

# Remembrance Day

November 11, 2006

# Day

## Symbol of the battlefield

The poppy is more than a memory of the battlefield, it is the universal symbol of all the lost lives and selfless acts of our troops in all wars, past and present. Each November, millions of Canadians wear the Legion's red poppy. The small red flower has never been forgotten, nor has the memory of the more than 117,000 soldiers who died in combat.

The poppy has been the official flower of Remembrance Day since 1921. Immortalized by the poem "In Flanders Fields", by John McCrae, the poppy ensures that the men and women who gave their lives shall never be forgotten. When he wrote his poem, Lieutenant Colonel McCrae had just lost a fellow soldier, who died in combat. An expression of his anguish and a reflection of his surroundings, John McCrae wrote these 15 lines in 20 minutes. He was in a field where multitudes of wild poppies grew

### 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.*

among the simple wooden crosses that marked the improvised graves. He would never have imagined that the red poppy would soon become the symbol of our fallen soldiers.

*When he wrote his poem, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae would never have imagined that the red poppy would quickly become the universal symbol of our fallen soldiers.*



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*For the Fallen*  
*They shall grow not 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.*

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