

WINDSOR WEST UPDATE

November 2008

Dear Friends,

Veterans' Week, November 5 to 11, is a time for all Canadians to honour the selfless dedication of those who have served in times of war, military conflict and peace. We also honour those who continue to serve our country around the world. These men and women are upholding a noble Canadian tradition by taking an active role in bringing stability and peace to parts of the world that have seen turmoil and upheaval.

During Veterans' Week 2008, Canadians from coast to coast to coast will show pride and gratitude for our Veterans as events and activities take place across the country in their honour.

All Canadians, especially youth, are urged to take an active role in remembrance. There are many ways to get involved. Talk to a Veteran. Visit our cenotaph. Read a book on our Veterans' great sacrifices and achievements or attend the Remembrance Day ceremony. When Canadians participate in commemorative events, we take up the torch of remembrance. As a result, we can rest assured that future generations will continue to commemorate those who helped shape Canada as a nation.



Above: War Memorial at City Hall Square in Windsor.

Yours truly,

Bin Mason

Brian Masse, MP (Windsor West)

Contact Us!

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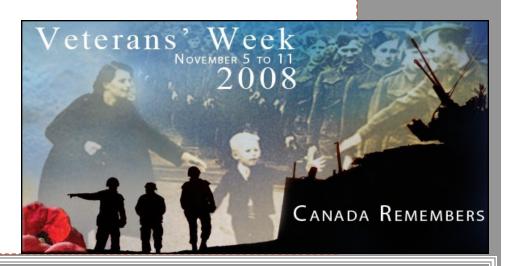
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Please come out and join our local veterans at Windsor City Hall Square Cenotaph this coming

November 11, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

LEST WE FORGET.

Celebrate. Honour. Remember. Thank. Teach.

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REMEMBERING OUR LOCAL HEROES

KAY RYAN (nee KELAHER)

Canadian Women's Army Corps.—CPL.

Kay Ryan enlisted in the Canadian Women's Army Corps (C.W.A.C.) as soon as she reached the age of 18. She had eagerly tried to enlist several times before that, but was too young.

Ms. Ryan spent three months of basic training in Kitchener. Following basic training, she was sent to the C.W.A.C. Unit in Barrie Field. She worked in the C.W.A.C. Administration Building

completing clerical work, which included typing letters, mail, records, etc.

The army was a wonderful experience for Ms. Ryan. She developed close relationships with most of the women on the base. Those relationships continue today, over 60 years later.

Ms. Ryan thoroughly enjoyed her two years in the C.W.A.C. The discipline, responsibility, teamwork, and caring for others has followed her into civilian life. She has always been grateful for the opportunity of helping in the war effort.

Her only regret was that she was too young to go overseas, as women had to be 21 years old.



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.

~ John McCrae

REMEMBERING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

- Canada entered the First World War in 1914;
- Almost 620,000 Canadian men and women served in this war at a time when the population of the whole country was only a few million;
- Of those 620,000, more than 66,000 were killed;
- At the Battle of the Somme, British Forces suffered their heaviest one-day loss ever—more than 57,000 men including more than 700 from Newfoundland were killed or injured during this Battle;
- Four Canadians were awarded the Victoria Cross—the Commonwealth's highest award for bravery—for their part in capturing Vimy Ridge;
- Canadian John McCrae wrote the poem "In Flanders Fields" while on the battlefield;
- During the course of the war, Canada's naval service grew from 350 men and two ships to a force of 9,000 men and 100 ships.

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