

The Calgary JOURNAL

Reporting on the people, issues and events that shape our city

AUGUST 2014

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THO' LOST TO SIGHT
TO MEMORY DEAR

The Great War

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AUGUST 2014

The Calgary JOURNAL

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TOP LEFT PHOTO COURTESY OF CHASING SUMMER/TOP RIGHT PHOTO BY MAX FOLEY/BOTTOM PHOTO PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENBOW ARCHIVES NA-4927-2

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COVER PHOTO BY PAULINA LIWSKI
COVER DESIGN BY MAX FOLEY

CALGARY IN BRIEF

TENTH BATTALION DECORATIONS

Calgary's 10th Infantry Battalion is one of the most decorated units in the entire history of the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the First World War. This unit earned over 500 military decorations and gallantry awards for its soldiers heroic deeds. Here is a list of the number of decorations that this particular regiment earned.

- Victoria Cross: 2
- Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George: 2
- Officer of the Order of the British Empire: 2
- Distinguished Service Order: 14
- Bar to Distinguished Service Order: 3
- Second Bar to Distinguished Service Order: 1
- Military Cross: 51
- Distinguished Conduct Medal: 65
- Bar to Distinguished Conduct Medal: 1
- Military Medal: 269
- Bar to Military Medal: 21
- Second Bar to Military Medal: 1
- Meritorious Service Medal: 18

SOURCES: GALLANT CANADIANS, THE CALGARY HIGHLANDERS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA

CALGARY JOURNAL ONLINE

Editor's picks

Tom Renney named president and CEO of Hockey Canada: The former NHL coach says it's vital to make strides in grassroots hockey to keep the game vibrant.

Down with Webster looks to establish itself in the United States: This Canadian rap rock band chatted with the Calgary Journal on topics including the band's name, hit songs and future plans.

Are local foods really that local?: Is the Canadian Food Inspection Agency a little too loose with the rules if food produced 50 kilometres away from a restaurant can be considered local?

Ted Stovin: Cowboy Entrepreneur: How a former bull rider is transforming how fans of rodeo connect with the sport.

PHOTO BY PAULINA LIWSKI

FOODTRUCK OF THE MONTH: THE RED WAGON DINER



PHOTO COURTESY YYCFoodTrucks.com

August's Food Truck Of the Month, the Red Wagon Diner, arrived on the Calgary food-truck scene in 2012 to offer Calgarians dishes featuring Montreal smoked meat.

Gabriel Goldberg, owner and chef of the Red Wagon Diner, has experience in a deli and said that smoked meat would work well on a truck. It's been a long-term dream for Goldberg to operate his own food establishment.

"I worked as a chef for over a decade and had the desire to create my own restaurant and be my own boss. Starting a bricks and mortar restaurant is too expensive for most people. Starting a good truck is a third the price."

The Red Wagon Diner menu features six options with prices ranging from \$8 to \$10.50. Five out of the six meals feature Montreal smoked meat as the star of the dish. The other meal is a vegetarian option called "Vege-Mighty" which features grilled onions, mushrooms, banana peppers, tomatoes, lettuce, aged cheddar and an egg on a rye bread along with the diner's house mustard.

Goldberg and his staff are quite active as the truck is on the road six days a week from May to October.

Goldberg says the Calgary climate is not exactly ideal for his food truck.

"We really only make money for four months of the year. But it's where I live and the rules are very reasonable."

If you happen to see the Red Wagon Diner, Goldberg recommends trying the Smoked Meat Hash.

The truck is active all over the city so to find out where it is located on a given day visit redwagondiner.com.

STREETERS

"WHY SHOULD THE FIRST WORLD WAR MATTER 100 YEARS LATER?"



"History informs us of what's going to happen or is a great measure of how we should or shouldn't do things in our future."
CHELSEA RULE



"World War I was a strange situation. It is the first time drug addiction was a big part of the troop experience. Every war since you see lots of drug abuse from the troops. I consider it to be a game changer in terms of wars and of course it's a world war."
DEMIAN CLEMENTS



"World War I is the first major war within the world and that matters because it shaped how World War II happened and it also shaped how a lot of policies and foreign affairs that happened."
FRANK LIANG

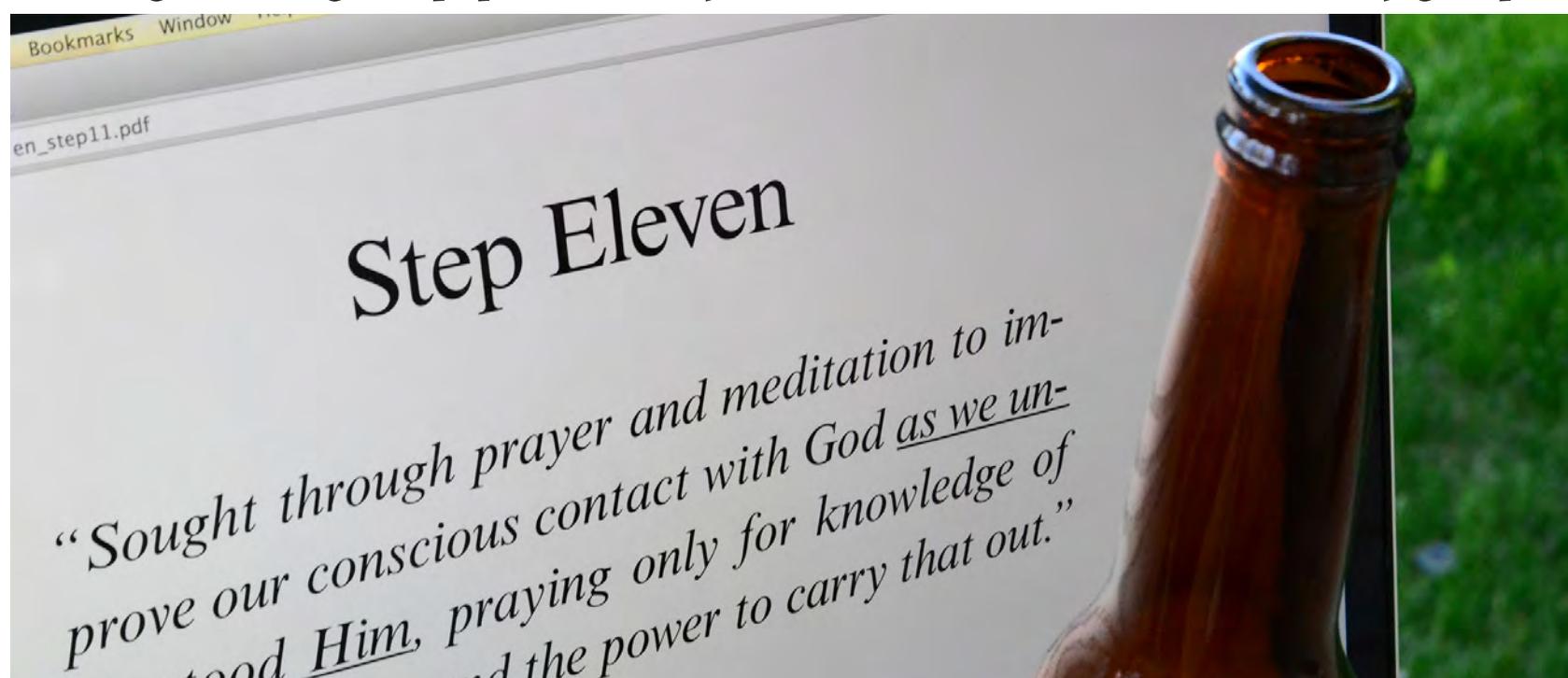


"I think it's important to remember those that sacrificed their lives for their countries. War can happen again. We need to remember what happened then to learn how to avoid it."
KASSANDRA RICHARDSON

PHOTOS BY MAX FOLEY/CALGARY JOURNAL

Fighting addiction's demons without God

Growing non-religious population may need more access to secular recovery groups



Religion continues to play a vital role in the Alcoholics Anonymous 12-step recovery plan, despite the population of Calgary and Canada becoming more secular over the years. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SKYE ANDERSON

SKYE ANDERSON
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Many popular drug and alcohol recovery groups use religious methods to help addicts. But that could be a problem for people who aren't religious — a growing part of the population in both Canada and Calgary.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous and Cocaine Anonymous are among recovery groups that employ religion in their 12-step programs.

It is not required that you follow a religion or need to become religious to attend their meetings. All individuals are welcome.

But some meetings open with a prayer. And the third step of the 12-step program says members "made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him."

The amount of religion in some of the support groups has caused some atheist or agnostic members to feel excluded or lonely because they do not share the same faith. In fact, Bill Wilson, one of the co-founders of Alcoholics Anonymous, noticed this problem early on.

He wrote an article called "The Dilemma of No Faith for AA Grapevine" that was featured in *The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous* back in 1961.

He described his aggressive push to include God in the recovery process as being "damaging — perhaps fatally so — to a number of non-believers."

Non-believers are increasing in Canada. According to Statistics Canada, the number of people who identified themselves as non-religious increased from 16.5 per cent of the population in 1991 to 23.9 per cent in 2011.

Similarly, in Calgary, the non-religious population has gone from 25.2 per cent of the population in 1991 to 32.3 per cent in 2011. Despite that growth — which

is also occurring in the United States — non-religious literature still does not exist in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Roger C., whose last name is not disclosed in keeping with the principle of anonymity espoused by recovery groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, is the author of *The Little Book: A Collection of Alternative 12 Steps*. He started AA Agnostica, a popular website (aaagnostica.org) for atheists and agnostics who want to achieve sobriety. Since the website was created in June 2011, it has gained international attention, featuring contributors from all over the world.

"AA does not have a higher success rate than some of these secular programs. They are about the same. They work for a majority of people, but certainly not everybody."

JUSTIN TROTTIER,
Canadian Secular Alliance

"There is a problem in terms of agnostics and atheists in AA, otherwise my website wouldn't exist. It is not easy to be comfortable as an agnostic (view that knowledge of deity is unknowable) or atheist (non-belief in deities) in the fellowship of AA," says Roger C.

That kind of discomfort also prompted Neil F. and others in Alberta to start an agnostic AA meeting in Stony Plain, which is referred to as the Beyond Belief Meeting.

This group's weekly meetings do not include prayer. Only secular material is read and discussions focus on what members are doing to stay sober rather than what personal beliefs may be. Neil F. says both religious and non-religious members attend the meeting, which is an open AA meeting.

"I think the non-theistic members of AA are

doing what they need to do to try and bring about changes within AA itself," Neil F., says. "In addition to that, of course there are other organizations, such as SMART Recovery, that have meetings in Alberta. Men for Sobriety is also represented in Alberta, and I know there is a weekly meeting in Spruce Grove, but I don't know what other meetings they might have in Alberta."

But that patchwork of groups is in need of expansion. Justin Trottier is a spokesperson for the Toronto-based Centre of Inquiry Canada, an educational charity that promotes the values of reason, science and freedom of inquiry. According to Trottier, there aren't enough secular drug and alcohol treatment groups for Canada's growing non-religious population.

"Even in Toronto we are talking about one or two groups that we host compared to the dozens and dozens and dozens of AA and related 12-step religious programs that are out there," says Trottier. "So we cannot provide enough support for what's required. And then there are many cities where there aren't any, that I'm aware of, any secular organized alternatives to AA. It's either AA, a religious recovery program, or you are alone."

In response to the issue, the centre created a program known as Secular Organizations for Sobriety, which stresses individuals "must take personal responsibility for their addiction" instead of relying on God.

Trottier, also a board member of the Canadian Secular Alliance, believes it is up to people to step up and say they are not comfortable with AA, and to find other secular options.

"AA does not have a higher success rate than some of these secular programs. They are about the same. They work for a majority of people, but certainly not everybody," says Trottier.

Commemorating the First World War

A look at Calgarians' heroism a century ago

It was a Wednesday, a day that will always remain as one of the most important days in Canadian history. On Aug. 5, 1914, Canada entered the First World War by declaring war on Germany, thus taking the country down a path that would change it forever. The experience was mostly an English-Canadian one, but as result of battlefield successes Canada earned respect among major powers and a measure of political independence that allowed it to become the nation it is today.

Calgary played a significant, and perhaps not well-known, role in the bloodiest conflict in Canadian history. Other than being the home to the largest First World War training base in Western Canada, battalions and individual soldiers from this area made heroic contributions towards Canada and its Allies achieving victory when the armistice was signed over four years later on Nov. 11, 1918. This is the story of Calgary and its profound impact on the First World War.

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Photo of Canadian soldiers at Vimy Ridge, France
Photo courtesy of Glenbow Archives NA-1258-121



Looking back on the First World War

Calgary historians reflect on the major global conflict also known as The Great War



(Left) Dr. John Nisbet Gunn became commander of the 8th Canadian Field Ambulance in 1917. This medical unit, formed in Calgary in December 1915, went overseas the following May. These officers gave medical treatment to men on the frontlines. Field ambulance members were the unsung heroes of the First World War because the work they did kept many soldiers in battle when they could have perished. These officers were easy targets for enemy machine guns because of the colour of the gear that they wore, which included a red cross. The 8th Canadian Field Ambulance was entirely responsible for the clearing casualties from the frontlines for the 3rd Canadian Division during Vimy Ridge. Other than clearing the frontlines it spent months preparing evacuation routes and building dugouts for medical dressage stations.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENBOW ARCHIVES NA-4002-25

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Every semester in the First World War class Stephane Guervemont teaches at Mount Royal University, the historian gives his students the same piece of advice on how to truly get a sense of what life was like in the trenches.

