

Battle of Britain 2015

75th Anniversary Commemoration

The Air Force cairn at Thunderbird Square was the point of focus on Sunday, 20 September 2015. The annual commemoration of the Royal Air Force successes in 1940 were remembered. The Battle of Britain was properly acknowledged on this its 75th Anniversary Commemoration.

The emphasis this year was on the presence of the Air cadet Squadrons from Langley, Mission, Maple Ridge as well as Abbotsford. Organized by 861 Silver Fox Squadron in Abbotsford, the parade and ceremony saw over 200 cadets attend. The Colour Party of Branch 15 of the Royal Canadian Legion led the parade onto the square. The parade was commanded by Comrade Harry Bishop. Music was provided by the 861 Squadron Band who did very well considering that they have only been back together for a week since the summer break.



Legion and 861 Silverfox Squadron Cadets Colour Parties followed by Cadets Band

photo: Barbara Roberts



Cadets Band and Cadets Assembly

photo: Cathy St. John

Three RAF and RCAF World War Two veterans took part in the service and wreath laying. Mr. Ron Roberts read "High Flight", the poem of the Air Force written by John Gillespie Magee in 1941, the year he died in battle over the sky of Europe.

Mr Ron Roberts
and
Rev. Art Turnbull

photo: Barb Roberts



Mr. Findlay Thompson laid a wreath on behalf of all those who died in the RAF and RCAF. Mr. Frank Bauer assisted Findlay.

photo: Barb Roberts

Major Melanie Taylor, Commanding Officer of 861 Squadron Air Cadets commented, "I do hope that this is the first of many times that Cadets from our neighbouring communities join in this event. It is really good to have the Legion supporting us all year long and by attending the Battle of Britain parade."

The Abbotsford Police ceremonial unit paraded their Colours and fired a one shot volley during the tribute. The three levels of government were present and laid wreaths. Branch 15 President Robert Rohrer laid a wreath on behalf of all Legion members. He was aided by LA President, Lora Mears.

The Master of Ceremony and Chaplain for the Service was Art Turnbull from Branch 15. He looks forward to seeing an even greater participation by all Legion members in these important commemoration events of Remembrance Day, Vimy Ridge, and Battle of Britain here in Abbotsford. The Battle of Atlantic is marked in Chilliwack each year. It is important that the younger generations of citizens be encouraged to attend and know about the significance of these particular days. Canada is formed by the sacrifice of so many who stood up to the enemies of democracy, "**lest we forget**".



Air Force Cairn with Honour Guard

photo: Barbara Roberts

continued on next page.....



photo: Cathy St. John

PHOTO GALLERY



photo: Barbara Roberts

*remainder
of photos
are from
Cathy St.
John*





Acknowledgements: to Reverend Art Turnbull for the article and to Barbara Roberts (City of Abbotsford) and to Cathy St. John (Branch 15) for the fine photographs.