“Lest we forget.” That’s what we hear every November 11 as we gather by the various cenotaphs and memorials for the Remembrance Day services. “Lest we forget.” It’s true that we haven’t forgotten to buy a poppy, or give a minute of silence on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. We may attend a service, lay a wreath, or attend a special church service. But this Remembrance Day take a look at the list of names on the cenotaph or memorial you’re at, and ask yourself if you have any idea about the service and sacrifices made by the people listed on those various memorials. Unless it’s a family member, the answer is probably not. One man is trying to change that story at his Legion’s Cenotaph. Pte. Everett Samuel Francis is originally from The Netherlands, and served with NATO in the Dutch Air Force. He was killed in action at the battle of Single Bay on September 13, 1942, at the age of 19. The story of his sacrifice will be told during this Remembrance Day as part of the “A Face to Every Name” project, with photos and additional information supplied by their families.

One day Valkenburg asked him at his Legion if there were any records of the persons named on its Cenotaph, so that he could learn more about the people who had paid such a sacrifice for the liberation of Europe. When it turned out that there were no records available at the Legion, Valkenburg offered to do the research.

The purpose of Valkenburg’s research is to document all the persons mentioned on the Cenotaph for a historical record, and to make a Wall of Remembrance in the Legion with their photos.

He began by looking at Veteran Affairs Virtual War Memorials website, looking for information on fallen soldiers. Next he searched through records available to the Library and Archives Canada, the Tryon and Area Historical Society, community historians, and the Provincial Archives.

Photo of Vincent Carr in 1915, in the uniform of the 55th Battalion. (Photo courtesy of Delbert Carr collection)

He reached out to other organizations for help in identifying the names, and if there were photos and stories. Once he could match a name to the record, he started looking for families.

His Belgian cousin, François Breugelmans, even made a trip across Belgium to help with the project, visiting various WWI cemeteries to provide photos of headstones that were not available on the internet. Among the stops was Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres, where Breugelmans searched out the names from the Cenotaph, among the more than 54,000 World War I war dead whose graves are unknown.

WWI soldier Private Vincent Carr, Regimental #44791, and WW II soldier Corporal Everett Samuel Francis, Regimental #F65975 are two of the people whose information he uncovered.

Carr’s nephew, Delbert Carr of Tryon, was happy to help Valkenburg out with a photo of Carr in uniform, but noted that he knew little about his uncle. Similarly Carr’s niece, Arlene Sorensen, also of Tryon, suggested that because Carr died so young, was not married, and was older than her father and his cousin’s father, there was not much information to pass on to the next generation.

Vincent Earl Carr was born May 3, 1884 in North Tryon, son of Robert Carr and Catherine McLeod. On June 2, 1914, he enlisted in the 55th Battalion in Sussex, New Brunswick, recorded his trade as labourer. On October 30, 1915 his unit sailed to England, arriving on November 9, 1915 aboard the S.S. Cicerone. On April 6, 1916 he was transferred to the 8th Motor Machine Gun Battalion, and then 2 months later, on June 25, 1916, he was sent for training at the 86th Motor Machine Gun Depot. On July 28, 1916 he became part of the 1st (also called “A”) Canadian Motor Machine Gun Battery and arrived in France with his unit the next day.

In an excerpt from the November 1, 1917 Operation Report for October 28-31, 1917 by Lt. C.E. Gilman, Acting Officer in Charge, of the “A” Battery of the First Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade wrote: “On the evening of the 29th … were in position to fire on targets given for the Zero hour; which was 5:50 a.m. morning of the 30th. As soon as we opened fire, we were subjected to an intense bombardment of our positions, and were forced to retire 6 hours later after sustaining 28 casualties …”

Carr was among those killed in action at the Passchendaele Ridge on the morning of October 30, 1917. He is buried in Cement House Cemetery in Langemarck, Belgium.

Photo: Grave of Everett Samuel Francis in Grand Falls, Newfoundland.

Everett Samuel Francis was born February 2, 1921 in Albany, the son of Lester L. and Annie Mary Francis, and husband of Janie Louise of Grand Falls, Newfoundland. Before the war, he worked for Wilfred Inman of Albany as a farm labourer. On July 15, 1940, he enlisted, serving with the R.E.I. Highlanders.

On September 13, 1942, he was sent from Gander, Newfoundland, where his unit was based, to Long Branch, Ontario for a small arms training course. He was on his way back to Gander when the ferry S.S. Caribou when it was torpedoed by German U-Boat 68 off the coast of Newfoundland on October 14, 1942. 101 survivors were rescued and taken to Sydney, but the captain, 30 crew, 57 service personnel, and 48 passengers were lost, including Francis. He’s buried in St. Matthew’s Presbyterian Cemetery in Grand Falls, Newfoundland. Unfortunately, no family or photo of Francis has been found as yet.

All of the names on the Cenotaph found so far were men, with two from the Merchant Navy.

As well, research shows that there seems to be some surname spelling differences, and one name seems to be listed under the wrong column.

If you recognize any of the names on the Cenotaph and have photos, letters, diaries, or stories you are willing to share, please email him at daria-valkenburg@yahoocom.

“Also encourage family members of those on the Cenotaph to come to the Borden-Carleton Legion on Remembrance Day for the service,” Valkenburg says.

He also notes that the Cenotaph is showing signs of wear and tear and needs some restoration work.

The Borden-Carleton Legion is holding a Remembrance Day Service on November 11, 2016, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, as a fundraiser for the Cenotaph Restoration Project.

The County Line Courier ~ your community newspaper

October 19, 2016

by Daria Valkenburg
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Kinkora Primary Care Clinic

Kinkora Primary Care Clinic will be held at Kinkora Place each Thursday morning from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm. A Registered Nurse will be available to help individuals deal with issues such as high blood pressure, breathing difficulty, diabetes, heart health and stopping smoking. Different sessions can also be formed to meet the needs of a group or on the desired topic. Sessions will also focus on preventing health issues and discuss when is the appropriate time for screening.

Drop ins are welcome or pre-booked appointments can be made by calling 902-432-2000.

Schedule for October is as follows:

Thurs., October 20: Registered Nurse

Thurs., October 27: Diabetes Educator

Thurs., November 10: Registered Nurse

Thurs., November 17: Registered Nurse

Thurs., November 24: Registered Nurse

Thurs., December 1: Registered Nurse

Thurs., December 8: Registered Nurse

Thurs., December 15: Diabetes Educator

Thurs., December 22: Diabetes Educator

Thurs., December 29: Diabetes Educator

Victoria Village

Christmas Stroll

Come celebrate with the Victoria-by-the-Sea retailers for our first Village Stroll. Shop early for Christmas during the weekend of October 28-30 for most retailers.

Hours: 10 AM-5:00 PM

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