

COVID-19 restrictions limit numbers at Remembrance Day ceremony

By Olivia Ashopenace

Remembering those who fought for us during war time is an important event as so many lives have been lost in battle and the ones who survived have suffered physical and mental wounds.

In a time during COVID-19, it is more important than ever to keep hope alive, because remembering what the veterans did for everyone in Canada inspires everyone to keep fighting against this pandemic, to not give up.

Remembrance Day was originally called Armistice Day, but in 1931, when the bill to observe Armistice Day was passed by the House of Commons, the name was changed to Remembrance Day. On Nov. 11, Remembrance Day ceremonies are held across Canada to honour veterans and remember the sacrifices they had made.

During the COVID-19 crisis, some cities decided not to hold a Remembrance Day ceremony, while others decided to move forward with a smaller event.

In Belleville, the Veterans' Council decided to go ahead and have a Remembrance Day ceremony, but with safety restrictions in mind. They placed a fence to keep people from crowding into the cenotaph, where the ceremony and veterans were to be seated.

Mayor Mitch Panciuk attended the Remembrance Day ceremony, sitting with the veterans who were seated in front of the cenotaph.

"There's obviously a limitation on the numbers of people that are here. We have to have social distancing, and everyone's wearing masks," Panciuk said.

In an effort to keep the veterans and people safe during COVID-19, most people were urged not to attend the ceremony. Unlike past years when hundreds came out for the ceremony, there were about 70 to 90 people in at-

tendance. Many wore masks and stood behind the fences while the ceremony proceeded.

"This year there will be about 25 veterans, and it is being broadcast and run on radio and on television," Panciuk said yesterday before the beginning of the ceremony. This is how many people in Belleville are going to attend the Remembrance Day ceremony, by watching it on their television or listening on the radio.

Stephen Shirk, the Belleville Veterans' Council chairman, gave the opening address. Next was the national anthem followed by an opening prayer by ANAF Padre Maj. Wil Brown-Ratcliffe. The Last Post was performed by a Bugler Brian Coughlan. Then there was a moment of silence, which took place at 11 a.m.

After the moment of silence, Murray Hope, a member from the Legion, began reading a list of members who have died. Piper Troy Dulmage played The Lament, and Brian Coughlan performed the reveille. Major Ratcliffe shared a scripture reading and reflections. The ceremony wrapped up with the playing of God Save the Queen.

It was an intimate and peaceful ceremony, remembering those who have passed and those who have fought in the wars. The Belleville Veterans' Council planned the ceremony well and did not let the pandemic keep them from having a Remembrance Day ceremony.

"The Belleville Veterans' Council is responsible for today's ceremony. They're basically doing what we've done in years' past. Just scaling down the number of people that will be in attendance to be safe. So, normally we have hundreds, if not thousands of people here watching and sharing in the Remembrance Day ceremony," Panciuk said.



Photo by Olivia Ashopenace

At the Remembrance Day ceremony in Belleville, a soldier stands at attention by the cenotaph while an opening address is given by Stephen Shirk, chairman of the Belleville Veterans' Council. For more veteran photos

The changing faces of veterans

By Daniel Geleyn

Seventy-five years after the end of the Second World War, the faces we see at Remembrance ceremonies are much less often those of WWII veterans but more often those with more recent military service or members of the community who still see the importance of remembering those who served.

Canadians often think of a veteran as someone who served in the First World War, the Second World War or the Korean War. But the definition of a veteran is much broader as it includes any former member of the Canadian Armed Forces who successfully underwent basic training and is honourably discharged. Even though many ex-military members may never have served in combat, it is important to recognize that by serving in the military, they essentially signed a blank cheque of unlimited liability, including their own lives, to protect our rights and freedoms.

As time passes, it is not surprising to see fewer veterans from these major conflicts. Any remaining Second World War veterans would be well in their 90's by now. Even for the Korean War, in which combat operations were concluded in 1953, any veterans who were involved in that conflict would be at least in their late 80's in 2020.

