

We remember

By Hannah Eden

Stories, memories and a moment of silence were shared at Loyalist College Alumni Hall on Tuesday, Nov. 11.

The day was marked with personal memoirs and biographical tales of war from special guests, Major Allan Ferris, commanding officer, 8 ACCS and local author Mary Thomas, whose journalism relates to Canadian Forces.

President of Loyalist College, Maureen Piercy, started the ceremony with the placing of a wreath of poppies alongside Ferris and Warrant Officer Kevin Murphy.

Piercy's brief welcome paid special tribute to Cpl. Nathan Cirillo and Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent, who lost their lives last month whilst serving

their country.

The slow, majestic sound of the trumpet, played by retired professor Andy Sparling from the broadcast journalism program, was followed by two minutes of silence for a time of reflection.

The poem *In Flanders Fields* was shared by a Loyalist College student government representative as the full auditorium listened in silence to the poignant words.

However, it was Major Ferris who brought a modern take on war and its effects. He shared stories of his deployment to Afghanistan in 2007. Ferris shared three themes, which were formed from things he has learned and been witness to in his career.

The first theme he discussed was, "It's a nation that goes to war, not necessar-

ily a regiment."

After being deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan, for a security mission, Ferris said he swiftly realized the importance of Canada's foreign involvement.

"When I walked into the Canada House," said Ferris, "the walls were plastered with letters ... the support we received on a daily basis had a profound impact on me."

Ferris shared stories of joy and not of sorrow as he reassured the attentive audience of the importance of Canada's foreign involvement. Telling the tale



Major Allan Ferris

of a young boy who was able to go to school, a boy Ferris had befriended during his deployment, Ferris shared, his next theme, "We make the difference."

The third and final theme was one of a more pressing issue – the importance of you.

Ferris left the audience with a very weighted message of responsibility, a message based around democracy and public involvement with foreign policy.

"Ladies and gentlemen," said Ferris, looking directly at the audience, "you decide who the government is. So regardless of what your political affiliation is, remember it is not myself who decides who goes, when we go, to what conflicts we go – it's the government that decides. Your government."

This message of democracy and

choice left a profound effect on Loyalist College public relations student Julia Vriend who, at the end of the ceremony, made her way to the front of the Alumni Hall to give thanks to Ferris for his words of hope.

"I really appreciated what he said at the very end about it really matters who you vote into parliament," said Vriend.

"I never really thought about it that way ... I wanted to thank him personally."

Vriend said she also has a tough time dealing with the emotions of Remembrance Day as she, like most young people, had a grandfather who fought in World War Two – a war which today was remembered among, sadly, so many others.



Photo by Moush Sara John

Flypast being performed by the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association and the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum at the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Old Town Hall in Toronto Tuesday.



Photo by Sarah Robertson

A young girl points out names at the cenotaph that served during the war after the Remembrance Day ceremonies in Belleville.



Photo by Thomas Surian

Cadets perform an honour guard at the Trenton cenotaph.



Photo by Moush Sara John

Elaine Selby clutches on to her dad Norm Selby's photograph, while attending the Remembrance Day events at the Old Town Hall in Toronto.



Photo by Thomas Surian

Air Cadet Cpl. Shoushounov lays a wreath at the Trenton cenotaph following Remembrance Day ceremonies.



A young girl prepares to place a wreath of remembrance on the cenotaph during the Consecon Remembrance Day ceremonies. Photo by Amanda Paulhus