



# Books of Remembrance honour *Canada's fallen*

For most of the past century, the Peace Tower has proudly announced that our country stands for harmony in times of both peace and conflict. Overseeing the workings of Parliament, the 98-metre tower was built to replace the old tower after a fire destroyed most of the Parliament Buildings in 1916. Conceived in the literal and figurative ashes of the First World War, the new tower very aptly earned its symbolic moniker, the "Peace Tower."

Dedicated to all Canadian men and women killed during wartime and the peace, which they died to achieve, the iconic Peace Tower and the surrounding Parliament Hill Centre Block (officially known as the Parliament Building) is currently closed to the public for a major renovation. Taking place over an estimated 10-year period, the project is expected to be the largest heritage restoration ever undertaken in Canada.

The 2010 Spring Report of the Auditor General of Canada predicted Centre Block would experience "total failure" sometime between 2019 and 2025. On the brink of crumbling, the fine exterior stonework

is being restored. The roofs need repairs and windows will be replaced to improve energy efficiency. Also, the buildings' plumbing, electrical, information technology and other systems need to be upgraded. To ensure a lasting legacy, the Centre Block structures will be reinforced to withstand earthquakes, a standard that did not exist when they were constructed more than 100 years ago.

Built between 1916 and 1927, the Peace Tower and Centre Block are dominant features on Parliament Hill, and possibly the most widely recognized symbol of Canada after the flag. The free-standing bell tower houses a 53-bell carillon, reported to be one of the oldest and finest in North America. The bourdon, the largest of the bells is the one that rings out the hour in

tune with the tower's clock. Carillon concerts can be heard daily at 11 a.m.

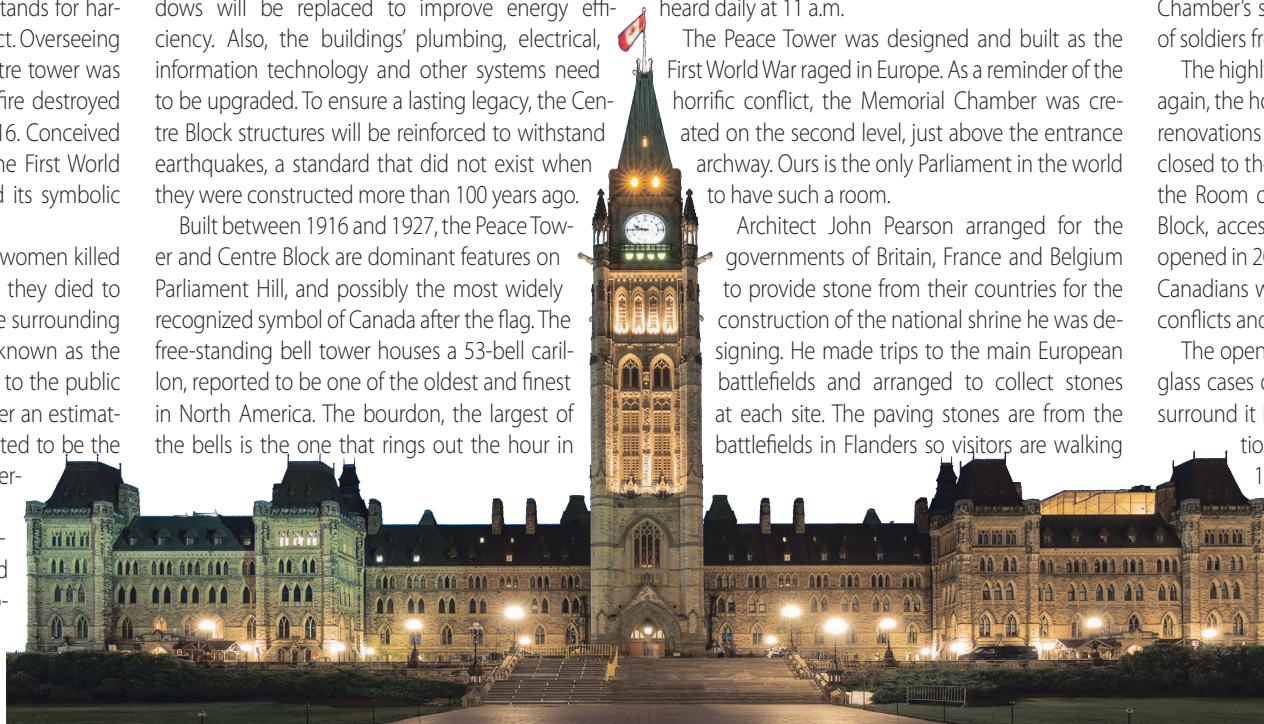
The Peace Tower was designed and built as the First World War raged in Europe. As a reminder of the horrific conflict, the Memorial Chamber was created on the second level, just above the entrance archway. Ours is the only Parliament in the world to have such a room.

Architect John Pearson arranged for the governments of Britain, France and Belgium to provide stone from their countries for the construction of the national shrine he was designing. He made trips to the main European battlefields and arranged to collect stones at each site. The paving stones are from the battlefields in Flanders so visitors are walking

on the same ground as those who died there. The Chamber's stained glass windows show the journey of soldiers from the call of battle to the return home.

The highly symbolic chamber has been and will be again, the home of the Books of Remembrance, once renovations are complete. While the Centre Block is closed to the public, the books have been moved to the Room of Remembrance in the renovated West Block, accessed by the visitor welcome centre that opened in 2019. The books list the more than 118,000 Canadians who died in the service of the country in conflicts and peace missions around the world.

The open books had previously been displayed in glass cases on a main stone altar and six others that surround it in the Peace Tower's chamber. The tradition of turning a page in each book daily at 11 a.m. continues in this temporary home. To learn when a specific name will be shown, search the Books of Remembrance online or contact the Memorial Chambers. The names in the books can also be found online at the Canadian Virtual War Memorial (CVWM).



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