



Table Display: Green tablecloth with poppies attached as a border. The display can consist of any items that the leader can find that relate to the wars of the last century in which Canadian military personnel fought: WW I, WW II, the Korean War, Afghanistan, etc. may include photos, books articles of uniform attire, memorabilia acquired by military personnel in the countries where they served, etc.

Everyone was invited to bring photos of any relatives who have served or are currently serving in the Canadian Forces. These were added to the display as the ladies came in.

Welcome and Announcements

Song: SASB 12/TB 127 *O God Our Help In Ages Past*

Section 1 — In Ages Past ...

Photo display: Ask those who have brought photos to name the person, when and where they served. Highlight other items on display.

Test Your Knowledge

What do you know about Remembrance Day? Here are some questions to test your knowledge: Material from this section was taken from the websites of the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs and the Royal Canadian Legion, and other websites that were found through searching the internet.

Why is Remembrance Day held on Nov. 11th?

At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, the armistice of WW I was signed. It has remained a time for remembering all those who have given their lives in WW I and all subsequent wars, armed conflicts and peacekeeping missions.

The first Remembrance Day was conducted in 1919 throughout the Commonwealth. Originally called Armistice Day, it commemorated the end of the First World War on Monday, November 11, 1918, at 11 a.m.: the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. From 1923 to 1931, Armistice Day was held on the Monday of the week in which November 11 fell. Thanksgiving was also

celebrated on this day. In 1931, MP Allan Neill introduced a bill to hold Armistice Day on a fixed day — November 11. During the bill's introduction, it was decided the word "Remembrance" would be used instead of "Armistice." The bill passed and Remembrance Day was first conducted on November 11, 1931. Thanksgiving Day was moved to October 12 that year.

What are the Books of Remembrance?

The Books of Remembrance are kept in the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill to honour Canadians who died serving Canada in war. There are seven books in all one each for the South African War, WW I, WW II and the Korean War. There is one for the Merchant Navy and another for Newfoundlanders (NL did not join Confederation until 1949). The seventh Book of Remembrance was dedicated in 2005. It honours Canadian Forces men and women who have given their lives in Military service since 1947, and is ongoing.

Are any Veterans of WW I still living?

Yes, As of Nov. 7, 2008, there are 10 verified veterans of the First World War who are still alive. They range in age from 105 to 112. This year is the 90th anniversary of the end of WW I. Approximately 650,000 Canadians served in this war and nearly 69,000 died.

Are any of these surviving WW I veterans Canadian?

Yes. According to Veteran's Affairs Canada, the only surviving Canadian veteran of WW I is Mr. John Babcock, who is 108 years old. Mr. Babcock was born near Kingston and joined the 146th Battalion Expeditionary Force. He traveled to England, and was placed on reserve in the "Boy's Battalion" or "Young Soldiers Battalion" when it was discovered that he was not yet 18 years of age. While he completed his training, the war ended before he was old enough to be sent to the front lines. He later moved to the States, where he served

in the US Army from 1921-1924. He settled in Washington and eventually became an American citizen, but earlier this year expressed a desire to reclaim Canadian citizenship and was recently sworn in as a Canadian citizen.

In WW II, how many Canadians landed on the beaches of Normandy?

About 14,000 Canadians landed in Normandy on D-Day (June 6, 1944), with over 1000 Canadian casualties and more than 400 killed. The concept of D-Day originated during WW I. During WW II, D-Day was used to identify any day there was a planned offensive. It literally means Day-day: the day of an attack. Approximately one million Canadians and Newfoundlanders served in this war, and more than 47,000 gave their lives.

Which war is sometimes referred to as "The Forgotten War"?

For many years, the Korean War (1950-1953) was often forgotten, but approximately 26,000 Canadians served with the Canadian Army Special Forces in this war, and 516 of them died. This year marks the 55th anniversary of the end of the Korean War.

