

November 1, 2013

A Weekend of Remembrance at the Royal BC Museum

Victoria, BC – The Royal BC Museum is presenting a Sunday-Monday Remembrance weekend of free talks, activities and displays to honour those who have served – and those who continue to serve. On Sunday Nov. 10 and Monday Nov. 11 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., the Royal BC Museum in partnership with Veterans Affairs Canada will host displays by military historians, veterans' associations and community groups on the museum's main floor.

This is the 12th year of Remembrance activities at the Royal BC Museum. The commemorative program is sponsored by the Veterans Affairs Community Engagement Fund.

NEW displays added for this year include:

CFB Esquimalt Naval & Military Museum

Creature Comforts, a new travelling exhibit celebrates the contribution of animals great and small to the history, spirit and welfare of Canada's navy. The exhibit showcases photos and stories of mascots, ships' cats, dogs and other animal companions befriended by Canadian sailors, including the bear of Naden, a reindeer transported by HMCS *Haida* during WWII, and the vexatious parrot of Tim Ryley from HMCS *Shearwater*.

Chinese Canadian Military Museum

One War, Two Victories explores the experiences of Chinese Canadians who served in the Canadian Military and Volunteer Services and in Allied war efforts during the Second World War. Though denied rights and subjected to widespread discrimination before the war, many Chinese Canadians volunteered for military service and related duties, helping to secure victory abroad and greater equality at home. *The exhibit was organized by the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society, Vancouver, in partnership with the Canadian War Museum.*

Old Cemetery Society

Lest We Forget Where They Lie – an exhibit that explains explain the difference between the approximately 144,000 Canadians classified as "war dead" and the more than 1,500,000 classified as "veterans." A feature map will show the location of 25 cemeteries in the Capital and Cowichan Valley regions where war dead and veterans are buried. Stories of heroic individuals buried in four or five of these cemeteries will be featured in the display.

BC Archives "Help Our Wounded Heroes"

(Until November 26, Saturdays 1-5 pm, Weekdays 10 am -5 pm, BC Archives)

Down the steps to the BC Archives building, a small display tells the story of *Tag Days*. During the First World War, Canadian women took part in a number of activities to help with the war effort at home. *Tag Days* were organized by women's groups, including the Imperial Order of

the Daughters of the Empire and the Local Council of Women, and paper and fabric tags were sold to raise funds. Wearing a tag demonstrated civilian support for the troops but it also increased patriotic sentiments and the profile of women’s war efforts on the home front.

HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights include a pair of performances by the **Victoria Children’s Choir** on Monday Nov. 11 at 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. Displays include the ever-popular activity in which visitors may have their photos taken wearing vintage uniforms (a Korean military jeep is on site Sunday Nov. 10). Visitors also have the invaluable opportunity to speak with veterans and to honour their service.

On Remembrance Day, Monday Nov. 11, the Royal BC Museum invites all military personnel, whether serving or retired, and their families to visit the museum galleries free of charge.

CONTRIBUTORS

Veterans Affairs Canada; Korean Veterans Association; British Columbia Aboriginal Veterans and Serving Members Association; Chinese Canadian Military Museum; CFB Esquimalt Naval & Military Museum; Old Cemetery Society; Victoria Genealogical Society; Bart Armstrong; military historian Paul Ferguson, Steven Lamb

SPEAKERS

Join military historians, veterans and their families for free talks on the Main Floor at the Royal BC Museum:

Day/ Date	Time	Speaker	Topic
Nov. 10	2:00 p.m.	Military Historian Paul Ferguson	Touring the Great War in France, Flanders and Turkey
Nov. 11	12:30/1:30	Victoria Children’s Choir	Remembrance Commemorated in Song
Nov. 11	2 p.m.	Military Historian Paul Ferguson	Touring the Great War in France, Flanders and Turkey

OTHER ACTIVITIES AND DISPLAYS

Veterans Week School Programs: Honouring the Past...Preserving the Future

600 middle and high school students participate in school programs that include:

- Learning from, and speaking with, Korean War Veterans and recently returned Afghanistan Veterans
- Dressing in vintage uniforms for photographs taken in a WWII Navy and Korean war jeep
- Examining Canadian war propoganda posters from the Royal BC Museum collections, students will increase their knowledge of propoganda as a tool and better understand the specific goals and strategies used by governments past and present.

- Writing 'Postcards for Peace' an interactive and personal action to send messages of thanks to past and current military service members.

Victoria Children's Choir

The Victoria Children's Choir will perform songs honouring Remembrance Day.
12:30 and 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov 11.

BC Aboriginal Veterans and Serving Members Association

Aboriginal and Métis veterans have played major roles in Canada's wartime contributions. Displays and veterans from the BC Aboriginal Veterans will be represented.

Korean Veterans' Association, Unit 27

Display table with veterans in attendance and DVD footage.

Victoria Genealogical Society

The VGS directs families to information, with a focus this weekend on those that served.

Bart Armstrong "Forgotten Canadians"

More than 100 Canadians, or those with connections to Canada, earned the U.S. Medal of Honor.

Steven Lamb Trench Art

Soldiers have decorated wood, bone and metal objects for hundreds of years. Victoria resident Stephen Lamb will display his trench art collection at the museum on Nov. 10 – 11.

*Archival film footage excerpts playing in Clifford Carl Hall:
(Tuesday Nov. 5 to 9; Nov 10 & 11 from 10 to 1pm)*

World War I

- Clip #1: Canadians march to service, 1914 and 1917
- Clip #2: University of British Columbia footage, 1916
- Clip #3: Victoria wartime, 1915
- Clip #4: Wartime Victoria, 1914
- Clip #5: Victoria Fusiliers leave for overseas, ca. 1916

World War II

- Clip #6: Canadian Scottish Regiment Training Camp, ca.1938-39
- Clip #7: Burritt miscellany, reel 3, ca. 1942
- Clip #8: Military parade, ca. 1944
- Clip #9: Salvage work in Cowichan District: Guides of Queen Margaret's School, Duncan, 1942
- Clip #10: Military parades and Vancouver Diamond Jubilee parade, ca/ 1940-46

- 30 -

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