

No Stone Left Alone

(Cont'd from Front) in their honour, and the cemetery would resemble the idea of Flanders Fields where the poppies grow "row on row."

The No Stone Left Alone Memorial Foundation has taken part in numerous ceremonies across Canada and extended to Poland since its inception. In 2019: 12,297 students from 127 schools placed 64,503 poppies in 121 cemeteries on their graves.

The Foundation's mission is to honour Canada's military's sacrifice and service by educating students and placing poppies on the headstones of veterans every November.

Usually, the local service is a combined effort of the Greenwood Cemetery Board, Ridgetown Br. 243 Legion, Ridgetown Kiwanis Club and the Ridgetown Key Club and open to the public.

Jim Brown, the organizer of the local event, hope to see everyone back next year. "While smaller and a slightly different program, the importance

of the event is the same," stated Brown. With attendance limited, we expanded the laying of poppies on Veterans graves outside of the Legion Plot and throughout the cemetery, which we always hoped to do. Taking part in this year's service where Members of Br. 243 Ridgetown Legion executive, Br. 243 Legion Padre, Rev. Al McIntyre and invited students, Rain Crow and Olive Crow.

Following a welcome, a message from the NSLA President, Maureen Bianchini Purvis, was read. "I am so grateful that each and every one of you is here at this most important event. This year may look very different from previous events, but no less important. 2020 marks a milestone for No Stone Left Alone Memorial Foundation. 10 YEARS. It is a wonderful accomplishment of which I am very proud. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of so many wonderful Canadians, especially the participating students



Ridgetown Legion Br. 243 President Cindy Devereux lays a wreath of remembrance while others look on.

and our incredible volunteers.

A year has passed since we last gathered in our communities to honour our important military Veterans. We are all very aware today of the difference a year can make. Our world is constantly changing, and we are all

looking for the comfort of peace -- the peace we have all enjoyed and hope to continue to enjoy.

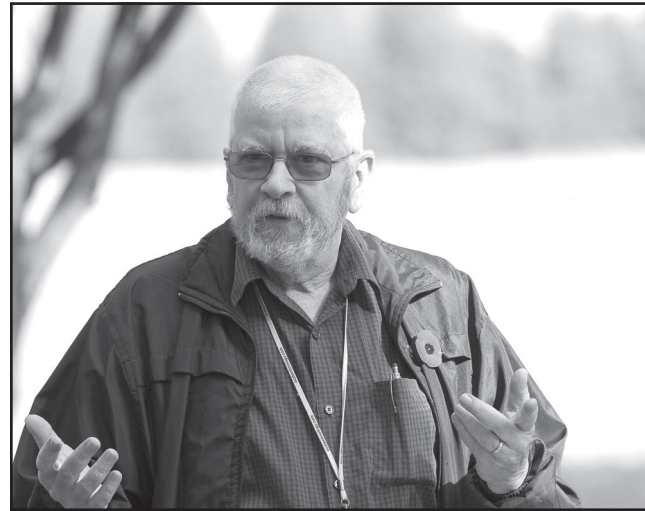
So today, those who are here to honour our veterans, I want you to know that with this small act of respect and honour, you truly are making a difference. You are setting an example for our youth, that no matter what happens in our daily lives, we must, and we will remember them. Please stay safe, follow all the health guidelines to keep your loved ones safe, and I look forward to a brighter 2021." Maureen Bianchini Purvis, Founder and President.

Br. 243 Ridgetown Legion President Cindy Devereux extended greetings and read "In Flanders Fields". Message from Legion Padre Rev. Al McIntyre and Prayer of Remembrance followed. President Devereux then read the Commitment to Remember and Act of Remembrance. A wreath was laid at the foot of the Vimy Oak in the Legion plot and the two students laid poppies on each stone in the Legion plot. After closing comments, those attending walked the cemetery grounds placing poppies on as many graves as they could identify.

"We are looking forward to next year and enhancing our fourth service and having everyone back," says Brown. "I want to thank all who took the time out of their busy lives to participate in this year's event. To the students who assisted this year, thank you. We are counting on you, to learn, to watch, and to help change the world."



Legion Padre, Rev. Al McIntyre, gives a prayer of Remembrance.



Ridgetown's No Stone Left Alone organizer, Jim Brown, reads a message from NSLA President Maureen Bianchini Purvis.



Rain Crow and Olive Crow are pictured above laying poppies on stones in the Legion plot.

Greenwood Cemetery's

Light a Star

this Christmas

The festive season is fast approaching and this is often a time of joy but also a time to remember, "Light a Star in Memory" is an opportunity to sponsor a star on our special Christmas Tree in memory or honour of a loved one. The names of the loved ones you wish to recognize will also be placed on a special recognition page in the Independent News.

For your taxable donation of \$20.00 a 6" lighted twinkling star will be placed on a tree in the fountain garden area graciously offered by McKinlay Funeral Home Main Street Ridgetown.

Completed donation forms may be dropped off at the Independent News office or mailed to Greenwood Cemetery, Box 609, 1 Main Street, Ridgetown, Ontario N0P 2C0. Forms are also available at The Independent News office.

Light a Star is open to anyone to take part in.

Donation Form

I would like to purchase the following.

Star with memorial listing \$20.00 (one name) _____

Star with couple memorial listing \$30.00 (eg: John & Jane Doe) _____

Cash _____ or Cheque _____

In Memory of _____
(Name to be placed in memorial listing. Please print clearly.)

Please forward official receipt to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ PO Box: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

I would like to make an additional donation to Greenwood Cemetery \$ _____

In addition to the Light a Star pages a special recognition page for those who purchased a star or made a donation will to run in the Independent December 23. If you would like your name listed check here: _____

All proceeds to assist with Greenwood Cemetery operations. For further information or questions contact Jim Brown 519-401-7295, Cindy Devereux 519-674-5461 or any board member.