



Veterans Affairs
Canada

Anciens Combattants
Canada

Veterans' Week November 5–11, 2012

Tales of Animals in War



GREEN THUMBS FOR REMEMBRANCE



Hi, I'm Gandy the dog!

This morning, I spent some relaxing time with my Remembrance friends at our clubhouse. Simone the cat was quietly purring, curled up on the couch, while Win the bear was colouring. Outside, Ellie the elephant was lying in the hammock, lightly spraying herself with her trunk. Bonfire Jr. the horse was having a nap, waving his tail at the flies. Squeaker the pigeon was snacking at the bird feeder.

I was reading about Victory Gardens. I learned that during the First and Second World Wars, a lot of the food grown on farms

was sent to soldiers overseas. To help feed their families, many people planted small vegetable gardens in their own yards and window boxes.

That's what gave me an idea... "Hey guys! What do you think about planting a remembrance garden to honour those who served in times of war? I know that the 'Forget-me-not' is a well-known remembrance flower in Newfoundland and Labrador, where I'm from."

"Great, let's not forget poppies," Bonfire Jr. neighed. "Everyone wears one in November."

"I'd love to help," Squeaker squawked. "We should also have tulips."

Simone pranced over. "Cool idea! Do you guys remember the name of that flower on the Korean War monument we visited last year in Ottawa? I think it was a special rose."

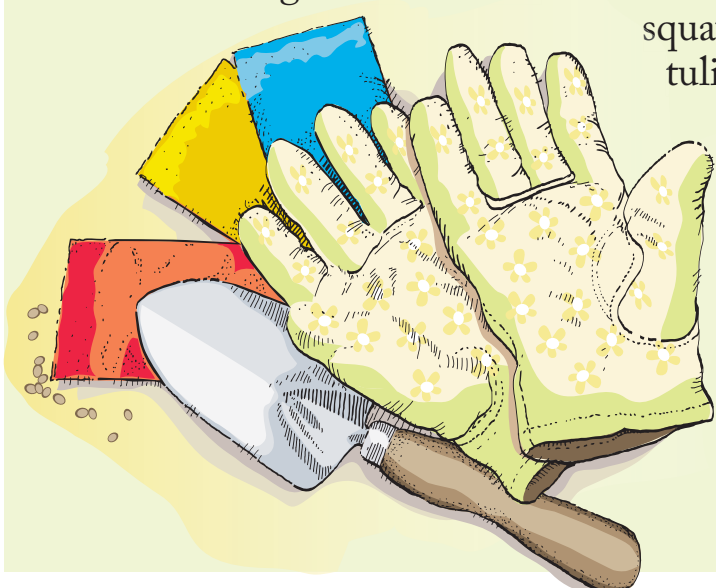
Ellie lumbered over: "Yeah, what about wreaths?" she said. "They used to be made of laurel leaves. Maybe we should plant a laurel shrub?"

"I'll help too," said Win, "but I'll need my net hat because I'm afraid of honey bees. What about planting a maple tree to remember those who served in the Canadian Forces?"

"Let's get started!" we all cheered, with shovels and rakes in the air.

Squeaker flew the coop, off to the garden store for seeds, bulbs and saplings. The rest of us prepared the soil, digging and designing. Ellie and her trunk volunteered to be the official waterer! Our garden will need a lot of hard work, but it will be our way of remembering Canadians who have helped others around the world and the importance of peace.

Why don't you create a school remembrance and peace garden? The more it grows, the more you will remember!



Bonfire Jr.



The Red Flower of Remembrance.

During the First World War, more than 65,000 Canadians died. The fighting and living conditions were very difficult for soldiers. They stayed in cold, wet, muddy trenches in the ground. It was even hard for plants and trees to grow in the blasted battlefields and cemeteries of Europe. Yet the colourful poppy continued to bloom. Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae was a Canadian army doctor. He wrote a poem about these pretty red flowers after his friend was killed in battle in 1915. People still read this popular poem today. *In Flanders Fields* begins like this:

**In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row . . .**

Canadians have been wearing poppies around Remembrance Day for 90 years. Let's plant lots of them in our special garden. It will be another neat way to remember the brave men and women who served and died.



Poppies next to Canadian war grave in France.

Photo: VAC

Photo: Royal Canadian Mint



Special 2008 quarter.

Did You Know?

Two quarters with red poppies were made by the Royal Canadian Mint to commemorate Remembrance Day. In 2004, the thirty million quarters issued were the world's first coloured circulation coins. The eleven million 2008 coins marked the 90th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

Peace Springs Up!

Tulips pop up every spring in my hometown of Ottawa. These beautiful blooms are a unique thank you gift from the Netherlands. Canadians helped free that country during the Second World War and members of their royal family also lived in Ottawa during the conflict. Dutch Princess Margriet was even born here. She was named after a flower, the daisy, which was worn in the Netherlands during the war as a symbol of resistance. When I heard that, my feathers shivered . . . flowers really can have powerful meanings!

