



Chalk Talk

Greetings | Teachers Speak! | Veterans' Week

PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators:

"When a soldier steps on foreign soil in a high-risk environment, every single Canadian should be walking with him or her." -- General Rick Hillier (Ret.) and Chief of Defence Staff, 2005-08

From 2001 to 2011 in Afghanistan, during the longest combat mission in our history, Canada sadly lost 158 soldiers. The [Canada Remembers Times](#) recounts an act of remembrance by the members of the Royal 22e Régiment that would ensure that "a rock memorial honouring fallen Canadian soldiers in the Panjwa'i District will remain in Afghan soil long after our troops leave the region." In a poignant ceremony, which took place just weeks before the end of the mission, the 'Van Doos', as they are known, buried the stones, representing these soldiers who died in the area, in a nearby trench.

Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson's account of his own army days reminds us that Canadians of diverse backgrounds have fought shoulder to shoulder for generations: "I had as comrades in my [WWII army] section men whose names were: Cameron, Kimora, English, Gleidenstein, de Chapin, O'Shaughnessy. We didn't fall in or fall out as Irish Canadians, French Canadians, Dutch Canadians, Japanese Canadians. We wore the same uniform, with the same maple leaf badge, and we were proud to be known as Canadians, to serve as Canadians and to die, if it had to be, as Canadians."



This year, how will your students remember the sacrifice of our veterans and honour the courage of our current service personnel? This week's **Chalk Talk** features a variety of classroom resources from Veterans Affairs. CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of Canadian educators and invites you to visit www.4edu.ca to view the many free teachers' resources on offer. [Your comments are welcome.](#)

Mary Kovack

Find out what teachers say about how they feel about teaching in a new study by CEA and CTF. For download details -- read more, below.

Remembrance Resources for the Classroom



Veterans Affairs Canada offers educators a wide selection of **free, bilingual** resources about Remembrance and Canada's military history, from the South African War to today.

Veterans' Week 2012 Resources

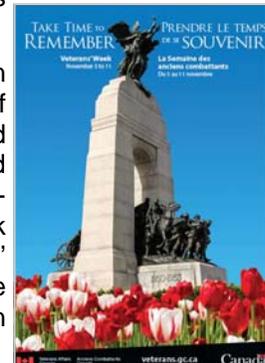
Each fall, Veterans Affairs Canada distributes hundreds of thousands of copies of our Veterans' Week learning resources across Canada.

This year we have introduced a new resource entitled: [Take Time To Remember](#). Aimed at youth aged 5 to 7, this booklet offers learning activities that introduce concepts of Remembrance to primary-aged students in a fun and accessible way.

The [Tales of Animals in War](#) newspaper is aimed at youth aged 5 to 11. It introduces concepts of Remembrance to a young audience in a non-threatening manner through the six Remembrance Clubhouse animal characters. This year, the animals plant a Remembrance garden of tulips, poppies and other Remembrance-related greenery to honour those Canadians who have served in times of war.

The [Canada Remembers Times](#) newspaper is aimed at youth aged 12 to 18. It explores Canada's contributions in the First and Second World Wars, the Korean War and in more recent Canadian Forces efforts, as well as the sacrifices and achievements of those who served.

We also offer [Postcards for Peace](#), an activity where youth write messages of personal gratitude on postcards and send them to Canadian Veterans and Canadian Forces members. Our bookmarks and poster help youth think about Remembrance during Veterans' Week and year-round. The on-line [Teacher's Guide](#) offers lesson plan ideas to complement our resources.



Order your Veterans Week resources online today by visiting the [Learning Resources](#) section and engage your students in Remembrance!

[For more details, see below.]

Mud and Death at Passchendaele
In 1917, Canadian troops paid a heavy price for their role in the battle of Passchendaele. The battle was a series of bloody attacks on the German positions along the Ypres salient in Belgium. The Canadian Corps was the only Canadian formation to see action in the battle. The battle was a tactical success for the Allies, but it was a costly one. The Canadian Corps suffered 17,000 casualties, including 5,000 killed.



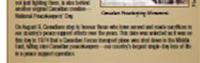
Canadians Take Vimy Ridge
On April 9, 1917, Canadian troops were the first to take Vimy Ridge in France. This was a major turning point in the war. The Canadian Corps was the only Canadian formation to see action in the battle. The battle was a tactical success for the Allies, but it was a costly one. The Canadian Corps suffered 17,000 casualties, including 5,000 killed.



National Peacekeepers' Day
November 10 is National Peacekeepers' Day. It is a day to recognize the men and women who have served in peacekeeping operations. The Canadian Peacekeeping Force is the largest in the world. It has been successful in many operations, including in Somalia, Rwanda, and the Balkans.



