

MONTGOMERY MESSENGER

Official newsletter of the Montgomery Legion

Volume 2 – Issue 12 – November 2025

Montgomery Messenger: messenger@montgomerylegion.ca or legionbranch351@gmail.com

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The Poppy Campaign

Last Friday in October thru 11 November

Wear a poppy and remember...



Volunteers are needed to make this campaign a success!

We can't do it without YOU!

History of the Poppy



Millions of Canadians pin one to their lapel or hat each and every November 11th as a way of expressing their remembrance of the servicemen and women who gave their lives in two world wars and in Korea. Others remember the sacrifices made in the world's trouble spots such as Cyprus, Bosnia and most recently in Afghanistan. Whatever the reason, in Canada, the poppy has come to be known as the one universal symbol of remembrance.

The story of how the poppy has become the symbol of remembrance has varying origins but the overall basis for the wearing of the poppy is without question, Captain John McCrae's poem, "In Flanders Fields". Some claim that a young New Yorker by the name of Moira Michaels was the first to wear a poppy as a means of "keeping the faith" after reading a copy of "In Flanders Fields". During a meeting of the YMCA wartime secretaries in New York, which was hosted by Ms. Michaels, she had been given a small monetary gift by visiting delegates. She thanked them for this gift and said that she would use the money to purchase poppies, relating to them John McCrae's poem which had been her inspiration.

Amongst them was the representative from France, Madame E. Guerin who was in turn inspired to take this idea home. In 1921, Madame Guerin and a group of French war widows approached the former British Commander-in-Chief, Earl Haig, at the Legion Headquarters in London, about the idea of selling artificial poppies to raise monies to help needy soldiers and their families. The Legion had first been formed to help veterans and their families who had been left impoverished during the war and Haig was quick to adopt their idea as an excellent method to both honour the dead and help the living.

Poppies indeed became significant as a remembrance of war as prior to the Great War, poppies were rare in the fields of Flanders. It is said that the chalk soil of Flanders became rich in lime due to the rubble produced by the massive bombardments of battle. The earth that was stirred up by so many artillery shells in turn released the poppy seeds that would not normally have had the chance to germinate. They spread prolifically across the fields until it appeared as a sea of red. Perhaps a fitting ironic symbolism of the blood spilt by so many for so little.



The Poppy Campaign is our sole source of support for our Poppy Fund and the programs that it supports.

Be part of something of utmost importance to the future of The Legion and *your* branch.

Volunteer your time for the Poppy Campaign.

We can't do it without *YOU*

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From The President's Desk

Robert Buss, CD

It's that time of year, the Poppy Campaign. Sadly, we have had a poor response to our call for members to assist in this year's campaign. I would like to remind you that when you became a Legion member you pledged to "promote the work of the organization including active participation in the Poppy campaign".

The Poppy Campaign is our sole source of support for our Poppy Fund and the programs that it supports. In the past year we have supported three Cadet programs, homeless Veterans through the Andrew Carswell Home here in Ottawa, Perley Veterans Home, purchased two dogs for the Service Dog Program and supported campers at Camp Maple Leaf. We held a Veterans dinner for our branch's Veterans, and we have also provided support to a number of Veterans of our branch and other Veterans who have contacted us for assistance.

It's not too late to sign up. We still require drivers and jumpers for October 30 and November 12, as well as members to campaign at various locations.

Please call Joan in the office, (613-233-7292), or contact me via e-mail, (bbuss@rogers.com).

We Will Remember Them

Dean McCuaig

At this time of the year, I always struggle with what to say about Remembrance Day because so much has been said already. The important issue is to keep talking about it. As time goes on, we must never forget the service, the sacrifice, and the impact of all those who have served and who continue to serve. The easiest way to do this is to make it personal. Talk about what it has meant to your life, to your family and to your future. Think about it and then talk about it. We will remember them.

I have always said that you usually do not have to look too far into your family tree to discover your family's connection to the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). In my family, my Uncle Bill served. His first posting was the Rockcliffe Airbase with the RCAF. He and my aunt traveled the world serving their country. He wore the uniform, but the CAF was part of her life too, her whole life. My uncle was always a role model for me growing up. I respected him, I still do. He would never talk about his military career with me, but he always wanted to know what my work was like because I was a civilian employee working for DND providing support to military and veteran families. He wanted to learn what had changed since he was on active duty and was so thankful for the support families get today in comparison to when he started his service in the 50's.

