



City of Peterborough

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Peterborough, ON --

100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge – Trillium Update

The City of Peterborough Cenotaph will be adorned with 600 ceramic trilliums in April for a ceremony commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

The trilliums are part of a city initiative to honour area citizens who sacrificed their lives during the First World War. Created by volunteers at the Kawartha Potters Guild, the trilliums will be placed at the mound of the cenotaph in Confederation Square for a service on April 9, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

Sixteen red trilliums will symbolize the local lives lost at Vimy Ridge from April 9 to 11, 1917. The remaining 584 trilliums will be painted white to represent the number of people from the City, County and local First Nations who were killed during the war. The goal is to create a powerful and visually stunning display for the ceremony, with each flower as a reminder of a loved one lost. In addition, two trilliums will be placed at Vimy on April 9th by local citizens who are attending the ceremony there.

"I am thrilled with the community's support of this important commemoration. We want to provide a visual vestige for people to be able to see at the cenotaph and remind them of what Canadians did 100 years ago," remarked Deputy Mayor Henry Clarke, a Lieutenant Colonel with the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment and Chairman of the Vimy 100 Committee.

The trilliums are available for purchase, or may be sponsored for \$30 each. Those who sponsor trilliums will get a tax receipt and the flower will remain available for others to purchase. Those who purchase a trillium will be able to pick it up a few days after the ceremony – details to be announced. Trilliums are now 60% purchased or sponsored. To purchase or sponsor one of the remaining trilliums, please call City Hall at 705-742-7777 extension 1860 or email Bernadette Lawler at blawler@peterborough.ca.

Proceeds from ceramic trilliums will benefit two causes. Half will be used to repair the masonry base at the war memorial and the remainder will be used to enhance government treatment resources for veterans and their families.

"We want to tell the story through living history of people who were there," said Councillor Clarke, "Please look through your belongings for letters, diaries, scrapbooks or photos of the First World War."

To send personal stories for the service, please email hclarke@peterborough.ca.

The ceremony commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge will take place at the War Memorial at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 9, 2017. Confirmed participants in the service include:

- Graham Hart – MC
- Representatives of our local Cadet and Reserve Units
- Citizens reading from letters and diaries of the Great war
- Representatives from First Nations
- Local dignitaries including MP Maryam Monsef, MPP Jeff Leal, Mayor Daryl Bennett and Warden Joe Taylor.

This information is also available on the City of Peterborough's website www.peterborough.ca.

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For further information, media are invited to contact the undersigned:

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