

Fredericton wartime heroes

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commented that there is a great staff at the Health Unit, but they are so busy with their jobs as health care providers, they often do not have time to socialize with the veterans.

"The aim really was not to see what the students could get from the veterans...but to have the students spend some time with the veterans to show they were interested in them," Windsor said.

To give them a starting point, students were paired with a veteran and given a sheet with various questions, like where the veteran trained, what services they were in, as well as what trade they were trained in. However, the aim was to get each individual veteran talking and in many of the conversations, the students and veterans did not talk about military service.

Matt Symes, UNB History Society President, felt the experience was very valuable, especially as an historian.

"You gain a greater appreciation of historical events when you hear the words of those who have experienced them, and the day at the Veteran's hospital really served to personalize the message that is simply unattainable in books," he said. "Like Mr. Riteman's presentation on his experience as a victim of the Holocaust, the day at the Veteran's hospital makes you realize how lucky we are to live in a free and democratic country," he continued.

There are 47 veterans at the Veteran's Health Unit, and although not all of them were involved in hand-to-hand combat, they all made sacrifices and they all have amazing stories to tell.

For example, Robert contracted Yellow Fever as soon as he landed in



Matt Symes/The Brunswickan

(L to R) Roxanne Reeves, resident Phil Doak, and Krystal Daley.

Italy and spent the rest of the war in a hospital in Belgium. Ted was a ground crew mechanic who worked to keep Canada's fleet of Cessna patrol planes and Lancaster Heavy bombers in the air. Monty is another resident. She was an officer in the Canadian Women's Army Corps, responsible for recruiting and training women volunteers.

There are many more veterans with equally as exciting stories to tell at the Veteran's Health Unit. For their sacrifice and selflessness, Windsor classified them all as heroes, regardless of their role in the military.

To him, no sacrifice was too small. "The number of people willing to make sacrifices for those around them are declining. People that do make sacrifices for others can be classified as heroes, and the way I see it, everyone in the Veteran's hospital can be classified as a hero because

nobody got into the armed forces in the Second World War for the money. They all did it out of motivation for the cause," Windsor said.

"I think that if there's one small thing we can do to repay them, it's to spend a little time with them on these last days on earth. These people were vital, vigorous Canadians who led extraordinary lives in their day. Now, they're immobile, trapped in wheelchairs, trapped in beds, seeking companionship and if we can offer them a little bit of that then I think we should try," Windsor commented.

The value of company for a veteran does not change when it is not Remembrance Day week. Students can volunteer to spend time with a veteran to sit and chat or just watch television. For more information on how to get involved, contact Colleen Godin at 357-4714 or Lee Windsor at mssp@unb.ca or 458-7418.

Education, not enforcement

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eleventh hour on this thing since June."

The CFHS has been pushing for a change in the legislation for years, as MacDonald said the jail terms for cruelty offences are too low.

Currently, protection is only afforded to animals that are owned. According to the CFHS web site, a Winnipeg man who had crushed a cat's skull with his heel was let off because the cat had no owner.

"The Senate is the only body that is standing in its way, going against the wishes of the majority of Canadians, animal industry groups, and the House of Commons," she continued.

MacDonald accused the Senate of wanting to flex their muscles - they have continually disagreed with the House on key amendments. Amendments, she said, which have given the bill little chance of being passed.

"In [returning the bill to a committee], everything is really up in the air because of the leadership change. It just throws everything into limbo and we don't know what's going to happen. It's hard to imagine

it's going to get passed at this point."

Michael O'Sullivan is the Executive Director of the Humane Society of Canada. He agreed that the sentence was average.

"Unfortunately it won't bring the puppy back, but I think it sends a clear signal to other people that animal abuse is not going to be tolerated."

While O'Sullivan believes a change in cruelty laws is needed, he said the

key to prevention of cruelty is education, not enforcement.

"We don't just need stronger laws to protect animals, we need the resources to do it," explained O'Sullivan. "Simply passing laws with greater penalties isn't going to solve the problem. If you don't put the human, financial, and technical resources into place you're going to have a law that just doesn't work."



Carole Morris/The Brunswickan

How can someone hurt something so cute?

Holocaust survivor sends chills up audience's spines



Special to The Brunswickan

One of the many scenes witnessed by those who experienced the horrors of the Holocaust.

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thereafter. This man personally witnessed the massacre of his friends and neighbors. He participated in the infamous Nazi death marches, and lived in an overcrowded ghetto for almost a year. Riteman was shipped by cattle car with thousands of other Jews to the Auschwitz death camp. He survived Auschwitz by lying about

his age and working diligently for the Nazi overseers. He was liberated by American troops in 1945, and immigrated to Canada in 1946.

UNB student Vincent Leung appreciated the direct, personal tone of the presentation.

"He just jumped right into what he had to say about his own experiences and didn't try to give us much of a history lesson," Leung

explained.

Riteman hopes to impact those he addresses, in particular, the youth.

"Put yourself in my shoes," he said, "and you will see why I want to teach the next generation to love."

The Holocaust veteran went on to add that, "if you don't learn the lesson, you are like an animal. If you don't know where you've been, you don't know where you're going."

Space required at UNB

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student community," said Arnold.

Executive and UNB staff involved in both Spectrum and Safe Spaces compiled an application over the past summer and submitted their request for space to the Student's Union. To date, there have been no changes.

Val Colden, an executive member

of Spectrum, is diligently working to gather support from students and staff of the university for this safe space. She is currently circulating a petition around campus.

"It is important that GLBTQ students have a place to go for support and information," said Colden.

"GLBTQ students are about 10

per cent of the population and that's a large group of people to ignore."

For anyone interested in getting more information or to sign the petition, please email spectrum@unb.ca.

A meeting will be held on November 19th at 6:00pm in Tilley Hall, Room 28 for anyone who is interested in participating.

Bruns word of the week:

Imbroglio: a confused state of affairs; complicated misunderstanding

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