My Great Uncle Horace was his inspiration. My Great Uncle Horace served in WW1 and WW2. As a young boy, I would sit with him in his backyard, and he would tell me a little bit about what it was like for him. He told me he lied about his age to join the military at the age of fifteen. Back in those days we did not have the same documentation and technology as we do today. He was a proud Veteran, just like my Uncle Bill.

These are my family members who impacted me personally but who also benefited all Canadians with their commitment and service to Canada. Please continue to talk about the importance of Remembrance Day. Make it personal whenever possible. Thank a Veteran and his/her family.

We will remember them. We will remember them.



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History re-visited



Armistice - The End of World War I, 1918

Colonel Thomas Gowenlock served as an intelligence officer in the American 1st Division. He was on the front line that November morning and wrote of his experience a few years later:

"On the morning of November 11, I sat in my dugout in Le Gros Faux, which was again our division headquarters, talking to our Chief of Staff, Colonel John Greely, and Lieutenant Colonel Paul Peabody, our G-1. A signal corps officer entered and handed us the following message:

Official Radio from Paris - 6:01 A.M., Nov. 11, 1918. Marshal Foch to the Commander-in-Chief.

1. Hostilities will be stopped on the entire front beginning at 11 o'clock, November 11th (French hour).
2. The Allied troops will not go beyond the line reached at that hour on that date until further orders.

[signed]

MARSHAL FOCH

5:45 A.M.

'Well - fini la guerre!' said Colonel Greely.' "

(Read more...) <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/armistice.htm>

Origin of Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day originated as Armistice Day to commemorate the end of World War I, which concluded on November 11, 1918. The holiday's name was changed in many Commonwealth countries after World War II to honor all who served and died in military conflicts.

Origin as Armistice Day

The Armistice of Compiègne: Fighting on the Western Front ceased at "the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" of 1918. The formal peace treaty was not signed until the following year, but November 11 was recognized as the end of the war.

First commemorations:

The first Armistice Day was observed in 1919 across the British Commonwealth. Britain's King George V requested a two-minute silence at 11:00 a.m. to honor the war dead.

A global tradition:

Other Allied nations, including the United States, followed suit, with ceremonies held around the country. France and Belgium also designated November 11 as a national holiday.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier:

In 1920, France and England both buried unknown soldiers on Armistice Day, a tradition that many other countries quickly adopted.

Transition to Remembrance Day

World War II and beyond: The outbreak of World War II tragically complicated the meaning of Armistice Day, which many had hoped would be a commemoration of "the war to end all wars".

Broader commemoration:

Following World War II and the Korean War, many Commonwealth countries changed the holiday's name from Armistice Day to Remembrance Day to honour all members of the armed forces who had died in conflict.

Emphasis on remembrance: In Canada, for example, the official name change occurred in 1931 and was intended to place more emphasis on the memory of fallen soldiers.

Key symbols and traditions

The poppy: The enduring symbol of Remembrance Day is the red poppy. Inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields," poppies grew on the battlefields of Flanders during the war.

Two minutes of silence: This tradition, initially proposed by Australian journalist Edward George Honey and South African statesman Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, was officially observed for the first time in London in 1919 and became a central feature of the commemoration.

"For the Fallen": Public ceremonies often include the recitation of the "Ode of Remembrance," the *fourth stanza* of Laurence Binyon's poem "[For the Fallen](#)".

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Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Known only unto God



At the request of the Royal Canadian Legion, the Canadian government became part of the project of creating a tomb of the unknown soldier for Canada, as part of the Canada Millennium Partnership Program. The Cabinet asked the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to select one of the 1,603 graves of unknown Canadians buried in the vicinity of Vimy Ridge.

Chosen was Grave 7, in Row E of Plot 8 of the Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery in Souchez, France, near the memorial at Vimy Ridge, the site of the first major battle where all four Canadian divisions fought together as a combined force.

The remains of the soldier buried there were exhumed on the morning of May 16, 2000, and the coffin was flown in a Canadian Forces aircraft to Ottawa on May 25, accompanied by a 45-person guard of honour, a chaplain, Royal Canadian Legion Veterans, and two representatives of Canadian youth. In Ottawa, the unknown soldier lay in state for three days in the Hall of Honour in the Centre Block on Parliament Hill.

