

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The Georgian Bay LEOs took over the organization and running of the Candlelight Vigil ceremony dedicated to honour those who served and continue to serve for freedom and peace. In 2019, the Town of Midland was looking for a youth group to take over the function and as the Georgian Bay LEOs were newly formed, we jumped at the opportunity to support our community in this activity. In the fall of 2019, the GB LEOs met with the Town of Midland and Branch 80 Midland Legion to see what they would like in this ceremony. Unfortunately, in April 2020 we went into lock down for the pandemic and the GB LEOs ran it as a virtual social media campaign. After two long years the GB LEOs were thrilled to come together as a community to celebrate and pay homage to those that fought for freedom. The GB LEOs incorporated the theme of the 40th anniversary of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms into this year's vigil. This charter is extremely important as it details Canadians' fundamental freedoms, democratic rights, mobility rights, legal rights, equality rights, official language rights and minority language educational rights. As Canadians we should all be proud that it has served as an example to the global community.

The Candlelight Vigil originally started in Vancouver, where Veterans Affairs Canada started the special celebration, and it marked the first of many celebrations across Canada to recognize all those who served and continue to serve for the cause of peace and freedom. This is especially timely as we think of those fighting for their freedom around the world.

The GB LEOs organized every aspect of this event by inviting dignitaries and the media, finding guest speakers, coordinating the sound system, set up of tables/chairs and candles, working with the Legion band, colour party and the Sgt-At-Arms. The event was well attended by veterans, Midland Lions, past GB LEOs and the Midland community. All of the LEOs were actively engaged in the event. Two of the LEOs MC'd the event while all the other LEOs marched on with the Veterans and band and then lit all the candles and escorted people to the cenotaph to light the candles.

In addition, the GB LEOs have special coins that were minted with the words; good deeds, good thoughts and good words on one side and the LEO emblem on the other. The coin can only be handed out by a GB LEO to community members that have contributed a significant contribution to their community. The Sgt-At-Arms, Reverend Dr. Daniel Travers and the Canadian Volunteer Sovereign Award winner, Phyllis Stanley, from Warm and Cozy Charity were both awarded with a special coin. During the ceremony, the LEO coin was presented by LEO Past President Ruby Hopkins, who was recently awarded the Ontario Volunteer Medal for Youth, the highest award for volunteerism in the province.

There was lots of buzz in social media afterwards. Here is one example. I've also included the program the LEOs made.

Here's a link to a Tweet that went out by Councilman

Bill https://twitter.com/billgordon_ca/status/1524551969452482561/photo/3



[Bill Gordon | For Mayor on Twitter](#)

"A lovely evening Candlelight Vigil hosted by the Midland LEOS (Lions Club youth) in honour and remembrance of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. Thank you. Lest we forget."

twitter.com

THIS YEAR MARKS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS. HERE ARE SOME PROTECTIONS THAT THE CHARTER GUARANTEES:

- *freedom of religion, of thought, of expression, of the press and of peaceful assembly*
- *the right to participate in political activities and the right to a democratic government*
- *the freedom to move around and live within Canada, and to leave*
- *legal rights such as the right to life, liberty and security*
- *equality rights*
- *language rights*



**PEACE IS MORE THAN JUST AN ABSENCE OF WAR.
TRUE PEACE IS JUSTICE, TRUE PEACE IS FREEDOM AND TRUE PEACE
DICTATES THE RECOGNITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.**

MIDLAND'S COMMUNITY

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

**IN HONOUR OF THOSE WHO SERVED AND CONTINUE TO SERVE
THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND FREEDOM**



The first Candlelight Vigil was introduced in 1998 at Mountainview Cemetery in Vancouver for a special commemorative ceremony. Youth, Veterans and members of the community placed 300 lighted candles on the gravesites of Veterans and since then Candlelight vigils have been held across Canada.

BRANCH 80 MIDLAND LEGION



WEDNESDAY MAY 11, 2022, 7:00 pm

The Midland Cenotaph, King St.



CANDLELIGHT TRIBUTE SERVICE

The Parade of the Pipes and Drums

O Canada Phyllis Stanley, Canadian Sovereign Medal of Volunteer recipient

Greeting & Opening Remarks Elsi Mattson and Jasper Hopkins, Georgian Bay LEOs

Prayer of Invocation Rev. Cliff Rummenie, Padre, Br. 80 RCL

Our Heritage Poem read by Chester Graham, Branch 80 Midland Legion

Greetings from Dignitaries:

- David Dalrymple , on behalf of Honourable Adam Chambers MP Simcoe North
- Ted Walker, Mayor of Tay Township
- Stewart Strathearn, Mayor of Town of Midland
- Chester Graham, on behalf of Ron Adair President Branch 80 Royal Canadian Legion

Special LEO community presentation to Dan Travers and Phyllis Stanley by LEO Ruby Hopkins

Song - Abide With Me performed by Phyllis Stanley

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide;
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Hold now your cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

The Last Post Trumpeter Sadie Richmond

The Silence Lament Royal Canadian Legion Branch 80 Pipes and Drums

Rouse Trumpeter Sadie Richmond

The Act of Remembrance Read by Chester Graham, Branch 80 Midland Legion

They shall grow not old, as we who are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,

We will remember them.

We will remember them

John 15:9-14 and Prayer of Remembrance Reverend Tom Huntley – Salvation Army

THE PLACING OF THE CANDLES (music provided by Midland Pipes and Drums)

Everyone is invited to take a lighted candle and place it on the steps of the cenotaph in memory of all members of our Canadian Armed Forces who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of freedom, righteousness, justice and peace.

Benediction: Branch 80 Padre Rev. Cliff Rummenie

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN (please join us)

God save our gracious Queen!

Long live our noble Queen!

God Save the Queen!

Send her victorious,

Happy and glorious,

Long to reign over us,

God Save the Queen!



The candles on the cenotaph will be extinguished at 11:00 p.m. this evening.

Thank you for participating, and demonstrating your appreciation of all the efforts of the men and women who stepped forth in the cause of freedom and peace.