THE SOUTHWEST Remembers

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Remembrance Day holds a special place in our hearts. With the war in Ukraine, this year's November 11th particularly hits home.

The Southwest Remembers

A hard wind blows as I trudge up Railway Avenue towards the cenotaph. A crowd has already assembled near the town hall. A scud of clouds hovers over the village and a scratchy loudspeaker is tested. Everyone is well-dressed for the cold November day.
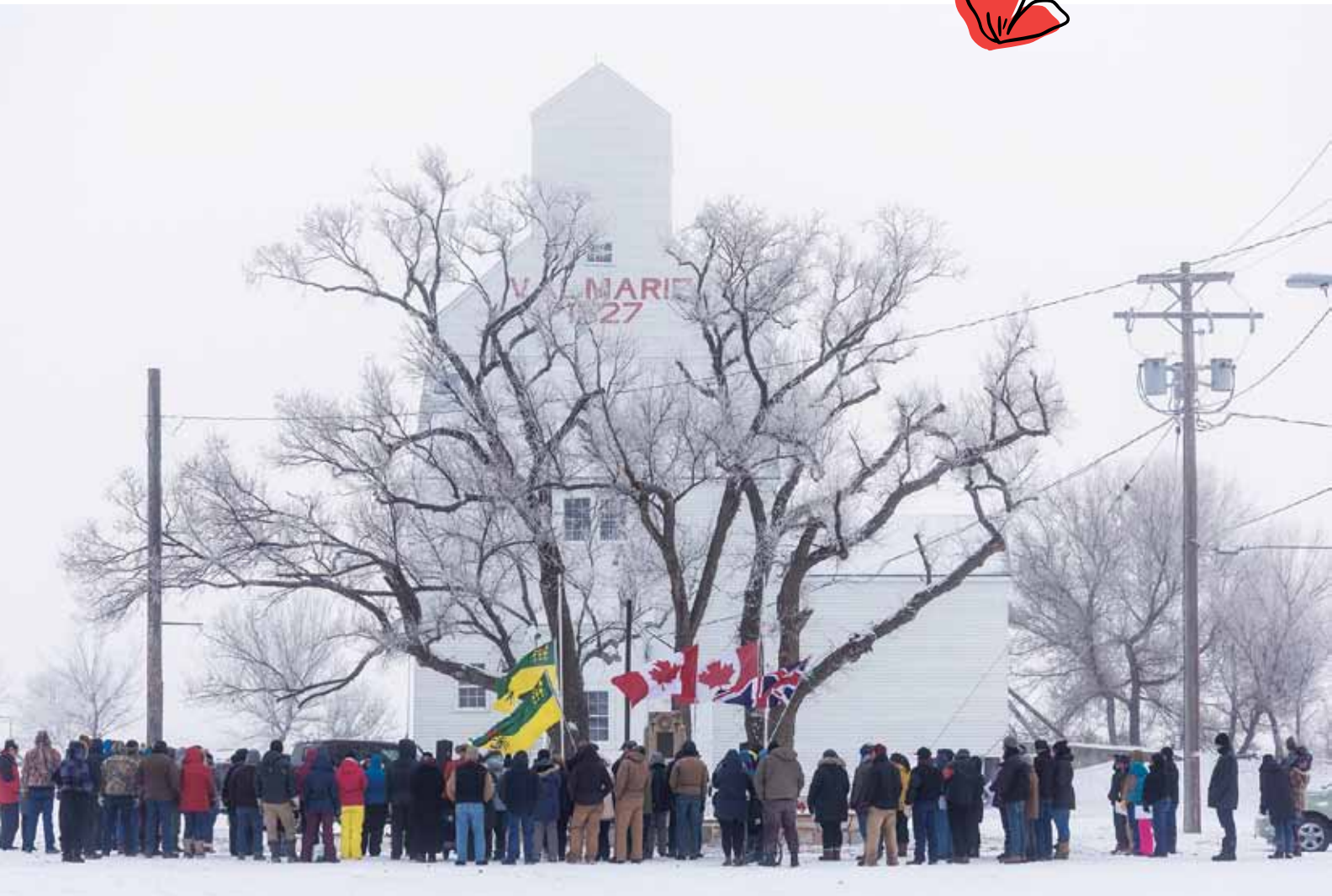
I have stood at the Prairie cenotaph countless times, sometimes in a blizzard. Nowhere is November 11th more respected than in small-town Saskatchewan. Historically, Armistice Day, inaugurated by King George V in 1919, honoured those who died in the line of duty in World War I—"the war to end all wars." This year, November 11th takes on special poignancy, as the war in Ukraine strikes us forcefully and personally.
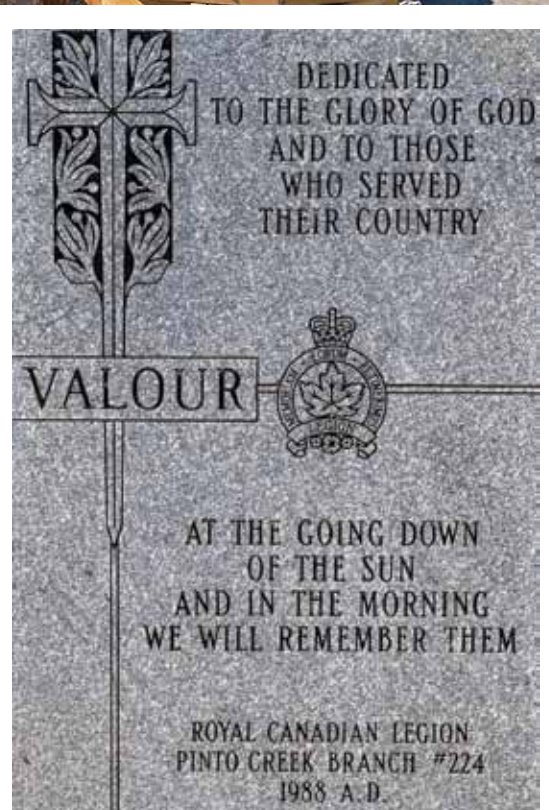
About 13 per cent of Saskatchewan residents self-identify as Ukrainian or of mixed Ukrainian background. This makes ours the province with the second highest percentage of Ukrainians in Canada, after Manitoba. The surnames of friends, relatives and neighbours remind us of our roots, and that our globe is really no bigger than a village. Many small towns, including Gravelbourg and Val Marie, have sponsored benefits for Ukraine throughout 2022. Prairie people get involved.