"I tell my students to dig a hole and go in there with your clothes — no pyjamas — just your regular day clothes, and have your parents throw a grenade at you and shoot at you with a machine gun every once in a while as you stay in there for months. That's trench life. It's incredible. It's hell."

According to Statistics Canada, more than 400,000 people from Canada travelled to Europe at some point from 1914 to 1918 to experience this kind of hell. The First World War remains to this day one of the deadliest and most important conflicts ever witnessed by humanity. In terms of deaths, it was the bloodiest conflict in Canadian history with about 60,000 lives being taken, compared to over 20,000 in the Second World War.

Calgary played a pivotal role in the First World War. The 10th and 50th battalions were raised in the young city, and were made up primarily of Calgarians. The 31st Battalion's 1,000-man unit, consisting of men from across Alberta, was recruited and mobilized in Calgary. Recruitment for the 8th Canadian Field Ambulance, the 12th Regiment Canadian Mounted Rifles and five reserve battalions also took place at Calgary. Calgary's Sarcee.

Camp was the largest training base in Western Canada. Roughly 45,000 Alberta war recruits were trained at this camp.

The Canadians that enlisted did so for many reasons. Some people wanted to go for adventure; some because their family or friends had volunteered; and many people went for patriotic reasons.

Pat Brennan, a University of Calgary war historian, says as a result of today's Canadians experiencing nothing but peace at home there is a tendency to look back on First World War enlistees and ridicule them for being naïve with regard to not knowing what kind of conflict they would be entering. Brennan says that's a mistake.

"They (these soldiers) believed so strongly in what was happening. I'm not saying there was no propaganda or naivety. But they believed so strongly that virtually everyone that could sign-up did. We should try to give them credit by trying to understand. It's a very important event that we don't understand."

However, most of the people representing Canada were in fact British-born citizens returning home to defend their motherland. A lot of Canadians did stay home.

The first contingent that went over to fight was 90 per cent British citizens. However, more Canadians did enlist in the war as the war went on — partially due to conscription being introduced in 1917— and by 1918 a true sense of English Canadian pride was born.

LETTER FROM PTE. W. R. GAYNER OF CALGARY DESCRIBING THE BATTLE OF YPRES

THE AIR SEEMED ELECTRIFIED AND FILLED WITH FLYING FRAGMENTS OF METAL. A SHELL EXPLODED ON TOP OF US KILLING RIGHT AND LEFT, FLINGING ME HIGH IN THE AIR TO COME DOWN BURIED IN DEBRIS BUT MIRACULOUSLY UNHARMED.

FOR THE FIRST TIME I REALLY TURNED TO MY GOD AND QUIETLY PRAYED FOR STRENGTH AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS. I CANNOT MAKE CLEAR THE SPLENDID COURAGE WHICH CAME TO ME THEN AND CARRIED ME THROUGH.

THEN CAME THE GAS. CHOKING, BLINDING CHLORINE. THE FRENCH, POOR DEVILS, GAVE WAY EXPOSING OUR FLANK, AND AT LAST THE ORDER CAME TO HOLD OUR END AT ALL COSTS.

WE LINED THE DITCH ALONGSIDE THE ROAD LEADING UP TO THE TRENCHES, AND THROUGH THE HEDGE Poured in a flanking fire upon the advancing Germans. IN THE DASH FORWARD EVERY OTHER MAN SEEMED TO GO UNDER THE TERRIBLE MACHINE GUN AND RIFLE FIRE.

SOURCE: THE GREAT WAR AND ITS CONSEQUENCES 1914-1920 VOLUME 4



CAUSES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

While the assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand, on June 28, 1914, in Sarajevo by Bosnian Serb Gavrilo Princip, certainly triggered a series of events that would lead to the outbreak of the First World War, historians argue that the war would still have taken place if there were no assassination.

“There were rivalries (in Europe) of a sort where if one empire was to get ahead, another must not — a ‘zero-sum game’ as we call it,” says Brennan. “Europe was heading towards war, and given Europe’s importance at the time it would be a World War.

“If the assassination did not happen there is a significant chance that two years later, five years later, whatever, there would have been another incident to ignite the war.”

Guervemont says the arms race between empires, the Balkan Wars of 1912-1913, and different nations aggressively trying to establish alliances in case there was a conflict were causes of the war.

John Ferris, a U of C war historian, says Serbia and Germany played a leading role in escalating the tension in the days after the assassination.

“The Serbian government is involved in an act of state sponsored terrorism,” says Ferris. “The assassination of Franz Ferdinand follows on from Serbian national policy.

“The Austrians had to do something in the sense that if you’re in a country and something is done to you and you don’t respond then you’re suggesting to everybody, ‘Hit me again.’ The Germans also deliberately encourage the more aggressive factions in Austria to take extremely tough action.”

Ferris says it’s important to realize that the major states of the time were the same because they were all aggressively pursuing their self-interests. He adds while no country is truly worse than the other, some countries were more foolish.

SENSE OF CANADIANS GOING INTO THE WAR

Ferris says it is incorrect to believe Canadians and Europeans didn’t realize the war could be a long, drawn-out stalemate

“There is a myth that civilians, Canadians and Europeans, believed the war would be quick, cheap and heroic,” says Ferris. “That’s a myth. There’s been a lots of war reportage in the last 20 years (prior to the war) across the West of what wars are like. In fact, everybody knows wars will kill lots and lots of people.”

Guervemont argues the other way, saying there were some people expecting a dashing cavalry charge and a quick offensive war, and they would be home soon.

“For many (of the Canadian soldiers) it was a free

FIRST WORLD WAR SOLDIERS' DITTY

IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THE HELLISH REALITY OF THE WAR, SOLDIERS TURNED TO ALCOHOL AND WRITING TO CONTINUE CARRYING ON. PEOPLE WROTE LETTERS TO THEIR FAMILY AND ALSO COMPOSED POEMS AND SIMPLE SONGS KNOWN AS "DITTIES". HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF A FIRST WORLD WAR DITTY THAT WAS WRITTEN BY AN UNKNOWN SOLDIER:

*CASEY JONES RIDING ON HIS ENGINE
CASEY JONES WITH A BANANA IN HIS HAND
CASEY JONES STOPPED A GERMAN WHIZZ-BANG
NOW HE'S PUSHING DAISIES UP IN NO MAN'S LAND.*

SOURCE: THE GREAT WAR AND ITS CONSEQUENCES 1914-1920 VOL. 4

FIRST WORLD WAR ACTION IN THE SKY

BY PAULINA LIWSKI

A prominent Calgarian that made a significant impact in the First World War was pilot Capt. Frederick McCall, who went on to capture 37 kills with the Royal Flying Corps.

McCall was born in Vernon B.C., and his family moved to Calgary before the war started.

At the tender age of 19 he joined the 175th Infantry Battalion as a private in 1916. From there his passion for flying took off as he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps in England, where he was assigned to the 13th Squadron. He was located on the frontlines in December 1917.

In 1918, McCall went on to transfer to the 41st Squadron, where he was persistently patrolling the frontlines chasing away German fighter squadrons. Then, on Aug. 17, 1918, two German squadrons attacked McCall and his partner Bill Claxton, wounding him severely.

Even though McCall sustained minor injuries, he eventually fell seriously ill and was sent home to Calgary. For his valiant efforts, McCall received two Military Crosses, a Distinguished Flying Cross and a Distinguished Service Order.

He died in 1949 and his legacy was honoured by the city by naming an airfield after him. This particular airfield, known as McCall Field, would go on to become the Calgary International Airport.

SOURCE: THE GREAT WAR AND ITS CONSEQUENCES 1914-1920 VOL.4 AND THEAERODOME.COM



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENBOW ARCHIVES NA-3511-7

Capt. Frederick McCall was a flying ace in the 41st Squadron.



PHOTO BY PAULINA LIWSKI

The citizens of France were greatly appreciative of the newly-formed Canadian Corps’ victory at Vimy Ridge, when it took this piece of German-occupied land while the British and French armies could not. This bottle of champagne was presented to Calgary’s 50th Battalion on April, 10, 1917, the same day the unit captured Hill 145. This was arguably the battalion’s finest moment in the Great War. The bottle is currently on display at the Calgary Military Museum and on April 10, 2017, it will finally be opened.



trip home that was going to be before Christmas," says Guervemont. "They would be able to see their uncles, aunts, grandpas and grandmas and come back right away, but in reality they came back four, and in some cases five years later."

"This whole 'home by Christmas' business really did become a cliché," Brennan says. "The key thing is no one, especially here had any idea of what a modern 20th century war between great powers after the Industrial Revolution would be like. No one could have anticipated on how destructive and last as long this war would be."

"We get caught up in this 'home by Christmas' thing because it a neat phrase and adds poignancy because it took five Christmases for them to be home," Brennan adds.

LIFE IN THE TRENCHES

It's rather remarkable how the millions of men fighting in the First World War were able to survive in the trenches. Alongside the constant shelling, grenades being thrown from time to time and putting up with the foulest poisonous gas, troops were essentially living in a disgusting and lethal cesspool.

Each soldier has 500 to 600 other men living with him in the same place. They had to do personal hygiene things, sleep, eat and relax all in the same place. Soldiers had to be on guard at night as there are huge rats that fed on flesh in the trenches. And of course the soldiers had no real protection from whatever Mother Nature decided to throw their way.

This horror was intense and raw. Guervemont is convinced people alive today wouldn't be able to handle it.

"I think your generation and my generation would not have not survived one week. I don't know how these guys did it for four years."

It could be argued this war was just as tough mentally on the soldiers as it was physically.

"There was boredom and a sense that it's never going to end," Brennan said. "There is a fatalism that you were going to die, it was just a matter of when."

"For these guys on the Western front they didn't see anything else but the same spot for four years," Guervemont said. "They moved, let's say half the length of Alberta. From here to Edmonton and that's about it. From Ypres and Vimy and all those other places, and that's all they did. They advanced three kilometres until we broke the front."

Brennan says soldiers had a strong enough conviction in what they were fighting for to keep them carrying on, and letters from home also helped the soldiers cope with life in the treacherous trenches.

According to Guervemont, rum also played a role in helping the men press forward.

"They were all alcoholics. It kept them going. If it was not for the rum, who knows?"

IS THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE OVERRATED?

In the years following the Great War, many platitudes were uttered describing how the Battle of Vimy Ridge transformed Canada. Some have argued that the nation of Canada was truly born by capturing the seven-mile ridge overlooking France's Douai plain.

Al Judson, archivist for the Kings Own Calgary Regiment (originally the 50th Battalion), says that the soldiers who took part in the battle did not feel

they accomplished country unification when they captured the ridge. That sentiment appeared over a decade after the global conflict.

"The idea of unification did not come until the political landscape of the late 1920s," says Judson. "Canada was undergoing many political battles at the time and there was a need for a rallying force to reunite Canada. Vimy Ridge was chosen by the political people as the rallying point. A lot more effort was put in and a lot more stories were made about Canada was unified by the battle of Vimy."

While historians argue about the importance of the victory to the Canadian psyche, there is a universal sentiment that it was a great military feat for the country.

"(The Canadian Corp) took an area the British and French both had failed to take," says Ferris. "What this means to Canadians is frankly that we can play with the big boys, and Vimy Ridge establishes the Canadian Corp as a dangerous force, and from that moment on as the Germans are trying to track the Canadians."

"I think your generation and my generation would not have not survived one week. I don't know how these guys did it for four years."

STEPHANE GUERVEMONT
War historian

"We took that ridge on the first day, and by the fourth day we were able to cover the other hills around it," says Guervemont. "One of those hills was called the Pimple and it was the toughest one to take. That is where the monument is today"

Judson argues that this victory certainly "put more steel in the backs of our diplomats in dealing with the Imperial war cabinet that we wanted more say"

Brennan has issue with the unification of a nation idea because, according to him, the battle instead represented how disunited Canada was.

"Vimy is used as this birth of a nation argument but it doesn't reflect reality," says Brennan. "There was a virtual absence of anyone in the Canadian army except English Canadians at the time."

"One month after the Battle of Vimy Ridge when we're supposed to be so united the government introduces conscription and calls for military service overseas, which is extremely unpopular in some parts of Canada. So much for national unity."

Guervemont has issue with the victory at Vimy being considered as the moment when Canada was born, insisting Canadian pride existed before the battle.

"People in 1915 and 1916 in the Canadian corps saw themselves as Canadian. We just decided after

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE 31ST BATTALION

BY PAULINA LIWSKI

The City of Calgary became a major hub of activity in 1914, as it assembled and trained soldiers at Sarcee Camp, men who would later fight and sacrifice their lives in the Great War in Europe. From this effort, two main Calgary battalions were established, the 10th and 50th. Similarly, a brand new battalion also emerged in Alberta under the order of Captain A. H. Bell, who came from the Lord Strathcona Horse.

Known as the "Alberta Battalion" during this time, the 31st Battalion consisted of mainly citizen soldiers who were recruited from all over the province. These citizen soldiers came from a variety of different backgrounds and they initially laid down their everyday occupations to deal with the unimaginable and unthinkable experiences of the war.

