

**YOUTH  
AMBASSADORS  
OF REMEMBRANCE**

**“...to you from failing hands,  
we throw the torch...”**



**The Royal Canadian Legion  
BC/Yukon Command**

# HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: FIRST WORLD WAR

## 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARIES 2008

*When you go home  
Tell them of us and say  
For your tomorrow  
We gave our today*

### > FIRST WORLD WAR ARMISTICE

Following four war torn ravaged years, the allied forces prevailed. In November the Germans called for an Armistice in order to secure a peace settlement. The guns fell silent on the battlefields at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, as an armistice treaty came into effect. It was signed on allied Supreme Commander, Ferdinand Foch's railway carriage, in Compiègne Forest 65 kilometers northeast of Paris.

### > BIRTH OF CANADA AS A NATION

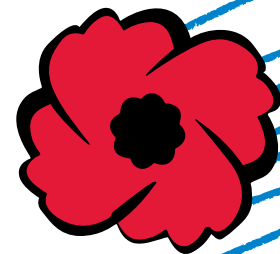
"...In those few minutes, I witnessed the Birth of a Nation." Commented Brigadier General, A.E. Ross, referring to Canadian valor and victory at Vimy Ridge, as Canadians continued to distinguish themselves during the war, Sir Robert Laird Borden, Prime Minister Dominion of Canada, persevered to transform Canada as a recognized nation. He advocated for proportional representation at the Paris Peace Conference. This led to Canada being a signatory on the Treaty of Versailles and securing an independent member status with the League of Nations.

### > FOUNDING OF REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Universal Remembrance of the Fallen is historically associated with silence on the Battlefields, at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. One year later, Armistice Day was officially proclaimed by his majesty King George V for Great Britain and all commonwealth countries, a two minute silence was instituted as part of the commemorative ceremony. "...All locomotion should close, so that, in perfect stillness the thought of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the Glorious dead..."



# THE POPPY APPEAL: THE POPPY CAMPAIGN



- > **1918** American teacher, Moina Michael, of The YMCA Overseas Secretaries, was inspired by the message of In Flanders Fields ... to keep the faith. She advocated to have the Flanders Field Memorial Poppy embraced as the United States memorial symbol.
- > **1920** Moina Michael received approval of the Auxiliary American Legion to support veterans in making poppies, which would be sold to generate income for disadvantaged veterans.
- > **1920** Madame Anne Guerin expanded this initiative for the American and French children's league raising millions to re-establish war torn areas. She sent women to London as well to fundraise.
- > **1921** Field Marshall, Earl Haig, founder of the British Legion learned of this initiative and approved the use of the Flanders Field Memorial Poppy and established the British Poppy Day appeal.
- > **1921** In Canada, The Great War Association (predecessor of the Royal Canadian Legion) also approved the Poppy as the sacred symbol of remembrance and established a poppy appeal fundraising program for disabled and suffering veterans.
- > **1922** Canadian Lapel Poppies were made by veterans working for the Department of Soldiers Civil Re-establishment unit, vet craft program. This provided small incomes for veterans and their families, allowing them to take an active role in preserving the tradition of remembrance.
- > **1996** The Royal Canadian Legion assumed responsibility for the production of the Lapel Poppies.

## THE DISADVANTAGED, THE SUFFERING, THE UNWELL



The Annual Canadian Poppy Campaign commences the last week of October and continues to November 11th.



In Canada fundraising is done through donations to the Poppy Fund; as volunteers canvass during the Poppy Campaign.



The Poppy funds are used to support the basic necessities of life, namely: food, shelter, and medical care of ex-service personnel and their families.



Poppy funds are also used to support low rental housing, care facilities, medical equipment, day care, meals on wheels, and related services for veterans and their families.



Poppy funds may also be used for bursaries and scholarships of disadvantaged children of ex-service personnel.

# SYMBOLS OF REMEMBRANCE: FIRST WORLD WAR



## THE POPPY

The First World War blood soaked barren battlefields in Flanders, Belgium, were graced by the awakening of life, as fields of scarlet red poppies blossomed amid the ravaged lands.

This inspired the writing of the famous poem, "In Flanders Fields" and the sacred recognition of the Poppy, Flower of Remembrance.

## IN FLANDERS FIELDS

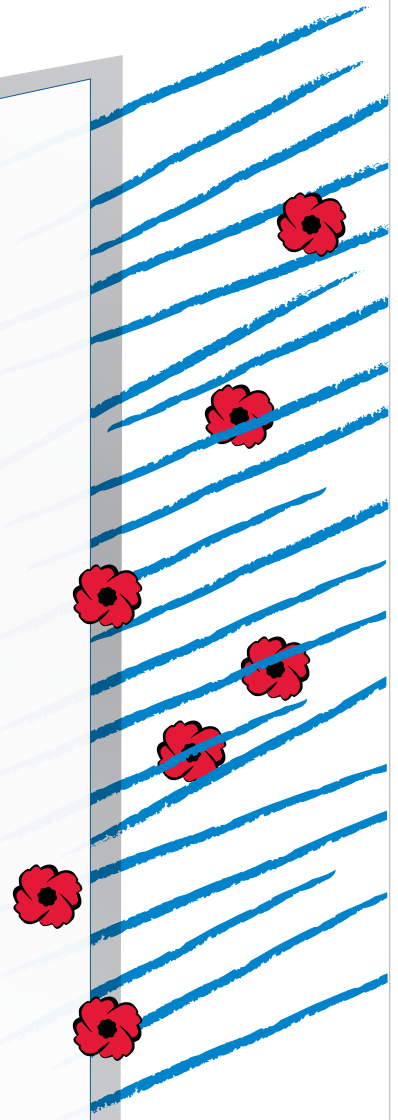


Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae  
Canadian Forces Artillery  
2ND Battle of Ypres, Belgium  
First World War  
April 1915

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders Fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from falling hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies  
Grow in Flanders fields.*



# REMEMBRANCE DAY: FIRST WORLD WAR

## > ARMISTICE DAY

Armistice Day represents the anniversary of the official end of the First World War, after the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, when the First World War Armistice Treaty came into effect 1918.

