FACTS ON REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembrance Day commemorates Canadians who died in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War. It is held every November 11th.

The first Remembrance Day was conducted in 1919 throughout the Commonwealth. Originally called Armistice Day, it commemorated the end of the First World War on Monday, November 11, 1918 at 11:00am.

From 1923 to 1931, Armistice Day was held on the Monday of the week in which November 11th fell.

In 1931, M.P. Allan Neil introduced a bill to hold Armistice Day on a fixed day - November 11th. During the bill's introduction, it was decided the word "Remembrance" would be used instead of Armistice". The bill passed and Remembrance Day was conducted on November 11th, 1931.

The poppy is the symbol of Remembrance Day. Replica poppies are made available by the Royal Canadian Legion, accepting donations to raise money for needy veterans. Wear one proudly.

TRIBUTE TO VETRANS - Just A Common Soldier (Author unknown)



He was getting old and paunchy, and his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion telling stories of his past.
Of a war that he had fought in and the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies - they were heroes, every one.
And though sometime to his neighbours, his tales became a joke,
All his Legion buddies listened,
For they knew whereof he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer, for old Bill has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer, for a soldier died today.
He was just a common soldier, and his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us we may need his like again.
For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles that others often start.
If we cannot give him honour, while he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage, at the ending of his days.
Perhaps a simple notice in a paper that would say,
"Our Country is in mourning, 'case a Soldier passed away."

THE COMPANIONSHIP OF THE DEAD by Henri Nouwen

As we grow older we have more and more people to remember, people who have died before us. It is very important to remember those who have loved us and those we have loved. Remembering them means letting their spirits inspire us in our daily lives. They can become part of our spiritual communities and gently help us as we make decisions on our journeys. Parents, spouses, children and friends can become true spiritual companions after they have died. Sometimes they can become even more intimate to us after death than when they were with us in life. Remembering the dead is choosing their ongoing companionship.