



The Royal Canadian Legion

Together we remember



REMEMBRANCE AND POPPY DAY

It was in 1931, after continued representations from the Legion, that Parliament amended the Armistice Day Act so that November 11 could be set aside as a day distinct and apart from any other observance upon which the nation could pay special tribute to those "who gave their lives that freedom might prevail".

In 1970 an Act, known as the *Holidays Act*, was passed by Parliament which included among other holidays, Remembrance Day and which reads as follows:

"Throughout Canada in each and every year, the 11th day of November, being the day in the year 1918 on which the Great War was triumphantly concluded by an armistice, is a holiday, and shall be kept and observed as such under the name of Remembrance Day."

...

Jacinta Gallant
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REMEMBRANCE

Jesus said, "A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his fellow man."

How much the soldiers who fought in the war must have loved their countries. Our men must have believed with all their hearts that the family and friends at home were worth dying for. They helped to preserve our past and enrich our future. As a part of their future, as a symbol of the many lives that were taken and denied any kind of future, I wear my poppy with pride.

When I think of the young men whose hopes and dreams were extinguished so that I may have a bright future, I feel sad, yet grateful. We all live in Canada in freedom and unity because of their strength and courage. The poppy symbolizes these qualities and should be an inspiration to us all to live as those who fought would have us live. We have the veterans who survived the war to be an example. Since they've been there, they know all too well what a disappointment it would be for the world to go to war again.

In order for us to fulfill the dreams of our soldiers, we must try to take on the qualities symbolized by our poppies, strength and courage. Combining these attributes with a love for every man of every nation, we may be a world of peace. Isn't this the quality of life that man strives for?

And so, as we, on Remembrance Day, place our wreaths around monuments of our brave soldiers, we can be proud that our country is a free one. As we stand in silence we thank God for this freedom and pray that the whole world may be free and peaceful. This day of remembrance should be carried out in our every day life as we try to build a world for our dead soldiers to be proud of.

Through faith in God, I know all our men who died for us have been given the peace that can only come from above. Jesus's words were like a promise, I believe, and I know all the surviving soldiers know that there's a special place in heaven for them.

Senior Essay Winner 1981

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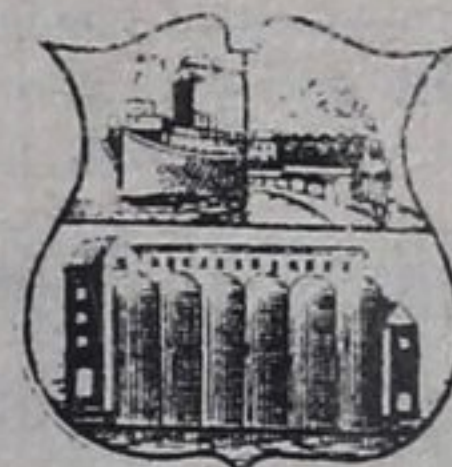
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