Across Saskatchewan, the time-honoured Remembrance Day ceremony begins a few minutes before 11 a.m. Ceremonies range from the simple laying of a wreath by a member of the local Legion to a full

▼ The Paynton ferry is one of two on the North Saskatchewan.

➤ The Paynton ferry is one of two on the North Saskatchewan Lloydminster and.

DEDICATED
TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND TO THOSE
WHO SERVED
THEIR COUNTRY

VALOUR

AT THE GOING DOWN
OF THE SUN
AND IN THE MORNING
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
PINTO CREEK BRANCH #224
1988 A.D.

LEST WE FORGET

1914 — 1918

1939 — 1945

KOREAN WAR · PEACE KEEPERS · NATO WARS

ERECTED BY THE
MAJOR WALSH CHAPTER
I.O.D.E.

▲ (Top) The Paynton ferry is one of two on the North Saskatchewan.

▲ (Bottom) The Paynton ferry is one of two on the North Saskatchewan Lloydminster and.

◀ The Riverhurst ferry across Lake Diefenbaker is the world's longest cable ferry. The 1.25 mile crossing 1967. It's the only Saskatchewan ferry to offer 24-hour service.

procession with bagpipes, flags and honoured guests. The cenotaph, at the heart of many prairie towns, holds the rolls of those who served, mostly in the Second and First World Wars. There may only be a few dozen names listed at a local cenotaph, but to give a sense of the scale of the commitment, consider that seven per cent of the total population of Canada were in uniform at some point during the First World War, and ten per cent in World War II—that's one in every 14 and one in every ten Canadians respectively. More than 66,000 enlisted men and women were killed in the First World War, and 45,000 in the Second.

Generations have been shaped by this day, though most of us are fortunate never to have experienced war. The little crowd gathered around the Val Marie cenotaph numbers about thirty individuals—but similar gatherings may be as many as two hundred, depending on where you are. I picture these war heroes gone; they are mothers, fathers, children, single men and women. For every person who stands at the Val Marie cenotaph on this day, thousands died as casualties of war.

War monuments are an ancient tradition, but before the 20th century most of them made no mention of individual sacrifice. Listing the names of the rank and file, and not just those of officers, is a particularly recent practice. These slates of names were meant to convey the enormity of collective sacrifice and loss. According to Veterans Affairs Canada, Saskatchewan has an estimated veteran population of 15,300. Eight hundred of these veterans served in WW II and the Korean War.

Many cenotaphs now include the names of those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Canadian flag was lowered for the last time in Afghanistan on March 12, 2014. That mission involved the deployment of more than 40,000 Canadian Armed Forces personnel, the largest since the Second World War. A total of 158 Canadian Armed Forces personnel were killed in Afghanistan between 2001 and 2014. Seventeen lived in Saskatchewan and are named on the Saskatchewan War Memorial.