Tulips blooming on Parliament Hill
Photo: Chelsea Smith, Courtesy of the Canadian Tulip Festival

Sadly, more than 7,600 Canadians died liberating the Netherlands in 1945. But the Dutch people have never forgotten and they have sent us thousands of tulip bulbs every year since! I love to fly above the Rideau Canal and count how many colours I can see.



Squeaker



Planting tulips — and daisies—is a colourful reminder of the Canadians who became heroes to a whole country. The Dutch still remember them... and we will too!



Oh Canada!



When I think of Canada, I think of the maple leaf. You can see them waving on our country's flags, stitched on the front of sports jerseys and Canadian Forces members' uniforms... and of course growing in our forests! Plus maple syrup comes from maple trees — we bears love maple syrup as much as honey!

The maple leaf means a lot to Canadians serving far from home and helping people in places like the Congo, Haiti and the Persian Gulf. Our flag has waved over our military bases in Afghanistan for more than ten years.

It has given a splash of bright red and white colour to a dusty, dangerous landscape. Many Canadian Forces members have received a medal for their service there. It has a maple leaf as part of the design.

What a powerful Canadian symbol. I think we should plant two maple trees in our Remembrance Garden!



Southwest Asia Service Medal.

Photo: DND

Don't Forget to Remember!

Gandy



Photo: Sharon Adams, Legion Magazine

Newfoundland soldier holding forget-me-nots.

Woof! Tiny forget-me-nots have a special meaning in Newfoundland and Labrador. These flowers are often worn on July 1st, also known as Memorial Day in my home province.

While the rest of the country is celebrating Canada Day, Newfoundlanders also remember those who died in war. It takes place that day to honour the hundreds of men of the Newfoundland Regiment who were killed or wounded at Beaumont-Hamel, France, on July 1, 1916. Think of all the young men who lost their lives and how sad their families were. Forget-me-

nots are a great reminder that we should always remember those who died in service.

After the First World War, the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial was



created in France. It has rocks and shrubs from my home province arranged around a big bronze caribou. Along with having forget-me-nots in our garden, let's include some plants that grow in each of our regions so our home provinces are represented, too. I can't wait to get started!

Did You Know?

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Ottawa contains the remains of an unidentified Canadian soldier from the First World War. Laurel leaves are engraved on top of the tomb. Laurel branches are also found on the Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France. Today, laurel leaves are also considered to be a symbol of peace.

A Purrr-fect Idea.

Simone



Purrr. I love plants . . . especially catnip! But I sure like flowers, too. Did you know that some countries even have national flowers? For example, South Korea has the rose of Sharon. Between 1950 and 1953, more than 26,000 Canadians served far from home during the Korean War. It was a hard fight but they helped restore peace and freedom there, just like Canadians have helped many others during conflicts and peace operations over the years right up to today in Afghanistan.

In South Korea there is a unique memorial to the 516 Canadians who died in service during the Korean War. A replica also stands in Ottawa. It includes a statue of a young Korean boy holding a bouquet of maple leaves and roses of Sharon, representing the friendship between South Korea and Canada.



Photo: National Capital Commission

Monument to Canadian Fallen in Ottawa.

We should definitely have some of those flowers in our Remembrance Garden. But this story gives me another idea . . . if you designed your own monument to the brave Canadians who have served, what would it look like? Would it also include flowers and plants?

Elephants Never Forget!

