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After years of saluting fallen soldiers at CFB Trenton, those who gathered this week to repatriate Corporal Yannick Sherrer, say they will continue the vigil as long as Canadians are serving in conflicts

'I hope it ends'



A crowd awaits the start of the repatriation ceremony for Corporal Yannick Sherrer at CFB Trenton on Wednesday.

Photo by James Bowler

By James Bowler

Peter Tobin, 73, thought hard as he worked to remove his flag from the barbed wire fence after the repatriation ceremony had come to a close.

"I don't think this will ever come to an end until they're defeated over there," said Tobin.

Tobin was one of many standing outside the fence at CFB Trenton, Wednesday, as hundreds gathered to pay their respects to the first fallen Canadian soldier of 2011.

Corporal Yannick Scherrer, 24, was the 155th Canadian Soldier to fall in Afghanistan since 2006. He died on Sunday after an Improvised Explosive Device attack in the town of Nakhonay, near Kandahar city.

It was Scherrer's first tour in Afghanistan.

Tobin grew up in a military family and he served in the military, but his unit was never called to tour. He said that the feeling between most soldiers is that the Afghan war will never end.

"I hope it ends, I wish this one didn't have to be," said Tobin, "or all the ones before it."

Despite the fact that Canadian soldiers will be pulling out of the Afghanistan war this summer (while leaving a few

behind to train police), many feel that disputes in Libya and the political uprising in the Middle East will likely cause the repatriation ceremonies to continue.

Brianna Bixby, 22, is the spouse of a soldier living in Trenton. The couple has two little girls. Bixby's husband has not been called on tour for Afghanistan or Libya yet, but Bixby said the idea of him leaving makes her nervous.

Bixby said that the Afghanistan war was never Canada's fight and that the country should have never gotten involved. She said that despite the fact that Canada is pulling out of the Afghanistan war there would still be more deaths.

"Because of our track record already," said Bixby, "we keep dying."

Wendy Morgan-McBride, 44, sat in her van watching the ceremony. Recent surgery making it difficult for her to stand for a long period of time.

Despite her pain she still makes time to pay her respects. She said she makes it to as many as she can. She suffers from three different types of cancer.

"Unfortunately I don't know if pulling our troops out and leaving a few there is going to be the end of all of this," said Morgan-McBride.

Many other people milled around,

either standing quietly near the fence, or chatting with some that they may not see outside of these repatriation ceremonies.

Howard Hazard, 86, said that while these ceremonies are very upsetting, sometimes these situations are unavoidable. Hazard served in World War II.

"Sometimes these situations call for us to stand behind our troops and support them in every way we can," said Hazard.

He feels Canada may never fully pull out of the Afghanistan war.

As the ceremony began, the faint sound of a trumpet playing 'Amazing Grace' could be heard over the sound of cars passing by.

The crowd was mostly silent, with a few onlookers quietly talking.

When the ceremony concluded and the hearse slowly made its way to the road, fire trucks blocked traffic on both sides as onlookers from the fence lined up on the road, creating a single lane of travel.

As the hearse rolled by, bagpipes played and many saluted Corporal Scherrer.

"It's part of my duty to support the people that are there now," said Tobin, "What they're doing now, they're protecting us."

Province spending more on colleges

By Nicole Kleinsteuber

Future college and university students may have a greater chance at attaining post secondary education thanks to new funding from the provincial government.

Finance Minister Dwight Duncan announced Tuesday \$64 million is to be invested this year to provide 60,000 new spaces in colleges and universities.

The \$309 million will be invested by 2015-16. The funding was included in the 2011 provincial budget outlined by Duncan.

Loyalist College President Maureen Piercy said she's pleased with the announcement and the government's ongoing commitment to continuing education.

"This is very exciting," said Piercy. "Growth will be funded, students will have access and we'll be able to offer new programs for the new work force."

Piercy said the new spaces will provide opportunities for people with disabilities and aboriginal backgrounds to attend college. First-generation students and second-career students will also benefit from the funding.

"Loyalist has a tradition of serving under-represented groups in our community. The college has more than double the activity level that we should have based on our college size because we've been very successful with those things," said Piercy.

She said it's undetermined how the funding will be spread out between colleges and universities.

"However it's distributed, Loyalist has been growing and offering new programs and new opportunities in all areas, including literacy and basic skills," said Piercy.

The province has committed \$44 million over three years to literacy and basic skills programs.

"This funding is very encouraging and very positive for the whole community and our economy," said Piercy.

Duncan announced that \$22.5 million is set to be paid out for this year's summer jobs strategy, aimed at helping about 100,000 students secure employment.

Nora Loreto of the Canadian Federation of Students said she is hoping to see more funding for students in the budget.

"What we need is more relief in grant or lower tuition fees," said Loreto.

Free enterprise students celebrate

By Evan Cooke

If you talked to people in the halls of Loyalist College, not everyone would know about their school's SIFE team.

SIFE, which stands for Students in Free Enterprise, is a non-profit organization that builds teams of volunteers to develop projects that make a difference to the people in their community. It has chapters in many of the post-secondary schools around the country.

This year, in only the second year of the Loyalist team's existence, they were declared champions at the TD SIFE Entrepreneurship Challenge Regional Championships in Toronto.

The competition was split up, with the Go Green, TD Entrepreneurship, and the Financial Literacy as the three categories. The TD Entrepreneurship category was split into three pools, with Loyalist finishing at the top of their group.

Loyalist's win came on the strength of the four main community projects that they've founded this year.

The SIFE 4 Life project works



Members of Loyalist College's SIFE team celebrate their win at the regional championships.

Submitted photo

with middle-school students at Quinte Mohawk Primary School, helping to empower them and involve them in school life. Currently, they're training them to be members of the stage crew, and getting them involved in activities outside of regular homework.

Let's Can Hunger is their fundraising effort with Gleaner's Food Bank to help soften the blow for families who can't al-

ways afford to put food on the table, as well as drawing attention to the issues surrounding poverty.

Helping Entrepreneurs Reach Complete Success, or HERCS, is an initiative that's been started with current and former military personnel at CFB Trenton. The participants went through seven workshops that taught them how to build their own businesses to bring in more in-

come to support their families.

And the First Glance project has worked with businesses in downtown Napanee to improve their own and attract new businesses. Warkworth Institute and local high school students are also involved.

It was these types of projects that led to Loyalist's success, and just as impressive as the win was the fact that Loyalist was the only college in their pool,

beating universities like Wilfred Laurier, McGill, Carleton, and Windsor.

But as Loyalist's SIFE team president Danielle McIsaac said, after meeting all the other teams, the championships were about more than just the final result.

"Every single person in that room is a cheerleader for everybody else who's doing what they're doing. It's not about competing against one another, it's about collaboratively improving Canada."

McIsaac, who took over the president's role in February, is a single mom in the second career program.

She's no stranger to hard work, and says that she can rely on her team not only to work hard on the various projects, but to support each other's workload as well.

"A big thing is being able to rely on others for help. We all have the same conflicting priorities, but when there's a task that needs to be done, you know you've got a whole team."