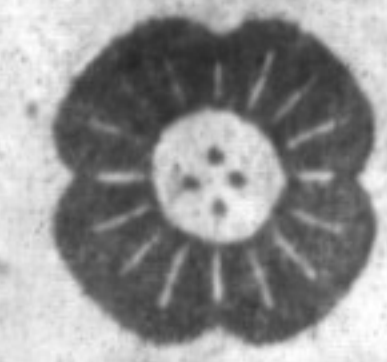


# Remembrance Day - 1996



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Amy Mohr

## What Remembrance Day means to me

On November 11, 1918 after thousands of Canadian soldiers died, the First World War ended. A tradition started then and has continued to grow stronger since that time. Each year we celebrate Remembrance Day, but do we really know the meaning behind this day?

Many of the youth today are unaware of the reasons we observe Remembrance Day. As a high school student who, hopefully, understands its purpose, I feel sympathy for my peers who are less aware of this special day. Perhaps this article will serve to help them learn more. Try to imagine how the thousands of young men and women felt who went to war. These soldiers went to fight for our freedom and the freedom of other countries. These men and women were our age, sometimes as young as 16 years old.

Imagine leaving your family and friends to go to another country and watch your comrades being killed. Right now students in their final year of high school are preparing to go on to university or college — imagine yourselves instead being drafted to fight in the war. I find it hard to conjure up images of dodging bullets or firing a gun because today war is not an immediate danger. War is not a threat to our society because of the efforts of Canadian soldiers.

On Remembrance Day we take time to stop and pay tribute to the men and women who fought for us, and died for us. We wear a poppy as a reminder of the blood-red flower which grew in the fields where many of our soldiers died. We wear a poppy in memory of the people who died for their country, our country.

What does Remembrance Day mean to us? Dick Clement, a war veteran with the Irish Regiment of Canada, expresses his thoughts and feelings about war in a speech he made to high school students: "The scales may never be fully balanced and war will always be a present danger... and I ask you to never, never forget these people. They gave their lives so that you could be free today. No greater love has any man or woman that they would give their lives for their country. It is your duty now to see that they are never forgotten".

This is the true meaning behind Remembrance Day. On this day we give thanks for our freedom as we remember all the brave people who fought for us.

Remembrance Day is a time when I reflect on the tragedies of war. I think about the horrors the soldiers endured so our generation could live independent and free.

As the Royal Canadian Legion wrote: "All these people went to war to protect Canada. They went to war to protect the people who were in Canada then, and to protect the people who would be born in the future — people like yourselves. They died so that you could enjoy all the good things in your life... so perhaps you didn't know these men who died in war. But they knew you. They wanted you to live in peace".

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TIME TO  
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