

Chalk Talk

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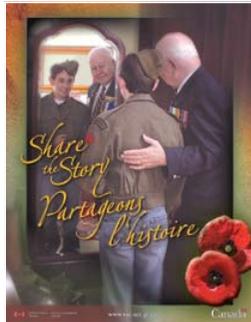
PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES!!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers,

As the theme of this year's Veterans' Week is **Share the Story**, I'd like to share one that came to my attention from Don Wainwright, teacher/librarian/historian at Roselands Public School.

About ten years ago, while writing a book to celebrate the school's 75th anniversary, Don's research uncovered several astonishing facts about the impact of WWII on the lives of students and former students of the school. 75% — over 300 of the 400 boys — who graduated from the school from 1922 to 1939 and who would have been eligible for military service, enlisted to fight in WWII. By the end of the war, 15 former students of this small school in what was the village of Mount Dennis had perished in that terrible conflict.



In 1947, a Memorial Grove of Maple trees was planted behind the school to honour the fallen. With the passing of time and a school fire that destroyed the horticultural records, the meaning of the grove was forgotten, until its significance was re-discovered 50 years later by Mr. Wainwright. To ensure that the memorial grove's meaning would never be forgotten again, Don contacted the original

Veterans' Week
5-11 November



sponsors, the local Royal Canadian Legion branches and the Roselands Horticultural Society, who raised \$1,700 for a stone monument, carved with the names of the 15 former students, that was placed in the grove at a ceremony on May 16, 2000, attended by 350 veterans, dignitaries, former and present students, friends and relatives. One of the grade 5 students in attendance that day praised the trees as a way of 'remembering', saying "It's a way of showing life, because that's what they gave to us."

As always, your feedback is important to us. [Let us know your thoughts.](#)

Moments to Remember



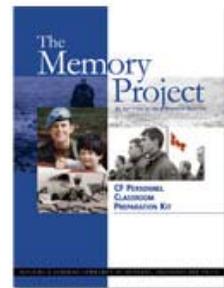
Established in 1997, The Dominion Institute provides educators and interested Canadians with a variety of educational programs, events and resources

Memory | Democracy | Identity

that help engage youth and all Canadians in learning about our history, shared citizenship, and democratic Institutions and values. Institute programs fall under three broad themes: memory, identity and democracy. To learn more about the Institute and explore educational resource sites, [click here.](#)

Veterans Bring War History To Life

Created in 2001, **The Memory Project** is the Dominion Institute's flagship educational programme, designed to connect veterans and students online and in classrooms across the country. The Memory Project Speakers' Bureau includes 1,500 veteran volunteers from across Canada visiting classrooms and community groups to share their stories with youth. The veterans in The Memory Project represent a wide range of conflicts, including World War I, World War II, Korean War, Peacekeeping Operations and Canadian Forces experiences.



To download The Memory Project classroom resources, [click here.](#) To arrange for a veteran to visit your classroom, [click here.](#)

The Memory Project Digital Archive, an online database that houses the oral histories and artifacts of more than 350 Canadian veterans, complements the Speakers' Bureau. To date, these veterans have reached more than 300,000 young people. To go directly to The Memory Project's Digital Archive, [click here](#) or click on the specific area of military interest below.

[Source: Dominion Institute Online]



Mary Kovack

Mary Kovack

QUOTE OF THE WEEK—The War Experience through the eyes of an elementary schoolboy

"There were war stamps to be earned, bonds to be bought and food rationing made its way into our lives because of the War against tyranny. In spite of the bad news of Dunkirk and Dieppe, we pupils believed that 'democratic right' would win out over 'Nazi might' but what a terrible cost of lives and material had yet to be paid. Whatever lot we were dealt in life, if *Roselands* taught us that freedom comes arm in arm with responsibility, then *Roselands* served its students well. We will not forget our teachers, their steadying influence and the kindness that saw us through. As one of the three valedictorians named Hughes, chosen to speak on behalf of our grade eight classes, 1940-1942, I echo the honour paid to our teachers, spoken then, but felt just as deeply now. We remember, we appreciate your efforts and we reminisce with nostalgia! Thank you, Roselands School for serving the community and the country well."

— **Harold Hughes, former student, Roselands Public School (1936-1944), recalls the impact of WWII on his early school life and the important role played by the teachers at his elementary school.**



From *The Memory Project* digital archive, a letter written at school in 1945 from the Calvert siblings to their older brother who was a prisoner of war in Hong Kong. To read more, [click here](#).

Canadian Youth – Growing up in Wartime

Canada's children and teenagers played an important role in Canada's war effort. They filled many of the gaps left by male family members who left to join the armed forces.

