

Junior Essay 2nd Place

Avery D.

Branch 192 – Carleton Place

Zone G-6

Breaking News! Newspapers during the Great War

When I want to find information I can look on the internet, television, social media or in newspapers. Did you know that during the Great War one of the main ways people got information about the war was through newspapers? The Great War was from 1914-1918 and there was no television or internet at that time. During the war, newspapers were very important to the families back home in Canada. They gave information about battles, new allies and conditions on the frontlines and sometimes they even included maps of battles. People in Canada would often have to wait days before they found out what happened across the ocean in Europe.

I read some newspapers printed during the Great War. Some of the newspapers I saw included Casualty Lists. These were a long list of names of people who were wounded or killed in a battle. Imagine you are an 11 year old kid during the Great War looking for your father's name through this big list? What if you saw your father's name or another family member's name under the killed category? That would be awful and you would not be able to look forward to your father coming home. Now we have social media and can just check our phone and can get information fast. During the Great War, kids had to wait a long time for information about their family fighting overseas. Weeks maybe even months kids would wait and wait until news came. They would be so worried.

Newspapers were important because they also brought good news. The *Ottawa Citizen*, from November 11, 1918 had the headline, "PEACE!" Imagine how happy everyone was to read that news? Reading the newspaper was how people in Canada knew that the war was over. The newspaper also gave the details about how the governments of different countries made peace.

I think reading newspapers is an interesting way to remember what it was like to be in Canada waiting for family to come back home and for information about what was happening each day during the war.