Here in the southwest, in preparation for Remembrance Day, people don their poppies well in advance. On the day of the

IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO DIED IN THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM

1914 – 1918 World War I

1939 – 1945 World War II

1950 – 1953 Korean War

2001 – 2012 Afghanistan

ceremony, school children rehearse last-minute recitations, and people begin to assemble near the school or town hall at about 10:30. The march to the cenotaph is significant. Cenotaphs (deriving from the Greek words meaning "empty" and "tomb") were built by communities, provincial governments, private sponsors, regimental associations and organizations such as the Royal Canadian Legion. One of the oldest in Saskatchewan is the cenotaph at Maple Creek, built in 1926 by the Major Walsh Chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire.

In Val Marie, the procession to the cenotaph includes the mayor, the RCMP, Catholic and United Church representatives, and Métis and First Nations representatives, all of whom present memorial wreaths. In non-COVID times, the Library Association hosts a lunch following the ceremony. On one year, a Ponteix youth, winner of the

DEDICATED TO THE VETERANS OF ANEROID AND COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY TO THE EVERLASTING MEMORY OF THOSE WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES AND TO THE HONOUR OF ALL WHO SERVED THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM

BOER WAR 1899 - 1902

WORLD WAR I 1914 - 1918

CARD, THOMAS
COMSTOCK, WILLIAM H.
COOK, JOHN
GAMMIE, JAMES
GIRVIN, W. FRANK
GRAVES, G.A.J.
GUNN, HARRY
GROAT, LLOYD
KELMAN, JAMES
LEONARD, ALBERT

LEONARD, DAVID
MCCABE, DAVID
MCKENZIE, WILLIAM
PILGRIM, JOHN W.
PILGRIM, HORACE T.
RAYMOND, EARL
SUTHERLAND, SAMUEL S.
VANKLEEK, GEORGE W.
WATT, LLOYD W.
WATT, NORMAN R.

WHITBREAD, ERNEST

WORLD WAR II 1939 - 1945

BOYCE, REGINALD
CLARK, WALLACE E.
DODDS, ROLAND

GREY-NOBLE, HARRY
MCCONVILLE, JAMES
MCMILLAN, C. ORVILLE

KOREAN WAR 1950 - 1953

CANADIAN FORCES
MCCOY, TERENCE T.

MILITIA UNIT ESTABLISHED IN
WAS THE 10TH FIELD BRIGADE
ON COLUMN, NPAM, IN 1925. THIS
AME THE 60TH FIELD BATTERY CFA
THE 60TH BATTERY WAS MOBILIZED
AND BECAME THE SENIOR BATTERY
7TH FIELD REGT. RCA, WHICH SERVED
TINCTION IN ENGLAND, ITALY AND
ST EUROPE, AS PART OF THE 5TH
ARMOURED DIVISION. THE 60TH
WAS DISBANDED AT THE END OF
R II, BUT ITS INSPIRATION LIVES ON.

IN THE SPRING OF 1946 THE 60TH ANTI-TANK
BATTERY RCA WAS ESTABLISHED IN ANEROID.
IN 1948 THE UNIT BECAME 'D' SQUADRON
HEADQUARTERS OF THE 14TH CANADIAN
HUSSARS ROYAL CANADIAN ARMOURED CORPS.
THE ARMOURY WAS LOCATED AT THE
SOUTHWEST CORNER OF MAIN STREET. 'D'
SQUADRON TRAINED AT CAMP SHILO, CAMP
BORDEN AND CAMP WAINWRIGHT.
'D' SQUADRON WAS DISBANDED IN 1958.

ERECTED BY THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION ANEROID BR. 85

LEST WE FORGET

1995 A.D.

Canadian Legion's National Literary Contest for her poem, laid the wreath for youth in Ottawa. In Eastend, the school prepares the program to honour resident members of the Legion; each school-class grouping presents art, poetry and essays to commemorate the occasion. In Shaunavon, a live bugler plays The Last Post, and a banquet is held in the evening. In Swift Current, pipers play in the procession. In Gravelbourg last year, two one-hundred-year-old World War II veterans were honoured. This year only one is left.

I am grateful for our collective memory of war. In an age that doesn't give much credence to history, we still recognize personal sacrifice. The average age of the World War II veteran in Canada is now 96 years, the Korean War veteran 89 years, but Canadian combat operations and peace-keeping missions are ongoing—we are cognizant of that.