The recruiting offices in Calgary, Edmonton and some small towns throughout Alberta were overwhelmed with a large number of applicants who wanted to join the battalion to experience the adventure and the supposed heroic nature of war. The 31st Battalion was officially organized on Nov. 17, 1914 and headquartered in Calgary. From there, the unit was stationed at the Horse Show Buildings, where it trained before it eventually left for the war in 1915.

At a first glance, the battalion looked like it was an ill-equipped military unit, but in a short time it developed into a strong yet disciplined battalion. The fully completed 31st Battalion recruited 36 officers and 1,134 other ranks. From this recruitment, 27 officers and 409 ranks were recruited right from the City of Calgary. On May 11, 1915, the battalion received orders that it would be embarking for an unknown destination. The 31st Battalion officially joined the First World War on Sept. 28, 1915, in Flanders, France.

SOURCE: HISTORY OF THE 31ST CANADIAN INFANTRY BATTALION C.E.F.



A mob of soldiers left Calgary businesses in ruin in their wake, including the Riverside Hotel.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENBOW ARCHIVES NA-3965-11

the war to say, 'Everything started at Vimy.' You can't do that because you can't erase what happened before."

CHARACTERIZING CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIRST WORLD WAR

During the first half of the First World War the Canadian army — and the other nations that served the British Empire — were looked down upon by the British and French armies for not being "true professional soldiers."

"In some cases they were viewed as cannon fodder to fill up holes in the lines," says Judson.

The Battle of Vimy Ridge is important because it did mark the first time the four Canadian divisions fought together as one united group. The victory made the British and French realize that the Canadians can really fight. This victory encouraged other Allied powers to give Canada a prominent role in the battles following Vimy.

"You could find military historians around the world that would say the following: 'The Canadian army was the best in the world in 1917 and 1918,'" says Ferris. "If you are looking for a moment when Canada performed at the absolute top of its game in history in anything that's probably 1917-1918."

"By 1918 we had no equal and everybody recognized it," says Guervemont.

Canada was at the spearhead of many British major attacks in prominent conflicts during that time frame, such as the Third Battle of Ypres, the Battle of Passchendaele, the Battle of Amiens and the Battle of Canal du Nord. In the last 100 days of the war Canadians experienced a great deal of casualties as it continued to push the Germans back until the armistice was signed on Nov. 11, 1918.

The Canadian corps was so effective in battle due to its ability to repel its opponents counter attacks, its observation skills and combat ability.

WHY IS THE WAR SIGNIFICANT 100 YEARS LATER?

While it may be difficult to come to a conclusion as to why a war started a century ago has any impact on Canadian society in 2014, the First World War has nevertheless shaped the Canada we live in.

As a result of Canada's triumphs in the war, it was recognized by the world that Canada was ready to be its own distinct nation. From that point forward Canada gained more of a voice and was more empowered to shape its own destiny. Much of what Canada is today can be traced back to First World War as a starting point.

Brennan says when Canadians think about the First World War, they should reflect on the brave sacrifices of men and women.

"We should remember the willingness of so many to sacrifice their lives. Many soldiers survived the war. There was an enormous sense that this was very important."

Guervemont says the war has proven to be significant 100 years later due to the amount of people interested in the war today. Every semester when he teaches his First World War course at Mount Royal University the class is full.

People sign up for trips to visit First World War battle sites, people read First World War books and people play First World War video games. In fact, according to Guervemont, the fascination about the First World War is the strongest it's been in many years.

RIVERSIDE HOTEL RIOTS

BY PAULINA LIWSKI

Even though the war was in Europe, tensions existed in Calgary. On Feb. 10, 1916, a mob of soldiers pillaged two locations of the White Lunch restaurant as well as Maclennan's Dancing Hall and other surrounding businesses in the area.

The next day, a similar incident occurred in the city when another group of soldiers ravaged the Riverside Hotel. They destroyed the hotel and the hotel's bar was looted.

The damage of the White Lunch restaurants and the Riverside Hotel was caused by soldiers who were part of different battalions (the 10th, 31st and 50th) that were recruited in Calgary.

According to a letter addressed to Calgary's mayor and city council members, the chief constable says the motive behind the riots was based on the White Lunch restaurant dismissing some of their employees, who were British subjects.

In an apparently unorthodox move, the restaurant hired Germans and Austrians in the place of the British employees. Similarly, another catalyst of the riots was the fact that Austrians and Germans, who were viewed as enemy aliens, owned businesses in the city and this ultimately infuriated the soldiers.

SOURCE: THE CITY OF CALGARY ARCHIVES



The legend of the “Fighting Tenth”

Largely Calgarian unit was an elite fighting force



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENBOW ARCHIVES NA-4927-2

Salisbury Plain, a plateau in England covering 300 square miles, served as the biggest British war training camp in the First World War. The 10th Battalion from Calgary was one of many regiments to prepare for battle here.

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It's clear that your regiment is quite special when comrades-in-arms give you nicknames such as “The Fighting Tenth” or “The Terrible Tenth.”

The 10th Canadian Infantry Battalion, which was mobilized in Calgary on Sept. 22, 1914, was indeed a highly successful battalion through the course of the First World War, taking part in prominent engagements such as the second and third battles of Ypres, Vimy Ridge, Hill 70 and Passchendaele to name a few.

This regiment was part of the first full Canadian contingent of soldiers that went overseas, made up of members from the 103rd Canadian Rifles and the 106th Winnipeg Light Infantry. However, this unit largely was made up of Calgary men.

Barry Agnew, curator for the Calgary Highlanders Regimental Museum and Archives — the unit that perpetuates the legacy of the 10th Battalion — says it's not exactly clear what made this unit so great.

“It's hard to define these sorts of things,” says Agnew. “Possibly it's because of the training that they had, and there were some soldiers with previous battle experience.

“I really don't know. I suppose because they had tenacity in battle. They were very serious.

(They were) led by terrific commanding officers and that made a big difference at the time.”

The sheer amount of battle honours and decorations earned by the 10th Battalion helps make the case that it was indeed an elite unit in a very strong Canadian Corps. The 10th Battalion collected over 500 military decorations and gallantry awards for its battlefield achievements. With its Hill 70 victory in 1917, this battalion set a Canadian First World War record for most medals awarded — 80 — to a single unit for a single battle.

Agnew's point about this battalion having strong leadership has credence. The battalion's second, but arguably most prominent commander, Col. Russell Boyle was a veteran of the South African War, which took place between 1899-1902. This young unit relied on his leadership and experience as they went through intense battle training on England's Salisbury Plains, beginning on Oct. 20, 1914. The discipline of this unit during training was recognized by many different battalions. It was Boyle who laid down the law.

During the battalion's first parade, according to *Gallant Canadians: The Story of the Tenth Canadian Infantry Battalion 1914-1919*, Boyle took off his coat and threw it down on the ground then addressed his troops:

“Now I'm just the same as you fellows,” he

told them. “I'm just an ordinary private as far as you're concerned, as far as I'm concerned. There were four men on that boat (who) said they would like to punch the hell out of me. Now I invite you four men, if you have the guts to come up, we'll have it out right here.”

None of the men in the unit dared to make a move. That speech earned the men's hearts and they were apparently ready to go through any wall to make their commander proud.

When the battalion finally received its orders to head to France on Feb. 7, 1915, the unit was well conditioned and mentally prepared for what laid ahead of them. The 10th Battalion's first tour of duty in the frontline trenches came on the night of March 5-6, near La Boutillaire, France.

Four days later, on March 10, the Calgary-formed battalion stood to arms as the British watched its major offensive at Neuve Chapelle. The Canadian battalion suffered casualties from enemy shelling as the offensive ended up being a defeat for the British.

THE BATTLE OF KITCHENERS' WOOD

It would be over a month until the Fighting Tenth made its first dramatic impact on the war in the Battle at Kitcheners' Wood on the night of April 22, 1915.

It was a major tactical goal for the German military to destroy the Ypres Salient (a salient is an outward bulge in a line of military



line or attack) in order to break the Allied defensive efforts.

By using poisonous gas, the Germans were able to overwhelm the French in an assault and achieve a clear-cut break-through of the Allied lines. Their much-desired salient was theirs for the taking. There was a gap in the lines over four miles wide. The 10th Battalion, which was on reserve at the time, was hastily thrown into battle to seal the broken line.

Before making a desperate attempt to hold the line, the tough Col. Boyle told his men, "We have been aching for a fight and now we are going to get it."

The 10th Battalion was joined by the Canadian Scottish Regiment (the 16th Infantry Battalion) at 11:30 p.m.

It could be argued that the two battalions were marching into an unwinnable situation. They had no time for proper reconnaissance and they could not set up any artillery support. It appeared the only advantage they had was the element of surprise.

Both the Canadian and the German forces charged 200 yards toward each other in a battle of intense machine gun and rifle fire. Hand-to-hand combat also took place in the woods near Saint Julien. By midnight, the battle was complete. The first Canadian major attack of the Great War was successful as they took the position held by the seasoned German soldiers.

According to *Gallant Canadians*, a prisoner captured by the unit showed respect to his captors by telling the 10th Battalion, "You fellows fight like hell."

The victory was not all positive however. Col. Boyle was severely wounded by machine gun fire. One of the bravest Canadians died three days later.

The 10th Battalion contributed to the newly formed Canadian Corps' major victory at Vimy Ridge by being able to achieve all of its objectives on time. The Battle of Vimy Ridge represented the very best of the Canadian army's tactical planning, military engineering and use of war technology.

Hill 70 was another shining moment for this infantry battalion. On Aug. 15-16 the 'Fighting Tenth' was able to shutdown a German counter-attack on this Belgian hill. The 10th Battalion overcame a fierce machine gun and artillery barrage by knocking out the enemy's guns with bombs. The battalion not only captured the line but also grabbed 100 German prisoners and six machine guns.

The 10th Battalion took part in major battles at Passchendaele, Amiens, the Hindenburg Line and Canal du Nord to close out its time in the First World War.

Agnew says the bravery of units such as the 10th Battalion had an immediate impact on Canada after the war.

"Canada was able to provide their own representatives as a country in the peace negotiations in Versailles after the war. They were permitted to have representatives as a country so this participation of Canada as a separate nation was vital for the ongoing independent process in Canada becoming its own nation."



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENBOW ARCHIVES PB-396-9

(Below) Col. Russell Boyle, born Oct. 29, 1880, was inarguably the most famous commander of the Canadian 10th Infantry Battalion. He was a veteran of the South African War from 1899-1902. Standing at six-feet two-inches, Boyle was an intimidating presence but he earned the respect and admiration of his men through his charisma, strong work ethic and pure love that he showed for his unit. In one of the bravest acts in Canadian history, he led a hastily prepared 10th Battalion into battle on the night of April 22, 1915, and was able to successfully shutdown the German takeover of the Ypres Salient. Only hours prior, German victory seemed inevitable. This courageous stand cost Boyle his life as he died of machine gun wounds experienced in the Battle of Kitcheners' Wood on April 25.

The unit mobilized for the Second World War but this time as the Calgary Highlanders. It earned over 20 battle honours during that six-year global conflict. Today, this regiment continues to serve as a light infantry unit that has seen action in Afghanistan. Similarly, the Calgary Highlanders also participated in UN peacekeeping missions in Cyprus and Egypt.

In whatever action or mission the Calgary Highlanders participate in it strives to live up to the legacy of the original 'Fighting Tenth.'

GALLANT CANADIANS

GALLANT CANADIANS, YOU'VE
 SHOWN THE WORLD
 YOU CAN STAND FOR DEMOCRACY
 WHEN HER FLAG'S UNFURLED.
 AT YPRES, FESTUBERT, AT VIMY
 AND SOMME,
 YOU BROUGHT US GLORY BY WORK
 WELL DONE.
 GALLANT CANADIANS, YOU HEARD
 THE CALL
 THE MOTHERLAND IN DANGER, YOU
 GAVE YOUR ALL.
 HOW CAN WE FORGET YOU MEN,
 BRAVE AND STRONG,
 FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE, RIGHTING
 THE WRONG.
 GALLANT CANADIANS, THE WORLD
 WON'T FORGET
 YOU DIED FOR FREEDOM, WE OWE
 YOU A DEBT.
 THE DEEDS YOU HAVE DONE FOR
 HUMANITY'S CAUSE
 WILL RING ROUND THE WORLD
 RECEIVE ITS APPLAUSE.
 GALLANT CANADIANS, WELL DONE,
 THE WORLD SAYS
 YOU FOUGHT AND SUFFERED IN THE
 WAR'S EARLY DAYS.
 HISTORIANS WILL WRITE AS A
 NATION TO COME;
 DEMOCRACY HAILS YOU FOR ALL
 YOU HAVE DONE.

DEDICATED TO THE 10TH BATTALION, CEF IN
 THE SEPT. 10, 1918 CALGARY HERALD

A POEM BY PTE. GEORGE GILMORE OF THE 10TH BATTALION

O! CANADA, MISTRESS OF SNOWS
 AND OF MOUNTAIN,
 TEARS ARE THE DEW OF THY
 PRAIRIES TODAY;
 THY BLOOD HAS GUSHED FORTH AS
 IT WERE FROM A FOUNTAIN,
 'NEATH BELGIUM'S SWEET SOIL
 THY NOBLE SONS LAY.
 GALLANT THE "CHARGE" THAT
 MADE THE WORLD STORY,
 FIERCE WERE THE ODDS, BUT THEY
 KNEW NOT DISMAY,
 EVER THEIR FAME WILL REFLECT
 IN THE GLORY
 OF SELF-SACRIFICE, AS THEY
 FELL ON THE WAY.

