

Thousands of People Stand in the cold for Remembrance Day Ceremony



▲ Walter Lennon, an 85-year-old veteran who served in the navy from 1960 to 1965, raises his right hand over his head to the national anthem.



▲ Brantford Pipe and Drum Band plays “Scotland the Brave” at the Remembrance Day parade as they marching down Dalhousie Street towards the Brant County War Memorial in Brantford, with Glen Jorgensen (the middle one) leading the pipe band.

▶ Dave Levac, MPP of Brant, lays a wreath at the base of the cenotaph of the Brant County War Memorial during the Remembrance Day ceremony in Brantford, Ontario.



▲ Representatives of various legions and veterans associations place wreaths at the Brant County during Remembrance Day service in Brantford, Ontario.



▲ Bella Bryson, a 91-year-old veteran of World War Two, is seated in a wheelchair to attend the Remembrance Day service in Brantford, Ontario.

Thousands of people stood in the biting cold for Remembrance Day ceremony in Brantford on Saturday. Dave Levac, MPP Brant, heralded it as “an visible expression of saying thank you for those who sacrificed their lives for their country.”

“It’s an honour to be here,” said Phil McColeman, MP of Brantford-Brant. “Remembrance Day is one of those sacred, solemn moments in our country when we all, as Canadians, remember the valour, strength, courage and steadfast of our soldiers over the years.”

Seated in a wheelchair because of physical inconvenience caused by senior age, Bella Bryson, with the help of her friend, struggled to her feet to sing the national anthem — O Canada — and to stand still for a moment in remembrance to those who died for the country.

Mrs. Bryson turned 91 this year. She is a veteran herself. She served the Canadian Air Force during World War Two. Her father and husband served both first and second World Wars. And she lost both of them during the World Wars.

“They gave up their lives for this country and they went to war and they are not coming back,” she choked. Tears trickled down her face. She couldn’t finish her story.

It was a very emotional and poignant moment for Bella Bryson when an Avro Lancaster Mk 10 Heavy Bomber, a B-25 Mitchell Bomber and a C-130 Hercules flew past the sky.

“I hope the veterans understand that they can rest their weary souls,” said Mr. Levac, MPP Brant. “we can’t comprehend what it is that they had seen and done [in the war], but we do understand, we do empathize.”

The 63-year-old MPP Dave Levac was happy to see that there were thousands of people in Brantford were willing to brave in the wind and cold to attend the ceremony.

He said the ceremony for not only the fallen and the surviving World War veterans, it also for the modern veterans. “Anyone who is brave enough to put their names on that application form and says I am willing to join the services deserve our thanks and our appreciation.” According to the Winnipeg Free Press, there are about 1,700 World War veterans are passing away each month in Canada of the remaining 170,000.

“This is sad,” commented McColeman in an interview following the Remembrance ceremony.

“Time moves on for everyone,” he said, “we still have a cohort of World War Two veterans who are in their mid-nineties now. Most of them are somewhere between age 92 and 95. And of course their life are coming to an end. But that is said, they need to be honoured every moment of everyday for what they sacrificed.”

“We are determined in many ways as a country, and myself, personally in Ottawa, to make sure that we give [the veterans] the supports they need as they live out the last chapters of their lives and give them honour for what they did for the country,” added McColeman.