The changing face of veterans in Canada is illustrated by the yearly selection of the National Memorial Silver Cross Mother who is selected to represent all of the mothers of military personnel killed on



Photo by Daniel Geleyn

Tom Briggs, president of Legion Branch 631, proudly stands wearing his Legion uniform while discussing plans for the Remembrance Day ceremony to be held this year under the COVID-19 restrictions.

duty. For the last 22 years, 15 were mothers of military personnel killed in Afghanistan, which is appropriate, since this was the most significant military mission for Canada since the Korean War. Three were mothers whose sons or daughters were killed in accidents, three on a peacekeeping/peacemaking mission and one by suicide following a mission to Afghanistan, therefore recognizing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as a combat related injury. You have to go back to 1998 to find the last Silver Cross Mother whose child died as a result of the Sec-

ond World War.

Tom Briggs, the president of Branch 361 of the Royal Canadian Legion in Kingston says he no longer has any members who are Second World War veterans.

"Only about one third of our 400 members are veterans. The rest are members of the community," he says.

Briggs himself, now well in his 60's, is a 21-year-veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces. But even his father who completed 27 years in the military,

was too young to serve in the Second World War. "My dad joined the Army in 1945, but he was too late to see combat," he says.

Malcolm Holt has been a member of 416 Wing of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association in Kingston for 41 years. He is turning 88 this year but he is also too young to have served in the Second World War. "I was born in 1932 in Birmingham, UK," he says. "A little before the war, when I was five years old, I noticed my mom putting away a small box of extra sugar cubes," he says. "I asked her 'Why are you doing that?' and she said 'We're going to have a war' but I did not understand what that meant at the time," he adds.

Holt has memories of his city in the UK being bombed while he and his family would have to hide in shelters. "We did not have toys during the war so we collected pieces of bombs, shells and shrapnel," he says. "That's how we amused ourselves."

When he was old enough, Holt served in the Royal Air Force for two years in the mid-1950's. Shortly after his service he came to Kingston and he has been living here ever since. Despite the fact that the time

he served in the RAF was very short, those were formative years that made him become an ardent follower of everything related to aviation. He still holds fond memories of his time in the RAF and he enjoys exchanging stories with his friends at 416 Wing.

On November 11, even though you may not see veterans who served in the major conflicts of the last century, don't forget to remember those who served and gave the ultimate sacrifice, no matter how that sacrifice came about.



Photo by Sabah Rahman

John Irvine, 68, at John's Hair Quarters barbershop in Belleville. Irvine is confident about the performance of his business, in spite of the financial pressures due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Small businesses hang on during pandemic

By Sabah Rahman

Even behind the face mask, John Irvine, 68, is friendly and warm as he finishes up with his late workday client at John's Hair Quarters in Belleville.

As Irvine cashes out that client, he looks over to the little girl, who is another client's daughter, and is waiting for her dad to finish with his haircut. Irvine gives her a candy before the father-daughter duo leaves the barbershop. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed how businesses can be operated, but small business owners like Irvine have been hanging on.

John's Hair Quarters has been in business in Belleville for 35 years, and Irvine worked at a different location on Front Street before moving his barbershop to the corner of Bridge Street East and Pinnacle Street. The inside of the barbershop takes you back to another

time with wooden panel walls, warm lighting, and antiques and other trinkets.

In its Throne Speech this fall, the federal government recognized the role of small businesses across Canada like Irvine's as "the lifeblood of communities and backbone of the economy." The pandemic forced Irvine to shut down his barbershop temporarily, like many other small businesses in Belleville.

"When I was home for 13 weeks, I was getting inundated with phone calls. People would find my home number and phone," Irvine said. When he opened his barbershop again, Irvine was working 12-hour shifts up to seven days a week for almost six weeks to keep up with the demand.