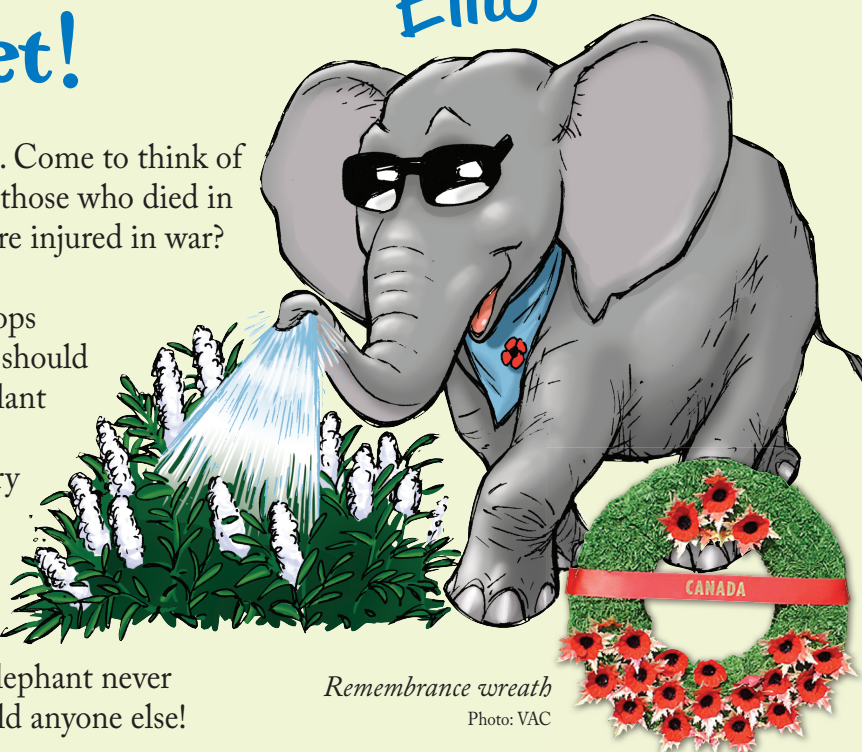
Ellie

Hey, I also have a neat idea for our garden. I always thought that the wreaths people lay at war memorials are a nice way to show that we remember. I think we should grow some plants in our garden that we can use to make our own wreath!

I did some surfing on the Web and found out that after the First World War, lots of Canadian Veterans returned home with serious injuries. Many of them worked in Vetcraft shops alongside other Veterans, building things like furniture and toys. They also made

commemorative wreaths. Come to think of it, who better to honour those who died in war than people who were injured in war?

There are no Vetcraft shops anymore, but I think we should follow their lead. Let's plant some tall grasses, laurel shrubs and other greenery in our garden. Then we could make handmade wreaths for a nice remembrance ceremony next year... because an elephant never forgets and neither should anyone else!



Remembrance wreath
Photo: VAC

Did You Know?

Life was very tough in the Netherlands during the Second World War. The Germans who invaded the country made it difficult for the Dutch people to get food and other important supplies. The worst time was the "Hunger Winter" of 1944–1945. People burned their furniture to stay warm and even ate tulip bulbs to try to survive.

CRACK THE CODE

Back in the First and Second World Wars, pigeons were sometimes used to deliver messages because they were such good fliers and could always find their way home. The messages were usually written in secret code so the enemy couldn't read them.

Here's a secret message that would fill the small piece of paper inside the capsule on a messenger pigeon's leg.

Can you read the message?
(Clue: A=1, B=2, C=3, etc.)

20 8 1 14 11 25 15 21

22 5 20 5 18 1 14 19 !

Word Search

POPPY REMEMBER LISTEN
COURAGE MAPLE HONOUR
PEACE THANK GARDEN
WREATH BRAVE HERO
FREEDOM TULIP FRIENDS

L M D E M Y O I F I G T
I N S L G A R D E N Y U
S Y D X L A P A Y F L L
T R N D W R R N P A N I
E P E A C E J U P V D P
N F I M R U O N O H S M
D N R H E R O G P C O H
H Y F T D M Q I G D T F
E T H A N K B F E A T N
Y E L P A M R E E Y Y F
J U G T F R R R R Y I F
E V A R B F W T S D T C

True Or False

How well do you understand the stories in this newspaper? The sentences below are either **True** or **False**. Collect all the letters you've circled from the "True" column and use them to answer the question below.

	True	False
1. Bonfire Jr. said Canadian soldiers lived in trenches during the war.	B	O
2. Bonfire Jr. talked about wreaths.	R	S
3. Squeaker talked about tulips.	E	P
4. Squeaker said a British princess was born in Canada during the war.	I	Y
5. Win talked about Canadians in Afghanistan.	L	A
6. Win doesn't like to eat maple syrup.	D	S
7. Gandy said July 1 st is Memorial Day in Newfoundland and Labrador.	G	A
8. Gandy talked about the forget-me-not flower.	I	Z
9. Simone talked about the First World War.	F	G
10. Simone said roses of Sharon represent South Korea.	U	I
11. Ellie is going to water the Remembrance Garden.	M	T
12. Ellie talked about the poppy.	Q	S

Question: Country where John McCrae wrote his poem
In Flanders Fields?

Answer: _____

Did You Know?

Each spring, Dutch school children visit Canadian war cemeteries. They tend the graves and lay flowers to remember those who died helping to liberate their country. On Christmas Eve, they even return to the cemeteries to light remembrance candles.



Photo: VAC

Dutch child laying flowers at a Canadian soldier's grave.

Remembrance



During Veterans' Week (November 5 to 11), wear a poppy on the left side of your shirt, close to your heart. It shows respect for the Canadian men and women who served and died for peace and freedom all over the world.

LET'S GET GROWING

Canadians are known for supporting peace and freedom around the world, but maintaining peace requires work... and so does growing a remembrance garden. Although it might be fall right now, you can still get started. Plant your tulip bulbs outside and your seeds in egg cartons indoors so you'll be ready when spring comes. Don't forget to water, weed and fertilize to make sure your plants will grow tall and strong.

After all, keeping a garden isn't too difficult.

**COME ON,
LET'S GET GROWING!**