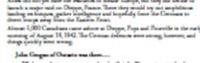
Standing Up for Freedom in Libya
Canadian troops have been sent to Libya to help the rebels fight against the Gaddafi regime. This is the first time Canadian troops have been sent to a conflict zone since the end of the Cold War. The Canadian troops are part of the NATO-led coalition forces.



The Dieppe Raid
On August 19, 1942, Canadian troops were sent to Dieppe, France, as part of a surprise attack. This was a major military operation during the Second World War. The Canadian troops were the only Canadian formation to see action in the battle. The battle was a tactical success for the Allies, but it was a costly one. The Canadian Corps suffered 17,000 casualties, including 5,000 killed.



John Gagnon of Okanagan was there...
John Gagnon was a Canadian soldier who served in the Okanagan region during the Second World War. He was a member of the Canadian Army and was involved in many battles. He was a brave and dedicated soldier who served his country with honor.



More than 100 Canadians were killed and 2,000 were wounded...
During the Dieppe Raid, more than 100 Canadian soldiers were killed and 2,000 were wounded. This was a major military operation during the Second World War. The Canadian troops were the only Canadian formation to see action in the battle. The battle was a tactical success for the Allies, but it was a costly one. The Canadian Corps suffered 17,000 casualties, including 5,000 killed.



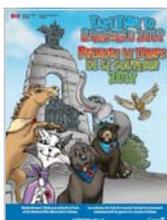
The [Canada Remembers Times](#) is aimed at youth aged 12 to 18 and explores interesting chapters from Canada's military heritage. The **Canada Remembers Times** includes stories about Vimy Ridge, Dieppe, Passchendaele, the 110th anniversary of The South African War, Afghanistan, the War of 1812, and much more!

This bilingual colour newspaper (*shown left*) comes in sets of 30. An online teacher's guide is also available.



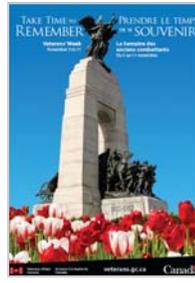
'Read All About It' — News That's Made For Kids!

[Tales of Animals in War](#) is aimed at youth aged 5 to 11 and introduces concepts of remembrance to a young audience in a gentle manner using the six Remembrance Clubhouse animal characters: Simone the Cat, Ellie the Elephant, Bonfire Jr. the horse, Gandy the dog, Squeaker the pigeon and Win the bear. These bilingual colour newspapers (*shown, right*) come in sets of 30, ideal for use in a classroom setting or for distribution in a school library. **Order your class set today! Downloadable teacher's guide available.**



NEW! Take Time to Remember is a fun activity booklet, (*shown, left*), for young children that introduces concepts of remembrance in an accessible manner.

In addition, educators can order colourful [Veterans' Week posters](#), (*shown, right*) available in 8.5" x 11" or 18" x 24" sizes.



To request these free materials, you can call Veterans Affairs Canada toll free at 1-877-604-8469 or use our convenient on-line [Veterans' Week ordering system](#). This easy-to-use system allows you to make your order instantaneously.

If you order by the October 19 you will be assured of receiving your materials prior to Veterans' Week, November 5 to 11.

Tales of Animals in War
Veterans' Week November 5-11, 2012

GREEN THUMBS FOR REMEMBRANCE

H, 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. sighed. "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!

veterans.gc.ca Canada

Website of the week

Veterans Affairs Canada Anciens Combattants Canada

Canada

Veterans Affairs Canada
www.veterans.gc.ca

Other Veterans Affairs Canada Learning Materials

Our **multimedia learning kits** on Canada's participation in the First World War and the Second World War are now offered electronically on a convenient data disc, while our Korean War learning kit is available in a printed format. Our numerous [historical sheets](#) and [historical booklets](#) cover

many chapters of our military heritage. Go to our [On-Line Ordering System](#) to learn more and order these useful free and bilingual resources.

The [Veterans Affairs Canada](#) Web site also offers a variety of on-line [Learning Modules](#) and a [History](#) section to learn more about Canada's rich military history. Explore our [Web features](#) today!

www.veterans.gc.ca

New study offers candid glimpse at how Canadian teachers feel about teaching in today's classrooms

Teaching the Way We Aspire to Teach: Now and in the Future



Teachers' vision for teaching and learning in Canada's public schools
July 2012



[Teaching the Way We Aspire to Teach: Now and in the Future](#)

A joint research report from the Canadian Education Association (CEA) and the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) paints a national picture of who teachers are and articulates the support they need to teach at their best. The research involved extensive input from over 200 teachers who participated in CEA focus groups across the country and 4,700 teachers who responded to a CTF online survey.

[Download now](#)



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