

Brighton Legion Branch 100 - Candlelight Vigil Overview

History of the Candlelight Tribute to Veterans - It was started in the Netherlands in 1995 when Dutch children placed lighted candles on the graves of Canadian Soldiers, leaving them burning overnight in silent tribute to the fallen. Since that time, these tributes have spread across Europe, and were also introduced in Canada. The Brighton Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion introduced a Candlelight Tribute to Veterans on November 10th, 2009.



The candle used is well suited for the Vigil Ceremony - THE CANDLE – ‘The Stormy Weather Graveyard Light’ was introduced in 1963 by Bolsius, a family-run company that started in 1871. The simple yet elegant design of the candle features a 100% pure refined paraffin candle, contained in a durable translucent red plastic shell with a flame-proof, weather resistant metal cap. Suitable for outdoor use only, this 5-inch-high candle is easy to light and will burn for 50-60 hours, in temperatures from +25 to -10 Celsius. The subtle glow of these candle lights, especially when used in numbers, creates a solemn and unforgettable image for an evening of Tribute and Remembrance.

Brighton Legion Annual Candlelight Tribute to Veterans Campaign Launch – In the fall of 2009 when Branch 100 Poppy Campaign Chairperson, Ian Douglas decided to introduce a Candlelight Tribute to Veterans remembrance program to the Brighton community. He recruited Comrade David Wyndham to develop the overall program that included the candle sales, promotional posters, the solemn parade procession and the Candlelight Vigil Service on the evening of November 10th. During the planning details, Chairman Ian Douglas, being new to the Town of Brighton, was astonished that there were no Military Cadets youth program in Brighton to be positioned as Honour Guards at the Cenotaph during the Vigil Ceremony and possibly overnight leading up to the Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 11th. However, he was able to obtain Cadets from neighbouring communities for the first Vigil. Immediately following the remembrance period, Ian took the proactive initiative that led to the creation of Brighton’s 1 CANPARA Army Cadet Corp.

Community Support - The Brighton community has been very emotionally supportive and their encouragement and participation has ensured that all the annual campaigns have been a resounding success since the launch of the first Candlelight Vigil in 2009.

Candlelight Tribute to Veterans Service Format - The service commences with a Candlelight Tribute Parade that originates at The Legion on the evening of November 10th and proceeds to the War and Peace Keeping Cenotaph in Memorial Park for a service of tribute, piper laments and memorable tunes performed by the East Northumberland Secondary School (ENSS) choir.

The candles are placed by family and friends, in remembrance of loved ones who served or are serving. Those who have no military connection can place their candles as a tribute to a family member, friend, or for one of our Fallen Heroes who have been lost in conflict that shared a passion for freedom and invested it in Canada.



To accommodate individuals who make a donation for a remembrance candle and are unable to attend the event, the Brighton Army Cadets, ENSS students and Legion members carry those candles in the Tribute Parade and place the candle on the Cenotaph base.

Candles are available for a minimum donation of \$5:00 each and can be obtained at the Brighton Legion Branch located on Park Street and at selected business locations.

The community response in support of this very worthy program has been extremely gratifying and for this the Legion is truly grateful. A special note of thanks is extended to the support that the Legion has received from the youth of our community, Brighton Army Cadet Corps and the East Northumberland Secondary School students who have contributed to make the annual Candlelight Tribute to Veterans Ceremonies a resounding success.

Comrade Dave Wyndham