On the afternoon of May 28, the body of the unknown soldier was transported to the National War Memorial on a horse-drawn Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) gun carriage. Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, her husband, and Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, as well as veterans, Canadian Forces personnel, and members of the RCMP, were in the funeral cortege. Then, with full military honours before a crowd of 20,000, the body, in a silver maple casket, was re-interred in a sarcophagus in front of the war memorial. Legionnaires placed a handful of soil from each of Canada's provinces and territories, as well as from the soldier's former grave site, on the casket before the tomb was sealed.



The original headstone of the unknown soldier is the sole artifact and the focal point of the [Memorial Hall](#) exhibit within the Canadian War Museum.

The hall was designed in such a way that sunlight will only frame the headstone once each year on the 11th of November at 11:00 am.

At the former burial site of the unknown soldier, a grave marker similar to the other headstones in the Cabaret-Rouge Cemetery was placed at the now-empty grave. It is inscribed with these words:

ANCIENNE SÉPULTURE D'UN
SOLDAT CANADIEN INCONNU
MORT AU COURS DE LA
PREMIÈRE GUERRE MONDIALE.
IL A ÉTÉ EXHUMÉ LE 25 MAI 2000
ET IL REPOSE MAINTENANT AU
MONUMENT COMMÉMORATIF
DE GUERRE DU CANADA À OTTAWA

THE FORMER GRAVE OF AN
UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER
OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR.
HIS REMAINS WERE REMOVED
ON 25 MAY 2000 AND NOW
LIE INTERRED AT THE
NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL
IN OTTAWA CANADA.

[Additional information from Veterans Affairs](#)

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Corner of Main and Beckwith Streets
Ottawa, Ontario

Brantwood Gates Remembrance Day Event

Planning is underway for this year's Remembrance Day event on Sunday November 9, 2025.

Parking: Saint Paul University will allow people to park for free in their Main Street and Hazel Street parking lot from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Cadet participation: Both the GGFG and 742 Air Cadets will take part in the ceremony with 742 providing the appropriate music for the ceremony. This includes a person playing the trumpet. The massing area for the cadet march-in will be at the Grande Allée Park. That is close to the Saint Paul Parking lot.

Memories

André Ouellette

He comes to this place at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Every year, he is here. Gleaming medals on his chest, standing as straight and as tall as he can. And...

He remembers...

Heading overseas, with thousands of others. Training in England. Long days and lonely nights spent thinking of home. Waiting for the inevitable...his time to go.

He remembers...

June 6, 1944...The day of days...Juno Beach. Explosions, machine gun fire, men dying all around. His best friend, Bert stepping off the landing craft and disappearing in a violent explosion. Nothing left but a hole in the water.

He remembers...

Blown out bunkers with unrecognizable forms that once were human beings. The smell of burnt flesh. Clouds of thick black acrid smoke that burned the eyes and made him retch.

He remembers...

Eight men from his company lost in the first hours of the landings. Some he knew well, others just faces vaguely remembered, but part of his memories forever.

He remembers...

An old man in Holland, overcome by emotion at the sight of the Canadian liberators, who embraced him and said in broken English, "Thank you, boys, thank you".

He remembers...

A young German soldier, a boy really. His blonde hair smeared by a streak of bright red blood. A look of surprise on his face, lying very still, as though sleeping. A child who should have been doing child-like things instead of lying there in that ditch.

He remembers...

Things he wants to forget but can't.
And a tear slides slowly down his cheek...

On November 11th, remember... and when you see those old men with their medals shining in the sun, remember the price they paid for those shiny bits of metal and that they too were young once.



The Legion's Early Bird Campaign
Renew by November 30th for one of three chances to win your 2027 membership FREE! All renewed members' names stay in the draw 'til you win or the campaign ends.
(Offer closes on November 30th, at midnight. Draws will be held at the General Meeting in October, November and December).

Starting on September 1st, you can renew your Legion membership. Dues are \$70.00 for current members and \$75.00 for new members, *(Command is charging a \$5 processing fee for new members).*

September Early Bird winner is **Jamie McConnell**

Drop into the branch and pay by cash or cheque and pick up your renewal sticker; or go to www.Legion.ca to renew online and then pick up your renewal sticker at your convenience.

