

The End of an Era

Canadian veterans place a wreath while members of the Canadian Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police stand sentry at the base cenotaph in homage to veterans of the First World War.

A ceremony in honour of the passing of the last known First World War veteran, John Babcock, was held at the Grand Parade Square CFB Halifax.

The event marked the end of an era and allowed military personnel and members of the public alike an opportunity to acknowledge and give thanks for the sacrifices and achievements of two generations of Canadians who fought in The Great War



Photos: Cpl Ronnie Kinnie, Formation Imaging Services, CFB Halifax

First World War Veterans End Of An Era Commemorative Lapel Pin



For Canada, events that took place during the First World War were defining moments. Canada grew into nationhood, and those who served in the Canadian Armed Forces at that time earned a peerless reputation of courage and commitment. Two generations later, Canadians still recognize that those who served and those who died are owed a debt that can never be repaid. Now that the last of the Canadian Veterans of the First World War has passed away, it is even more important that we ensure that the memory of their sacrifices will never be forgotten. 628,736 of our fellow citizens stepped forward to serve. 66,573 of them died.

The Royal Canadian Legion will always Remember.

Over the coming months, there will be events to mark the passing of this important era. The Supply Department is creating a visible sign of commitment to the preservation of the memory of the Veterans of the First World War in the form of a lapel pin. A wreath of maple leaves embraces the torch of Remembrance being passed from one generation to the next, graced with a scroll announcing “Memoriam Eorum Retinebimus” – We Will Remember Them. The Legion encourages you to wear this pin as recognition of the accomplishments of the Veterans of the First World War, and as a commitment that their memory will not fade.

70th Anniversary of the Battle of the River Plate

On September 26, 2009 Veterans of the HMS Ajax, HMS Exeter and HMS Achilles visited the Town of Ajax to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of the River Plate. Our Branch participated in a number of events during the week. We held a Pub night in our clubroom, sponsored two tables at the Gala dinner and participated in the dedication of the Ajax Legacy Obelisk at Veteran's Point.



Two of the veterans cut the cake during Pub night at the Branch



Colour Sergeant Samuel Shale Royal Marines HMS Ajax presented President Bruce Sharpe with a poem he wrote for December 13, 1939 and a picture of him laying a wreath at the grave of The Admiral Graf



Joe Stokes HMS Ajax presented President Bruce Sharpe with a plaque with the HMS Ajax crest and all the major battles it fought in. Our town was named after this famous ship.