

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 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 last December edition of the Independent.

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.

A Star Shines for the following:

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|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Brandan & Wesley Fuller | Bob Lutz |
| Ed Sensabaugh | Donna & Leonard Lutz |
| Max & Marjorie Simpson | Ron Gelderland |
| Sarah & John McLaren | Clayt & Agnes Johnston |
| Ed & Gord Woods | Charles & Florence Evans |
| Bill & Helen Brien | Gordon & Leona Brown |
| John & Pat Thomas | |



The "No Stone Left Alone" service was held at the Greenwood Cemetery on Friday, November 11th. The ceremony is held to honour the sacrifice and service of Canada's military by educating students and placing poppies on the headstones of veterans each November. Members of the Ridgetown Legion, Ridgetown Kiwanis Club, and others took part in the service.

No Stone Left Alone

The 5th Annual No Stone Left Alone service was held on the afternoon of November 11 at the Legion plot in Greenwood Cemetery. The service is to honour the sacrifice and service of Canada's military by educating students and placing poppies on the headstones of veterans every November.

Following the marching in of the Ridgetown Legion, Br. 243 Colour Party, Jim Brown organizer of the local event, welcomed those in attendance and gave a history of No Stone Left Alone.

In 1971, a child of twelve was discussing with her mother, who was very ill and near death. Her 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.

No Stone Left Alone founder, Maureen Bianchini Purvis, was that young girl. Her mother was Lillian Mary Bianchini, a proud Canadian veteran of WWII. Never missing a year since her mother's passing, Maureen has gone to the cemetery site to lay a poppy on Remembrance Day. First alone, then with her husband and finally, as soon as they could walk, her two daughters. They would pause at the cenotaph and look out at all the headstones that lay in the Field of Honour in

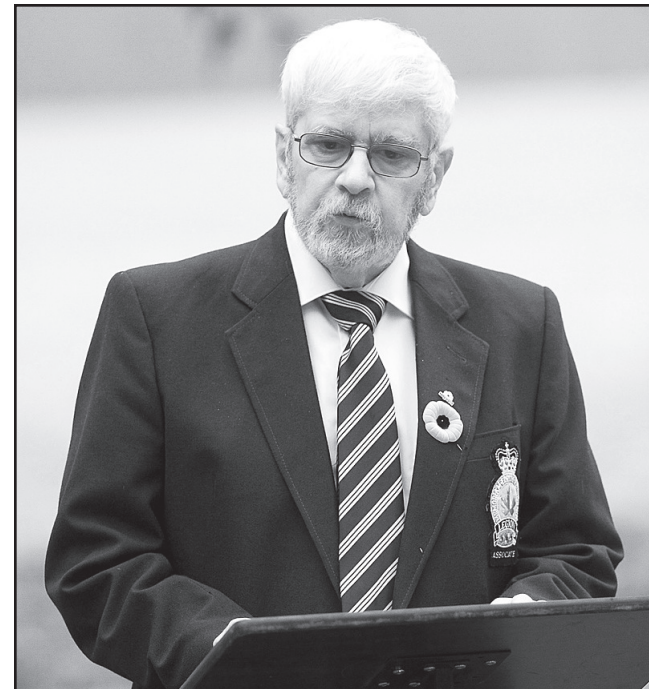
Beechmount Cemetery in Edmonton. Her two little girls would ask, "Why don't the others get a poppy?"

For years, she provided possible reasons until they 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 a few 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 and met a young Lieutenant-Colonel who said, "We can do this."

But Maureen's goal was not only to honour veterans today. She and her family saw that the key to ongoing remembrance lay in engaging youth in a more meaningful and personal act

(Cont'd on Page 16)



Jim Brown, Chair Greenwood Cemetery



Cindy Devereux, Br. 243 Ridgetown Legion President