Like many other people in Ontario and across Canada, Irvine accessed Canada Emergency Response Benefit

(CERB) to support his family when he was forced to shut down his barbershop. Irvine thinks the government held up its end for small businesses and individuals, but he also worries about supports running out.

"You can only give out so much money. Sooner or later, you have to pay the fiddler," Irvine says.

Until Sept. 26, CERB provided a taxable benefit of \$2,000 every four weeks for up to 28 weeks to eligible workers who stopped working or whose work hours were reduced due to COVID-19. The Trudeau government recently introduced Bill C-4 to replace CERB with the new Canadian Recovery Benefit (CRB) which supports eligible workers and provides access to other benefit programs such as the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit and the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit, among numerous other measures to support

businesses and individuals.

Things have calmed down since he reopened his barbershop but there is still a loss of overall clientele for the business. Many seniors have stayed away from the barbershop and Irvine thinks that this is understandable. Reflecting on seniors impacted by the pandemic, Irvine says many do not want to leave their homes anymore. Many are not comfortable getting haircut at a barbershop now, Irvine says, and will have their partners cut their hair instead.

Irvine reflects that COVID-19 has polarized people. "I will get someone come in here and say that it's a government conspiracy and the whole thing does not exist. And the next person will tell me that I don't have my mask on properly." Even if people are divided on the issue of the pandemic, Irvine notes the pandemic had an especially important im-

act on people's mental health.

COVID-19 measures have also had other impacts. For Irvine, there are surplus expenses since the pandemic began. Since Irvine reopened his business, he has been adding a COVID-19 service charge of \$5 for his clients. Irvine says there is a lot more cleaning and new expenses for different cleaning products under COVID-19 guidelines now that the barbershop has reopened.

Regardless of these pressures, Irvine is confident his business will be able to survive. Looking at the numbers now, Irvine predicts his losses will be moderate.

"You are in survival mode until all of this settles."

For now, Irvine is answering phone calls and setting up more appointments, hoping that this demand continues.

Remembering a shining Brighton Army cadet

By Natalie Cummings

Sergeant Laura Miller from the First Canadian Parachute Battalion Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps always had her boots shined and polished to perfection.

Laura, also known as Renée to some, was one of the first to join cadets when the Corps came to Brighton. At the time, Laura was just a young girl in the seventh grade.

Despite being so young, whenever Laura stepped into her boots, she transformed into a passionate, driven and hardworking cadet who dreamed of a career as a search and rescue pilot in the military.

"She was a part of everything," Miller's mother, Shay McGowan says. "She was a part of every single thing she could get her hands on."

Every year, the Brighton RCACC places cadets within the Corps to stand at the Cenotaph all night for the candlelight vigil on the eve of Remembrance Day.

Rob McGowan, Laura's father, smiles thinking back at her first days as a cadet, standing proudly at the Cenotaph, regardless of the freezing night air.

However, for the past six years, not only has the Brighton RCACC been tasked with helping the community remember our fallen soldiers, they also remember Laura as one of their own.

"Every year at the candlelight service, we light a candle for Laura," Commanding Officer Captain Robin Brooks says gently. After the service, cadets place their poppies around Laura's memorial stone, which is on the path to the Cenotaph.

January of 2014 was part of one of the harshest winters the community of Brighton had ever seen.

However, when news of Laura Mill-



Submitted Photo

Laura Miller

er's death spread to friends, relatives, and her cadet family, the air seemed that much colder.

At the time of her passing, Laura was a Grade 11 student and in her fifth year as a cadet.

Death by suicide is the second leading cause of death in adolescents and young adults from 15 to 24 years old.

"She was battling something we didn't see," her father Rob says. "And she hid it well."

Now, nearly seven years since her death, Laura Miller is still remembered greatly by her friends in the Brighton RCACC.

