

Lashburn High Student Places Second Nationally in Legion Poster Contest

Lashburn High student Lenaya MacKay has placed second nationally in the Royal Canadian Legion's Poster Contest. Lenaya, who had previously been presented with a first place Provincial certificate and prize by Legion member Carol Mohrbutter, will receive her national award sometime in the next few weeks.

When asked about her reaction Lenaya said, "I was thrilled when I heard that I'd won the province because I knew that the drawing would be going on to nationals and that's a big competition. So when I heard how I did nationally I was very, very excited. I'd put a lot of effort into it, but I didn't think it would go that far. I'd really like to thank the school and the legion and everyone for all their support."

Commenting on the work itself, she noted, "the prep work took a long time but the drawing itself was easy and fun. I chose the subject and decided to use a close up, and then added the tears rather than a lot of extra details, because I knew that sometimes less is more."

When asked about her motivation to enter a Remembrance Day contest Lenaya thoughtfully and quietly explained the relevance of the day: "My grandpa was in the war and I used to listen to the stories about his experiences. With the war in Afghanistan going on, a lot more people are affected. It's on TV and you hear in the news about people coming home, and how many have died, and it puts the issue of Remembrance Day into a contemporary perspective. I feel like I'm part of it in a way."

Principal Jay Elder, filled with pride and excitement said, "It's hugely exciting for Lenaya, but also for Lashburn High School and the Northwest School Division. It's a testament to her talent and her hard work and to all her art teachers past and present. She's a talented young lady who captured something very meaningful. We're going to have the picture framed and displayed in the school."

Lenaya's art teacher, Tracy Doering, echoed these sentiments. "She's an excellent artist. She works hard and is very dedicated. It was so neat when she won the provincial competition, and then when it went on we all wondered where it would fit in a national competition. It was so nice to see her do so well, and it's an inspiration to all the art students!"

Lenaya hopes to further her art career next year and has applied to the University of Alberta Business Design and Marketing program. "I love art because it's a way that I can express myself and I enjoy doing it. There are no rules to art -you can do whatever you want. I love that freedom!"

