

The Reason Why

**“ Why do you march, old man,
with medals on your chest?
Why do you grieve, old man,
for those friend you laid to rest?
Why do your eyes gleam, old man,
when you hear the bugles blow?
Tell me, why do you cry, old man,
For those days so long ago?”**

**“ I’ll tell you why I march, young man,
with medals on my chest,
I’ll tell you why I grieve, young man,
For those I laid to rest;
Through misty fields of gossamer silk come
visions of distant times
When boys of such a tender age marched
forth to battle lines.**

**“ We buried them in a blanket shroud, their
young flesh scorched and blackened,
In a communal grave so newly dug in bloodstained
gorse and bracken.
And you ask me why I march, young man –
I march to remind you all
That but for those apple – blossomed youths,
you’d never know freedom at all.”**

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Thank you to our member David Aspden for sending this to us.

Youth Education

September 2007 marked the start of the 2007-2008 Youth Education Contests.

This is my first time coordinating Youth Education for the Branch and it appeared to be a very daunting task that I had undertaken. However, with the help of a small but mighty subcommittee, all contests are planned and underway. The subcommittee consists of myself as chair, Mary Bradley, Jennifer Boyes and Emma Smith. Both Mary and Emma have previous experience in youth education and they have provided me with a wealth of knowledge, expertise and organization.

A letter has been sent to all public, separate and private schools listed in the Ajax area. The deadline for the Poster Contest and the Literary Composition (Poem and Essay) Contest is November 12, 2007. There have already been posters submitted for the contest. The judging will take place the week of November 19, 2007. The first place winners will advance to the Zone Competition at the end of November.

We will attempt to have pictures of the winners in an upcoming edition of the Hunter News. Once both of these contests have been completed, plans will be set in place for the Public Speaking Contest in February, 2008.

If any other member of the Branch has an interest in Youth Education, please feel free to contact me. You can just leave your name with a note with one of the bar stewards. Many hands make light work!

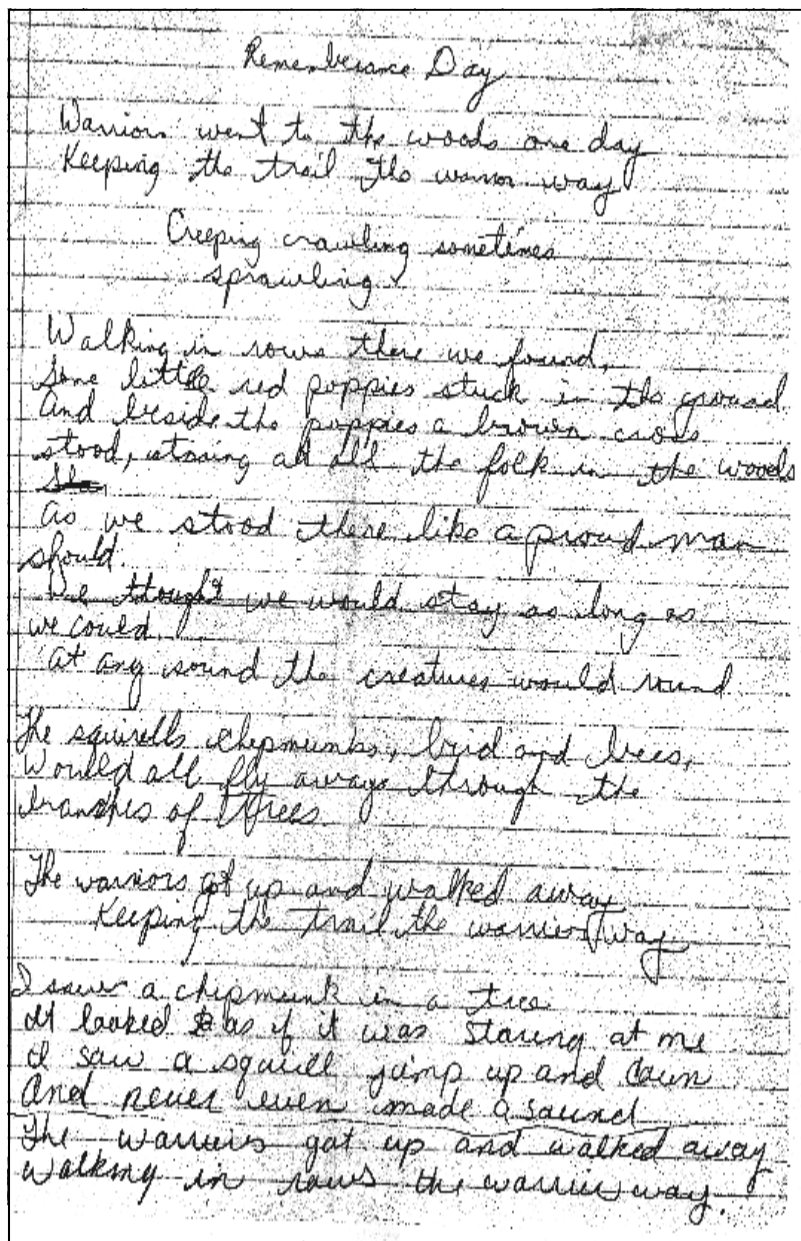
Yours in Comradeship,
Jeanette Clarke-Boutilier

Blast From The Past

The following poem was submitted to our Literary contest by Terry Cameron at the age of 10. She is now one of our Branch members.

Thanks to her mom for passing it on for publication.

Emma Smith



Sergeant At Arms



On November 4th our Branch Colour Party were present at our annual Poppy Parade and Church service. They were also present at the November 11th Remembrance Ceremony held outside the Branch at the Memorial Cairn, At all these events we were well represented and all of the member's performed all their duties admirably, upholding the traditions of the Legion. I was not only proud of them, but also proud to be part of them.

This year at the Remembrance Ceremony we tried something different, we utilized five of the Navy League Cadets, four posted sentries and a bugler. To not only the cadets but also their Commanding Officer my heart felt thanks for the superb job that they did. Most of all thank you for making our Remembrance Ceremony the success that it was.

In closing remember that Freedom is not Free.

Yours in Comradeship,
Colin Taylor