POEMS SOURCED FROM *GALLANT CANADIANS:
 THE STORY OF THE TENTH CANADIAN INFANTRY
 BATTALION 1914-1919*

City honours First World War combatants

Monuments recognize the heroism of local individuals and regiments



PHOTO BY MAX FOLEY

Battalion Park, located in the southwest community of Signal Hill, is the former location of the Sarcee Camp, the largest training facility west of Manitoba. This is where roughly 45,000 Albertan men were trained, before going overseas to fight in the war.

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It's undeniable that Calgary played an important role in the First World War of 1914-1918. Other than thousands of young people volunteering for different regiments, the city rallied around the cause by raising three militia units that saw action on the frontlines in France and Belgium. Two — the Kings Own Calgary Regiment (50th Canadian Infantry Battalion) and the Calgary Highlanders (10th Canadian Infantry Battalion) — still have a presence in the city. Calgary's war training base, Sarcee Camp, was the biggest training ground west of Manitoba. It welcomed roughly 45,000 soldiers from across the young province of Alberta. The soldiers and battalions that represented Calgary fought with heroism and bravery, with scores of young men making the ultimate sacrifice. By the end of the war Calgary had many heroes. The city has made sure that they are not forgotten. Plenty of war monuments have been established throughout Calgary to honour individuals and remarkable groups of people. These monuments range from the simple to the extravagant, but all of them represent the gratitude the people on the homefront had for their wartime heroes.



PHOTO BY JESSE YARDLEY

The Calgary Cenotaph was unveiled Nov. 11 1928, the tenth anniversary of the armistice to honour whose remains are interred elsewhere. It is considered a citizens' monument as 7,000 Calgarians funded the construction of this empty tomb. It now also honours the sacrifices made by soldiers in the Second World War.

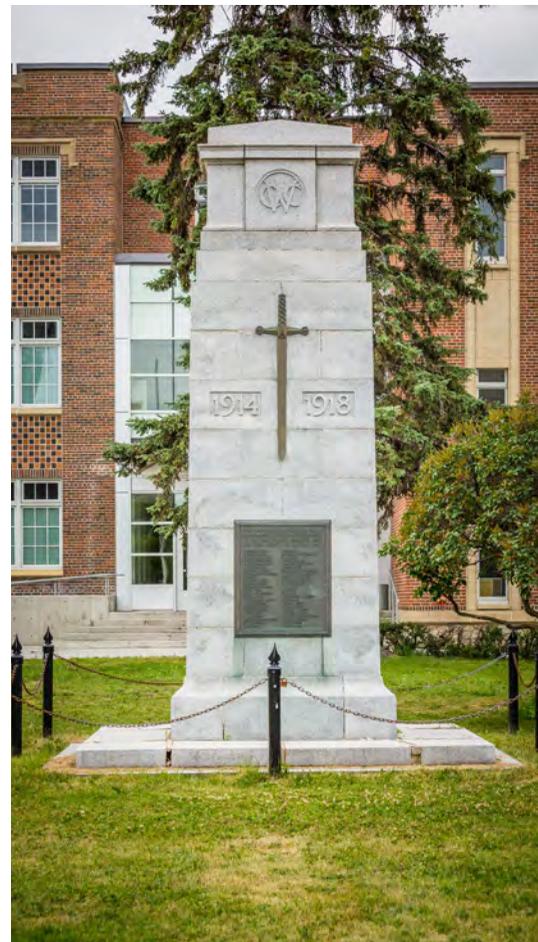


PHOTO BY JESSE YARDLEY

Western Canada High School, located on 17th Avenue S.W., features a granite shaft that bears a Cross of Sacrifice. This memorial pays tribute to students who attended the former Western Canada College and died in the First World War.

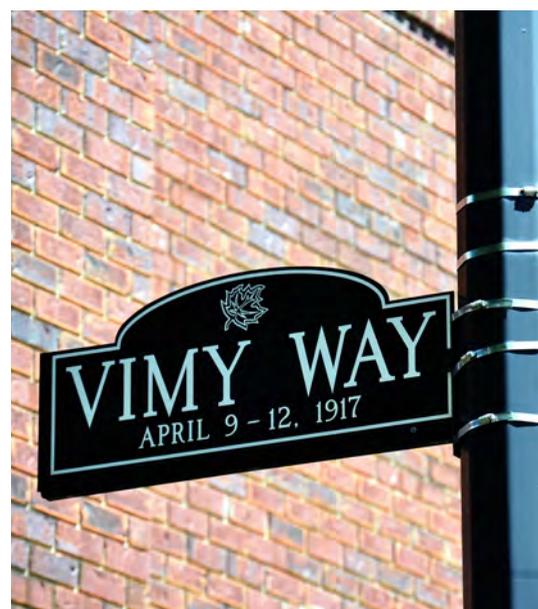


PHOTO BY PAULINA LIWSKI

The community of Garrison Woods, a former Canadian Forces Base, pays tribute to the First World War by commemorating major battles that Canadian soldiers participated in. Street signs like the one above are named after those major battles.



PHOTO BY PAULINA LIWSKI

The Calgary Soldier's Memorial, located on Memorial Drive, is made up of stone tablets that bear the names of local soldiers who gave their lives and fulfilled military service in the First World War and other wars. The memorial focuses on all of the Calgary regiments, including the 10th and 50th Battalions that participated in the Great War.

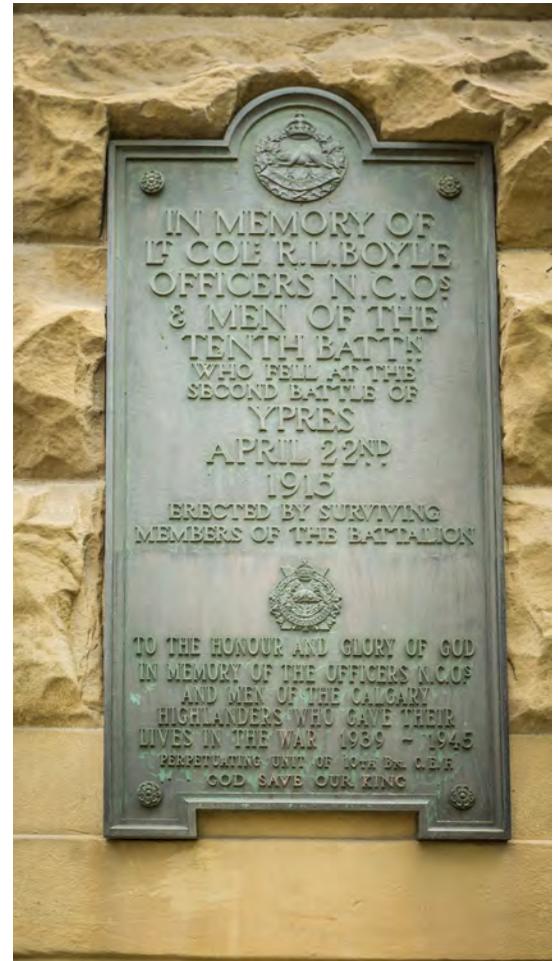


PHOTO BY JESSE YARDLEY

(Above) Outside of Calgary's old City Hall, a plaque devoted to the 10th Battalion and Col. Russell Boyle commemorates the brave and valiant actions of the colonel and his troops at the Battles of Kitcheners' Wood and Saint Julien. The returning veterans of the 10th Battalion instituted this plaque.



PHOTO BY PAULINA LIWSKI

In Calgary's Central Memorial Park, a fountain stands tall and proud in memory of the members of the 50th Battalion, soldiers who died in the line of duty during the First World War. The 50th Battalion was one of the main Calgary units that recruited men throughout Calgary and Southern Alberta.



PHOTO BY QUINTON AMUNDSON

(Left) The Field of Honour at Union Cemetery is the final resting place for many of Calgary's First World War heroes, men who fought courageously for battalions and units stationed overseas.



PHOTO BY JESSE YARDLEY

This statue, directly in front of the Central Memorial Park Library is dedicated to all Alberta soldiers that fought during the First World War.



PHOTO BY QUINTON AMUNDSON

Nestled by the Bow River and the Kensington neighbourhood, Poppy Plaza proudly commemorates soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the First World War to protect Canadians' freedom and security. The memorial showcases a large number of trees that represent those who perished.

Legend

TRIPLE ENTENTE 

CENTRAL POWERS 

NEUTRAL PARTIES 

50TH BATTALION PRESENT 

10TH BATTALION PRESENT 

Local soldiers made their presence

Where Calgary-established battalions were

Map by
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Words by
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- 1 **OCT. 20, 1914, SALISBURY PLAIN:** The 10th Battalion began its five-month training program on this plateau of over 300 square miles.
 - 2 **MARCH 5-6, 1915, LA BOUTILLARIE:** The 10th Battalion had its first tour of duty in the trenches starting on the night of March 5-6. Nothing memorable happened but shells were fired from both sides.
 - 3 **MARCH, 10-13, 1915, NEUVE CHAPPELLE:** The 10th Battalion began as a reserve force during this first major offensive by British forces, but it did see front-line action and suffered many casualties.
 - 4 **APRIL 22-23, 1915, KITCHENERS' WOOD:** This battle, on the night of April 22-23, is widely considered by Calgary Highlanders members past and present as the finest hour for the famed 10th Battalion. Earlier in the day Germany scored a major victory in a gas attack on the French army by opening up a four-mile gap in the Allied Force's defensive line. The 10th Battalion, under the leadership of Col. Russell Boyle, was hastily called to seal the line. Boyle led 816 men into the woods and engaged German forces in a battle of machine guns, artillery fire and hand-to-hand combat. The "Fighting Tenth" successfully shut down the Germans' attempts to make a huge advance in the gap it created for itself. Boyle, however, died of battle wounds three days later.
 - 5 **APRIL 24-26, 1915, GRAVENSTAFEL RIDGE:** With most of the unit wiped out by the Kitcheners' Wood counter-attack, the 10th Battalion could only offer 174 men for the defence of this ridge east of Ypres. The Calgary-based regiment earned a battle honour for its work.
 - 6 **MAY 20-21, 1915, FESTUBERT:** The 10th Battalion launched two attacks to capture an enemy strongpoint known as K.5., which was a small hill. The first was ineffective but the second attempt resulted in the clearance of some of the Germans' defences.
 - 7 **EARLY 1916, BRAMSHOTT CAMP:** The 50th Battalion spent months at this camp being trained for combat by British soldiers.
 - 8 **JUNE 3, 1916, MOUNT SORREL:** The 10th Battalion failed in its mission assigned to repel German forces that attacked the General Headquarters line. The counter-attack failed because of a lack of coordination.
 - 9 **AUGUST 1916, FRANCE:** The 4th Canadian Division, which included Calgary's 50th Battalion, arrived for France to take part in the fighting.
 - 10 **SEPT. 8, 1916, NEAR LA BOISSELLE:** The 10th Battalion took to the frontlines for the Battle of the Somme. Over the next month this unit took part in a series of defensive operations that were successful.
 - 11 **SEPT. 26, 1916, THIEPVAL:** The 10th Battalion successfully completed offensive operations at the cost of nearly 250 lives.
 - 12 **OCT. 17, 1916, ANCRE:** The 50th Battalion enters the Battle of Ancre Heights, which began on Oct. 1.
 - 13 **OCT. 21, 1916, NEAR THIEPVAL:** The 4th Canadian Division attacked the Germans' longest Western Front trench, known as "The Regina Trench." By Nov. 11 the 4th Canadian Division secured control of the trench.
 - 14 **APRIL 9, 1917, VIMY RIDGE:** The Canadian Corps began its four-division assault to gain control of this series of hills. Most of the ridge was captured on this day. The 10th Battalion lost 101 men, 252 were wounded and 21 missing. This battle represented the very best of Canadian military strategy.
- APRIL 10, 1917, VIMY RIDGE HILL 145:** The 50th Battalion and the rest of its 4th Division comrades successfully completed an operation to capture Hill 145, the tallest point on Vimy Ridge. It was during this campaign that Pte. George Pattison earned his Victoria Cross for courageously knocking out enemy machine gun nests by using grenades.



Presence felt in the First World War

Locations were located in Europe from 1914-1918

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- 14 APRIL 12, 1917, VIMY RIDGE'S "PIMPLE:"** The 50th Battalion captured this small knoll from the Bavarian Reserve force. War historian Stephane Guervemont considers this hill the most difficult to capture at Vimy Ridge.
 - 15 APRIL 28, 1917, ARLEUX-EN-GOHELLE:** The 10th Battalion successfully captured this village in Northern France in conjunction with British forces. This mission was part of the Battle of Arras.
 - 16 JUNE 3, 1917, LENS:** Pte. George Pattison was killed in action as the 50th Battalion fought in this city in Northern France.
AUG. 15-25, 1917, HILL 70: Both the 50th and 10th Battalions participated in the Canadian Corps' successful attempt to inflict casualties on the German army in order to draw German troops from the Third Battle of Ypres. Over 25,000 Germans were killed or wounded and over 1,000 were taken prisoner. The 10th Battalion set a record for most military honours won in a single war action by repelling strong German counter-attacks.
 - 17 NOV. 10, 1917, HILL 52:** The 10th Battalion captured Hill 52, which was located in the same rise as Passchendaele. The "Fighting Tenth" was able to assume control over this area.
NOV. 10, 1917, PASSCHENDAELE, BELGIUM: Canadian forces successfully captured the village of Passchendaele at the end of a campaign that began on Oct. 26. This battle attained better observation positions and drier winter positions on the ground.
 - 18 AUG. 8-11 1918, AMIENS:** Both the 10th and 50th battalion took part in this campaign that ultimately signalled the start of the Hundred Days Offensive that led to the end of the war. On Aug. 8, the Canadians and their allies gained 11 kilometres of ground and demoralized their opponents.
 - 19 SEPT. 2, 1918, THE DROCOURT-QUÉANT LINE:** The Canadian Corps captured these powerful German defensive positions, which were near Germany's pivotal Hindenburg line.
 - 20 SEPT. 27-OCT. 1, 1918, CANAL DU NORD:** Both Calgary battalions successfully fought their way across this canal, but heavy casualties were suffered. This is the final battle of the 10th Battalion in the First World War.
 - 21 NOV. 1-2, 1918, VALENCIENNES:** The 50th Battalion participated in this offensive that gained the Allies access to Marly, a village close to Valenciennes. This marked the last action for the 50th Battalion in the Great War.
-
- ★ NOV. 11, 1918, COMPIÈGNE, FRANCE:** The armistice is signed and the First World War comes to an end.