Every year, the R.L. Miller Most Inspirational Cadet Award is given to a



Photo by Natalie Cummings

After the passing of Brighton Army Cadet Laura Miller, her fellow cadets placed a stone in her memory along the path leading up to the cenotaph. Ever year, candles are placed in her memory upon the stone.

chosen cadet who shows the same drive and dedication to the RCACC as Miller, with many of the award's recipients advancing to a career in the military, or as first responders.

The award is a fitting tribute not only to a prized cadet, but a worthy role model.

Despite the cold winter, the support from the community in the days after Laura's death could thaw a frozen heart.

Her passing not only was felt deeply by those who knew her, but it also pulled the youth from all corners of Brighton just a little bit closer.

"It's okay not to be okay," Miller's mother, Shay says.

Rob Chimes in, "What do you call it, love? Imperfectly..."

"Perfectly imperfect."

As well as her beret, Laura's boots sit in a glass case in her family home. Her

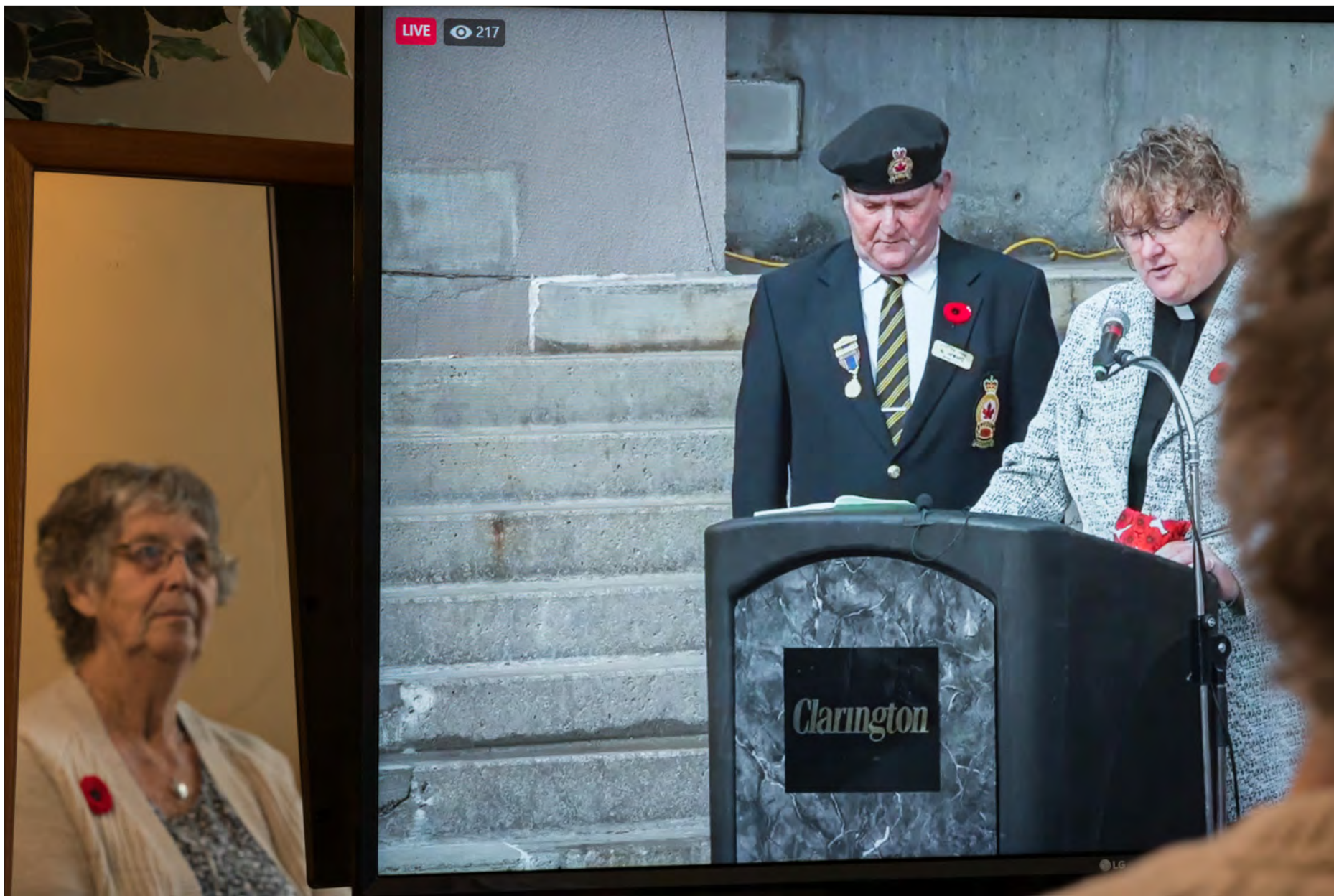
family keeps them polished and shined, just the way she liked them.