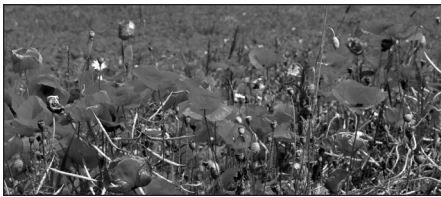
There is a bronze statue of a Canadian soldier in the United Nations Cemetery in Busan, South Korea. The South Korean people have taken time and expense to honour those from other countries who gave their lives for South Korea's freedom. Canadian Veterans of this war also meet across Canada to participate in an effort called "Turn Toward Busan." They share in a time of remembrance at exactly the same time (note there is a thirteen hour time difference) as the ceremony takes place in the UN cemetery in Busan.

When was the Year of the Veteran?

The Canadian Government celebrated the Year of the Veteran in 2005 to pay special tribute to Canadian veterans of the wars of the last century. It also coincided with the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

Where is the tomb of the Unknown Soldier located?

The tomb of the Unknown Soldier is located at the National War Memorial in Ottawa. It holds the remains of an unidentified Canadian soldier who died in France during WW I. All that we know about him is that he was Canadian, he died in France, and he was young. Almost 20,000 of the 80,000 Canadians who died in this war have no identifiable graves. Those who could be identified as Canadian have gravestone inscribed "A Canadian Soldier of the Great War — known unto God." The Canadian Government asked the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to select a grave of an unidentified Canadian soldier in the Vimy Ridge area. His remains were repatriated from France on May 23rd, 2000 and buried at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier on May 25, 2000. The purpose of this tomb is to remind Canadians of the human cost of Canada's commitment to the cause of peace and freedom in the past, the present, and the future.



Why do Canadians wear a poppy on Remembrance Day?

Since 1921, the poppy has served as a symbol of Remembrance, to help us remember those who have fallen in war and military operations. The poppy has been connected with those who have been killed in war since the Napoleonic Wars in the 19th century, especially in the area known as Flanders. For many Canadians, the symbolism of the poppy is understood in the light of Lieut. -Col. John McCrae's well-known poem "In Flanders Fields". As many of you know, he wrote this poem in France in May 1915, after the death of his friend Lt. Alexis Helmer of Ottawa.

Read together: In Flanders Fields

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 failing 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.

Canadian Flag: (A recording of the Last Post and Reveille can be used. Perhaps you may be able to find someone to play this, which would make it more meaningful.)

Please stand as we pause to reflect and remember those who gave of themselves in active service, from the yesterdays to the present day with the playing of the Last Post following which we will observe 2 minutes of silence and Reveille.

Responsive Reading: Invite the ladies to join in the Act of Remembrance as outlined below:

Leader: They shall not grow old as we that are left,
grow old. Age shall not weary them nor the years
condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in
the morning, we will remember them.

Response: We will remember them.

Leader: Our help is in the Lord who made heaven
and earth. Blessed are they that mourn, for they
shall be comforted.

Response: We will remember them.

Leader: God of grace and glory, we reflect in
gratitude today on those who laid down their
lives for freedom and truth.

Response: We will remember them.

Together: O Lord of Hosts be with us yet; lest we
forget. Lest we forget

Section 2 — Be thou our hope while life shall last (present)

Where are our Canadian Troops serving now?

On any given day, about 8,000 Canadian Forces members — one third of our deployable force — are preparing for, engaged in or returning from an overseas mission. (Internet Information)

Information where our troops are serving can be found on the Canadian Department of Defense. Also you will find material of interest that you may want to incorporate into your own Remembrance Program.

Information is also available if you want to “Write to the Troops”

Activity: Post cards for Canadian military personnel in Afghanistan — copy can be through Women's Ministries at THQ, Canada and Bermuda or through www.forces.gc.ca

Prayer: Pray for military personnel and their families

Section 3 — Our hope for years to come ...

Scripture: Joshua 4: 1-9, Psalm 77:1-12)

We have been talking a lot about remembering. We have remembered soldiers who have given their lives in the service of their country. We have thought of others who fought in some of those same battles and returned home to their families once again. We have brought to mind men and women who are on military service for Canada — at home and some far away. We have thought about families: parents, spouses and children who await their return.

Think for a moment about a time when someone remembered you. Perhaps it was your birthday, or a friend remembered to phone you or sent you a card — just to celebrate the fact that you

were born! Maybe someone in your family went on vacation and brought you back a special treat. When visiting a friend and she offers you a cup of tea, you may be surprised that she remembers exactly how you like it. Being remembered feels good, doesn't it?

