La Légion royale canadienne

REMEMBRANCE CONTEST ~ CONCOURS DU SOUVENIR

2004

AWARDS ~ PRIX

Posters, Essays, Poems ~ Affiches, Compositions, Poèmes

The Royal Canadian Legion

La Légion Royale Canadienne
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Senior ~ Senior

Posters~Colour Affiches~Couleurs

First Place ~ Premier Place
Allyson Warburg
Dunmore, AB  Eagle Butte School

Second Place ~ Deuxième Place
Vanessa Young
St. John’s, NL  Prince of Wales School

Posters~Black & White Affiches~Noir & blanc

First Place ~ Premier Place
Brenda Shklratoff
Strathmore, AB  Strathmore High School

Second Place ~ Deuxième Place
Elise Ringgenberg
Walten, ON  Central Huron Secondary School

The Logo
The Legion Logo represents the Legion’s commitment to remembrance in Canada.
Senior ~ Senior

Essay Composition

First Place ~ Premier Place
We Shall Remember Them

It has often been said that in war there are no winners, only losers. This statement is very true in many ways, for over the past one hundred years war has claimed millions of lives. The First World War, the Second World War, and the Korean War have each taken the lives of many Canadians. As a result of these massive conflicts, Canada would forever be changed, and would never forget it's fallen.

Young Canadians fought and died for the freedom of generations to come, for the oppressed, for democracy, and for their friends. These wars were fought to end all wars, but sadly, history can repeat itself. They strove for victory at all costs, giving their lives and showing the true strength of Canada. Their contributions and deeds must be remembered to guard against such horrific events. Their sacrifices have shaped our history and more importantly, our future, as their selfless actions should forever inspire us to resolve all conflicts peacefully.

Canadians fought at Dieppe, the Somme, Vimy Ridge, Pachessendale, Ortona and Kap'yong where they braved the horrors of war in order to secure peace for their children to follow. Through deplorable conditions and in exhaustion, our soldiers fought these wars. The thought of living in such inhumane conditions is hard enough to fathom; having to fight for your life made it even harder.

It is terrible to think that at one point in time, young men and women could look at their friends, their families and the people around them with the knowledge that soon they may never see them again. During WW1 and WW2 many would not return home, rather, they lay in the mass graves and in the fields where they fought and died. Those few that did return home returned with horrifying wounds. In both WW1 and WW2 this was a grim reality. Whole families were lost, as there was not a family within Canada that had not been touched in some way by the irreparable loss and sorrow that is so much a part of war.

It is terribly ironic that though the past two World Wars have claimed so many lives they have also saved innumerable more. Through the tireless and selfless efforts exhibited by the young men and women that served in the Airforce, the Army and the Navy, generations of Canadians and people of all nationalities for that matter, have been saved from tyranny and despotic governments. Canada also gained a large part of its identity as a country which had the ability to make a difference through it's commitment to justice for all.

As a result of these conflicts, countries have tried harder to resolve their conflicts, trying to avoid the carnage that is so much a part of every war. Today, Canada has the largest peacekeeping force in the world. Perhaps this is a result of having a country that understands the importance of peace that has been attained at great cost. Canada has continually paved a road to global peace and has stopped many wars before serious confrontations have taken place. However, when war has started, Canada can be counted upon to step in as it has done in the past to keep peace between rivals in order to promote diplomacy as a means of resolution rather than armed confrontation. We have a strong commitment to peace and we back our belief with action as peacekeeping efforts have been undertaken in places like Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Africa.

Waves of hate and spite are the worst of all human beings fight against one another and desperately trying to annihilate each other. This is the base for all wars, for there has never been a war started out of love for your fellow man, but out of hate and animosity. It is important that, as Canadians, we remain vigilant. Our soldiers' graves litter the fields of France and Belgium where they fought and died, they are a sorrowful reminder of what can happen if we fail to resolve our differences.

“Never again” is the message that all Veterans bear. Though, as time passes on and the number of surviving Veterans grows smaller and smaller, these words seem to echo in our ears as we hear of other countries that are so willing to go to war and suffer casualties. We must never view the actions taken by our Veterans as anything less than heroic. Never will we be more proud of those who fought for the love of their friends, family and country. Let us never forget the horrors of war, let us never forget the sacrifices of our Veterans for if we do, history will repeat itself, Lest We Forget.

