Our country's other heroes deserve recognition as well

Patrick Ross

On 10 March 2005, the University of Alberta’s Buncheon 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 the service that was broadcast on CBC.

It was a service that none of those present likely ever forget. Their flowed as tribute was paid to the fallen officers Peter Schramm, Lionel Johnson, Andrew Ghorson and Brock Myril. “It was a moving ceremony,” remarked their University president Rod Frazee. “I 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.

In 1998, the federal government proclaimed the last Friday of September will be Police and Peace Officer’s National Memorial Day. This is a day in the right direction, but it’s not enough. Canada’s police officers and firefighters have no such government-sanctioned national day of remembrance, nor do they have a national monument—such does not exist.

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

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Pay poppy its due

Megan Clewley

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 blossom on the battlefields of Flanders in World War I, but their crimson hue 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 who 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 showing respect for what so many young men did for us when we needed them.

If you are someone opposed so war that you can’t bring yourself to wear a red poppy, these are alternatives for you. Some people choose to wear a white poppy with a green cross meaning “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 1918, when they turned to become politically involved in peace movements. This poppy still shows respect for those who fought while protesting the cause of war in general. Another option is to wear a black poppy like those produced by the organization People Against Global Impartiality. This seems slightly less respectful than the white poppy, however, because it 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. In 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 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 paying your poppy to your veteran. Unfortunately, it is very rare, so let the right people feel your poppy and show your appreciation for those who fought and those who perished. While the absence of a poppy isn’t necessarily disrespectful, wearing it somewhere else is on your person.

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 women who are still alive will appreciate it.

Summer is over and thoughtfully the horrors of Colonel Sanders are leaving with it. This abominably coloured, hole-ridden chicken doesn’t have to be gone from our streets once more and bristled the market hotel. But because, with the beginning of winter comes a whole new menu. Slap boots.

In case you’ve been trapped in a S.A.A.N store for the last couple of years, these unfortunately named items remain just as popular as before, and look as though they’ve just stepped on a family of endangered species and kept on walking.

They may be warm but that doesn’t make them any less ugly. Poorly constructed, and shaped so as to slippers that someone decided would be acceptable to wear outside. Dying, they’re a bal but don’t make them any less hideous.

S.O.S. Saturdays: 92 Highball downtown in the LIBRARY. Your wallet is sending out a S.O.S.—Save On Spirits. 9pm to midnight.

Music Trivia Sundays: 11113-87 Ave. 7pm to 9pm.