

THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

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November 11, 2018

We pause to reflect on Remembrance Day

Dear Readers,

In our five years of publishing this is the first issue to fall on November 11, the day we remember those who served and sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom and democracy. This is the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1 and the signing of the Armistice. Your publisher has been extremely busy as co-curator of an historic exhibit, "WW1 Keepsakes and Propaganda", which opened November 10. As a consequence this week litter fell by the wayside, having been swept aside by the larger task of organizing the Toronto showing of rarely seen, museum-quality artifacts from both sides of the conflict.



The significance of the poppy

Each November, Poppies bloom on the lapels and collars of millions of Canadians. The person who first introduced the Poppy to Canada and the Commonwealth was Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae of Guelph, Ontario, a Canadian Medical Officer during the First World War.

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

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

Today, the Poppy is worn each year during the Remembrance period to honour Canada's Fallen. Source: www.legion.ca

New plastics economy pledged

A group that produces 20 percent of the world's plastic has pledged to eradicate plastic waste and pollution. Led by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation with UN Environment as a partner, #LineInTheSand involves 275 brands, retailers, recyclers, governments and NGOs across the globe.

At Saturday's reception guests heard noted Irish and military historian and author Alan Acheson bringing the Britain of 1914 to life. A high impact slide show by producer Alex King and interesting displays kept visitors engaged. The opening at Don Heights Unitarian Congregation attracted the media's eye and was covered on [CTV](#), [toronto.com](#), [CBC](#), Global News, North York Mirror and Fairchild Television.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



Holly in WW1 picked in England on Oct. 22, 1916 by Capt. Glenn H. Keeler, my grandfather.

HEADLINE LITTER MINI-GRABBERS (NOV 4 - 11) Some of what made our News Reel this week

Prince Charles taught the boys well (11/14)
England's future king made sure his young princes picked up litter and respected the environment as children, Prince Harry told the BBC in a film marking his father's 70th birthday on November 14.

Queensland, AU finally embraces deposits (11/7)
[Containers for Change](#) has started rolling out in Queensland in 230 locations. A long awaited step, ten cent refunds will be given for aluminum, glass, plastic, steel and boxboard 150 ml to 3L beverage containers, excluding milk, cordial, juice and alcohol.