Remembrance Day

LEST WE FORGET - NOVEMBER 11



Ceremonies ready to honour veterans

Brendan Shykora

Remembrance Day ceremonies have been organized in Clearwater and Barriere to honour the sacrifices veterans have made for the rights and freedoms Canadians enjoy every day.

In Clearwater, a number of wreaths have been sponsored by businesses and residents in the community. On Tuesday, Nov. 11, the wreaths will be picked up between 10 and 10:30 a.m. in the parking lot across from the church by City Hall. A colour party and parade will then form and march to the cenotaph in Reg Small Park, to be in position by 11 a.m.

The service will start at 11 a.m. sharp, and people are encouraged to show up by 10:45 a.m.

The service will last about half an hour, after which everyone will be invited to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 259 hall for a spaghetti lunch, generously provided by the Birch Island ladies, said Comrade Murray Doull, sergeant-at-arms at the Legion.

The wreaths will stay in place at the cenotaph until just before dark.

"Many sacrifices have been made by many Canadians to enjoy the freedoms that we have today in this country, and without Remembrance Day, I think that too much of that would be forgotten," said Doull, who comes from a military family and is grateful that veterans will be honoured and recognized at this year's ceremony, as they are without fail every year in the community.

One of the Legion's veteran members, Calvin Lutz, is turning 90 years old in December. Lutz will be playing the saxophone at the Remembrance Day service, alongside Dan Daase on the bugle.

"They'll be playing the National Anthem as well as God Save the King," Doull said.

The Legion will be bringing Remembrance Day services to local schools on Nov. 10. A service at Raft River Elementary will commence at 9:15 a.m., and another at Clearwater Secondary will begin at 10:40 a.m.



A Remembrance Day ceremony will be held at the Clearwater Cenotaph Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025. (Black Press file photo)

An entourage of about half a dozen veterans will attend the schools for the services, complete with wreath-laying.

The local Legion's annual poppy campaign is in full swing, with Mayor Merlin Blackwell having received the first poppy.

The campaign began on Nov. 1 with a poppy table set up at Buy-Low Foods in the Clearwater Shopping Centre. The table at Buy-Low will be in place for people to make donations and receive poppies every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., until 4 p.m. Nov. 10.

The Legion has also distributed about 80 poppy trays to hospitals, schools, hotels and businesses from Vavenby to Clearwater.

In Barriere, a parade will begin in front of the Barriere Veterinary Clinic at 10:30 a.m. Nov. 11. Flag bearers and veterans will make their way to the local Legion hall, where a Remembrance Day ceremony will begin inside the hall at 11 a.m.

Richard Dane, with the Barriere Legion, is a veteran who served in the Air Force for 17 years.

His grandfather was a veteran, too, "so it means a lot to me personally," he said.

"I know the sacrifices that friends and fellow servicemen and veterans have made, the price some of them have paid over the years, and the sacrifices they made for what we have today," Dane continued.

"Canada has always been a country that has been admired around the world because of the way Canadians are, the type of people we are and the sacrifices that our veterans made for people less fortunate than us."

Barriere's poppy campaign is also underway with a table set up at AG Foods leading up to Remembrance Day.

Legion
Remembrance Day Ceremonies
November 11 at Reg Small Park
Event starts at 10:45am
All of those who have purchased wreaths to place at the cenotaph should pick them up on Nov 11 at 10am. Wreaths that have not been picked up by 10:40am will not be placed.
All present are welcome to come to the Legion Branch 259 for a spaghetti lunch following the ceremony.
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION • BRANCH 259
257 Glen Road • Clearwater

Mystic Dreams
REMEMBRANCE DAY
• 11 NOVEMBER •
LEST WE FORGET

Lest we Forget
DEE'S General STORE
Birch Island