Shima Vigodda
Belleville, ON  Nicholson Catholic College

Second Place ~ Deuxième Place
Why we Remember

As a great niece of a World War Two veteran and a senior high school student, I still remain a little confused, as I am sure many other students are, about what exactly happened on the battle fields of Vimy Ridge, Dieppe, or the advancement across the Imjin River in Korea. The time of year is coming when poppies will be worn on the chest of both young and old. We will be asked to take a moment of silence to remember while TV and radio stations across the nation will be broadcasting ceremonial services. This is also the time of year I find myself trying to put together, like pieces to a puzzle, different aspects of war studied during what seemed to be long boring history classes. I’m sure there are many people out there wondering exactly why we must remember.

According to what I have read, seen on TV or heard from elders, I know there is no way I could or will ever understand what the destruction of the world between 1914-1918, 1939-1945 and 1950-1953 must have been like. I cannot even imagine sleeping in rat-filled trenches or speaking to a friend one minute and have him fall dead at my feet the next. Living in a world where the gift of life means nothing; going through years at a time seeing nothing but blood and anger; experiencing first hand what 45 tons of poisonous gas can do to an army of soldiers, as the German’s used this weapon for the first time in 1915 (WWI) against a Canadian troop and a place where hearts and souls are shattered for a piece of land which has no feeling. Was the price really worth paying? This seems worst than being caught in a nightmare from which you cannot awake.

How many of us, including myself, can honestly say that we show thanks everyday for living our lives in a safe country? Do we even acknowledge that the freedom we have always known and take for granted was once at stake?

Over one hundred thousand men gave their lives whether they took part in the First World War, Second World War or the Korean War. Some were taken captive in Japanese war caps to be tortured, often until death. These courageous men, bound together, practiced great leadership and put their lives at risk for the thought of rights and freedoms being threatened.

These men and women took it on as their responsibility to fight for freedom; freedom many of them would never get to enjoy. They endured mutilation, unreasonable fatigue and unimaginable fear to ensure our rights to participate in cultural and political events and to live within a democratic society. They fought for the protection of freedom and peace in our country for future generations.

I often hear people in our society today saying I don’t care, it’s not my problem. If only a few years ago people had said these words, we would not be living the lives we are today. I see this as an excellent example why Remembrance Day is so important and should not be looked at as a story of the past. We recognize the unselfish contributions made by young soldiers to defend a country, not only for their own benefit but to benefit future generations of Canadians. Many of them would not live to see the sun rise again from their homeland they fought so valiantly to protect. Whether their enrollment was by their own free will or they had no choice, this commitment is not one to be ignored.

Whether or not you agree with the war is a totally different issue. The reasons and importance for remembering remain the same. We remember their service and sacrifice for our country. We acknowledge the faith and courage demonstrated to protect our freedom. We recognize surviving veterans and show respect for the deceased. When they look over us from above they can be proud of the country for which they gave their lives and a nation who remembers them and gives thanks.

Deirdre Doiron
Hunter River, PEI  Bluefield High School
Dear Soldier ...

Who knew that in sunny, pleasant June,
A single event would change your life oh so very soon?
With the assassination of one prince a Great War began;
In some streets they cried, and in some they sang.

When your Mother Country declared war on the Triple Alliance,
You sang songs and showed no defiance.
Willingly you took up your guns and went to war,
As if it were a task to accomplish, a daily chore.

Most expected it to be a short war,
“Home by Christmas” they said, and no more.
Others dreamed of honorary medals and a hero’s welcome home,
Instead they got four lonely years, all alone.

While you were away at the Western Front,
The women went to work without a grunt.
At munitions factories they worked all day,
And at night- for you- they’d kneel and pray.

At the Western Front you faced challenges anew
As the battle in the muddy trenches grew.
Your dreams of a short war soon faded away,
And your happy thoughts of home began to decay.

The weather was poor and the ground wet,
You slipped and fell, and new challenges were met.
As the gunfire, shells, bombs and gas spread,
Nany of your friends were soon among the dead.

While you were busy fighting on land,
Your colleagues in the sea and sky lent a helping hand.
You fought bravely at Ypres, Somme, Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele,
And the enemy fought back to no avail.