LEAD-UP TO THE FIRST WORLD WAR

JUNE 28: Bosnian Serb Gavrilo Princip assassinates Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, in Sarajevo.

JULY 28: Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia.

JULY 30: Belgium, Austria-Hungary and Russia mobilize troops.

AUG. 1: German forces mobilize and declare war on Russia.

AUG. 2: German government sends message to Belgian government, demanding passage through Belgian territory into France.

AUG. 3: Belgian government refuses the German ultimatum. Germany declares war on France. British government orders mobilization of its forces, saying it will provide arms if Germany violates Belgian neutrality.

AUG. 4: Germany declares war on Belgium and invades. Britain and Germany declare war on each other.

AUG. 5: Canada declares war on Germany.

The 50th Battalion on the front lines of history



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENBOW ARCHIVES PB-396-9

Sarcee Camp was the biggest training base for soldiers in Western Canada. It is estimated that 45,000 soldiers from Alberta were trained at this base that opened in July 1915. The layout of the camp gave soldiers a sense of what life would be like in the trenches before they went overseas. When the soldiers weren't going through rigorous training they played cards, organized football and baseball tournaments and participated in the regiment band. Here is the 50th Battalion band performing a concert at the camp.

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The 50th Infantry Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) originated when the 103rd Calgary Rifles were formed in 1910, four years prior to the outbreak of the First World War.

Questions were raised about why a militia such as the 103rd Rifles needed to be raised, considering there really wasn't any real threat of a violent invasion from another country. However, the unit was created because of fears of an invasion — an invasion of a different kind.

"The current elite in the city were worried of a cultural invasion with a large number of American immigrants coming to Alberta from the Southern United States and Eastern European states," says Al Judson, archivist for the King's Own Calgary Regiment. "So people feared that British culture would be lost. So what better way to maintain British tradition than to have an infantry regiment to rally the folks around the empire?"

The unit was raised under Lt.-Col. W. C. Armstrong, who campaigned for the unit many times before it was eventually raised.

Four years later, when the reality of war hit Calgary on Aug. 5, 1914, British-born citizens living in Calgary, including members of the Calgary Rifles, immediately felt compelled to return home to fight for their King and country.

For the Canadians, there were multiple reasons why they wanted to be a part of this war. Many of them wanted a sense of adventure, while others felt like they were doing the right thing by fighting a nation they deemed to be evil. Peer pressure ultimately guided some Canadians to sign up for this

bloody conflict as they saw their friends, brothers, uncles and fathers enlisting.

As a result of this passion, the Calgary Rifles quickly organized the 10th Battalion on Sept. 22, 1914, which eventually went overseas with the first contingent of Canadian soldiers.

The 50th Battalion commenced organization on Nov. 17, 1914, under the command of Col. E. G. Mason.

Many of the men recruited for this unit were from Calgary and surrounding Alberta towns. It would be close to another 10 months until the unit actually departed for England on Oct. 27, 1915, from Halifax. In the meantime, this unit of 1,000 men trained at Victoria Park until July 15, 1915, and then moved to the newly opened Sarcee Camp.

The 50th Battalion was able to send 200 men to support the war effort in 1915 before the full unit was sent over. This company of 200 men fought in Ypres and Festubert.

When the battalion did reach England, it received further training near Bramshott Camp from professional soldiers — in their minds at least — belonging to the British Army.

The 50th Battalion was raised to be a part of the 4th Canadian Division in August 1916 and finally hit the frontlines in September to participate in the final battles of the Somme.

HEROISM AT VIMY

From the point the 50th Battalion finally hit the frontlines it took part in almost all of the major battles that followed.

Just as the Battle of Vimy Ridge was a shining moment for many Canadian regiments, it also became a prominent moment for the 50th Battalion.

The 50th Battalion and the rest of the Canadian

PTE. DONALD S. BANNERMAN'S LETTER TO HIS MOTHER DESCRIBING LIFE IN THE TRENCHES

I WILL TELL YOU HOW I SPENT MY BIRTHDAY (SEPT. 30). WE WENT INTO THE TRENCHES THE NIGHT BEFORE AND, AS IT WAS RAINING CATS AND DOGS, OUR RATIONS FOR THE NEXT DAY WERE SPOILED AND WE HAD NOTHING WITH WHICH TO BREAK OUR FAST. WHILE POKING AROUND I FOUND A TIN OF BULLY BEEF AND A HALF TIN OF JAM, WHICH MY PAL AND I DIVIDED BETWEEN US, SPREADING THE JAM ON THE MEAT TO TAKE AWAY THE SALTY FLAVOUR. WE WERE FAIRLY READY FOR A SQUARE FEED WHEN RATIONS ARRIVED NEXT DAY.

IN MY FATHER'S LAST LETTER HE MENTIONS A DIVINE PROVIDENCE WATCHING OVER US SOLDIERS. WELL, I THINK THE SAME PROVIDENCE IS KEEPING A SPECIAL EYE ON ME. HAVE HAD SEVERAL NARROW ESCAPES. ONE NIGHT WHILE IN MY DUG-OUT, WHICH IS SIMPLY A HOLE IN THE GROUND WITH A ROOF OVER IT, A SHELL STRUCK THE ROOF AND NEARLY CAVED IT IN. I GOT TO THE ENTRANCE WHEN ALONG CAME ANOTHER SHELL, WHICH EXPLODED SOME SIX FEET AWAY. ON THE DAY WE LEFT THE TRENCHES A SHELL LANDED JUST OUTSIDE THE TRENCH, COMPLETELY BURYING ME WITH DIRT, BUT AGAIN I ESCAPED INJURY.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. IF THE GERMAN SHELLS COME SO CLOSE WITHOUT WOUNDING ME IT IS SURELY EVIDENT THAT I AM PREDESTINED TO RETURN SAFE AND SOUND TO THE LOVED ONES AT HOME.

SOURCE: CANADIAN GREAT WAR PROJECT

Corps were not expected to accomplish anything at Vimy considering the British and French armies failed on many occasions to take the seven-mile ridge.

The Canadians had a different view of the upcoming battle in early April 1917.

"They had an awful lot of training," says Judson. "They used their artillery well, they did observation well and they were fully prepared for the attack."

The 50th Battalion was on the far left flank. However, because of the failure to take Hill 145, the tallest point on the ridge, the Canadians marched across the battlefield to take a position below the hill in order to capture this crucial part of the ridge. On the afternoon of the April 10, they charged up the hill and took it for the Allied forces.

It was part of this siege where the actions of



Pte. John George Pattison earned him a Victoria Cross — the only Calgarian to receive the highest military decoration awarded for valour in the face of the enemy.

“In the initial attack going up the hill, Pattison’s company was held up by enemy machine gun nests,” says Judson. “His officers and non-commissioned officers were put out of action. He took it upon himself to attack the enemy position. He jumped over shell holes through the mud, tossed some grenades at the enemy position (a machine gun nest) and consequently the company was able to advance beyond that point.

“Without him taking initiative to knock the strong points out the attack would have faltered at that point in time.”

Judson believes the way the Canadians trained Pattison encouraged him to take matters into his own hands.

“The Canadians treated their men differently,” says Judson. “They realized initiative must be shown by all members, and in order to do so you have to know where you’re going and what you’re doing.

“The Canadian soldiers were trained over a position marked like they were attacking. They knew where the very strong point was, where every machine gun nest was, and where they would have difficulties.”

The Battle of Hill 145 resulted in many casualties for the 50th Battalion. According to Judson, the regiment had 55 per cent of its casualties in this battle. Two days later, the 50th Battalion attacked the Pimple, the second highest point on the ridge. Once the Pimple was taken, the Vimy victory was complete.

Canada’s glory at Vimy opened the eyes of the British and French armies to the fact that these young men knew how to fight.

The 50th Battalion, as part of the Canadian Corps, spearheaded many major attacks for the rest of the First World War. The last battle for this Alberta regiment was the Battle of Valenciennes, when Mons, Belgium, was captured.

After the war, the 50th Battalion was ordered to fight in the Allied intervention of Russia. The unit finally returned home in 1919 and never fought in a major conflict again.

THE 50TH BATTALION PERPETUATED

The legacy of the 50th Battalion lives on today as the King’s Own Calgary Regiment. The military decorations and the 14 battle honours are housed at the King’s Own Calgary Regiment exhibit at the Calgary Military Museum.

Judson says the King’s Own serves as a volunteer reserve force that will augment primary forces when the United Nations and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) calls upon them.

“Since 1950, we have served in Korea, in Germany as NATO forces, in Cyprus, Egypt, Bosnia and South Africa. Our regiment has given up lives in Afghanistan.

“People in Calgary should realize that the person who may drive your bus may also drive an ambulance (as part of this regiment) as citizen soldiers.”

It’s safe to say that the King’s Own Calgary regiment is perpetuating the values of bravery, hard work and sacrifice that the 50th Battalion demonstrated in the First World War, in addition to housing this one-time battalion’s battle honours.



Pte. John George Pattison, born Sept. 8, 1875, was a native of Woolwich, London, who later emigrated to Canada. He enlisted as a private in the 50th Battalion on March 6, 1916, and was one of four soldiers to earn the Victoria Cross at the Battle of Vimy Ridge. He was killed in action at Lens, France, at the age of 41 on June 3, 1917. He is buried at La Chaudière Military Cemetery. His Victoria Cross is displayed at Calgary’s Glenbow Museum. Pattison has also been honoured in the city by having a bridge named after him. This bridge is located across the Elbow River, which crosses Macleod Trail South.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENBOW ARCHIVES NA4025-1



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENBOW ARCHIVES NA4025-25

After the armistice was signed on Nov. 11, 1918, the 50th Battalion stayed in Europe to take part in some military victory parades and decoration ceremonies, do some training and join the Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War. Here are three 50th Battalion soldiers posing with their billet family in Overyssche, Belgium, after the war. The 50th Battalion returned to Calgary in 1919.

Stanley Jones: Calgary's first Great War enlistee

Calgarian had immense passion for soldier's life and for his wife, Lucile



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENBOW ARCHIVES

Major Stanley Jones experience in the South African War and his fascination with battle are reasons he was the first Calgary citizen to enlist for the Great War. He joined the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

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Stanley Livingston Jones was standing with his wife, Lucile, in front of one of the local newspaper buildings in Calgary on Aug. 5, 1914 when they discovered the news that German forces had attacked Belgium a day, prior on Aug. 4. In response, Britain declared war on Germany to honour the 1839 Treaty of London — a document that stated Britain would protect Belgium in the event of war.

As soon as Lucile saw the news that Canada was joining the effort and troops were being urged to join the war-effort, she turned to her husband and saw an expression his face that made her “realize that nothing would stop him from enlisting.”

That didn't stop her from trying, however.

In the memoir she penned about her husband after the war— *Two Years with the Princess Patricia's 1914-1916: The Letters of Maj. Stanley L. Jones, K.C.*, edited and annotated by his wife, Lucile Ross Jones—Lucile Jones said the argument between her and her husband went something like this:

“If you don't let me go you will spoil my future career,” Stanley said.

“But if you go and get killed you will have no future career,” she shot back.

At the conclusion of many arguments it was Stanley who prevailed in the battle of wills between husband and wife. At the time, the wife had to give consent to her husband to go overseas to serve. However, a few months into the war, as it became painfully clear this entrenched battle would cost many lives, this rule fell to the wayside and many young men, and some young women, stepped forward to enlist despite the wishes of family members. In fact, some snuck off to join the war effort without informing family or friends at all.

It is understandable why Stanley was so compelled to join the war effort. He was a hero in the young City of Calgary for fighting in the Second Boer War — also known as the South African War — which spanned from 1899-1902. His fascination with war extended to a point that he travelled to be an observer of the Balkan Wars (1912-1913).

The one condition Lucile had to allow Stanley to take part in the First World War was if she could travel overseas with him and become a Red Cross nurse. Just as it made sense as to why Stanley was so passionate about going to fight, it's just as understandable as to why Lucile insisted she accompany her husband. They had only been married a year. She was not ready to say goodbye.

With his wife by his side, Stanley telegraphed Calgary MP R. B. Bennett on Aug. 10, expressing interest in joining the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI), a regiment he discovered

was being formed in Ottawa. A day later a telegram was sent to the Jones' urging them to embark for Ottawa at once.

