

Our country's other heroes deserve recognition as well



PATRICK ROSS

On 10 March 2005, the University of Alberta's Butterdome hosted a memorial for four police officers slain seven days earlier in Mayerthorpe, Alberta. Police officers from across Canada and the United States, representatives of the Alberta provincial government, the federal government, and ordinary citizens packed the building to capacity for an emotional service that was broadcasted Canada-wide on CBC.

It was a service that none who were present are likely ever to forget. Tears flowed as tribute was paid to the fallen officers Peter Schiemann, Lionide Johnston, Anthony Gordon and Brock Myrol. "It was a moving ceremony," remarked then-University president Rod Fraser. "[It] really touched the hearts of everyone here."

Similarly, Canadians gather annually, every 11 November, to pay tribute to the military personnel who have fallen while serving their country and making "the ultimate sacrifice." This is one of our country's most important traditions. Remembrance Day serves as a yearly opportunity to honour the sacrifices these individuals have made to preserve our way of life.

Honouring the police officers—as well as firefighters and emergency medical technicians—who have made the same sacrifice needs to be made an entrenched tradition as well. Canada's fallen police officers and firefighters deserve an annual day of remembrance, and they deserve that day to hold the importance imparted on a national holiday.

Much like the soldiers who have fallen in the line of duty, Canada's slain police officers, firefighters and paramedics have made a commitment to preserving our way of life.

In 1998, the federal government proclaimed that the last Sunday of September will be Police and Peace Officer's National Memorial Day. This is a step in the right direction, but it's not enough. Canada's firefighters and paramedics have no such government-mandated national day of remembrance, nor do they have a national monument—and each deserves both.

Much like the soldiers who have fallen in the line of duty, Canada's slain police officers, firefighters and para-

medics have made a commitment to preserving our way of life. In their own way, these individuals have enlisted to fight in a day-to-day war against violence, disorder and distress. The freedoms, safety and security we enjoy in our daily lives is owed as much to these individuals as to those who fight our country's battles abroad.

As you read this, Canadians soldiers are on duty in Afghanistan, helping to preserve a fledgling democracy from a foe determined to reimpose an oppressive regime on its people. When their tour of duty ends, or the mission is finally accomplished, they will come home. But Canada's peace officers, firefighters and paramedics remain on duty 24/7. The tour of duty they serve lasts a lifetime—their mission is unending. As long as we are endangered by our fellow citizens or by the common (or uncommon) hazards of daily life, they will be needed. Hopefully, they will always be available answer the call.

On a more fickle note, such a day of remembrance would satisfy the demands of many Canadians for an extra long weekend—in February perhaps, or March or June. Of the potential dates, perhaps 3 March—the anniversary of the Mayerthorpe massacre—would be the most suitable.

These details, however, are immaterial. Those who have fallen while serving in the Canadian military have their Remembrance Day for good reason. Those who make the same sacrifice on the home front deserve no less.

Pay poppy its due



MEGAN CLEAVELEY

The poppy is a symbol of great importance and respect that first gained significance through John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields." Not only did poppies grow and bloom on the battlefields of Flanders in World War I, but their colour was also meant to symbolize bloodshed. This is why it was chosen as a symbol of remembrance for soldiers who sacrificed their lives at war.

There are some that believe the poppy is a pro-war symbol and that those who wear them are therefore also pro-war. But wearing the poppy is simply about appreciating what so many young men did for us when we needed it most.

If you are someone so opposed to war that you can't bring yourself to wear a red poppy, there are alternatives out there for you. Some people choose to wear a white poppy with a green centre reading "peace," not only to remember victims of all wars, but to hope for peace and an end to war. This was started by the Women's Co-operative Guild in 1933, when they started to become politically involved in peace activism.

This poppy still shows respect for those who fought while protesting the nature of war in general. Another option is to wear a black poppy like

those produced by the organization People Against Global Imperialism. This seems slightly less respectful than the white poppy, however, which supports soldiers while still working towards peace.

A lot of people wear a poppy because of tradition, without quite realizing the significance. And for a long time, I was the same way. Then, when I was in high school, we had a WWII veteran come speak to us at a Remembrance Day assembly. Seeing an old man stand in front of gym full of students and talk candidly about the war and seeing his friends die was a moving experience. Even more moving was when he said that seeing all of us today, he would go back and do it all over again.

That assembly stuck a chord with me, and made me truly realize the significance of the red poppy, and why it is important as a symbol of acknowledgment and respect.

And a symbol of respect it should stay. Respect means pinning your poppy to your lapel, collar or, at the very least, to the left of your zipper on your jacket. It shows appreciation for those who fought and those who perished. And while the absence of a poppy isn't necessarily disrespectful, wearing it somewhere else is on your person is.

The poppy carries a lot of significance, and it's extremely lacking in respect to pin it to your hat or your book bag. So wear your poppy over your heart, and not as a fashion accessory. All the soldiers who have died over the years deserve better, and the veterans that are still alive will appreciate it.

THE BURLAP SACK

Summer is over, and thankfully the horrors of Crocs sandals are leaving with it. These obnoxiously coloured, hole-riddled chucks of devil-foam will be gone from our streets once more and banished to the realm of hospital halls. But beware, because with the beginnings of winter comes a whole new monster: Ugg boots.

In case you've been trapped in a SAAN store for the last couple of years, these unfortunately named affronts to fashion make their wearers look as though they've just stepped on a family of endangered emus and kept on walking.

They may be warm but that doesn't make them any less ugly. Poorly constructed and shapeless, these are slippers that someone decided would be acceptable to wear outside. Dying them pink or baby blue doesn't make them any less hideous.

So can all the campus Ugg owners please step forward, form an orderly line and enter the sack for their beating? Maybe while you're in there you'll realize that while they weren't fashionable last year, they haven't magically come back in style this year. And while you're at it, maybe you should take your Crocs in there with you.

KELSEY TANASIUK

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered—although that would be pretty rad if they were, don't you think?



OUR WEEKLY LINEUP

Mini Burger Mondays:

Cure that case of the "Mondays" with 99¢ mini burgers and \$10 jugs. House Rules Apply. 7pm to close

Karaoke Tuesdays:

Downstairs in the LIBRARY. Like Canadian Idol, only our \$8.99 nachos are cheesier than Ben Mulroney. 7pm to close

Wing Wednesdays:

Get in V-formation and migrate to the land o' 25¢ wings. House Rules Apply 7pm to close

Loonie Thursdays:

\$1 Draught downstairs in the LIBRARY. Celebrate the invention of the loonie. 7pm to close

Finally Fridays: Extended Happy Hour.

"True North strong and nearly free" 3pm to 9pm

S.O.S. Saturdays:

\$2 Highballs downstairs in the LIBRARY. Your wallet is sending out an S.O.S. - Save On Spirits. 9pm to midnight

Music Trivia Sundays:

Test your music IQ. No studying required. \$15 Buckets of Domestic beer! 7pm to close

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