

12. 2018 SERIOUSLY WESTCOAST SINCE 1912 POSTMEDIA



Sunday's Remembrance Day ceremony at the Grandview Park cenotaph marked 100 years since the end of the First World War. ARLEN REDEKOP

Armistice's centennial a chance to thank 'guys in the trenches'

Hundreds pay their respects during ceremony at Grandview cenotaph

GORDON McINTYRE

Soldiers from Canada's most recent war gathered with other veterans Sunday during a Remembrance Day ceremony at the Grandview Park cenotaph on Commercial Drive to remember the signing, 100 years ago, of the Armistice that ended the First World War.

"The First World War was called the Great War for a reason," master of ceremonies Gerry Vowles said. "The horrors of that conflict had never been seen before. "With the war finally over, it was hoped a war of that scale would not be seen again." It was a beautiful late-autumn morning with the downtown Vancouver skyline spread out to the northwest, brunchers enjoying the sunshine on the sidewalk at Fets and Havana across the street and perhaps 300 people crowded around the moving ceremony hosted by the Grandview-Collingwood Legion.

"I signed up because my family served," 28-year-old Afghanistan veteran Kreed Jandrew said. "My grandfather, my uncle served, my brother is currently serving."

Growing up in Waywayseecappo First Nation outside of Russell, Man., Jandrew could not have imagined a more foreign world than that which forced itself upon him in Afghanistan, where he was a combat instructor, or later in Haiti, where he worked in body recovery. "I lost a few friends in Kandahar," he said. "And Haiti was hard, too."

As people gathered for the beginning of the ceremony, Charles Davey wandered through selling poppies.

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