From the kitchen to the table



Crock Pot Ranch Pork Chops

INGREDIENTS

- 10.75 oz cream of mushroom soup (1 can)
- 4 oz cream cheese, softened
- 2 tablespoon dried parsley
- 1 teaspoon dried dill
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/3 cup white wine or chicken broth
- 4 to 6 boneless pork chops
- Italian flat leaf parsley, chopped, for garnish (optional)
- Cooked rice or pasta, for serving

INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a medium bowl, add cream of mushroom, dried parsley, dried dill, garlic powder, onion powder, dried basil, and black pepper. Use a hand mixer (or a spatula and some elbow grease) to mix the ingredients on LOW until only small clumps of cream cheese remain, about 2-4 minutes.
2. Add white wine (or chicken broth) to bowl and gently fold in with the cream until absorbed, about another 2-4 minutes.
3. Place pork chops in the bottom of a 6 quarts crock pot and arrange in an even layer. Pour ranch mixture on top and spread until the tops of the pork chops are covered.
4. Cover crock pot and cook on LOW for 8 hours or HIGH for 4 hours.
5. Serve pork chops on a bed of rice or pasta and garnish with parsley (optional).



Old-Fashioned Butter Cake With Butter Cream Frosting

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 cups all purpose flour
- 1 tsp Ingredients
- 3 cups all purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1 cup butter
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup buttermilk or cream
- 2 tsps vanilla extract
- baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1 cup butter
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup buttermilk or cream
- 2 tsps vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease and flour 9×13 baking or bundt pan.
- Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt, set aside. Cream together butter, sugar; mix in eggs and vanilla. Blend in butter milk alternately with flour mixture into creamed mixture.
- Pour in prepared pan and bake for about an hour. Removed from oven...let cool.

BUTTER CREAM FROSTING

- 1 cup butter, soft
- 1/2 cup milk or cream
- 2 tsps vanilla extract
- 5 cups powdered sugar

Cream butter and vanilla until smooth. Add sugar, alternating with milk a little at a time; blend well until desired consistency.



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JOIN US IN BRINGING
HOLIDAY CHEER OVERSEAS



A tradition of support for deployed Canadian
Armed Forces members.

Operation Santa Claus began as a heartfelt initiative to bring comfort and connection to Canadian Armed Forces members deployed overseas during the holiday season. What started as a small gesture has grown into a cherished tradition, delivering holiday cheer and a sense of home to thousands of CAF members each year.

Led by Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services (CFMWS), the program ensures that those serving far from loved ones receive thoughtful gift packages that remind them they are remembered and appreciated.

Every holiday season, **Op Santa** delivers cheer to Canadian Armed Forces members deployed overseas reminding them they're never far from home.

From care packages to heartfelt messages, every box is a connection between Canadians and our troops.

Learn more about **Op Santa Claus** here: <https://cfmws.ca/support.../deployment/operation-santa-claus>

What's on @351

[Click here](#) to view five new events presented by the Montgomery Legion and sponsored by the Government of Canada's New Horizon's for Seniors Program.



Every Wednesday Night
7pm – 9pm



Every second Friday @
1:00pm, starting Sept. 26th



KARAOKE
Every Friday Night
7pm – 11pm

Montgomery Legion – Branch 351 (Ontario)

330 Kent Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 2A6

Phone: (613) 233-7292 - Fax: (613) 565-1902

General e-mail: rcl351@rogers.com

Veterans' Service Officer: 613-233-1611 E-mail: vso@montgomerylegion.ca

Website: <https://www.montgomerylegion.ca/>

X formerly Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MontgomeryLegi1>

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/people/MontgomeryCentretownLegion/100057510086172/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Send comments or submissions for your newsletter to: messenger@montgomerylegion.ca

Hours of Operation

Sunday – Closed - Monday – Closed - Tuesday - Closed - Wednesday - 12:00pm to 10:00pm

Thursday - 12:00pm to 5:00pm - Friday - 12:00pm to 10:00pm - Saturday - 12:00pm to 5:00pm



The Royal Canadian Legion honours the peoples and land of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and their valuable past and present contributions to this land.



Proudly Canadian

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*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.*



**Volunteer for the Poppy Campaign and make a difference!
We can't do it without YOU!**

