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- NEWS ARCHIVE
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Warriors Day Parade pays tribute to veterans

Sunday, August 20, 2006



The Canadian Forces participated in the Warriors Day Parade at the Canadian National Exhibition.

TORONTO, Ontario — On August 19, thousands of spectators flocked to the grounds of the Canadian National Exhibition. Clear skies and warm temperatures greeted participants and spectators for the 85th anniversary of the Warriors Day Parade.

Billed as the longest running parade of its kind in the world by organizers, the parade has run annually except for the years 1942 to 1946, and 2003, the year of the great Ontario blackout. Begun in 1921, the parade was designed to pay formal tribute on one day of the year to veterans of the Great War of 1914–1918.



The Warriors Day Parade has been a fixture at the Central Canada Exhibition for 85 years.

In its heyday, the parade boasted over 17,000 marchers comprised of serving and retired members. This year, organizers expected up to 3,000 participants from all over Ontario and the United States. The make up of the participants varies greatly. Members of the Regular and Reserve Forces were present as marching units and bands. The Cadet League was well represented with cadets from all three branches. Of course, the stars of the parade were the veterans. There were also military vehicles from a bygone era and Honorary Parade Marshal Major-General Lewis W. MacKenzie (Ret) led the parade from a vintage jeep.

The veterans represent many wars of the last century, including the Second World War, Korea, and Vietnam. For most of the veterans, there is no question about not attending the parade as it represents a strong emotional bond to the past.

Recollections of the past and friends that have fallen or been forgotten brings out overpowering feelings and brought more than one veteran to tears. For many veterans, the parade has become a family tradition and has been passed on from generation to generation with many children proudly proclaiming bragging rights

because their grandfathers or father served or are currently serving.

One veteran was so overcome with emotion that he could not find the words to tell Army News how proud he was of his children and grandchildren who marched behind him in the parade. And they were there to show how proud they were of him and to support all veterans past and present.

If you would like more information on the Warriors Day Parade, please visit their Website at:

<http://www.thewarriorsdayparade.ca/Index.htm#>

Article by Sergeant Brad Phillips
Photos by Private Julie Turcotte



The CNE was founded in 1879. Average annual attendance is 1.3 million people.

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