

# Veteran drops puck

## SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

The Richmond Memorial Community Centre was the venue for a special Remembrance Day event on Wednesday, No. 11.

Veterans residing at the Fairfield Manor Retirement Residence in Kanata visited the arena, teaming up with the Richmond Munster Minor Hockey Association to recognize Remembrance Day in a special way and particularly honouring the sacrifice that so many men and women made and are still making for Canada's freedom.

Kate Gray, administrator at Fairfield Manor, believes that there is a need to reinforce and remind today's youth about Remembrance Day and the sacrifices made by the country's military which have helped shape

today's world.

And she believes that the hockey rink is a good place to do this. It is a great collaboration, Ms. Gray feels, with minor hockey working with seniors, specifically war veterans. Fairfield Manor has been a sponsor of the Richmond Munster Minor Hockey Association's "Royals Day" for the past three years and now hopes to participate in an annual Remembrance Day event with the Association.

On Remembrance Day evening at the Richmond arena, Fairfield Manor resident Ken Cooper, a World War Two veteran who joined up at 18 years of age, read the poem In Flanders Fields before the playing of a pee-wee C minor hockey game between the Richmond Royals and Stittsville Rams.

The Canadian anthem was played with the teams lined up on the ice and Mr. Cooper dropped the puck in an official ceremony involving the captains of the two teams.

"Can you imagine being an 18 year old young man leaving the safety of home, your family, everything you know - to fight for your country in a land you've only read about and having the courage to risk your life in the name of freedom?", asks Ms. Gray, noting that an 18 year old signing up for wartime service like Mr. Cooper was only a few years older than the youngsters playing hockey at the Richmond arena these days.

Ms. Gray challenges all minor hockey players and fans to "get to know a senior" and to learn from their experiences.