

'WE MUST REMEMBER'

HAMDI ISSAWI

Students in Edmonton and across the country are on a mission to ensure the memory of Canadian soldiers and their sacrifices aren't lost to the ebb and flow of time.

Ahead of Remembrance Day, about 46 young people from Cadets Canada and Edmonton's Riverbend Junior High School withstood cold and snow to honour veterans buried at the city's Beechmount Cemetery on Monday.

Joining the ceremony in the cemetery's military field of honour, Lt.-Gov. Salma Lakhani acknowledged the chilly conditions, which she said should prompt participants to appreciate those in the line of duty who are charged to persevere despite the weather.

Lakhani asked students to consider the "precious gifts" owed to the efforts of those who serve, such as the freedom to express, question and explore ideas.

"Remember that this is not the case in every part of the world," Lakhani said, adding that for generations members of the military "have bravely stepped forward to serve so that young people like you, from around the world, are able to

enjoy the blessings of peace, freedom, and human rights."

The ceremony marked the 12th observance of No Stone Left Alone, an annual event organized by a memorial foundation of the same name that aims to help young Canadians learn about the country's military history and form a connection with members of the Forces — namely by placing symbolic poppies at the headstones of those who've served.

The event also follows the 80th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid, when nearly 5,000 Canadian soldiers arrived on a heavily defended French coast during the Second World War, and more than 3,350 Canadians lost their lives, according to Veteran Affairs Canada.

Retired Global Edmonton broadcaster Gord Steinke emceed the event and said 13,000 Canadian students will lay 70,000 poppies at 150 locations across the country by Friday. Figures from the No Stone Left Alone website indicate 7,702 students from 88 communities placed 67,171 poppies in 131 ceremonies across Canada in 2021.

However, Steinke added, the weather did not permit two Royal Canadian Air Force CF-188 Hornets from 4 Wing

Cold Lake to perform a flyby at the 11 a.m. mark in support.

Brig.-Gen. Steve Graham, commander of about 12,000 3rd Canadian Division members of the country's Forces, stood among several dignitaries at the event who placed wreaths at the cenotaph, which saw representatives from Indigenous communities, multiple levels of government and military as well as police groups take part.

The Canadian Virtual War Memorial recognizes the names of more than 118,000 people who died in service. The number of lives lost can be difficult to comprehend, but observers would still do well to recognize that the dead lost the opportunity to enjoy the rest of their lives, and left behind loved ones in mourning, Graham said.

"It's normal to feel a profound sense of loss, and yet we should also feel incredible respect and pride for what they did for our country," Graham said.

"They sacrificed their own hopes and dreams for us, and that's what we must remember."

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No Stone Left Alone honours fallen soldiers



Members of the Pipes and Drums of the Edmonton Police Service observe the 12th annual Remembrance ceremony for 'No Stone Left Alone' at Beechmount Cemetery on Monday. RIGHT: Poppies are left by students from Riverbend School and members of Cadets Canada on the headstones of fallen soldiers. GREG SOUTHAM/POSTMEDIA PHOTOS



Monday snowfall leads to more crashes on city streets

MATTHEW BLACK

Edmonton's latest round of snow snarled traffic Monday morning and led to another series of collisions amid the hazardous driving conditions.

Edmonton Police say officers responded to 11 collisions between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Monday morning.

Eight of those collisions

involved property damages, two were hit-and-runs, and one resulted in injury.

Those figures do not include incidents reported to local collision centres where most crashes are now reported.

The city's two collision centres reported a further 61 collisions involving 101 people on Monday as of 3 p.m.

Since the end of September,

police only respond to collisions that meet a set criteria that include crashes involving serious injury, criminal activity, or pedestrians.

South of the city, Leduc RCMP warned motorists of icy conditions on the Queen Elizabeth II Highway following a collision in the south-bound lanes.

Part of Highway 28, just east of Highway 38, was closed for

part of Monday after a head-on collision between a truck and SUV just after 1 a.m. that left the driver and passenger of the SUV dead and two occupants of the truck in hospital.

Those collisions come after a weekend that saw multiple crashes amid snowy driving conditions.

Police estimate 50 vehicles were caught up in a series of

collisions near Ponoka on Saturday, including a bus carrying the Sherwood Park Crusaders junior hockey team.

Edmonton Police say they attended 39 collisions between 8 a.m. Saturday and the same time on Sunday.

The weather prompted the closure of parts of the highway near Olds for several hours Saturday afternoon

Close to 10 centimetres of snow was forecast to fall over the city throughout Monday with temperatures rising only as high as -13 C.

Environment Canada expects the snow to taper off by Tuesday though the frigid temperatures will remain.

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