Alas came that fateful day, when you cried out and closed your eyes,
The end of the war you never came to realize.
Your life you made a sacrifice for me,
So that I may live happy and free.

Tamara Kowalski
Stoney Creek, ON  Saltfleet District High School

Remember

The past is the present, the future, the time,
To remember the lives that were lost in the grime.
In cold trenches and fields the bodies were strewn,
Many were young, but all died too soon.

It couldn’t be helped. The war had begun.
And each night they prayed to see next day’s sun.

If we had remembered and thought it all through,
We wouldn’t repeat what we already knew.
That many would die,
And those that survived, would live with the thought,
And a tear from each eye.

They fall to the ground, forgotten, unbound,
Like the soldiers and many, who fell without sound.

They fought for our lives,
Our freedom, our wives,
They fought for our children,
And the country we live in.

Elicia Houle
Delta, BC  Delta Secondary

Honourable Mention – Mention honorable

Posters–Colour  Affiches–Couleurs
Melanie Page  Cranbrook, BC  Mount Baker Secondary School

Posters–Black & White  Affiches–Noir & blanc
Jenny Dwyer  Goulds, NL  St. Kevin’s High School

Essay  Composition
Allison Hare  Strathadam, NB  North & South Esk Regional High School

Poem  Poème
Megan Graham  Calgary, AB  Edison Private School
La Torche
La torche restera le symbole de justice, d’honneur et de liberté.

Intermediate - Intermédiaire

**Posters - Colour Affiches - Couleurs**

**First Place - Premier Place**
Jaswinder Brar
Mission, BC  Yale Secondary School

**Second Place - Deuxième Place**
Meaghan Nelson
Mayerthorpe, AB  Mayerthorpe Junior School

**Posters - Black & White Affiches - Noir & blanc**

**First Place - Premier Place**
Megan Werner
Hanna, AB  J.C. Charyk School

**Second Place - Deuxième Place**
Chloe Crossley
Moosomin, SK  McNaughton High School
The Poppy
The Poppy is our emblem of supreme sacrifice.
It represents Remembrance.

Intermediate - Intermédiaire

First Place - Premier Place

Alone

The boat stopped close to the shore. Fear engulfed him as he jumped into the cold water. The water had turned crimson from the blood that had poured into it. Quickly he ran onto the shore dodging bullets and shrapnel as they flew at him. He jumped over the dead and the dying. Men begging for help. He reached the stronghold and started firing at the enemy. He had never felt so alone in his life. Suddenly a deafening blast came from overhead. He closed his eyes and prayed.

Opening his eyes, the man looked around. He was lying in bed covered in a cold sweat. Shaking he sat up and got out of his bed. He was seventeen when he went to Europe to fight in the Second World War. That was sixty-one years ago and still he remembered as if it was yesterday. Most of his friends were dead even if they survived the war. He was all alone. Slowly he slipped on his dark green suit. Proudly he glided his fingers over the buttons as he did them up. Today would be a tribute to all of his fallen comrades who died keeping their country free. He would walk in the parade among the other soldiers that were left. Today was Remembrance Day.

Bagpipes played behind him as he slowly marched beside the remaining soldiers. He smiled, waving at the crowd. People smiled back and mouthed, “Thank-you.” Looking around he saw all the people, free, doing what they wanted to do. He thought about how he had helped however small it was. He didn’t feel alone anymore. He had his whole country that admired him and what he had done for them.

Nicole Hirsekorn
Leduc, AB  Leduc Junior High School

Second Place - Deuxième Place

Poppy

I am here as a symbol for those who have fought and died, shedding their own blood for our country, Canada. I have grown red as their blood where they have fallen. In Europe if you come across a field of poppies you would probably be right if you guessed that it was once a battlefield. I grow above their grave feeling their wish to be remembered. All the people who wear a poppy on their lapel on Remembrance Day carry out their wish. In some cases I am worn all day long. Those who wear me all the time are the veterans. Veterans who have survived, who have been there when close friends have perished in battle, whose own life has been threatened many times and who have their own memories and injuries from the horrible event called war. I am worn on Remembrance Day while people stand in their moments of silence. I am worn while the trumpet plays the last post. I am worn while wreaths of poppies are put at the bases of cenotaphs and flowers are placed on top of graves. I am the poppy and the symbol of Remembrance Day here to remind you of the brave soldiers who fought for you.

