

Great Village Elementary



Grade 4 students at Great Village Elementary recited "In Flander's Fields" during their Remembrance Day Service on Nov. 10th.



These young Great Village Elementary vocalists were singing "Poppy Day" and "Make A Difference".



Guest speakers at the Great Village Elementary Remembrance Day Assembly included (L-R) Sergeant Logan Spencer, Petty Officer-Second Class, Diana Frizzle and Arthur Chisholm (Retired Reserve Member).



Alexis Morse, Kyle Dykestra and Samuel Pully were placing their poppy at the Memorial Cross following the Great Village Elementary School Remembrance Day Service.

Great Village Remembrance Day Banquet November 11th

Photos by Linda Harrington



Head table guests are introduced at Royal Canadian Legion Branch #72 Remembrance Day Banquet.



Ed Langille, Chair of the Membership Awards Committee, presents Bruce Zwicker with his 20 Year Membership Pin. Missing from photo, but also receiving his 20 Year pin was Joseph Fillion.



Ed Langille, Chair of the Membership Awards Committee, presents Myles Rushton with his 60 Year Membership Pin.



Joan Richard, making history as Branch #72's first female President, accepts her 20 year Membership pin from Ed Langille.



Ed Langille, Chair of the Membership Awards Committee, presents Walter Perrin with his 55 Year Membership Pin.

Great Village Legion holds Annual Banquet

By Linda Harrington

Royal Canadian Legion Branch #72 held their annual Remembrance Day banquet on Nov. 11th. Dan Wesley piped in the head table guests. Myles Rushton presented the Toast to the Legion and offered a few historical notes on Legion Branch #72.

The Great Village Legion was first constituted in 1945, and called the British Empire Service League (BESL). All Charter members were WWI Veterans. The name was eventually changed to the Royal Canadian Legion.

Remembrance Day Services have been held at the cenotaph since the monument was built in 1921.

The Branch made history this past year, by electing their first lady President, Joan Richard.

2nd Vice President, Arnold Williams, brought recognition to the 95th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. He described life of troops in the trenches, and said they lived on a diet of corn beef and biscuits.

Arnold's described the incredible loss of life at the

Battle of the Somme, where 57,470 British troops were lost the first day. By the end of the conflict there were 620,000 British casualties and over 1 million casualties with in all the armies.

Canadian soldiers arrived in Dec., 1916 to begin training for the attack on Vimy Ridge. They began raids on German trenches, capturing prisoners to interrogate for information and getting information from air attacks. The Canadian soldiers were given maps with the trenches all marked out and with the details of where they were to be when the attack on Vimy took place.

The soldiers dug trenches in the chalk. This was dark, difficult work, sometimes digging as much as 50 feet, but when they were done they had an area large enough to store food, ammunitions and even soldiers, keeping them safe from attack.

The day for the attack was set for Easter Monday, April 9th. Four Canadian battalions were given a specific area of the 15 km front to attack, backed by artillery. The artillery was to fire ahead of the soldiers.

The Battle began at 5:30AM, with a huge artillery barrage. Everything went as planned for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions but the 4th Battalion ran into German resistance at what was called

Hill 145 at the North end. The 85th Battalion of the North Nova's, who had been in France as a construction Battalion, were called up. By 5:30PM, the Canadian soldiers were on the front lines, waiting for an artillery barrage. When this didn't come they attacked anyway and by dark the 85th Battalion were on top of Hill 145. Over the next two days what was called the Pimple and the woods around it were taken by Battalions from Western Canada.

In four days, 3,600 Canadian soldiers died, another 5,000 were wounded. But Vimy Ridge Vimy Ridge was taken, much of it in the first day.

Today, there's a large park at Vimy Ridge, dedicated to Canada. Twin stone pillars list the names of 11,285 Canadian soldiers who died in France and whose remains were never found.

Membership Awards were presented by Committee Chair Ed Langille. 20 Year Pins were awarded to Joan Richard, Bruce Zwicker and Joseph Fillion. A 55 Year Pin was awarded to Walter Perrin and a 60 Year Pin was presented to Myles Rushton.

Mark Wood, President of Ocean Sonics Limited, located directly across from the Legion, was another guest speaker for the evening (see additional article).

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Hill House, 11 Lornevale Road
Great Village, NS B0M 1L0
Ph: 902-655-3000

Email: contactus@oceansonics.com
www.OceanSonics.com