

# SELF GUIDED TOUR



FIELD  CROSSES  
*Memorial*

NOVEMBER 1-11, ANNUALLY



# WE WILL NEVER FORGET



For eleven days leading to Remembrance Day, on a five-acre park, 3,620 crosses stand as silent sentinels reminding Calgarians of the ultimate sacrifice paid by our military to protect the freedom we enjoy in this great country. The Field of Crosses recognizes individually the 3,500 Southern Albertans who paid the ultimate sacrifice and recognizes that from across this great country of Canada, 120,000 heroes gave up their lives for our freedom. 120 special crosses on a knoll in the park recognizes those 120,000 men and women. This memorial is their homecoming.

## **SUNRISE AND SUNSET CEREMONIES**

The Buglers playing Last Post & Rouse, Piper's piping the Lament, Choirs singing the National and Royal Anthems and special guests reciting poems pertinent to the theme of the day are an integral part of each ceremony. The Colour Party raises the Canadian, Alberta, Army, Navy, Air Force flags to honour our military personnel. On select days we fly the British and/or the American flags to honour our Allies who fought for Canada and have crosses in the field. The ceremonies include many uniformed First Responders from the Calgary Police Services, Calgary Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services, Alberta Sheriffs, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and uniformed military personnel including Cadet Groups and Veterans.

## TOUR THE FIELD

The crosses have been placed in the field in alphabetical order A to Z. As you explore the crosses take time to read out loud the names of the fallen, and to pay respect to the military member that inspires you. We encourage you to quietly call their name out loud while you hold your hand over your heart and express your sentiment.

### ***“Rest In Peace Dear Hero For Our Land Is Free”***

Also take time to read the Bio Cards placed on many crosses:

- Research and the creation of the bio cards has been carried out by students.
- While exploring, type the link or scan the QR Code to find Valour Canada’s video library of individual and battlefield stories from our Canadian Military History.
- Family members and volunteers have also placed stories and artifacts for you to read and view.

## HOW TO READ THE CROSSES

Last Name, First Name, Initial, Military Decoration, Age at Death, Rank, Regiment or Unit, Date of Death (dd/mm/yy).

*Example: SMITH, John G. MM – 20 – Pte. 50th Bn*

Military Medal, Private 50th Battalion



## **INDIGENOUS VETERANS DAY**

On November 8 all across Canada we honour the Indigenous Veterans. Seven Indigenous soldiers are in the field. Their names are listed within. Here are 2 of their stories. In WWI, L/Cpl Henry Norwest MM, a Metis of French-Cree ancestry, was a marksman and one of the most famous snipers achieving 115 fatal shots. In WWII Pte. Gordon Yellowfly of the Blackfoot Reserve, his true name PIIKSA-PI, was killed in action, inscribed on his headstone "The sun shines, waters flow, the grass grows, like these our memories of you shall live forever". Take a moment to visit their crosses. We will remember them.

## **NIGHT OF LIGHTS**

On the evening of November 10th each year volunteers place candles at the foot of each cross, to honour and remember these brave men and women who sacrificed so much. This is a spectacular and humbling sight.

## **REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONIES**

On the 11th day of the 11th month at 11:00 AM, Remembrance Day Ceremonies are held in cities and towns across the country. Here in Calgary, the city shuts down a portion of Memorial Drive to allow a military march past with pipes and drums. The Calgary Police Services bring their mounted horse patrol, the Royal Canadian Air Force (weather permitting) conduct a flypast with either a fighter jet or a Globe Master transport plane from Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Cold Lake. There is also a gun salute by the 20th Independent Field Battery of Lethbridge; this Royal Canadian Artillery regiment was the last to fire their guns in WWI. Dignitaries, such as the Lt. Governor of Alberta, the Premier of Alberta and the Mayor of Calgary, along with many other provincial and civic dignitaries, attend this ceremony. Together we lay 15 wreaths to honour the fallen.

## **VICTORIA CROSS**

The Victoria Cross is the highest and most prestigious award of the British honours system, it is awarded for valour "in the presence of the enemy" to members of the British Armed Forces. There are four servicemen in our field who were awarded this medal.

Squadron Leader Bazalgette, Ian VC, DFC RAF  
Lieutenant (N) Gray, Robert John H. VC RCNVR,  
Private Pattison, John G. VC 50th Battalion,  
Private Robertson, James P. VC 27th Battalion.

## **OTHER HIGHLIGHTS**

- 256 who fell in the last 100 days of WWI
- 10 who were 17 years old
- 1 soldier, Maj William McSpadden, who was 68 years old
- 63 sets of brothers, including 6 sets of 3 brothers, 4 sets of twins and 1 brother and 1 sister.
- 816 who were 21 years of age and younger
- 9 women: 1 from WWI, 7 from WWII and 1 who fell in Afghanistan
- 26 who came from USA to fight with the Canadian Armed Forces: 17 from WWI and 9 from WWII
- 23 Stars of David representing Jewish fallen.
- 358 who fell in France and have no known grave. Their names are inscribed on the Vimy Ridge Memorial
- 15 who fell in the Korean War/UN Peacekeeping Missions
- 14 who served in Afghanistan
- 7 Indigenous: 4 from WWI and 3 from WWII
- 7 who were members of Calgary Police Service
- 4 who were members of the Calgary Fire Department
- 4 who were awarded the Victoria Cross

We also memorialize the 120,000 Canadians who made the ultimate sacrifice and pay tribute to those fallen with a unique display of 120 crosses, each cross symbolizing the sacrifice of 1,000 Canadians. One third of Canadian war dead who fought in WWI were buried where they fell, in the mud of Flanders Fields. For many the Field of Crosses is their only recognition.