Since her death, her family has donated thousands of dollars to organizations like Kids Help Phone, in hopes of helping others.

"It's okay to ask for help," Brooks says.

For more information on mental health, or a place to turn, visit kidshelp-phone.ca.

Remembering



Jennie Maud watches as Alan Haward, president of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 178 and Rev. Michelle Brotherton of St. Paul's United Church, lead this year's Clarington Remembrance Day ceremony at the cenotaph in Bowmanville. With Maud's father and father-in-law working as essential workers in England during the Second World War and her grandfather serving in the First World War, it is important for her to commemorate the day. Since she felt unsafe attending her local Lindsay service in person, she decided to tune in to her families' local service instead. With the COVID-19 pandemic reaching an all new high in Canada just the day before, most legions asked people to stay home to observe the service. Although there were some technical difficulties at the beginning of Bowmanville's ceremony, hundreds of people tuned in online, with as many as 226 people watching at one point.

Photo by Alex Bowman



(Above) A member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 100 in Brighton takes a moment of silence as she lays a wreath in memory of all veterans.
Photo by Natalie Cummings



A memorial decorated in downtown Oshawa early Wednesday morning. This year marks 75 years since the end of the Second World War.
Photo by Annie Duncan



(Left) The Belleville Veterans' Council, in conjunction with the local Legion and other community groups, organized a small gathering at Memorial Park, honouring those who have served Canada, and lost their lives to conflicts and war.
Photo by James McAlpine

The Canadian Army Veterans' Motorcycle Unit, Afghanistan, attend the Remembrance Day ceremony in Belleville.
Photo by Olivia Ashopenace



Tim Hegarty was one of the few veterans attending this year's Remembrance Day ceremony at Branch 631 of the Royal Canadian Legion in the west end of Kingston. He is a veteran who has served in both the Irish and the Canadian Army and he has been a member of this Legion for about eight years.
Photo by Daniel Geleyn

In a November light



Following the U.S. election result, 'Donald Trump' is seen here in Belleville "jobless & homeless" and asking anyone walking by for spare change.
Photo by Luke Best