Michelle Rensing
Mill Bay, BC  George Bonner Middle School
FAREWELL YOUNG SOLDIER

His mother’s crying softly,
It’s more than she can bear,
Her oldest son is off to war,
She prays to God, his life to spare.

His father’s pacing in the yard,
He knows the time is near,
To hold him tight and say goodbye;
His heart is proud, yet full of fear.

His younger brothers stand and stare,
They watch him fold and pack,
Not fully understanding,
Why their hero may not be back.

He’ll write some letters and tuck them away,
To be found at a later date.
They’ll tell his family how they were loved,
Should a bullet decide his fate.

He walks over to his mother.
He holds her oh, so tight.
He must be strong for both of them,
For he knows he leaves tonight.

With his father he drives to the station,
The words between them few.
He will be fighting for his country,
Dedicated, strong and true.

His comrades now are gathering,
Brave soldiers through and through,
They are here to serve our country,
To keep it safe for you.

The train pulls from the station,
Parents watching one by one,
Each one whispering a silent prayer,
“May God be with you, son.”

David Butt
New Harbour, NL  Crescent Colle-

Le coquelicot est notre emblème du sacrifice suprême.
Il représente le Souvenir.

Torie Viste
Hanna, AB  J.C. Charyk School

Second Place - Deuxième Place

Honourable Mention - Mention honorable

POSTERS-COLOUR AFFICHES-COULEURS
Lucas Hennessey  Birchwood York, PEI  Pleasant Grove
POSTERS-BLACK & WHITE AFFICHES-NOIR & BLANC
Daniel Shen  Toronto, ON  D.A. Morrison Junior High School

ESSAY COMPOSITION
Adrianna Joel  Elbow, SK  Loreburn Central School

POEM POÈME

Kelsey Klarenbach  Loon Lake, SK  Ernie Studer School
Our Flag
The Canadian Flag is representative of our nation, both home and abroad.

Junior - Junior

Posters - Colour Affiches - Couleurs

First Place - Premier Place
Michael Nguyen
Mississauga, ON  St. Jerome School

Second Place - Deuxième Place
Alyssa Huston
Prinedale, NS  CRMS

Posters - Black & White Affiches - Noir & blanc

First Place - Premier Place
Michael Christian
Halifax, NS  Cornwallis Junior High School

Second Place - Deuxième Place
Jessica Tran
Toronto, ON  Bala Avenue C.S.
Tearful Victory

We are quickly advancing to Vimy Ridge. I can’t believe I’m here. I’m scared. I don’t know why I came. I guess it’s what you call brave.

We are at Vimy Ridge ready to attack. We have been planning for years. I have been thinking about how I left my mother, how she cried. How my father shook my hand and said “You’re a man now, be strong.” And I left them with tears in my eyes and tears in theirs.

I am in the tunnel beside my friend. He makes a joke. I nervously chuckle. We are there. We jump out, attack. I fight. My friend fights. I run and attack a German soldier. I turn around. I see my friend fall. I know he is dead. It is a risk that all of us take. All around me soldiers of both sides fall. I’ve seen this all through the war. I can’t stand it. I want to run away. I can’t. I have to fight for my country. We fight and fight. All morning.

Finally, news breaks out. We have succeeded! The survivors don’t know whether to laugh or cry. We do both. We celebrate. Suddenly I bow my head. Others around me do the same. We pray. We pray thanks that we are alive. We pray for the soldiers who died. Not only on this victorious day but for those who died in all wars. We all rejoice. “Victory!” we all cry.

I am old now. I am a veteran of the Vimy Ridge victory. I ride on a plane to visit my best friend’s grave. I can see how Vimy Ridge has changed. I slowly walk around. War is a bad thing. The woods which were once full of danger are now lush and green. I see how beautiful the world is without war.

I pray, Lord, keep it this way.

And this is why we celebrate Remembrance Day.

Anita Lazurko
Weyburn, SK  Queen Elizabeth School

UNDERSTANDING WARS

War for kids like me is like playing a game with toy soldiers. We think that the good guys always win and that they never die.

I realize now that after asking my mom and dad about war and about Remembrance Day that in reality war is a sacrifice. War is not just killing and bombing, it is fighting for something you truly believe in, it is fighting for the freedom of others, for our country, Canada.

