

## History of the

Each November, Poppies bloom on the lapels and collars of millions of Canadians. The significance of the Poppy can be traced back to the Napoleonic Wars in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, over 110 years before being adopted in Canada. Records from that time indicate how thick Poppies grew over the graves of soldiers in the area of Flanders, France. Fields that had been barren before battle exploded with the blood-red flowers after the fighting ended. During the tremendous bombardments of the war, the chalk soils became rich in lime from rubble, allowing the "popaver rhoeas" to thrive. When the war ended, the lime was quickly absorbed and the Poppy began to disappear again.

The person who first introduced the Poppy to Canada and the Commonwealth was Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae of Guelph, Ontario, a Canadian Medical Officer during the First World War. John McCrae penned the Poem "In Flanders Fields" on a scrap of paper in May, 1915 on the day following the death of a fellow soldier. Little did he know then that those 13 lines would become enshrined in the hearts and minds of all who would wear them. McCrae's poem was published in *Punch Magazine* in December of that same year, and the poem later served as inspiration three years later for Moina Michael, an American teacher. Moina Michael made a pledge to always wear a Poppy as a sign of Remembrance.

During a visit to the United States in 1920, a French woman named Madame Guerin learned of the custom. Madame Guerin decided to make and sell poppies to raise money for children in war-torn areas of France. The Great War Veteran's Association in Canada (our predecessor) officially adopted the poppy as its Flower of Remembrance on July 5, 1921.

Today, the Poppy is worn each year during the Remembrance period to honour Canada's Fallen. The Legion

also encourages the wearing of a Poppy for the funeral of a Veteran and for any commemorative event honouring Fallen Veterans.

Thanks to the millions of Canadians who wear the Legion's lapel Poppy each November, the little red flower has never died, and the memories of those who fell in battle remain strong.



Story courtesy of Royal Canadian Legion.

👂 Jn Flanders Fields

The Grime Team Thanks All Those Who Have Served & Continue To Serve For Our Freedom. *God Bless You All!* 

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.

Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae May 3, 1915



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November 2020



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**Well, 2020 still continues to surprise me.** After a crazy market due to a prolonged, and late spring time market, I would have expected a bit of a lull in sales activity. But... **Real Estate in the Orangeville and Headwaters area is still moving along strong.** Sales were down slightly compared to last October, but average sale prices continue to rise, and average days on market remains very low due to the lack of inventory and the demand for homes in our area. It's also surprising that the number of sales to date (January 1<sup>st</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>) in Orangeville is higher this year compared to last year considering very little happened this year from mid March to mid June. With only two months left of 2020, we'll see if this year sets a record for real estate... here in the Headwaters. - Dave





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