Stanley was not the only person from outside Ontario to join this regiment named in honour of the daughter of Canada's Governor General at the time Prince Arthur, the Duke of Connaught. People from across Canada came together to serve in this regiment named after Princess Patricia of Connaught.

Stanley's enlistment is significant because he was the first Calgarian to sign up to take part in the so-called “Great War”. He could not call Calgary his birthplace though. He was born in Wolfville, N.S., on July 18, 1879 and arrived in Calgary in 1901 as a young lawyer joining the Lent and Jones Company.

While still relatively a young man at 35, he was one of the grizzled veterans of Princess Pats due to his previous military experience. Holding the rank of captain, he was expected assume a leadership role in this infantry regiment.

After arriving in Ottawa, Stanley and Lucile spent a couple weeks at the Chateau Laurier, headquarters of the Princess Pats as work was being done to recruit more men and acquire equipment for the soldiers. Finally, this unit of fewer than 1,100 men with over 30 officers was formed. Like Stanley, the vast majority of the men were war veterans, either of the South African War or of the British army.

This first contingent from Canada was poised to sail for England on Aug. 28 aboard the S.S. Megantic from Montreal, Que. Lucile was fortunate to be one of the six women permitted to travel overseas with the regiment.

However, news reached the PPCLI that there was enemy action on the Atlantic Ocean. Thus the soldiers had to disembark at Lévis, Que. Stanley was separated from his wife as the women were ordered to continue sailing toward Liverpool, England. Lucile arrived in England on Sept. 6 while Stanley and his comrades received training at Lévis.

It was emotionally torturous for Lucile to be separated for six weeks from her husband, but her spirits were brightened when she saw Stanley after the PPCLI arrived on England's Salisbury Plain on Oct. 18, 1914. When the PPCLI members were not receiving further training from the British, the young couple rekindled their passion for one another through experiencing what England had to offer.

While Lucile enjoyed the time with her husband, underneath she and the other women were hurting as they knew the fateful day was drawing near when their soldiers would be called to leave for the fight in France. That day was Dec. 20, 1914. Stanley urged his wife to be brave. She promised



she would and work hard in her studies.

The PPCLI arrived in France a day later and finally on Jan. 6, 1915, the regiment took its place at the frontlines in Belgium near a place known as "Dickiebush". Within the next day the PPCLI were confronted with the brutality of the First World War as the Germans attacked them with guns of all sizes and grenades. Stanley later remarked in a letter that he only "escaped annihilation by a few feet."

Stanley not only gave his wife a sense of what life on the Western Front was like through his letters, he also filed reports for the Calgary Albertan multiple times throughout the war.

Stanley was never able to reveal where his regiment was located, as mail was not being censored. He did not want to give the enemy any strategic advantage. He was fully committed to the cause of "playing the game" the best he could.

What he could express in his letters was his intense passion for his wife. He had many affectionate pet names for Lucile including "my darling Lou," "my little pal" and "my dearest girl," just to name a few. Rare were the days when he did not write Lucile. Stanley also gave his wife insight into the quieter moments of life as a soldier. He shared news about how his soups were legendary in the PPCLI camp, how he captained the regiment's championship tug-o-war team and expressed to his wife the pure joy he felt when the unit temporarily adopted a small black kitten.

In her letters to him, Lucile told Stanley she dreaded his absence. She also expressed happier sentiments by telling her husband she was working hard training to be a nurse, how she enjoyed visiting attractions in London, and gushing how the 1915 film *The Birth of a Nation* was a profound experience for her.

Minor injuries and convalescence leaves brought the couple back together at different times.

Depending on how you look at it, Jones was either particularly lucky or unlucky to be wounded and not in action during the PPCLI's iconic Battle of Frezenberg near the Bellewaerde Ridge in Belgium on May 8, 1915. The PPCLI established its reputation as a good unit by defending the ridge, however, this battle wiped out hundreds of the PPCLI regiment. This battle has been coined "The Death of the Originals." By missing this major conflict he might have avoided certain death, but for a consummate soldier like Stanley it must have hurt inside not to participate in this legendary battle.

In October 1915, Lucile, at the urging of Stanley, decided to continue her nurse's training in Paris, France. This provided the couple a chance to experience French culture together.

By April 1916 changes came for both Stanley and Lucile. Stanley was promoted to the position of major and Lucile was a nurse working at the hospital in Champigny-sur-Marne, France.

The couple saw each other from March 26 to April 4, 1916. The parting was easier for Lucile this time as she had a job to do.

Stanley rejoined his unit and went to the frontlines on May, 31, 1916, to do battle near Sanctuary Wood, Belgium. On the morning June 2, the PPCLI was under an intense bombardment of trench mortars and high explosive artillery shells.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PRINCESS PATRICIA'S CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY REGIMENTAL MUSEUM ARCHIVES

(Above) Stanley and Lucile Jones were only married a year when the First World War began in Aug. 4, 1914 for Canada. They both went overseas but she was located in hospitals in France and England while he was on the frontlines. They kept their passion for each other burning bright through letters up until his death on June 8, 1916.

During the bombardment Jones was wounded in the left lung.

A day later Jones was captured as a prisoner of war and taken back to Germany. He died in a German hospital on June, 8, 1916, of an internal hemorrhage and a severe loss of blood.

Tragically, it wouldn't be until July 11 that Lucile would find out what happened to her husband. She wrote in her memoir that the words that stated her husband was dead "burnt into my head like red hot coals." She suffered a brain fever and it would be a few days before she could read the rest of the letters enclosed in the package sent to her. One of those letters was from Stanley, mailed on June, 4, 1916, telling her that "we may be separated for some time but our love will always hold us together."

After the war, Lucile honoured her husband's life by writing a memoir of his time in the war. The City of Calgary celebrated Stanley Jones by renaming the Bridgeland School the Stanley Jones School.

Stanley Jones was very much a representation of many of the Canadian soldiers who went overseas to fight in this bloody conflict. They did so because they loved Canada and they believed that fighting this war could help bring about a better world, even though it may cost their life. Stanley Jones, and all the other soldiers of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, deserve our immense gratitude 100 years later.

Note: This article was inspired by the material found in "Two Years with the Princess Patricia's 1914-1916, the letters of Maj. Stanley L. Jones, K.C., edited and annotated by his wife - Lucile Ross Jones, a Red Cross nurse serving in France during WWI." The material is courtesy of the PPCLI Museum and Archives, Calgary, AB."

LETTER FROM LUCILE JONES TO STANLEY JONES DATED MARCH 9, 1916

"WHEN SEVERAL DAYS GO BY WITHOUT HEARING FROM YOU, I BEGIN TO GET BLUE AND WORRY. I CAN'T HELP IT, SO THERE'S NO USE TELLING ME NOT TO, YOU ARE ALL THAT I HAVE IN THE WORLD AND IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO YOU, I DON'T WANT TO STAY IN IT ANY LONGER."

LETTER FROM STANLEY JONES TO LUCILE JONES DATED SEPT. 14, 1914

"SOMEHOW I HAVE A SURE FEELING WE WILL AGAIN BE TOGETHER AFTER THIS WAR IS OVER WITH A DEEPER LOVE FOR THE SACRIFICES WE ARE MAKING. I AM GOING TO KEEP CHEERFUL AND HOPEFUL ALL THE TIME AND HOPE TO 'PLAY THE GAME' AS A GENTLEMAN AND A SOLDIER WOULD."

WRITTEN: JAN. 11, 1915

LETTERS SOURCED FROM "TWO YEARS WITH THE PRINCESS PATRICIA'S 1914-1916, THE LETTERS OF MAJ. STANLEY L. JONES, K.C., EDITED AND ANNOTATED BY HIS WIFE - LUCILE ROSS JONES, A RED CROSS NURSE SERVING IN FRANCE DURING WWI." THIS MATERIAL IS COURTESY OF THE PPCLI MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES, CALGARY, AB."



Walking through history

Museum exhibit and Union Cemetery tour commemorate First World War memories



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENBOW ARCHIVES NA-1165-2

It was customary that each Calgary regiment in the First World War take part in a parade before it departed for its overseas service. Here is the 31st Infantry Battalion—a unit mobilized in Calgary—marching toward city hall in May 1915 to take in the farewell remarks from Calgary Mayor M.C. Costello, as well as be inspected by the mayor. At the conclusion of the war multiple parades were held to honour the sacrifices made by the soldiers

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Most are familiar with the movie *Back to the Future*, where Michael J. Fox's mind is blown by how much history has changed in 30 years.

Calgarians will be able to have the similar type of experience in their own backyard, with the Military Museums of Calgary opening its latest exhibit, *Wild Rose Overseas: Albertans In The Great War*, on July 28.

"Most Canadians, have some connection to the First World War, so it's (the exhibit) for Albertans to rediscover their own family history, in addition to learning more about Alberta's contributions overseas," said Rory Cory, senior curator at the museum, when asked why the museum specifically chose to focus on Alberta's role in the war.

The new exhibit will showcase 350 artifacts and tell the personal stories of soldiers involved in the war. Since many if not all of the soldiers from the war have passed on, Cory and his team have spliced together previously recorded audio interviews from 15 veterans to tell their stories throughout the gallery.

"One of the things that I'm very adamant about with exhibits I put together is it's not me just me telling the story, but the voices of the veterans are also part of the story."

And the stories told won't just be about pistols, uniforms or medals. No, the stories will focus on a soldier that the items belonged to and what that person did once he returned from the war — if he returned.

One of the most interesting stores in the exhibit is that of the Shearer brothers from Medicine Hat, Alta. All three brothers enlisted in different units and only one of them returned home.

"That gives sort of a cross-section to what was going on overseas at that period of time," Cory said. "It's a tragic story, but the brother that did

come back went on the lecture circuit in both Canada and the United States."

Other highlights in the exhibit are a German helmet from Vimy Ridge, complete with shrapnel holes, and a full Canadian Naval uniform from the First World War.

The Military Museum receives about 54,000 visitors annually, but communications co-ordinator KC Richards feels they will be busier than normal this year because of the interest in their booth at the Calgary Stampede.

Other activities going on at the Military Museum during the fall include, a symposium on the First World War being held on Sept. 24-25, as well as their annual lecture series, which starts in September.

The City of Calgary is also doing its part to commemorate the First World War by hosting an exhibit of its own, located on the west side of council chambers, on the main floor, from now until November. There is also a volunteer led guided tour of Union Cemetery from 2-3:30 p.m. on Aug. 4.

Amanda Borys, in her eighth season doing tours, will be leading the free tour that focuses on a number of events that happened in 1914 and not just the First World War itself.

Some of the events covered by the tour include the sinking of the *Empress of Ireland*, the Hillcrest Mine disaster, women's fight for the right to vote, and the opening of the Palliser Hotel. Of the talking points on the tour, Borys calls the portion on the six victims from the sinking of the *Empress of Ireland* her favourite.

"I just think there is so much more tragedy to her (the boat) story than the Titanic, yet, no one's heard of the *Empress of Ireland* and there's movies about the Titanic," Borys said.

For more information on the Military Museum visit themilitarymuseums.ca

PROCLAMATION BY CALGARY MAYOR MICHAEL COPPS COSTELLO ON NOVEMBER 11, 1918

KNOW YE, THAT I, MAYOR COSTELLO OF THE CITY OF CALGARY DO HEREBY PROCLAIM A HALF-HOLIDAY FOR TODAY MONDAY THE 11TH NOVEMBER A.D. 1918, COMMENCING AT ONE O'CLOCK P.M., TO ENABLE ALL GOOD CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF CALGARY TO CELEBRATE IN A FIT AND PROPER MANNER THE TRIUMPH TO THE CAUSE OF LIBERTY THAT HAS AT LAST SO JUSTLY CROWNED THE HEROIC EFFORTS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND HER ALLIES IN THIS WAR.

AND I DO HEREBY REQUEST THAT ALL GOOD CITIZENS OF CALGARY WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS PROCLAMATION, THAT TOGETHER WE MAY MINGLE OUR JOY AND PATRIOTISM AND EXPRESS OUR DEEP GRATITUDE IN THE HOPE THAT A PEACE WORTHY OF THE HUMAN RACE MAY SOON BE ESTABLISHED

DATED AT CALGARY, ALTA., THIS 11TH NOVEMBER A.D. 1918.

"GOD SAVE THE KING"
M.C. COSTELLO MAYOR

SOURCE: CITY OF CALGARY ARCHIVES



Is the Great War really that great?

This August is the 100-year anniversary of the First World War but it is barely being acknowledged in both the film market and society today



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Lawrence of Arabia, starring Peter O'Toole, earned seven Academy Awards and is widely considered one of the best motion pictures ever made.

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Below us in the valley hung low clouds of gas. They settled right there, and those of us on higher ground were safe. But we wore our masks for three hours. A large percentage of officers and men of the sanitary detachment died or suffered severely from the gas... Little help could be given to the gas victims. We placed them on stretchers, kept them quiet as possible and hurried them to the hospital."

