

Hundreds march to remember

By Jennifer Robertson

Hundreds of people marched through Bolton on Nov. 11 to join in on the Remembrance Day ceremony that took place at the Bolton Cenotaph this past Sunday.

The 91st march began at the Bolton Firehall on Anne Street at 10 a.m. Forming together with local participants, the crowd marched through the town towards the Laurel Hill Cemetery, led by Kevin Junor, chief warrant officer in the Canadian Army and marshal of the parade.

The march continued to the Bolton Cenotaph, where people were seated for the Remembrance Day service ceremony in honour of all Canadians who served their country in war. Each and every participant, young or old, bore a bright red poppy on their chest in support and respect.

The service began with Pastor Jeff Enns of the Bolton Alliance Church as speaker, acknowledging significant participants as well as reading the historical poem, *In Flanders Fields*.

“In Flanders fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row”

The laying of the wreaths by many community members in memory of soldiers followed the ceremony. Junor ended the ceremony by addressing the community with thanks for attending. He stated that the service was a great success. This year was the first year Bolton was able to have its Remembrance Day ceremony on Nov. 11.

“Today is an outstanding day. We’ve had this parade for a number of years, but never on the day of Nov. 11. The g\ Good Lord has blessed us today, that we got to remember this day on the exact day.

“It’s always great to have the soldiers’ support, to come here to march with us,



Photo by Jennifer Robertson

Kevin Junor, chief warrant officer in the Canadian Army and marshal of the parade, led the march on Nov. 11 to the Bolton Cenotaph in the Laurel Hill Cemetery. The parade began at 10 a.m. for the Bolton Remembrance Day service.

but today, it’s truly a community parade.” brance of his own. that served, that gave their lives for us. that we have today, to be able to march through the streets of Bolton.”

Junor also had a few words of remem- “Let’s not forget the men and women Because that’s why we have the freedom

Portraits tell stories of our veterans

Editor’s Note: Photojournalism student Marta Iwanek spent some time with some people who have served in the military.



Photo by Marta Iwanek

Russ “Red” Burrows poses for a portrait in his Picton, Ont. home on Sept. 26.

Russ “Red” Burrows still can’t believe the puppy fox terrier he found and gave to his father before he served in the Canadian army in the Second World War remembered him when he returned over five years later.

He was sitting at the table in his parents’ Markham home after returning during the July 1 weekend of 1945. The dog was sniffing around and then all at once, he jumped on top of Burrows and licked his face. “That’s true, that’s very true. I couldn’t get over that. That dog knew me after all that time,” he says from the living room of his one-floor bungalow in Picton, Ont. Certificates and memorabilia of his veteran past line the walls and shelves of his robin egg blue walls.

Burrows, currently 91, enlisted when he was 18, and was sent overseas when he was 19. He was part of the Royal Canadian Engineers and was in the Dieppe Raid. He was taken Prisoner of War (POW) on Aug. 19, 1942 and only came home two years and eight months after that.

But for Burrows, settling down after coming home wasn’t easy. “We were almost strangers in our hometown,” he says. Being away so long, as well as the fact that those who had not served didn’t understand or wouldn’t believe what he had been through was why he felt this way. “The only ones that would believe you would be the First World War guys. They’d believe you because they knew what it was like.”

Finding community at local legions and shifting around jobs, he got married and started a life in Oshawa. He has six children, and even more grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He settled in Picton 13 years ago and recently just got married for the second time, long after his first wife passed away.

It took a long time to finally fit back in, but “I think I come out of it pretty good,” he says.

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Photo by Marta Iwanek

Mike Slatter poses at the War Museum of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 78 in Picton, Oct. 3.

Mike Slatter never served in a war, but serving in wartorn countries affected him just as much.

One wrong turn in the Kyrenia Mountains of Cyprus left him affected on such a deep level that it took years after he came home for good to figure out what was wrong with him.

In 1970, he was an infantryman, part of the platoon sent to infiltrate the mountainous region to see how far the group could get before being detained. As they went around a corner, they came to face to face with barrels of guns pointed at them.

They were detained for four hours in an eight-by-10 building with no windows, not knowing their fate. Finally, the Turkish Cypriots who captured them, released them, but with a warning – do not come back or else.

Slatter had a breakdown shortly after and was sent home early that year. He came back and was in the service a total 25 years, serving in places like Germany, Egypt and Lebanon throughout his time.

Homecomings were always sweet for Slatter - his wife and children would visit him at the airport - but for the longest time, he couldn’t figure out what was wrong with him. He would get mad easily and most times for no reason.

“I had taken it out on my family, on just about everybody not realizing why or what I was doing”

Three years ago, he tried to commit suicide. This wasn’t his first time, however, this time, he decided to get help. He was finally diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and goes to group therapy in Trenton with seven others veterans from all walks of life. One chap, he jokes, wasn’t even born yet when Slatter left the service. The sessions have helped him immensely.

“It’s making me see things in a whole different light now,” he says. “Six months ago, we wouldn’t be having this interview.”

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Photo by Marta Iwanek

Alicia “Kenny” Chambers poses for a portrait in her Belleville, Ont. home on Oct. 1.

Alicia “Kenny” Chambers never went overseas during the Second World War, but was just as much part of the warfront, staying in Canada.

At the age of 20, she went to Dauphin, Man. to go to contact training school where she learned to develop film and take photos for the Canadian Army. When it came to choosing a placement, she did opposite of what others might have expected.

“Well, because I was brought up in Alberta, I wanted to go to the East Coast,” she says and laughs. “So I went down to Summerside, Prince Edward Island.”

There, she developed the film during the training camp for pilot bombers who would use a camera with an intervalometer to document the target their teachers had instructed them to find.

After the war ended, she and her husband, who was also a photographer at the training camp, moved to Montreal where Chambers says it felt like starting life all over again.

Everyone was given gratuities for the length of time they served, which could be used on things like cutlery or clothing – however, permission was needed first.

“We had to start all over – buy shoes and stockings because everything was issue,” she says in her Belleville home in the east end. “We took buttons off tunics and wore them for awhile until we could get a wardrobe together.” Today she wears a water-colour blue tunic and sits beside her window which she also calls her office. She’s remained active in the many veteran community organizations.

The government also used some of the gratuity money to pay employers who would hire people like Chambers to learn a new craft. Since she already knew photography, the government wouldn’t pay her to have a job in that, so she became a seamstress for the time being. Soon after her, her husband and a friend moved to Belleville to open up a photography studio on Front Street. She later became a photographer for the Belleville Intelligencer, standing up for herself to get a higher wage and eventually becoming the first woman to have a pension.

She still lives in the same house in Belleville she has lived in since 1949. It’s where all the veteran houses are, but Chambers, 89, believes she’s one of the few left now.

The strong community of veterans in the area, always made her feel settled when she first came back.

“We came back and there was a lot of us coming back together.”