

**Intermediate Poem 2nd Place**  
**Mark C.**  
**Branch 137 - Napanee**  
**Zone G-1**

**Vimy Ridge Then And Now**

*I am but sixteen right now*

*In school I hate to stay*

Today I'm forced out in the cold

To hear some bugle play

Today I turn seventeen

A world away from mom

Told a lie that got me here

Right now that seems so dumb

I speak a language of my choice

At Sunday church I pray

*I sometimes work after school*

*Or on an Xbox I might play*

Each day I dig a tunnel

They say to save my life

After cold beans for my dinner

I sleep holding gun and knife

*Tomorrow from my warm bed*

*My alarm will force me to shower*

*Then have to sit on a bus to school*

*For the better part of an hour*

Gun fire will wake me early

At five we charge that hill

With friends, all shot to hell

Of this ridge I've had my fill

*Yesterdays' ceremony to remember*

*Dudes from a hundred years past*

*Is all my teacher talks about today*

*This day just seems to last*

If this war is ever over

I hope future kids will never have to fight

For school, to work, pray or play

My suffering, making it his right