

Remembrance Day

November 11, 2006

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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 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.

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.*

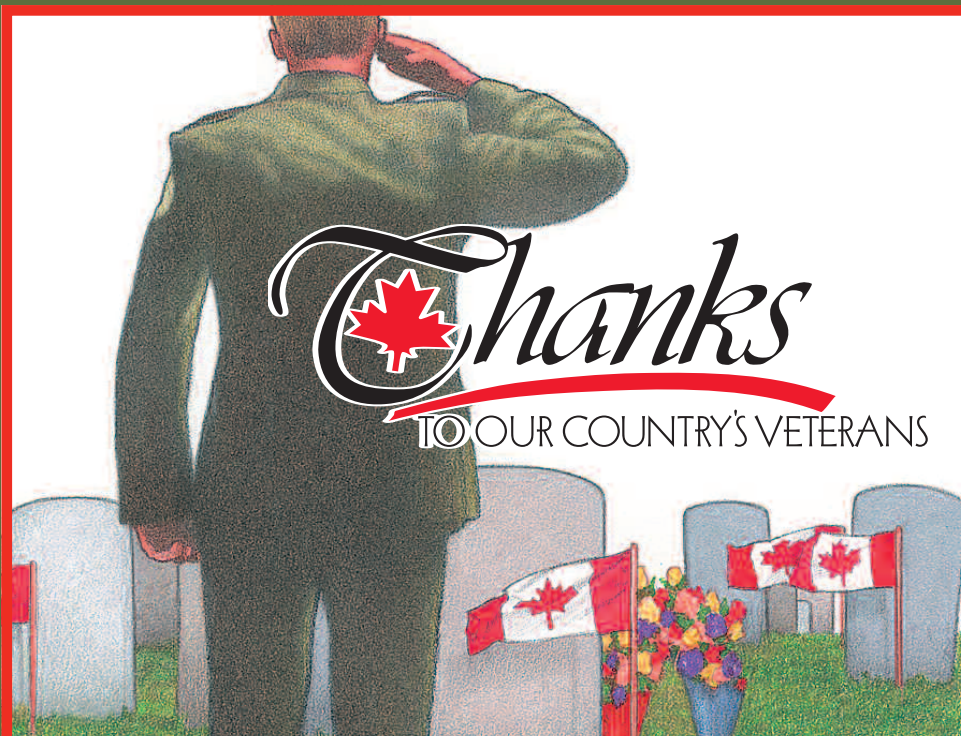
*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*



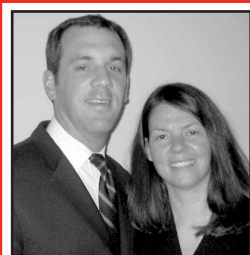
We Will Remember

DPM INSURANCE GROUP

29 Talbot Street North,
Essex, Ontario
Phone: (519) 776-6457



Reid Funeral Home Limited



Craig & Lorna Baker
Funeral Directors

87 Maidstone Avenue East,
Essex

519-776-4233

www.reidfuneralhome.ca

The 11th hour

of the 11th day

of the 11th month.

Time stands still.



Remembrance Day, when we remember those Canadians who served the cause of freedom in the Great War, World War Two, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War and today in Afghanistan. As well as those who served the cause of peace in other distant places like Haiti, the Balkans and the Middle East.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

Wear a poppy and remember. Remembrance Day services, Saturday November 11 at 10am at Essex United Church, then to the Cenotaph for 11.



Plan on attending "An Empty Chair for the Holidays". Christine Byrne presents timely advice on coping with the holidays after the loss of loved ones. This informal get-together is Wednesday Nov. 22 at 7:30pm at the Essex Railway Station

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