



John Maceachern has spearheaded two services in the No Stone Left Alone project at the Old Holy Trinity Cemetery in Middleton. The November 5 event, with Grade 10 Middleton Regional High School students, was the only one held this year in Nova Scotia.



Students matched themselves with one or two of the graves, marking the burial sites of Commonwealth airmen killed during Second World War training at CFB Greenwood, read their names, ranks and home country; and then placed a poppy atop their stone.



Corporal Spencer Campbell, with the 14 Wing Greenwood Pipes & Drums, and Honorary Colonel (emeritus) Karl West, background, provided the remembrance ceremony's traditional music. S. White

No Stone Left Alone, as airmen buried in Middleton cemetery remembered

Sara White,
Managing editor

Grade 10 students from Middleton Regional High School were the only Nova Scotians to take part in this year's national No Stone Left Alone project, visiting Old Holy Trinity Cemetery in Middleton to remember the lives of Commonwealth airmen killed during Second World War training at CFB Greenwood.

The students walked from MRHS to the cemetery November 5, and recited the names of the servicemen and their home country, before placing a poppy atop each headstone. A piper and bugler

from the 14 Wing Greenwood bands, 14 Wing chaplain Captain Maya Bevan and Old Holy Trinity Reverend Paul Jennings added music, words of remembrance and prayers to complete the service, with a handful of spectators standing off to the edges.

No Stone Left Alone marks its 10th anniversary in 2020, with over 65,000 poppies placed by 12,300 students at gravesites in 120 cemeteries across Canada. The Middleton event is a second occurrence, thanks to the efforts of volunteer John Maceachern beginning in 2019.

Maceachern thanked students for their support. He shared a letter written to them

from program founder Maureen Bianchini Purvis.

"Our world is constantly changing, and we are all looking for the comfort of peace," she wrote. "Today, those of you who are here to honour our veterans, I want you to know that, with this small act of respect and honour, you truly are making a difference. You are setting an example for our youth that, no matter what happens in our daily lives, we must – and we will – remember them."

Maceachern added: "This class – you should be proud of yourselves. You are the only class representing Nova Scotia in this national movement in 2020. Congratulations."

Due to COVID-19, spectators were few, participants wore masks and everyone stood apart from each other.

While Bianchini Purvis had written, "We all are very aware of the difference a year can make" from 2019 ser-

vices, Maceachern wished everyone well in the days ahead in a pandemic. "Go home. Be safe." →

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Wear a mask, in indoor public spaces and when social distancing is difficult.



Keep your distance, keep 2m between each other and stay home if you feel sick.