Currently, the Canadian Armed Forces has approximately 2,000 personnel deployed in more than 20 different operations around the world. Between 100 and 150 Canadian Armed Forces personnel are serving in the Ukrainian humanitarian and refugee crisis.

Canada has pledged more than half a billion dollars in military and humanitarian aid to support Ukraine, but

This Monument Has Been Erected To Honour The Men And Women Who Served Our Country. May Their Names Never Be Forgotten.

WW I

Alexander Billy
Baker C.
Baker E.
Baragar Bill
Beards Fence
Bitten C.
Blackmore W.
Berdass F
Bourne A.
Boyce G. E.
Campbell P.
Cerr C. S.
Cawther Fred
Cole J.
Craig A.
Craig Ab
Craig Charlie
Craig Garnet
Crocker F.
Dickie T. H.
Easton H.
Fearey E A.
Gilmore Gordon
Glover John
Goodwin W. E.

Graham G.
Grant G. W.
Hawkins W.
Hetherington P.
Hipkiss D. A.
Hipkiss E.
House G. F.
Howard Phoo
Howse Francis
Hughes Ben
Hutchinson G.
Hutchinson W. K.
Johnson C. William
Johnson J. J.
Johnson Jas
Kelly L.
Kelly M.
Kerr John
Kerr V. R.
Lecress H.
Light R.
Long A. E.
Luxton J. R.
May C. R.
McCurdy D.

McDonald Frank
McGhee A.
McGhie A. W.
McKenzie J.
McKenzie R.
McLaughlin Crawford
McLean Bob
Medlecett C.
Melville D. E.
Merle N.
Mull E.
Montgomery D.
Montgomery J.
Murray A.
Murray C.
Nash P. H.
Negus Horace
Nicholson R. H.
Nicholson W.
Ogden H.
Osler A.
Pallet Percy
Paul W.
Paul W. G.

Pepper C.
Pepper T.
Potter S.
Potts Charles
Prouse J. A.
Pullen T.
Pullen Tom
Rayner C.C.
Rayner Chas
Rayner Ebb
Repley F.
Reid A. F.
Reid Alex
Reynolds M.
Richardson C.
Richardson Chester
Rimbeau F.
Roberton Fred
Roberton Fred Jr.
Robinson C.
Robinson R.
Robson Lisle
Rocker Walter
Rothborne L.
Rowan L.

Rutherford A.
Scott C.
Sheetz Harry
Shire H.
Sivester Earnest
Skinner C. H.
Smith E.
Smith S.
Stewart Peter
Stouteeberg Herb
Sworbrick W.
Thom Jim
Vankoughnett H.
Wakeford Herbert
Walter Ed
Walter Jim
Watson Tom
Weir Bert
Wood A.
Worseley C.
Yates W. F.
Yates William

WW II

Adams G.
Adams Ronald
Albertine Daniel
Alstad Art
Alstad Pamer
Ambrose Arthur
Ambrose George

Bowlsby Russel
Box Garnet
Byklum Arne
Byklum Elmer
Candler Gerald
Carson Rev. M. J. D.
Checkley Irvin

Dryscale Jim
Dyck John
Dyck P.
Enns Howard
Evans Bernard
Evans Dwayne
Evans Murray

Gordon Ronald
Grabowski Joe
Grunderald Edward
Haas Leonard
Haggerman Albert
Hall Lester
Hallet Judson

Johnson Gordon
Johnson Harvey
Johnson J. T.
Jordon Thomas
Kellie Kelso
Kellie Lorne
Kelly Tupper

CENTENNIAL OF CONFEDERATION
MORSE CENTENNIAL PARK

TO HONOR THOSE WHO SERVED

private citizens have stepped forward, too—by March of this year, as many as 550 individuals, including some ex-military personnel, had joined the International Legion for the Territorial Defence of Ukraine. The Canadian Ukrainian Brigade was based at that time in Kyiv.

At a few minutes before 11 a.m., l hear the crunch of gravel as the colour guard leads the procession to the cenotaph. The flags of Saskatchewan, Canada and the Union Jack fly boldly from the standards carried by the dignitaries. Sons and grandsons of deceased war veterans have joined the procession. Here, as in many towns I have visited, God Save the Queen is sung before the national anthem. Baseball caps and cowboy hats are deferentially removed. From Maple Creek to Willow Bunch, in the minute of silence observed, there will be a keen wind whipping up a gravel road.

LEST WE FORGET
WORLD WAR I
1914 - 1918
WORLD WAR II
1939 - 1945
THEY DIED THAT WE MIGHT LIVE