At first, I found it difficult to understand about wars and about how remembrance day is a way to honour those who fought in wars. Now, I know how important wearing a poppy is, how proud you should feel to be able to display such a part of history.

I now think about how the families must have felt seeing their son or daughter, husband or wife leaving to go to a foreign land where respect for life and freedom is not important. I can’t imagine not having my mom and dad around, but I also realize that a lot of moms and dads lost their lives fighting in wars. Those brave soldiers left home to fight for freedom and peace not knowing whether they will return or not. Those soldiers will be remembered on November the eleventh, my family and I will watch people on television placing wreaths at war memorials. We will see sadness in their eyes, sadness for the lost of their family and friends back on the battle fields.

Canada, is a free and beautiful country because of many brave people. I would like to Thank those brave soldiers for the freedom that I am able to experience today, that freedom I know came with a very high price. On Remembrance Day, LEST WE FORGET.

Jordan Walsh
St. Brendan’s, NL  St Gabriel’s
Wreaths are placed on cenotaphs at remembrance services in loving memory of those brave comrades who gave their lives in service.

**First Place - Premier Place**

**Seasons in Peace**

There are no seasons in war - no spring, no fall, no winter, no summer - no beauty at all.

There are no parties in war - no balloons, no clowns, no laughter, no joking, no smiles, just frowns.

There is no Christmas in war - no Birthdays, no fun, no celebrations, no Easter, no events for anyone.

There is no music in war - no song, no dance, no cymbals, no bells, no happy chants.

There are no sports in war - no hockey, no ball, no golf, no curling, no wins to recall.

There are no teddy bears in war - no soft pillows, no beds, no comfy couches or chairs, just trenches instead.

**BUT...**

There are seasons in peace - there is spring and fall, there is winter, there is summer, there is beauty for all.

**Joland Schmidt**
Melfort, SK  Brunswick School

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**Honourable Mention - Mention honorable**

**Posters - Colour Affiches - Couleurs**

**Jordan Caton** - Surrey, BC  Cloverdale Catholic School

**Posters - Black & White Affiches - Noir & blanc**

**Trevor Weiss** - Kamloops, BC  Dufferin Elementary

**Essay Composition**

**Meegan Meek** - Keewatin, ON  St. Louis School

**Poem Poème**

**Sasha Bruce** - Souris, PEI  Eastern Kings Consolidated School

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**Second Place - Deuxième Place**

**A Soldier’s Story**

I’m running from an enemy I can not see
As comrades hopefully fall around me
My feet are blistered, heal to toe
But I can’t stop now, I sense the foe

I hear the cannons, loud and clear
Surely, the enemy must be near
I close my eyes and start to pray
“Please Lord, let me live another day”

Visions of my family flash through my mind
My life, my innocence, all left behind
I wish I was home with the people I love
Instead of dodging bombs that rain down from above

The tragedies of war I now see
Are forever etched into my memory
And when it’s over, I’ll still hear
The sounds of men full of fear

I’m crying inside though I don’t make a sound
Aware one stray bullet can take me to the ground
I’m aching, bleeding and gasping for air
I just want to lie down but I do not dare

Dead ahead, a tremendous blast
And suddenly my life has passed
I gave it my all, refused to yield
But from this day forth I’ll rest in Flander’s Field

**Lisa Vanderwyk**
Scotland, ON  Oakland Scotland
Couronnes
Des couronnes sont déposées aux cénotaphes lors des services du Souvenir en mémoire de ces braves camarades qui ont sacrifié leur vie durant leur service.

Primary - Primaire

Posters-Colour Affiches-Couleurs

First Place ~ Premier Place
Shahrooz Ghayouri
Scarborough, ON  Berdale Junior Public School

Second Place ~ Deuxième Place
Jenna Beach
Clareville, NL  Clareville Primary School

Honourable Mention ~ Mention honorable
Shelby Dattenberger ~ Medicine Hat, AB  St. Francis Xavier
Chelsey Walker ~ Ellerslie, PEI  Ellerslie Elementary School

Posters-Black & White Affiches-Noir & blanc

First Place ~ Premier Place
Taylor Fischer
Edson, AB  A.H. Dakin

Second Place ~ Deuxième Place
Shelby Kaczur
Stockholm, SK  MacDonald School

La Légion royale canadienne 11
The Contests

For many, many years, The Royal Canadian Legion has sponsored annual Poster, Essay and Literary Contests that are open to all Canadian school children. The youths that participate in the contests assist the Legion in one of our primary goals – fostering the tradition of Remembrance amongst Canadians.

