

**Students to honour veterans, peace officers
Yarmouth County youth bound for Halifax
By BRIAN MEDEL Yarmouth Bureau
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Four busloads of Yarmouth County students are headed to Halifax on Friday for their annual tribute to veterans. But this weekend they will add something new — a wreath-laying ceremony and tribute to Nova Scotia's fallen peace officers. The Memorial Club, with members spread among four schools, will undertake its first law enforcement service Sunday at the downtown monument to Nova Scotia's 21 peace officers who have died in the line of duty. On Saturday, 166 students in grades 7 through 12, along with adult chaperons, will spend much of the day at Camp Hill Veterans Hospital, said Joe Bishara, the club founder and a retired teacher. They will put on a two-hour stage show beginning at 2 p.m. in a parking lot, which veterans can see from the building's many windows. "They always block the Robie Street parking lot side for us," Bishara said in an interview. Towels, military crests or red ensigns are often displayed in the windows by veterans. "The kids, when they see this, they cheer," said Bishara. The amplified shows include dancing, singing and drama from the Second World War era. "But the most important thing is (that) we have a tribute to the veterans. We are going to play The Maple Leaf Forever, the (Royal Canadian Air Force) march past . . . and we will do a very special tribute to the merchant navy," said Bishara. The students have a huge Canadian flag that takes about 40 people to handle. "In the evening, I will take 20 or 25 (students) to Camp Hill and we'll join the Atlantic Chief and Petty Officers Association," said Bishara. "We entertain them for about an hour, then we help serve them tea and sandwiches." Students wanted to honour peace officers in a ceremony at the new memorial, and a plan was put in place, said Bishara. "We are going to do a service at the new monument at (the) Grand Parade Square on Barrington Street," Bishara said. Bishara invites anyone to watch the tribute at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday and show their support. "We'll have special readings, songs, and we have a wreath-laying ceremony. "We have chairs in case seniors come on Sunday, to make sure that they're comfortable if they want to sit down. We take about 50 or 60 chairs with us." The Memorial Club dates back to 1986 and was begun by Bishara at Maple Grove Education Centre to remember sacrifices made by Canadians in wartime. Drumlin Heights Consolidated, Yarmouth Junior High and Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School have club branches.