## **CANADA'S MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN.**

The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) conducted operations in Afghanistan for more than 12 years from 2001 to 2014 in several different roles involving air, land, and sea assets. CAF activities included combat, security, development, support and training operations in varying capacities and regions in Afghanistan. More than 40,000 CAF members have deployed to Afghanistan, many more than once. The war took the lives of 158 Canadian soldiers and wounded or injured more than 2,000 others. There are 14 soldiers commemorated each year in the Field of Crosses. Take a moment to visit the crosses of Captain Nichola Goddard and Private Kevin Dallaire and the other 11 fallen. We will remember them.

## **KOREA**

Korea was divided at the 38th parallel in 1945 with the separation of sovereign states of North Korea and South Korea in 1948. The North was supported by the Soviet Union and China while the South

was supported by the United States and Western Allies. The Korean war began on 25 June 1950 when the North invaded the South. An Armistice was signed on 27 July 1953. More than 26,000 Canadian served on land, at sea and in the air during the bitter conflict; sadly 516 Canadians were killed. There are 12 soldiers commemorated each year in the Field of Crosses.

## **SECOND WORLD WAR**

In Europe, beginning 1 September 1939, Germany invaded Poland. This started more than six years of bitter fighting. The Axis powers were Germany and Italy; the Allied powers were France, Great Britain with Canada, United States and Soviet Union. For Canada our key events included but were not limited to: the Battle of Britain, Battle of the Atlantic, Dieppe Raid, and the Normandy Invasions at Juno Beach D-Day, 6 June 1944. The war in Europe ended with the surrender of Germany and Italy on 7 May 1945.

In the Pacific, the war began on 7 December 1941, with a military strike by the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Services against the United States naval base at Pearl Harbour in Honolulu, Hawaii and the British forces stationed in Hong Kong, China. Following a brutal and costly island hopping strategy of navy, air and land battles, Japan surrendered 1 September 1945.

## **FIRST WORLD WAR**

The First World War was a major global conflict that began on 28 July 1914 and the fighting ended on 11 November 1918. It is also referred to as "The Great War". Its combatants included much of Europe, Great Britain with Canada, the Russian Empire, the United States, and the Ottoman Empire. Fighting took place across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and parts of Asia. New technology, including the recent invention of the airplane, trench warfare, and especially chemical weapons make it one of the deadliest conflicts in history. You may have heard of a few of the key European battles: Ypres, Verdun, Somme, Arras, Beaumont-Hamil, Passchendaele, Hill 70 and of course the famous Canadian lead Vimy Ridge.

WWI was the bloodiest conflict in Canadian history; 470,000 served, 61,000 were killed, 170,000 were seriously wounded. Two of the costliest battles were the 2nd Battle of Ypres in 1915 and the 2nd Battle of the Somme in 1916. Did you know over 4,000 Indigenous men volunteered for overseas service in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF)?



# FIELD OF CROSSES

## **AFGHANISTAN FALLEN**

Curnow, Richard – 25 – M/Cpl. PPCLI  
Dallaire Kevin Y. R. – 22 – Pte. PPCLI  
Goddard, Nichola K. – 26 – Capt. RCHA  
Horn, Chadwick J. – 21 – Pte. PPCLI  
Hornburg, Nathan – 24 - Cpl. KOCC  
Keller Bryce J. – 27 – Cpl. PPCLI  
Marshall, Steven H. – 24 – Spr. 1 CER  
Miok, George R. – 28 – Sgt. CER  
Roberts, Joshua B. – 29 – M/Cpl. 2nd Bn PPCLI  
Seggie, Michael J. A. – 21 – Cpl PPCLI  
Starker, Michael G. – 36 – 15 (Edm) Fd Amb  
Stirling (TJ) Thomas – 29 - Cpl RCR  
Stock, Stephan J. – 25 – Sp. 1st CER  
Tedford, Darcy S. – 32 – Sgt RCR

## **INDIGENOUS FALLEN WWI & WWII**

Coming Singer, George – 23 – Pte. 50th Bn  
Foxhead, Mike – 19 – Pte. 50th Bn  
Manywounds, Teddy – 30 – Pte. RCASC  
Mountain Horse, Albert – 22 – Pte. RCASC  
Norwest, Henry L. MM – 34 – L/Cpl 50th Bn  
Poucette, Joe – 20 – Rif RWR  
Yellowfly, Gordon – 24 Pte. SH of C

# ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning. We will remember them.

On all the oceans white caps flow. There are no crosses row on row; But they who sleep beneath the seas, Rest in Peace for our land is free. We will remember them.

## Youth Response to the Act of Remembrance

“Commitment to Remember” They were young, as we are young. They served, giving freely of themselves. To them, we pledge, amid the winds of time, to carry their torch and never forget. We will remember them.

## ORGANIZATION HISTORY

Murray McCann, who founded the Field of Crosses in 2009, supported it as his private memorial until 2018. Recognizing that the memorial has become a Calgary institution and to ensure that it lasts long into the future Murray, on his 80th birthday, gifted his private memorial to the citizens of Calgary through a registered charity #74426 00084 RR0001.

## ADOPT A CROSS

<https://www.fieldofcrosses.com/adoptacross/>

When you Adopt A Cross, your donation will help ensure present and future generations will always remember and never forget the thousands of men and women from Southern Alberta and across Canada who gave their tomorrows for our today.



All donations receive a tax receipt

**Field of Crosses**  
**(CRA #74426 0084 RR0001)**

**[www.fieldofcrosses.com](http://www.fieldofcrosses.com)**

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