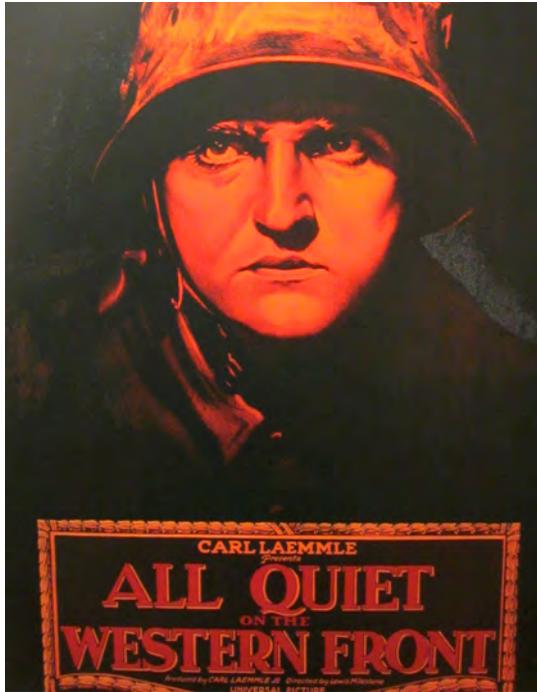
Horrors like this, recorded by an observer with the U.S. 42nd Infantry Division, were commonplace during the First World War, begging the question of how can humans have the capability to be amazing yet commit such destructive acts?

But war has also led to some of the greatest works of art the film industry has ever produced. Second World War films such as *Bridge on the River Kwai* (1957), *Patton* (1970) and *The English Patient* (1996) have all won Best Picture at the Academy Awards. There are a total of nine Best Picture-winning films set during the Second World War.

By comparison, the Academy of Motion Picture Art and Sciences has honoured three First World War films with the Best Picture Oscar. In 1927 *Wings* won the first Best Picture prize, *All Quiet on the Western Front* won in 1930 and *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962) is the last First World War film to win a Best Picture Oscar.

The disparity also exists in the amount of films devoted to the two world wars. Only 175 films have tackled the First World War while 1,338 films focus on the Second World War.

The First World War re-mapped Europe, helped



All Quiet on the Western Front is a film that was praised for giving its audience a vivid look at what life as a soldier was like during World War I. It is considered one of the greatest anti-war films ever.

birth Soviet Russia and resulted in 8.5 million deaths and 37 million casualties. How can this massive event not be recognized by the film industry?

According to Peter Sobczynski, a critic for RogerEbert.com, the Second World War "is the closest thing to a good war that there is — easily definable heroes and villains and incredible feats of strategy and heroism, the kind of things that lend themselves easily to dramatic recreations."

In contrast, David Love, a historian for the Calgary Military Historical Society, notes while the First World War sparked political changes and revolutions, "It is very hard to write a storyline while sitting in the trenches." That's very different than the Second World War, a war of movement. And that movement makes the conflict more compelling to film."

John Ferris, a history professor at the University of Calgary, says the actions of Adolf Hitler and the Holocaust provide clear evil for movie characters to fight against.

"It's the last really heroic war that happened," Ferris says. "Because of that we can easily see ourselves as being good."

By comparison the First World War, according to Love, created a massive debt for the European economy, Russia was torn apart, and the Middle East was redrawn — causing conflict that is still upon us today.

Regardless of whether a filmmaker focuses on the First or Second World Wars, Sobczynski says anyone creating a movie about such conflict is "going to traffic in the most horrific elements of combat; death camps, torture, ethnic cleansing and the like."

FIRST WORLD WAR FILMS

FROM THE MAIN COMBATANTS

BY QUINTON AMUNDSON

Here are what the *Calgary Journal* views as the most iconic First World War movies from each of the participating countries.

BRITAIN: *LAWRENCE OF ARABIA* (1962):

The 1962 film chronicles T. E. Lawrence (played by Peter O'Toole) and his co-ordination of attacks on the Arab Peninsula. Lawrence feels emotional turmoil as he is divided in his loyalties to his native Britain and his newfound friends in the Arabian desert. This film, directed by David Lean, has been praised for its visuals, screenplay, acting and direction and it is considered by the American Film Institute to be the greatest epic film of all time.

FRANCE: *LA GRANDE ILLUSION* (1937):

This film — considered by many historians and critics as a masterpiece of French cinema — tells the tale of three French pilots plotting an escape from a German prison camp. The film, directed by the celebrated Jean Renoir, argues that war is futile, an illusion perpetuated by the dying European aristocracy but it will never solve political problems or create a better world. The emotional, moral thought-provoking nature of the film, along with the performances of the ensemble cast, are reasons why this film is held in high regard. It was the first foreign film to ever secure a Best Picture nomination at the Oscars.

CANADA: *PASSCHENDAELE* (2008):

This drama — primarily shot in and around Calgary — focuses on the experience of Michael Dunne, a decorated veteran of the 10th Battalion, during the Battle of Passchendaele. This film received lukewarm reviews because of its script being deemed corny, not being visually impactful and lacking strong secondary characters. Critics who did like the film praised the acting of the lead characters and the film's ability to be profound at times. Despite the reviews, this film is a document of a time when Canada came into its own as a nation.

GERMANY: *WESTFRONT 1918* (1930):

This film is set in the trenches of the Western Front in France. The film starts with the love story between a young German soldier and a French peasant girl but pivots to the soldier and his friends' hardships at the front. At the conclusion of the battles, both the French and Germans mutually express a desire to be comrades and not enemies. This film is a standout German production not only because it was an anti-war film at a time when war films were popular in Germany, but it also considered one of the earliest examples of how sound can enhance the movie experience. *Westfront* was banned by the Nazis in 1933 because it was deemed that the film would jeopardize the military will of the German people.

LISTINGS



California girl Katy Perry comes to Calgary with her highly anticipated Prismatic world tour, where she will perform her well known hits: "California Gurls", "Roar" and "I Kissed A Girl" For tickets, go to ticketmaster.ca

MUSIC

Rod Stewart & Santana
Scotiabank Saddledome
Aug 4



Bruno Mars
Scotiabank Saddledome
Aug 5
Pop singer Bruno Mars will aim to make all the girls swoon when he serenades them in Calgary, by performing his major hits "Just The Way You Are," "Locked Out Of Heaven", "When I Was Your Man" and more. For tickets, visit ticketmaster.ca

Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo
Jack Singer Concert Hall
Aug 7

Arcade Fire
Scotiabank Saddledome
Aug 12

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers
Scotiabank Saddledome
Aug 19

Earth, Wind & Fire
Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium
Aug 20

Katy Perry
Scotiabank Saddledome
Aug 29

SPECIAL EVENTS

Inglewood Sunfest
Inglewood
Aug 2

37th Annual Heritage Day Festival
Olympic Plaza
Aug 4

Western Rodeo at Heritage Park
Heritage Park
Aug 9

Calgary Stampeders vs Ottawa RedBlacks
Family Day Game
McMahon Stadium
Aug 9
The Calgary Stampeders take on the Ottawa RedBlacks—led by former Stampeders quarterback Henry Burris—for the first time ever in CFL history in a highly anticipated family day game at McMahon Stadium.

Marda Gras Street Festival
Marda Loop
Aug 10

Calgary Beer Core 10th Birthday
Verns Pub/Dickens Pub/The Stetson
Aug 28-30

22nd Annual BBQ on the Bow
Along the Bow River
Aug 29 – 31
Celebrate the end of the summer season by attending Canada's oldest BBQ competition along Calgary's Bow River.

Calgary Highland Games
Springbank Park
Aug 30

COMEDY

Graham Clark
The Laugh Shop
Aug. 7-9

Three-time Canadian Comedy Award nominee Graham Clark has been praised by critics for his ability to take control of a crowd, his wonderful observational humour, and for his ability to go beyond simple 'one-and-done' jokes on a given topic. He has performed on CBC, CTV and HBO.

James Adomian
Yuk Yuk's Stand Up Comedy Club
Aug. 21-23

THEATER

Wicked
Jubilee Auditorium
Aug. 1-17
Wicked tells the story about the Land of Oz before a girl wearing ruby slippers named Dorothy came along. This play delves deeper into the relationship between Elphaba, The Wicked Witch of the West, and Glinda, The Good Witch.

Quentin Tarantino's Pulp Fiction The Play
Aug. 13-23
University of Calgary
University Theatre





Conservatory at Mount Royal University

MUSIC APPRECIATION PROGRAMS
YES, WE DO THAT..

It was 50 years ago today...

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Metal music carries a message of hope

Musicians use aggressive tones as a means of inspiration



Emery is one of the musical groups that use aggressive tones to communicate positive messages in its songs.

PHOTO COURTESY OF EMERY

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Following the conclusion of August Burns Red's blistering show at the Break Down the Walls tour stop in Calgary, Matt Greiner took to Twitter to thank fans who came out for the April 5 set.

"Dear Calgary, if you were the last I'd ever play then I would be content," said the drummer for the Pennsylvania metalcore band.

While it's not shocking to see a musician thank fans after a show, what might surprise some is the humble demeanor these band members possess.

Rather than fitting the angry label that is often attributed to hardcore bands, groups like August Burns Red, Emery and Killswitch Engage use aggressive sounds as an outlet to express ideas they are passionate about.

This often leads to tracks about overcoming depression or finding strength through religious faith. While the bands vary in their degree of commitment, Emery maintains a primarily positive — and often Christian-focused — image beneath the rough exterior of distorted guitars and raspy vocals.

Matt Carter — guitarist and co-founder of Emery — says that although an aggressive sound is not something the band consciously decided on, it is a label that he proudly accepts.

"Aggressive doesn't necessarily mean a negative or anything like that," says Carter. "I love to use the term aggressive to describe our music. I like it better than heavy. Something can be aggressively heavy, or it could have a lot of attitude — or passion — in it."

While heavy tones and attitude, as Carter says, are aggressive, they do not necessarily connote negativity.

While the band has continued to maintain positive values touring in a scene that is often riddled with drug abuse and alcoholism, band members understand they are not perfect.

Inspired by imperfection and the lessons they've learned in over a decade of touring, Carter, vocalist Toby Morrell and Pastor Joey Svendsen, created a record label and online community called BadChristian.

BADCHRISTIAN, GREAT SAVIOUR

After finishing its contract with Tooth and Nail Records in 2013, Carter and Morrell — along with longtime friend Svendsen — turned towards a new venture: BadChristian.

BadChristian is the evolution of an online blog started by the trio called "Un-Learning" which acted as a platform to discuss various issues.

Carter describes BadChristian as the label that the band members identify with as people.

"We're going to release music, we're going to release our own music, we'll do our podcast and anything we want to write and all the ways we want to communicate," says Carter. "That's the fun thing about music is interacting and communicating with people and fans."

BadChristian allows the band Emery to branch out beyond music and explore every creative avenue in order to continue communicating their positive message. Not only that, but the label allows the group to help their fans find a new sense of identity with the band.

"It's an easy way for us to identify who we are," Carter says. "The name kind of says it all, that we love Jesus and think He is good, and we are not."

Carter says they are not trying to be role models or teachers, but instead are aiming to be real people who are honest with their fans.

"Being an alternative type of community, we feel like there a lot of people that aren't reached by the overly polished images of people and teachers and bands," Carter says. "We want to be a little bit more honest."

AUGUST BURNS RED AND HEARTSUPPORT

Emery isn't the only group creating a network for its fans. After hearing countless tales while touring, Jacob Luhrs, front man for August Burns Red, launched HeartSupport.

HeartSupport is an online community dedicated to giving musicians, fans and anybody feeling troubled somewhere that they can belong.

In a 2013 interview on HeartSupport, Luhrs explained the motivation for launching HeartSupport was the fans of August Burns Red.

"I talked to a lot of our fans at the 'merch' table after the show," Luhrs said in an interview. Hearing about their struggles with drugs and depression, and also how his lyrics helped them cope, inspired him to create a welcoming place online, Luhrs added.

While HeartSupport and BadChristian are not replacements for a traditional community or therapy, it does give heavy metal fans the opportunity to take that first step towards helping themselves.

Guide to August festival fun in Calgary

The Calgary Journal's list of the hottest festivals happening this month

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PHOTO COURTESY OF KEN MANN PHOTOGRAPHY

AFRIKADEY

Dates: Aug. 6-9
Venue: Prince's Island Park
Price: \$20-\$30

Gain a better appreciation for African culture in Calgary this summer by attending Afrikadey. This festival — returning for its 23rd anniversary — invites you to Prince's Island Park to experience the musical styles, dance, art and literature that are deeply rooted in Africa. Afrikadey will showcase a wide variety of live music, dance, food, visual arts, film, theatre and a host of many other features that are fun for the whole family. For more information on Afrikadey and on how to purchase tickets, visit afrikadey.com

CHASING SUMMER

Dates: Aug. 8-9
Venue: Fort Calgary
Price: \$149-189 plus service charges

Calgary, are you ready to dance, rage and party the night away? Well there's no question about that as festival goers will live for the night when the hottest DJs descend on Fort Calgary in early August. Chasing Summer is dubbed as Western Canada's largest electronic music festival that returns with a big bang for its second year. It features two days of DJ sets, memorable songs and 19 performers that will surely get you moving. The event showcases prominent talents Tiesto and DJ Magazine's choice as the No. 1 DJ in the world, Hardwell. Newcomers performing at this festival include 3LAU and Cash Cash. For more information on Chasing Summer Music Festival and how to get tickets, visit chasingsummerfestival.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHASING SUMMER/FACEBOOK



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVEN COUTTS

GLOBALFEST

Dates: Aug. 22-24
Venue: Prince's Island Park
Price: \$20-\$75

Experience one of the most massive multicultural showcases of culture in Calgary throughout 10 days of August as the city's popular summertime festival Globalfest returns to Elliston Park. Globalfest celebrates diversity and promotes artistic excellence in a world class and inclusive environment. Under the Globalfest umbrella is the One World Festival which features the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of 19 cultural pavilions from around the globe. Calgary's cultural communities display their dress, heritage, live performances, cultural music and more. This summer festival also features an extensive international fireworks competition that excites and draws many Calgarians together. For more information on Globalfest and where to get tickets, visit globalfest.ca



PHOTO COURTESY OF EXPO LATINO

EXPO LATINO

Dates: Aug. 22-24

Venue: Prince's Island Park

Price: \$20-\$35

Get ready to feel the temperatures rise and sizzle once again as Latin culture is presented front and centre at Expo Latino, which is known as Western Canada's largest Latin festival. The festival returns to Calgary for its 18th anniversary and will be held at Prince's Island Park. Expo Latino aims to create an environment where Calgarians can discover the Hispanic culture through a celebration of people, music and dance. Over three days, the city is treated to an expansive variety of fun family entertainment that features world-class performers, dance showcases, delicious food and exotic art. Visit expolatino.com for more information.