The contests are divided into categories: the Poster Contests have four (Primary – grades 1, 2 and 3; Junior – grades 4, 5 and 6; Intermediate – grades 7, 8 and 9; and Senior – grades 10, 11 and 12) and the Literary Contests have three (Junior – grades 4, 5 and 6; Intermediate – grades 7, 8 and 9; and Senior – grades 10, 11 and 12). Grade 13 where applicable is included in Senior Categories. Initial judging takes place at the community level by volunteers at local Legion branches and the winning entries progress to judging at the Provincial level. The winning entries at this level are forwarded to Ottawa where they are judged and the National winners declared. The names and work of all the National winners are published in this booklet.

The Poster Contest has two divisions – Colour and Black and White. The winning entries for the four categories (school grades) are displayed at the Canadian War Museum from 1 July – 1 May of the following year. The second place winners and any receiving an Honourable Mention are displayed in the foyer of the House of Commons during the annual Remembrance period in November.

The senior winning entries in the Essay and Poetry contests are also displayed at the Canadian War Museum during the same period.

The Legion also sponsors a trip to Ottawa for the Senior Winners in the four contests (two poster, essay and poetry) to attend the National Remembrance Day Service where they place a wreath on behalf of the youth of Canada. They also have an opportunity to meet and visit with the Governor General.

Students may enter as many contests as they wish and congratulations to all of this year’s winners.

Should you wish further information on the contests please contact the Royal Canadian Legion Branch nearest your residence.

Les Concours

Durant plusieurs années, la Légion royale canadienne a parrainé des concours littéraires, d’affiches et de composition dans lesquels tous les élèves canadiens peuvent participer. De cette façon les jeunes participants et participantes aident la Légion à réaliser l’un de ses buts principaux – promouvoir la tradition du Souvenir au sein de la population canadienne.

Les concours sont divisés en catégories: les Concours d’affiches en ont quatre (primaire – 1, 2 et 3ième années; junior – 4, 5 et 6ième années; intermédiaire – 7, 8 et 9ième années; et senior – 10, 11, 12ième années) et les Concours littéraires en ont trois ( junior – 4, 5 et 6ième années; intermédiaire – 7, 8 et 9ième années; et senior – 10, 11, 12ième années). La 13ième année, si applicable, est incluse dans les Catégories senior. Les concours sont jugés en premier lieu au niveau de la communauté par des bénévoles des filiales locales de la Légion, et les gagnants et gagnantes avancent alors au niveau provincial. Le travail des gagnants et gagnantes à ce niveau est soumis à Ottawa où il est jugé, et les gagnants nationaux choisis. Les noms et les projets de tous les gagnants et gagnantes au niveau national sont publiés dans ce livret.

Le concours d’affiches a deux divisions – couleurs, et noir et blanc. Les travaux des gagnants dans les quatre catégories (grades scolaires) sont affichés au Musée canadien de la guerre du 1er juillet au 1er mai de l’année suivante. Les noms des gagnants et gagnantes en deuxième place ainsi que ceux des individus qui reçoivent une mention honorable sont exhibés dans le foyer de la Chambre des Communes durant la période annuelle du Souvenir, soit en novembre.

Les soumissions gagnantes au niveau senior dans le concours de composition et de poésie sont aussi montrées au Musée canadien de la guerre durant la même période.

La Légion parraine aussi un voyage à Ottawa pour les gagnants et gagnantes au niveau senior dans les quatre concours (deux pour affiches et un chaque pour composition et poésie) pour assister au service du jour du Souvenir où ils déposent une couronne au nom de la jeunesse du Canada et ont l’occasion de rencontrer le Gouverneur général.

Les étudiants et étudiantes peuvent participer dans autant de concours qu’ils désirent. Félicitations à tous les gagnants et gagnantes de cette année.

Si vous désirez plus d’information au sujet des concours, veuillez communiquer avec la filiale de la Légion royale canadienne la plus près de chez-vous.