Armistice Day was universally respected as a time of communal remembrance of the fallen, who sacrificed their lives in the cause of peace.

On November 11th, 1919, his majesty King George V proclaimed a two-minute silence as part of the Armistice Day ceremony to embody the sacredness of remembrance in communal thought.

Historians disagree on the origin of the two-minute silence. Many believe it was to honour the last soldier shot (who was a Canadian) by a German sniper, two minutes before the Armistice came into effect.

## > ARMISTICE DAY BECOMES REMEMBRANCE DAY

From 1921 to 1931 the Armistice Act established Armistice Day as a legal Canadian holiday, however it was observed to coincide with Thanksgiving Day.

In 1927 at the founding convention of the Royal Canadian Legion, a resolution was passed to advocate the government to establish Remembrance Day as a sacred and independent legal Canadian holiday.

British Columbia member of Parliament, A.W. Neill (Comox-Alberni) made a motion to establish November 11th as an independent legal Canadian day of remembrance.

British Columbia member of Parliament, C.H. Dickie (Nanaimo) made a motion to change Armistice Day to Remembrance Day.

November 11th 1931 was the first official Remembrance Day in Canada.

Following the Second World War, many nations changed the name of Armistice Day to Remembrance Day to honour all of the fallen from both wars.



## REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

**O Canada**

**Last Post**

**Reveille**

**Two Minute Silence**

**Lament**

**Rouse**

**Act of Remembrance**

**Fly Past**

**21 Gun Salute**

**Prayers**

**In Flanders Fields**

**Hymns**

**Laying of Wreaths**

**Benediction**

**God Save the Queen**

# ORDERS, MEDALS, DECORATIONS: FIRST WORLD WAR

## GALLANTRY, DUTY, SERVICE

### > VICTORIA CROSS: INSTITUTED JANUARY 29, 1856

The Victoria Cross is the highest military of honour ...

“...for the most conspicuous bravery or daring of pre-eminent act of valor or self-sacrifice or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy...” The Victoria Cross is made of bronze melted down from breaches of guns and cannons captured from Russians during Crimean War. **70 CANADIANS AWARDED VICTORIA CROSS - FIRST WORLD WAR.**



### > CAMPAIGN MEDALS

#### 1914 STAR: INSTITUTED 1917

Awarded for service ashore in France and Flanders from August 5th, 1914 to November 22nd, 1914.



#### 1914/15 STAR: INSTITUTED 1918

Awarded for service ashore in France and Flanders from November 23rd, 1914 to December 31st, 1915. Awarded for service in any other theater from August 5th, 1914 to December 31st, 1915.



#### BRITISH WAR MEDAL: INSTITUTED 1919

Awarded to Military personnel and civilians in any theatre or service overseas from August 5th, 1914 to November 11th, 1918.



#### VICTORY MEDAL: INSTITUTED 1919

Awarded for service on the establishment of a unit in an operational theatre from 1914 to 1919.



#### TERRITORIAL FORCE MEDAL: INSTITUTED 1919

Awarded to members of the territorial force from 1914 to 1919.



#### SILVER WAR BADGE: INSTITUTED 1916

Awarded to all military personnel discharged as a result of sickness or wounded serving overseas or on the home front.



# ORDERS, MEDALS, DECORATIONS: FIRST WORLD WAR

## GALLANTRY, DUTY, SERVICE

### > CAMPAIGN MEDALS

#### ROYAL NAVY

Awarded to Royal Navy personnel with 28 days of service or lost lives in active duty from August 5th, 1914 to November 11th, 1918.



#### ARMY

Awarded to Army personnel with service in a theatre of war or approved overseas service from August 4th, 1914 to November 11th, 1918.



#### ROYAL AIR FORCE

Awarded to Air Force personnel actively engaged in air against enemy attack: Royal Air Force, Royal Force Corps, Royal Naval Air Service, from August 4th, 1914 to November 11th, 1918.



#### MERCANTILE MARINE WAR MEDAL

Awarded to Merchant Mariners on one or more voyages through danger zones from August 4th, 1914 to November 11th, 1918.



#### ALLIED SUBJECTS MEDAL: INSTITUTED 1920

Awarded to civilians who helped the allied cause or assisting prisoners of war from August 4th, 1914 to November 11th, 1918. Half of awards were presented to women.



#### MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Awarded to next of kin of the fallen who lost their lives in active service.



### > FRANCE LEGION OF HONOUR

To mark the 80th anniversary of the First World War Armistice (1998), France awarded the Legion of Honour to surviving Canadian Veterans. This is France's highest military honour, instituted in 1802 by Napoleon Bonapart for valour and outstanding achievement. At the time of the presentations the Canadian veterans age ranged from 89 to 101 years.