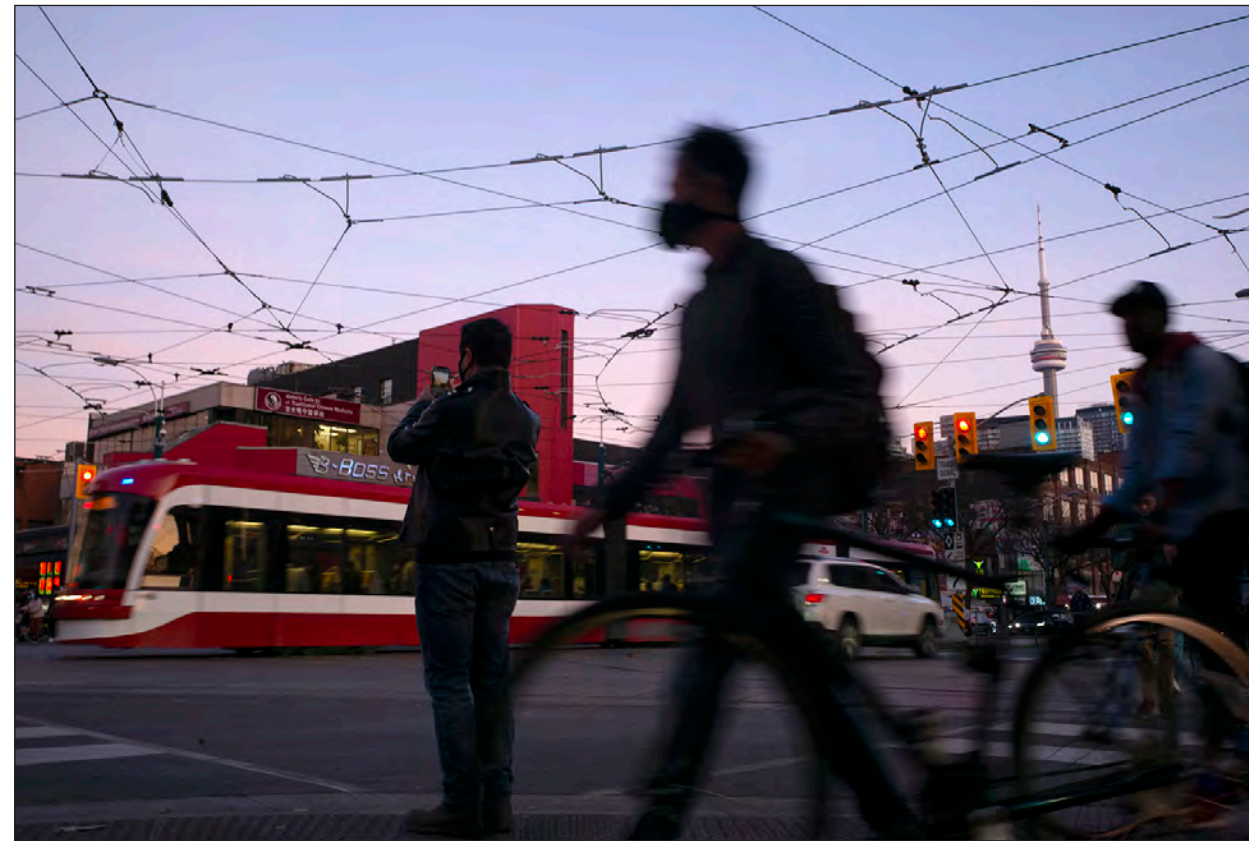


Editor's note: This week, our first-semester students were tasked with an Awareness of Light assignment that asked them to look for and utilize natural light to their advantage in a single picture storytelling example. This is a small sampling of some of their work.

Jonee Rife and Amanda Watt enjoy a sunny evening at Poters Creek. The two are second years at Loyalist College.
Photo by Annie Duncan



