

# VIMY VETERAN

WAR. I



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Gary Yokoyama, The Spectator

Frank Close displays some of his mementoes from the First World War.

## Simcoe 95-year-old 'represents the boys'

By JAMES ELLIOTT  
The Spectator

*95-year-old Simcoe resident Frank Close is one of 14 First World War veterans who returned to Northern France to mark today's 75th anniversary of Vimy Ridge, the battle many historians believe crystallized the Canadian national identity.*

PART OF every day for the past 75 years Frank Close has given to remembering his old friend Andy Doughty.

### ■ Canada's glory: B3

The pair were still teenagers when they went to the Methodist Church in Garnet that July morning, 1916, to volunteer for the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

They joined C Company of the Haldimand Rifles. By November, they were in England. By Christmas, they were dug in on the Western Front in France.

Like many Canadian regiments, they were broken up to reinforce other regiments, and the two were part of a group of 45 assigned to the Royal Canadian Regiment.

The following spring they were crouched in the cold, grey mud of Picardy, part of the 30,000-strong Canadian force poised to attack Vimy Ridge on Easter Monday.

The night before the attack they'd been herded, along with an additional 500 troops, into the infamous Zivy Cave, ready to go over the top at dawn.

During the night, an officer appeared, collared Andy and took him up to the

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