

# Drawing attention to remembrance

By Hugo Rodrigues Sentinel-Review

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WOODSTOCK — Huron Park Secondary School Grade 10 student Someer Kotwal held his hand-drawn Remembrance Day poster carefully so the video camera could pan over it from one side to the other.

He beamed as the TV camera recorded his poster, a winner of a second-place regional prize in the **Royal Canadian Legion Zone B2's 2010 Poster and Literary Contest**.

"I'd actually forgotten about having submitted this," Kotwal admitted, two medals hanging from his neck to accompany the two certificates and \$25 prize. "When the teacher called me down, I didn't know what it was about at first. I actually tried to remember what I'd drawn. I was quite surprised."

Kotwal's drawing, done completely in pencil, showed an outstretched hand, framed by depictions of Canadian soldiers from historic and more recent combat service overseas.

A key phrase sat in the lower right-hand side, "We're for Canada — Remember us."

**Fellow Grade 10 student Laura Alexander also placed second in the regional competition for her colour poster depicting a large clock in the shape of a red poppy, with its arms showing 11 o'clock. In the background was a drawing of the memorial at Vimy Ridge in France, with rows of crosses in the foreground.**

**"We all know that at 11 o'clock is when we remember, so I thought it was a good way to show Remembrance Day," Alexander said. "I used a lot of colour on the poster to represent the different cultures that have fought in wars."**

**She said the class assignment was an important one, given how it serves to remind students of the importance of remembrance— not just on Remembrance Day but every day. She too received two medals, certificates and a \$25 cash prize.**

Overall, 17 Huron Park students were awarded recognition in the annual competition at either the Woodstock Branch 55 or Zone B2 level. Branch 55 president Maureen Dennis said one more local student at Woodstock Collegiate Institute had also won a prize, which was to be given to her at a later date.

"This brings the legion to the forefront, as well as other veterans' associations," Branch 55 youth and education chairman Stephen Smith said. "It's not just about the First and Second World Wars, it's about all our veterans. This ensures they remember that."

Smith said this year's poster contest hit closer to home for himself and the local legion branch. He and Pvt. Tyler William Todd — Oxford's first casualty from the war in Afghanistan who died in April 2010 — are both HPSS graduates.

Dennis said this was also the first contest since the death of longtime Branch 55 public affairs officer Joe Fohkens, who took great joy and pride in administering this and other programs in local schools.

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## FACT BOX

**Royal Canadian Legion poster and literacy contest**

**Huron Park Secondary School winners**

**Laura Alexander**

Someer Kotwal

Jessica Carter

Zoe Butt

Michaela Lievre

Stephanie Shepard

Alana Kertesz

Rachel Pace

Linnea McCreery

Marissa Ukos

Garret Elmes

Courtney Wilson

Emilie Bell

Jacob Flanagan

Nicole Cedic

Joanna McCarthy

Leah Dermo