



Remembrance Day! There is nothing like a day off from classes to give a person a fresh outlook on life. It was better in high school, though, because we got two or three days extra

Anyhow, a day is a day off, right? I like to go for drives on Remembrance Day; but it's hard as hell to get out of the city. All those old people marching, blocking traffic, everyone making their way to the cenotaph. You would think they could have a little more consideration.

I always head to St. Peters because that is where my family is originally from. Some old guy once said that St. Peters had the highest per capita ratio of volunteers in Canada during WWII. Most of the men took off for Europe as soon as they could, leaving the women behind to worry day after day. He told me that at mail time, wives and girlfriends used to gather at the end of their driveways to see who would get the 'official letter of apology'. I guess it was pretty tense, because people were dying every week I understand what it is like. I get the same way when I wait for my marks from school over Christmas.

I love to hear war stories from some of my family. They rarely talk about it, though, and usually only when they have had a few drinks. My favorite one was about my uncles who lied about their age to join the navy. They were only 14 or 15 when they worked on Corvettes guarding cargo across the Atlantic Ocean. Their ships were sunk,

not once but twice; and they got to sit in the freezing water and listen to their friends get eaten by sharks. Didn't stop them, though. They just hopped right back on another ship. Man, you would not catch me doing that. They used to try a little when the subject came up. I don't know why—after all, it has been over fifty years. Get over it already.

Can you imagine life being that simple? Can you imagine dying for what you believe in? Hell, I don't even know "what" I believe in. I mean, they try to make the wars sound so noble. Nowadays, we know the truth. They were really ideological wars, efforts to stop Russian expansion into Europe. England was protecting a dying empire, the Allies fought just as dirty as the Axis. We do not even know if the Holocaust even happened. Germany is our friend, my wife is Japanese—what is the point of going around reminding everyone of old wounds. It's not as if it could ever happen again, right? Besides, I know all about the wars. I've read some books.

I have to admit, the poppies are pretty cool. They look great on my coat; and you can pick them up for a few pennies. I am not sure what their significance means. Maybe it comes from the crazy poem my history teacher made me memorize all those years ago. You know the one.

In Flanders Fields...

I will be sorry when the last veterans die. Remembrance Day is such a cool holiday.

Write
for the
Panther
PRINTS

Bear Advice: Winter Weather

Just a little winter advice for people who may not have experience driving on PEI in the wintertime, and for those who do not own a 4WD vehicle.

For winter driving conditions you should have snow tires or studded tires. All weather tires are not a good choice if you have any distance to travel.

The Department of Highways does a good job of plowing, but the wind is a big factor with winter driving and whether the roads stay open. Visibility is low to impossible when the wind goes above 40 km/h. If the wind is 50km/h+ and its blowing snow, stay put.

The ferry does not go if there is a lot of ice and the wind is 60km/h+. If the wind is 60+ and it is blowing snow—you probably won't be able to drive there anyway.

After a storm, listen to the radio if the schools are delayed an hour—don't be in a hurry. It means plowing has been slow and the sand trucks have not made it around their route yet, driving may be risky.

If you get stuck in the snow, do not keep your car running. It is a good idea when preparing for winter to have emergency blankets in the car, (not the trunk), and keep on hand extra mittens, hats and a few granola bars. A

candle provides a lot of heat in a closed area.

The worst storms are just before and after the full moon. So plan accordingly and watch for weather from November 23 to the full moon and December 23 to the full moon. My grandfather told me that there is always three good traveling days over the full moon, (after the storm).

At Christmas, if you are flying and there is a storm warning—sleep at the airport. Planes seem to go in the worst of weather, you just have to actually get to the airport.

This notice is from Momma Bear in UPEI receiving.

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