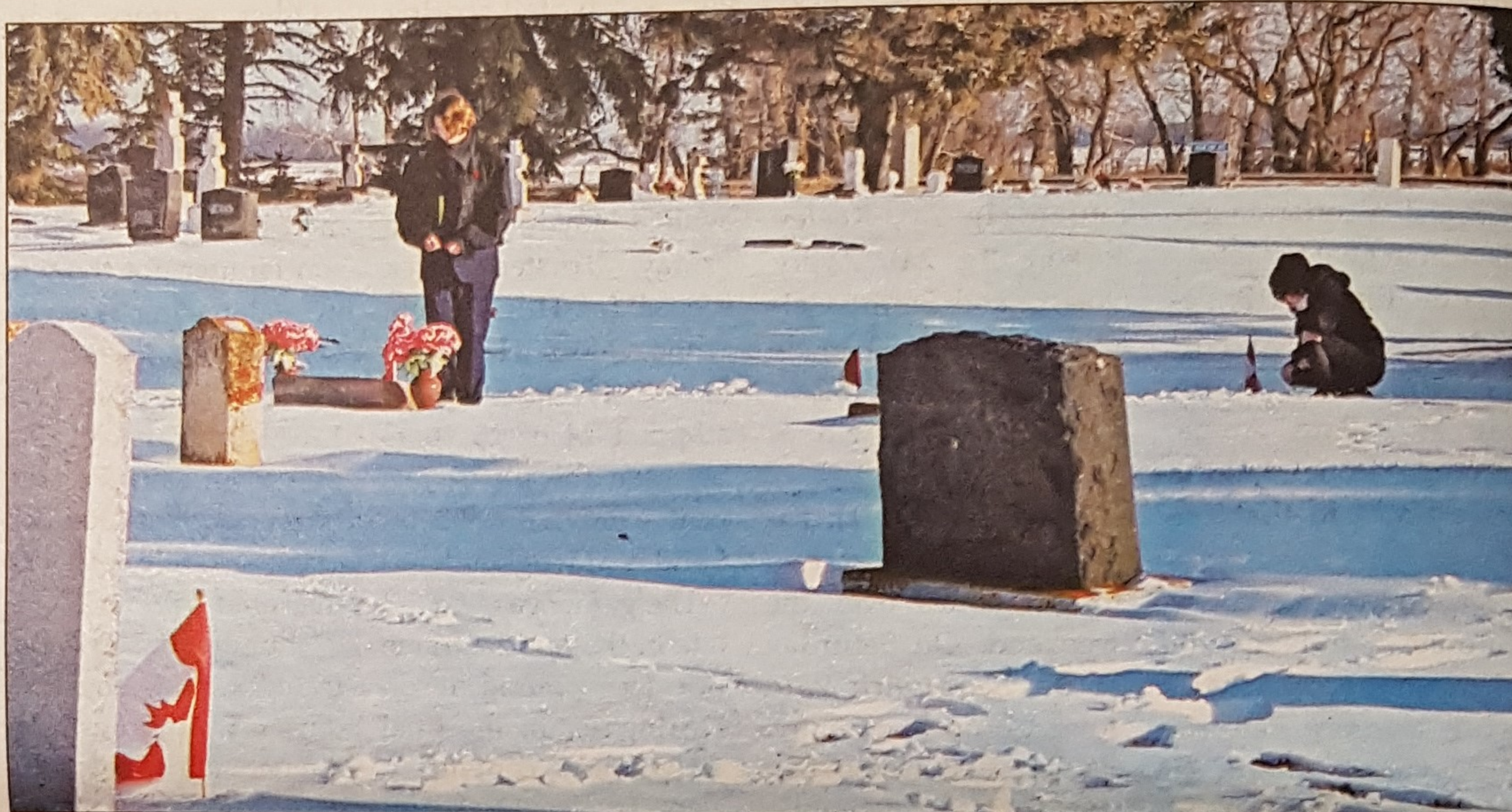
"But they all had one goal, and that was to protect the freedom that we still enjoy today. By coming here and participating in this ceremony you are giving them the gratitude and respect they so well deserve."

Two students, Karissa Bednarski and Lia Kasha, participated in the program, with Bednarski reciting 'In Flanders Fields,' and Kasha the 'Commitment to Remember.'

Johnson gave the prayer of remembrance.

After the program, students were advised that each veteran's grave was marked with a Canadian flag, and had been cleared of snow by Legion member Dave Hanrahan.

Pennycook says that he



Daysland School's Grade 8 and 9 students showed reverence and care when placing poppies on veteran's graves at the Daysland Cemetery for the 'No Stone Left Alone' program with the Daysland Legion on Friday, Nov. 4.

heard afterwards from the teachers, who said the students had given very positive feedback about the experience.

Wilson says, "We are very much hoping to make this a tradition in our community. It will be important for schools to continue the legacy of our veterans and our local Legions.

"The teacher feedback was very positive and they were very proud of how respectful our students were of the process.

"They overwhelmingly said that we need to continue this program in our school."

Pennycook is very pleased with the results, and hopes to expand the project in future years.

The No Stone Left Alone Memorial Foundation was started by Maureen Bianchini Purvis, who promised her mother on her death bed that she would 'try not to forget her on Armistice Day.' That was back in 1971 and Purvis has not missed a year since. Each

Remembrance Day she lays a poppy on her mother's gravestone in Edmonton at Beechmount Cemetery.

As she grew up, and married, she would take her two daughters along, and each year they would ask, "Why don't the others get a poppy?"

When the girls grew older, they became more insistent, and Purvis wrote a letter to the Veterans Affairs Minister, the Minister of Education, and finally met a Lieutenant-Colonel who encouraged and helped her.

"Maureen and her family saw that the key to ongoing remembrance lay in engaging youth in a more meaningful and personal act of remembrance - so that they could truly understand and connect with the sacrifices made to give all of us the peace and freedoms we enjoy today, and carry that connection forward with them through their lives."

No Stone Left Alone was officially launched in

2011.

"It has become Purvis's mission to see that one day all of the soldiers' headstones would have a poppy placed in their honour, with truly No Stone Left Alone."

In 2012, the first NSLA

service was held in Edmonton with 120 students attending, who honoured 4,149 military headstones with poppies. In 2019, 12,200 students honoured 64,500 military headstones in 118 locations.

Daysland Legion President Gordon Pennycook (right) and Vice President Jim Gillespie led Friday's 'No Stone Left Alone' program at the Daysland Cemetery, along with Pastor Rob Johnson and piper Carl Symondson.



Daysland School teacher Vicky Zimmer laid a wreath on behalf of the Grade 8 and 9 students.