Sometimes, though, we need a little help with our memories. I know of someone who switches around the rings on her fingers when she wants to remember something. If you are list-maker, you have to remember to look at it or even where you put it! Often we see roadside remembrances — where there has been an accident, people leave flowers, or a stuffed toy. For a long time ribbons have acted as a sign of remembrance of men and women who served and still serve in places far from home. A yellow ribbon has many meanings, mostly associated with those waiting for the return of their loved ones or of military troops who are afar serving their country.



One way in which we can help ourselves to remember, is to build things. There is statue in the city of Athens. Probably most would look at it and wonder, “Who is that?” but for the people of Greece, this statue is very important: it is George Averof, who played a significant role at the beginning of the modern Olympic Games movement.

There is a statue of a lion, also in Greece, apparently in the middle of nowhere — there is no city close by. But for those who know the story, it marks the site of the ancient city of Amphipolis, where the apostle Paul once visited. It was made

to commemorate a great victory of the citizens of Amphipolis over some of the other cities nearby. The city is long since gone, but the statue remains to remind future generations of the people of Amphipolis and the battle that they won over their enemies.

In Ottawa we have the national war memorial — a sight that is particularly familiar to us at this time of year as we commemorate Remembrance Day. Tomorrow wreaths will be laid there as Canadians remember the soldiers of so many wars, and those who died on peacekeeping missions as well.

We build monuments of stone or other long-lasting materials so that the memorials may remain for future generations. They help to keep our story alive.

When Joshua led God's people across the Jordan River into the Promised Land, he was commanded by God to build a monument. We read of it in Joshua 4. Why was this monument built? It was built to help the people remember: In the future, when anyone asks "what do these stones mean?" Tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. In other words, the visible sign of these piled-up stones would cause future generations to ask questions and so they would learn another part of the story of how God took care of their nation and brought them into the land that he would give them. It was a reminder of how God keeps his promises to his people.

Sometimes, when we are in the midst of difficulties and challenges, we can lose sight of the fact that God is with us. We need something to remind us that God, who has already done many wonderful things for us, is still ready and able to be present with us. The Psalmist had such an experience. In Psalm 77 he asks, "Will the Lord reject us forever? Will he never show his favour again?" But in the midst of his deep distress, the Psalmist remembers what God did in the past, and he is encouraged that God will continue to take care of his people in the future. So he



writes, "I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will meditate on all your works and consider your mighty deeds. . . . You are the God who performs miracles." (Psalm 77:10-14). Remembering the past reminded this poet that God was still with him in the struggles he was facing.

There is one final sign or memorial that I would like for us to think about tonight. Jesus is God's way of assuring us that he is with us in all of life. Before Jesus came to this earth as a human baby, one of the names given to him was "Immanuel — which means God with us." (Matthew 1:23). Jesus was God with us when he taught his followers about the Kingdom of God, when he healed people who were ill, when he was opposed by those he had come to save. He was God with us when, like many who fought to protect human freedom, he suffered a violent death. Through his sacrificial death, we have the gifts of freedom from the punishment for sin and eternal life. And he is with us still. He died, yes, but he was also raised to life. In 2 Timothy 2, we

read, "Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead." The sign of an empty cross helps us to remember that Jesus is alive now and present with us through his Holy Spirit. He is still, and always will be, God with us.

On this Remembrance Day let us remember with gratitude those who served our country even, in some cases, at the expense of their very lives. We celebrate Jesus; too, whose death has made

new life possible for each of us. We have much to remember much for which to give thanks.

Let us be patriotic as we reflect on these things, please stand with me as we sing our National Anthem — *O Canada*

Prayer

Remembrance Day Word Search



AFGHANISTAN
 ARMISTICE
 BOSNIA
 BEAUMONT HAMEL
 CEASE FIRE
 D-DAY
 FATIGUES
 FLAG
 FOXHOLE

FREEDOM
 GULF WAR
 KAPYONG
 LEGION
 MILITARY
 NORMANDY
 NOVEMBER
 O CANADA

PEACEKEEPERS
 POPPY
 PRINCESS PAT'S
 PUSAN
 SACRIFICE
 TREATY
 TROOPS
 VIMY RIDGE
 YPRES