- Youth were constantly encouraged by their teachers, family, and friends to support the home front effort.
- With most able-bodied men overseas, there were not enough farm workers to harvest the crops. Countless young people worked long hours on farms to ensure a steady food supply for Canadians and our Allies.
- To encourage students to help with the harvest, many schools did not count attendance or introduce new material in classes until after the crops were in.
- The government lowered the minimum age for obtaining a driver's licence to 14 so that children could legally operate farm trucks and other vehicles.
- Many children saw themselves as junior soldiers. They prepared for war by memorizing aircraft silhouettes and building ship models. Many high school students joined cadet corps and learned how to march, perform arms drills, and fire weapons.
- Teachers often had children write letters to Canadian military members overseas, telling them about what was happening back home.
- Canadian children were joined by hundreds of British refugee children (guest children) who were sent by their parents from bomb-ravaged Britain to Canada for their safety. They lived and went to school with Canadian children.

[Source: [Veterans' Affairs Canada](#)]

Facts and Figures — Living With War: Scrimping, Saving and Scavenging

- Children learned to scrimp and save to raise money for the war effort. They learned to recycle and collect materials, such as metal, rubber, fat, and grease, that were in short supply and could be reused to produce useful products. Encouraged by incentives such as free passes to movies, Canada's children became ardent scavengers.
- Children collected tons of scrap. Some even donated their own toys for metal salvage drives.
- Children used their hard-earned money, bringing their nickels and dimes to school, to buy War Savings Stamps which they stuck into special booklets for post-war redemption.
- Boy Scouts and Girl Guides conducted many fund-raising activities. As an example, the 10th Toronto Scout Troop collected 510,000 pounds of salvage and used the money they earned to buy a truck, an ambulance for the Royal Canadian Air Force, and Victory Bonds.
- Of the \$5.5 billion raised in Victory Loan appeals, millions were contributed by children.
- To save precious U.S. dollars, an embargo was put into place against all non-essential items from the U.S., including comic books. Canadian publishers responded with a series of black and black-and-white comic books which became known as "Canadian whites". In the summer of 1941, the first Canadian comic book, "Wow No.1" hit the stands, and all 52,000 copies were sold.



Photo: "Wait for me, Daddy": Private Jack Bernard, B.C. Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles) saying goodbye to his five-year-old son Warren. 1940 / New Westminster, B.C. National Archives of Canada/PA C-038723

[Source: [Veterans' Affairs Canada](#)]

Epilogue — What We Remember



Remembrance Day, November 11, is a day of national commemoration for the more than 100,000 Canadians who have died in military service. The costs for Canada, with its relatively small population, have been substantial.

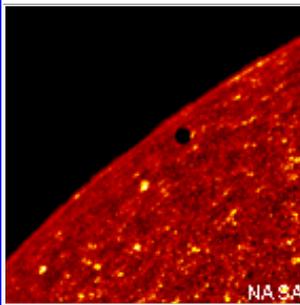
- In the First World War (1914-1918) the population of Canada was 7,800,000. Of the 625,825 who served, 61,082 died and 154,361 were wounded.
- During the Second World War (1939-1945) Canada's population had grown to 11,500,000. Of the 1,086,343 who served 42,042 died, 54,414 wounded.
- Just a few years later, during the Korean War (1950-53) Canada's population had jumped to 14,000,000. Of the 27,751 who served 516 died and 1,072 were wounded.
- To date 119 members of Canada's peacekeeping forces have been killed.

[Source: [War Museum.ca](http://WarMuseum.ca)]



ATTENTION ALL SCIENCE TEACHERS, SCHOOL SCIENCE CLUBS — Watch a LIVE cosmic event November 8 on DiscoveryChannel.ca

On Wednesday, November 8, 2006 the planet, Mercury, will transit the sun, its last such appearance until 2016. DiscoveryChannel.ca will show the transit LIVE online, from Discovery's Toronto studios starting at 2 p.m. ET at www.discoverychannel.ca/mercury to watch the live streaming video, free of charge. From 2-4 p.m. ET on November 8, a LIVE online Forum will be hosted by *Daily Planet's* **Jay Ingram**. To participate in the Forum, teachers are encouraged to register in Discovery Communities ahead of time:



<http://community.discoverychannel.ca/eve>. [Note: In case of inclement weather in Toronto, an alternative video presentation on planets and transits will be substituted.]



This special event will be preceded by a background web cast at 4 p.m. ET, Friday, November 3, which will feature information on Mercury, planetary transits, safe solar viewing, and a roadmap to Mercury in our solar system. Specific inquiries should be directed to Jon de la Mothe, Executive Producer, Discovery Interactive, at jdelamothe@discovery.ca or 416-332-5007.

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