



Ken Cheveldayoff

From a Provincial Point of View

November 10, 2011

REMEMBRANCE DAY TOMORROW – LEST WE FORGET

As Remembrance Day approaches us, please take time to remember our veterans.

I look forward to having the privilege and honour of participating in the service at Credit Union Centre tomorrow. I encourage everyone to attend the many Remembrance Day Ceremonies that will be held throughout our province tomorrow, Friday, November 11th.

“We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, loved, and were loved, and now we lie in Flanders fields.” It is because of these touching words that every year, a chilly November brings these flowers to life and warms our hearts. We proudly wear the symbolic red poppy, as we remember the brave men and women who risked their lives so that all Canadians, and all future generations, could live in a land of freedom and peace. We may not wear the poppy at all times, but we will never forget the sacrifice they represent.

Today I had the privilege of attending a service at the Legislative Building. The following are the comments made by Deputy Premier Ken Krawetz:

Today, we gather to remember the sacrifice of those men and women, from our great province and our public service, who have served in conflict, peace keeping and reconstruction missions around the world.

We gather here in the Rotunda of our Legislative Building...the heart of discourse, the very centre of democracy in Saskatchewan...to honour them; those veterans who have mercifully returned to us; those veterans who have returned from war but are no longer with us; and those who have never returned.

Ladies and gentlemen we must never forget the men and women who have given their lives for the betterment of others.

The bravery shown by those who have served in:

- the First World War;
- the Second World War;
- the Korean Conflict;
- Bosnia;
- the reconstruction efforts in Haiti; and
- most recently the Mission in Afghanistan...

...this bravery has clearly demonstrated the belief that our way of life here in Canada - here in Saskatchewan - is worth fighting for, and if necessary, worth dying for.

And while the Mission in Afghanistan has turned to one of reconstruction and rebirth, danger still remains. On Oct 29, just a few short days ago Master Corporal Byron Garth Greff, from Swift Current Saskatchewan was killed by an improvised explosive device, while on duty in Kabul.

So let us be especially mindful of the sacrifice being made by the young men and women who have, and continue to fight for security and safety.

Let us be mindful of those who have fought and continue to fight for democracy and freedom.

And most importantly let us be mindful of those who fight for peace....soldiers like Master Corporal Greff.

Ladies and gentlemen it is these heroes...our sons and daughters, sisters and brothers, fathers and mothers, who we honour today with our thoughts and our prayers and our words.

For it is today that we renew our pledge to never forget those who have served our country and those that continue to do so - we hold you forever in our prayers and in our hearts.

Let their sacrifice move us to always endeavour to make the world a better, safer, and more peaceful place, every single day of our lives.

SOME INTERESTING POPPY FACTS

- During the Napoleonic Wars, the poppy drew attention as the mysterious flower that bloomed over the graves of fallen soldiers.
- In the 20th century, the poppy again was widely noticed after soils in France and Belgium became rich in lime from rubble during the First World War. The little red flowers flourished around the graves of the war dead as they had 100 years earlier.
- In 1915. Guelph, Ontario native John McCrae, a doctor serving with the Canadian Artillery, recorded this phenomenon in his famous poem In Flanders Fields.
- Two days before the Armistice, Moina Michael, an American woman from Athens. Georgia read the McCrae poem and was inspired to wear a poppy year-round in memory of the war dead.
- In 1920, Madame E. Guerin of France visited the United States and happened to meet Miss Michael at the YMCA at Columbia University where the latter was a volunteer.
- Madame Guerin then resolved to sell handmade poppies around Armistice Day to raise money for poor children in the war-torn areas of Europe.
- In 1921. Field Marshall Earl Haig, the former commander-in-chief of the British Armies in France and Belgium and the principal founder of the British Legion was sold on Madame Guerin's fund raising idea and approved organization of the British Poppy Day Appeal by the Legion to raise money for poor and disabled Veterans.
- The same year, Madame Guerin visited Canada and convinced the Great War Veterans Association of Canada (predecessor to the Royal Canadian Legion) to similarly adopt the poppy as a symbol of remembrance in aid of fundraising.

- Today, the Poppy Campaign is one of the Royal Canadian Legion's most important programs. The money raised from donations to the campaign provides direct assistance for Veterans in financial distress, as well as funding for medical appliances and research home services, care facilities and numerous other purposes.

KEEP IN TOUCH

I appreciate the many opportunities to make a positive difference in my constituency. Your phone calls, letters and emails make a big difference in keeping me informed on the issues that matter to you. If you would like to recognize anyone or have your event mentioned in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to call me.



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“From a Provincial Point of View” is a weekly message from Ken Cheveldayoff, MLA Saskatoon Silver Springs. Your opinions are important and your letters, emails and phone calls on any issues relating to the provincial government are welcomed. Contact Ken by calling (306) 651-7100, emailing ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net or writing Ken Cheveldayoff, MLA Saskatoon Silver Springs, #9 – 415 – 115th St. E. Saskatoon, SK S7N 2X9. **To subscribe or be removed from this newsletter, please send an email message.** This newsletter is produced with the assistance of the Saskatchewan Party Caucus Office.