MORE FESTIVALS IN SEPTEMBER:

Beakerhead Sept. 10-14

Get ready to see Calgary's downtown core from completely different perspectives when the city transforms into one large laboratory as the second annual Beakerhead returns in September. The event focuses on the understanding of science and engineering is a part of day to day life. It features a wide variety of public performances, community challenges, engineered art and more.

Calgary International Film Festival Sept. 18-28

Prepare to be dazzled by the big screen and grab some popcorn as the Calgary International Film Festival returns to various theatres located in the city's core. The event features over 200 multi-genre films from across Canada and 40 from around the globe.

Tuscany Harvest Festival Sept. 20

The northwest community of Tuscany is inviting Calgarians to their third annual harvest festival celebrating the upcoming fall season as they welcome friends and neighbours to revel in the fun and excitement. The event features a grand selection of fun for the whole family from face painting, to games and delicious food.

Nuit Blanche Night Time Arts Festival Sept. 20

Come take in Calgary's version of the worldwide Nuit Blanche festival, a late-night contemporary international art show. This event will transform Olympic Plaza into a larger-than-life art gallery for eight hours and for 10,000 people. This night time festival features 10 one-of-a-kind live performance art events that will make you appreciate what Calgary has to offer in the moonlight.

YYComedy Fest Sept. 29 - Oct. 4

Comedy lovers rejoice as Calgary's third annual YYComedy Festival returns to 13 city venues creating bigger and better laughs than ever before. The festival showcases plenty of strong comedic talent from across Canada as well as from around the globe like the renowned comedic stylings of Harland Williams, who was featured in the movies *Dumb and Dumber* and *There's Something About Mary*.

PRIDE CALGARY

Dates: Aug. 22-Sept. 1

Venue: Shaw Millennium Park

Price: Free Admission

Celebrate Calgary's LGBTQA (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered Questioning and Allied) community by taking part in fun filled festivities throughout the city's downtown core. Pride Calgary kicks off with a massive parade that begins on Stephen Avenue and then heads to Shaw Millennium Park, where the real party starts. This festival is tied in with Pride Week, which aims to promote equality and acceptance in the city. The party is hosted by Les Girls and YYC Bad Boys with live performances from Calgary artists and from across Canada. Pride Calgary also feature a wide variety of entertainment like vendors, a beer gardens, food trucks and fun for the whole family. For more information on Pride Calgary, visit pridecalgary.ca



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRANCO KELLY HOFER

X-FEST

Dates: Aug. 30-31

Venue: Fort Calgary

Price: \$99 - \$249.50 plus service charge

Prepare to end summer 2014 with an explosive bang as socks will be rocked and throats will be severely sore as X-Fest returns. The alternative music festival was started in 2011 by Calgary radio station X-92.9, and it's back for its fourth year at Fort Calgary. This edition includes a kick ass line up that will have you screaming for more as you head bang your heart out to Tegan and Sara (formerly of Calgary), Jack White, Foster the People, Death Cab for Cutie, Serena Ryder and many more. For more information on X-Fest and where to get tickets, visit xfestcalgary.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF X-FEST

Mini-series shot in Calgary area scores big in Emmy nominations

Calgary producer ecstatic about show's success



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS LARGE AND NOMADIC PICTURES/MGM/FX NETWORKS

Oscar winner Billy Bob Thornton was certainly a draw for people to watch *Fargo*.

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The Calgary-filmed mini-series *Fargo* — based on Joel and Ethan Coen's 1996 Academy Award winning film of the same name — has been a critically acclaimed television program in 2014. It was announced July 10 the show, seen on FX, was nominated for 18 Emmy Awards, the most ever for a cable television show. Only HBO's *Game of Thrones* earned more nominations at 19.

The show has a 9.1 rating on IMDb (Internet Movie Database) and a score of 85 per cent on Metacritic, a website that insists a score of 82 or higher signifies universal acclaim.

The show's popularity with audiences led to FX networks to announcing on July 21 that the mini-series will return for a season two that will once again be shot in the Calgary-area. The earliest season two could launch is fall 2015.

At the upcoming Emmy awards, *Fargo* will go head-to-head with *American Horror Story: Coven* and BBC One's *Luther*. *Fargo* has fared well competing against these shows by winning the Critics' Choice Award on June 19 for best mini-series.

Chad Oakes, the Calgary producer of *Fargo*, sat down with the Calgary Journal to talk about the success of season one, how his company Nomadic Pictures (Oakes and Michael Frislev are co-chairmen of Nomadic) got involved in the project, and the role of Albertans in the show's success.

CJ: How did Nomadic Pictures get involved in producing *Fargo*?

CO: MGM and FX (Networks) were looking for a

place to shoot it. They were location scouting in Manitoba and they liked what they saw.

Then one of the executive producers, Warren Littlefield, had mentioned, 'Hey, have we checked out Calgary? There's a great company there called Nomadic Pictures and they got a great western TV series that they're doing on AMC (*Hell on Wheels*) so let's check them out.'

Warren Littlefield used to be the president of NBC and the creator of much-watched television in the '90s. It was his concept and idea that he brought to MGM and then it was sold to FX. He also brought in Noah Hawley, who was the brilliant creator that wrote all 10 episodes.

They were flying to Calgary from Winnipeg on the day of the flood (June 20, 2013). They had to cancel their flights. They returned to Calgary two weeks later and we introduced them to the crew we had on *Hell on Wheels* and they felt very comfortable that we could provide what they needed.

CJ: This mini-series was based on Joel and Ethan Coen's 1996 film. They are both executive producers, but in what specific ways did they help develop this series?

CO: Noah Hawley met with them and he got their blessing to write the script, and if they approved the script — which they did — that would be it. Television is not the Coen brothers' medium so they just said, 'Go make your show, God bless and don't screw it up.'

CJ: The show was nominated for 18 Emmy Awards. What does this accomplishment mean to you?

CO: This is the most amount of Emmy nominations

in cable history that was previously held by *Hatfields & McCoys* (2012), a Kevin Costner western, and our own *Broken Trail* that we shot here in Alberta with Robert Duvall and Thomas Haden Church in 2005 (released in 2006). To top ourselves is a very humbling honour. These honours come to you unexpectedly. You want to do the material and the scripts justice. You want to do your projects on time and on budget. Any of this stuff is just bonus. It's the icing on the cake.

Calgary Journal Note: The previous record held by Hatfields & McCoys and Broken Trail was 16 nominations.

CJ: Talk about the role of Albertans in making this show a success.

CO: Over the past 19 years we have been able to put together two really strong world-class crews. It didn't happen overnight. It is always a changing and evolving process to build a great crew and crew-base. We are incredibly proud of our people. My co-chairman Michael Frislev and I were nominated for outstanding mini-series, and out of the other 17 nominations there were seven or eight categories with nominations for Alberta people. It's a testament for what type of talent lies here.

CJ: Do you think the success of this show of *Fargo* could lead to more production companies setting up in the Calgary area?

CO: The unfortunate situation is that the Alberta film industry growth is limited by the amount of crew available. We only have three-and-a-half crews in Calgary and one in Edmonton so we are still not back to where we were before the 2008-2009 economic meltdown. It's going to take a while to build up that crew-base. It makes no sense for other production companies to come into Calgary. It takes time, dedication and locally based companies like Nomadic Pictures to bring productions here. Not just co-productions like *Fargo*, but our own productions that we generate, develop and build for us to shoot in our own hometown.

CJ: What is the next Nomadic Pictures project people should look forward to?

CO: So season four of our hit western AMC series *Hell on Wheels* is on in August on Saturday nights. That is the next project that everyone will be able to see.

The 66th Emmy Awards take place on Aug. 25 in Los Angeles.

Glenmore Sailing Club's young sailors have a bright future

Ten-year-olds Cameron Hay and Nathan Lemke aim to be lifetime seamen



It has been a great thrill for the staff of the Glenmore Sailing Club to watch 10-year-olds Cameron Hay (front), and Nathan Lemke (back), develop into strong sailboat racers. Both boys are aiming to be sailors for life. PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTI VAN GUNST

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When the *Calgary Journal* approached Kristi Van Gunst, head coach at the local Glenmore Sailing Club, about recommending young sailors that could be featured on the Journal's athlete of the month page she recommended two athletes: Cameron Hay and Nathan Lemke.

Traditionally this page is meant to feature one athlete, but Van Gunst suggested both boys be featured because they're inseparable.

Hay and Lemke got into sailing because their fathers were also mariners. The boys have been friends for most of their lives and they joined the Glenmore Sailing Club at about the same time. Both Cameron and Nathan sail in an Optimist boat, which is the most popular sailing dinghy for young children across the globe. And both boys were, ironically, born on the same day in the same year: Sept. 29, 2003.

Of course Hay and Lemke also share a love for the sport of sailing.

"I really like the feeling of being on the water," Lemke said. "(When I sail) it feels like I'm driving a vehicle and that's cool."

Ever since Hay got into sailing over five years ago it's always "been fun to steer the boat around."

A strong passion for a sport is vital to any type of future success, including sailing. It has been thrilling for Van Gunst to see where their love of sailing has taken them so far.

"Over the years they have come from being really small and working on things like balancing the boat to becoming full-formed racers and that's been great," says Van Gunst.

Love of the sport must be matched with a strong

technical proficiency in order to be a good sailor. Both boys agree that some people underestimate how tough sailing is as a sport.

"Sometimes just steering a boat properly can be really hard," says Lemke. "Sometimes when it gets really windy and the boat can get out of control you have to just go with the swells. Some people don't know that you have to have an idea on how the wind works. You can't go straight into the wind, you have to go at a 45-degree angle to the wind."

"It's tough because you have to remember to do so many things at once," says Hay. "You kind of know what you have to do put these steps into action, and it's kind of hard to do that all at the same time."

While navigating the boat on the water and getting a solid reading on wind conditions is certainly arduous, it is quite a complex multi-step procedure to just get the sail boat out on the water at all.

"The Opti (Optimist) boats that the boys sail are one of the most complex boats in the world," Van Gunst said. "Lots of fine-tuning is required. Each and every little sail-tie on the boat has to be adjusted based on condition. You have to adjust you pole, a thing called a boom vang (a piston system to exert a downward force on the boat's boom) and your outhaul, so there are so many things you have to be thinking about so that is a lot of responsibility for kids."

"And then when the boat is finally rigged it is then time to change," Van Gunst continued. "You have to wear a lot of gear to make sure you are protected out on the water even when it's really hot out. You need to wear gloves and boots. And then it's finally time to launch. You have to make sure you don't damage the boat when you put it in the

water and then put your centerboard and rudder in and then you can sail to the course."

Van Gunst says both Hay and Lemke have the combination of passion and mental strength that will add up to a successful future in sailing. Van Gunst started out as a young sailor, but she matured to the point where she earned the right to compete at the 2013 Canada Summer Games in Sherbrooke, Que. Van Gunst says both boys can potentially challenge for a spot on the Canadian Olympic sailing team when they're older if they keep it up.

Both boys have posted numerous top three finishes in Opti boat sailing races held throughout Western Canada, which also serves as evidence that they have a bright future in sailing. They have competed in major sailing events such as B.C.'s Pumpkin Bowl Regatta and the 2013 Sail West Championships, which were held on Lake Newell, a lake close to Brooks, Alta.

The boys will continue to sail in these types of boats until they are either 14 or 15 years of age before moving onto a Laser radial boat, a popular watercraft among adult mariners.

Both boys certainly want to sail for a long time, and both want to try offshore powerboat racing down the road.

"I like offshore racing because you are more by yourself instead of on a crowded course," says Lemke.

"It really looks cool so I definitely want to do some down the road," added Hay.

It is ultimately difficult to say what these two 10-year-olds will ultimately accomplish in sailing. But both can take pride that this sport helped each of them gain a pretty strong friendship, and at the end of the day isn't that what truly matters?

COMING
SOON

MRU REC FALL REGISTRATION

	ONLINE	IN PERSON
MEMBER	Aug. 11 at 6:00 am	Aug. 12 at 6:00 am
NON-MEMBER	Aug. 18 at 6:00 am	Aug. 18 at 6:00 am
SWIM LESSONS	Aug. 25 at 7:00 am	Aug. 25 at 7:00 am

*Members include students, employees, alumni and general public who validate or purchase a membership.

Rec guide and ePlay available August 7.

MRU COLOUR-U-BLUE WALK OR RUN

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mtroyal.ca/recreation/colourubue