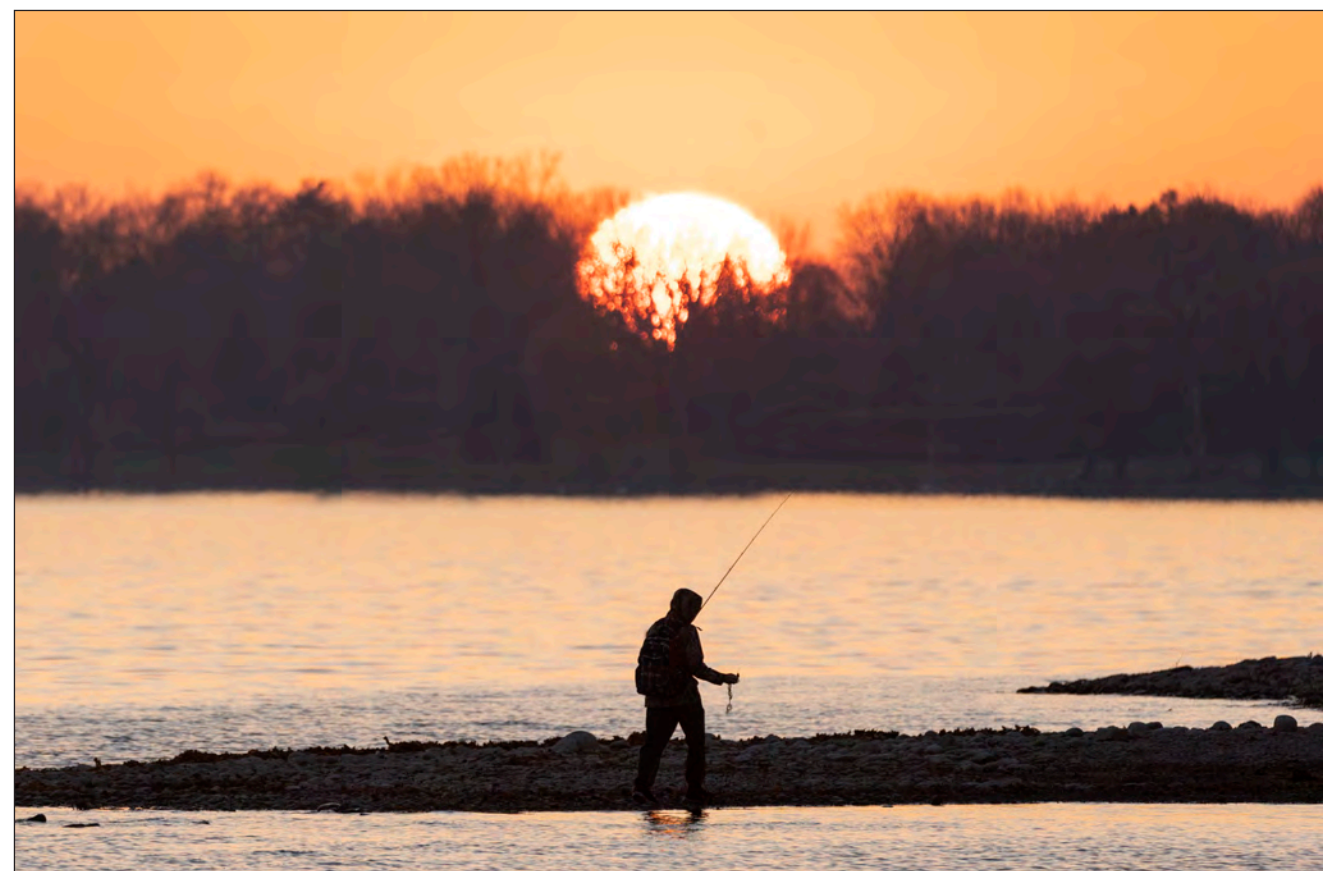
(Above) Christopher Coyle stands in the doorway of his antique store, Wooden Wishes, in Picton.
Photo by Alex Lupul



(Above, left) - Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, many people can be found roaming the streets of Toronto during an unusually warm November day. The adaptations made to normal life can be seen with the public continually practicing social distancing and many wearing masks while walking the streets.
Photo by Paige White

(Above, right) Paramedics Amber and Krista from the Brighton Fire Hall relax in the warm sun on Sunday afternoon after a busy week. Paramedics have been filling in as COVID-19 test swabbers as there is no official position that has been created yet. An average of over 200 swabs a day during these shifts on top of regular workflow can impede standard operations, making slower times more valuable than ever.
Photo by Calder Sidley

(Left) Erin Knowles, co-owner of Things from Mom's Basement, a vintage store and collectables store in downtown Peterborough, catches up on some YouTube videos as she waits for her daughter to come back from a bike ride around the neighbourhood.
Photo by Christie Leja



(Right) A Belleville resident fishes on the shore of Zwick's Park as the sun sets over the Bay of Quinte.
Photo by Felix Chagnon



Two women cross a parking junction which is notorious for pedestrian accidents at Bridge Street West.
Photo by Saddam Zaman