

Empire-Advance

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Remembrance Day
LEST WE FORGET



November 7, 2025

Special Edition



THANKS TO OUR VETERANS



History from 1918 ~ Virden celebrates end of war

All Business Suspended While Joy Reigns Supreme. Monster Procession, Huge Fire, Music, Speeches, Cheers, Tears.

Virden, in common with thousands of other communities on this continent, held a double celebration of the signing of the armistice, signifying the utter defeat of the forces of might. The first celebration took place Thursday evening, November 7th, when the premature news of Peace was accepted as being based on fact and it was some celebration too. All business was at once suspended, and expression was given to feelings of gratification and joy. While many were disappointed because the first news was not authentic yet none regretted the demonstration as all felt that enough had been gained to warrant the celebration.

When the real, true, sure-enough news was peeled out to the town by the Municipal bell, during the early hours of Monday morning there was no boisterous enthusiasm but there was a great feeling of splendid satisfaction in the knowledge that the sacrifices of our brave men had not been made for nought and also in the absolute conviction that the principles of Might have been dealt a crushing blow by the forces of Right.

Notwithstanding the “flu” ban Mayor Carnahan decided that the real finish of the war must not be allowed to pass without some recognition, and by proclamation, made Tuesday afternoon a public holiday. A number of live wire patriotic citizens got together and arranged a programme of celebration which included a monster torch light procession comprising the band, the fire apparatus and hundreds of automobiles as well as large crowds on foot. From the noise it would appear that everyone had a musical instrument of some kind or at least a noise maker. To the ears and hearts of the people the great varieties of noises, made in celebration of the victory were as sounds of a heavenly orchestra blending into the joyous thought. Peace has come. After parading the principal streets, the

procession lined up at the corner of 7th Avenue and Nelson Street where a huge bonfire was lighted and a company of sharpshooters fired volley after volley while the immense crowd cheered itself hoarse. A dray was commandeered for a platform and mayor Carnahan called on the crowd to sing that splendid song of thanksgiving:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him all creatures here below,
Praise him above ye heavenly Host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

The mayor, after expressing his satisfaction with the termination of the war and referring in terms of highest praise to the part taken in it by the men and women of Canada, called on Rev. Dr. Cooke who, responded with what is generally recognized as probably the finest oration ever heard in Virden, in the course of which he paid a high tribute to the valor of our men overseas and the men and women at home, who have suffered, sacrificed and won. His expressed pride and being a Britisher and a Canadian found ready response in the hearts of his hearers. He commended the earnest spirit of the celebrations which, recognized, and was thankful for the guidance of Almighty God. His speech was punctuated with applause. Other speakers on the program were introduced in the following order:

J. A. McLachlan, Rev. G. W. Findlay, Jos. Gibson, W. M. Pineo, and Rev. H. Feir. All were listened to with deep attention and frequent applause greeted the expression of thoughts which voiced the general feeling. The hearty singing of the National Anthem closed the program but the celebration continued until late into the night.

Tuesday, November 19, 1918.





REMEMBRANCE DAY 11

NOVEMBER
LEST WE FORGET

WE REMEMBER AND HONOUR THE MEMORY OF THOSE WHO SERVED, AND THOSE WHO WERE LOST IN NAME OF FREEDOM.



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FOR THOSE WHO LEAVE
NEVER TO RETURN
& FOR THOSE WHO RETURN
BUT ARE NEVER THE SAME.

We Remember



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Remembrance Day

*I wear a little poppy
red as can be.
to show that I remember
those who fought for me*



THANKS TO OUR VETERANS



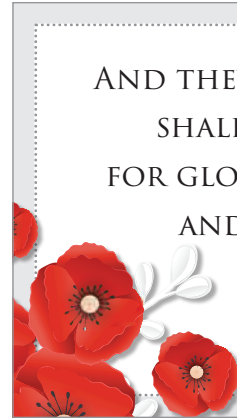

FOR THOSE BRAVE WHO
GAVE THEIR LIVES
SO WE COULD LIVE OURS

Lest We Forget

VIRDEN, MB
204-851-0286

AND THEY WHO FOR THEIR COUNTRY DIE
SHALL FILL AN HONOURED GRAVE,
FOR GLORY LIGHTS THE SOLDIER'S TOMB,
AND BEAUTY WEEPS THE BRAVE.

Lest We Forget




John or Pat 204-748-1461
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Remembrance DAY

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*They gave their tomorrows
so we could have our today....*



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Thank You

for YOUR sacrifice
for OUR freedom



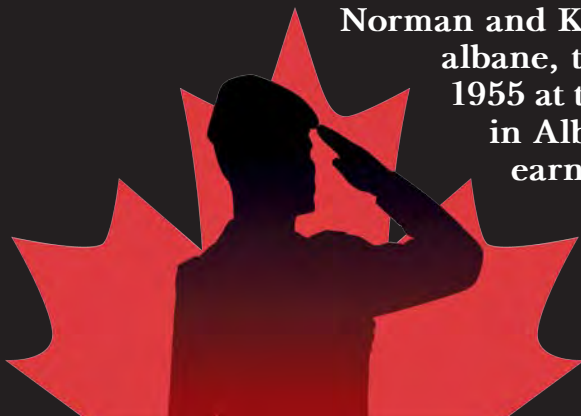

124 Anson Street, Virden 204-748-3704

THANKS TO OUR

HONOURING THE MEMORIES, THE COURAGE
AND THE SACRIFICES OF OUR FALLEN ON
REMEMBRANCE DAY AND EVERYDAY.



Hodson,
Innes Hodson soared
Norman and Kay Hod
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1955 at the Uni
in Alberta, a
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Lest We
Forget



Reston District Library
220 4th Street, Reston • 204-877-3673

Matthews, William A. ~ F



William was born in Reston, Manitoba, in 19 District. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Ai was posted overseas. Upon his discharge in 1 and farmed until retiring to Virden, Man in 1947. He received the Canadian V War Medal 1939-1945. William passed of Elizabeth Branch 106 of the Royal

*They have stood for our
nation, they have fought
for us, they have sacrificed
their lives for us.
We Will Remember Them*

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all those who have
given their lives
so the rest
could live in freedom



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*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



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OUR VETERANS

Albert "Innes" ~ Virden

For all his life. Born second, on December 11, 1932, with three sisters, to parents John and Lenore, Manitoba. Innes grew up on the family farm, educated Breadalmond from Virden schools, before completing his degree in Agriculture in the University of Manitoba. After working with the Federal Department of Agriculture and qualifying as a pilot, Innes joined the RCAF, 418 Squadron in Edmonton, in commission and wings, including twin-engine on Mitchells. Training with 9 D Nations comrades was quite unique. Innes achieved two awards, highest marks, flying excellence. He was honourably discharged in 1958, then farmed with his parents, and joined Legion Branch 8 in Virden. He attained his commercial pilot license before marrying Joan Tapp, from Montgomery School community, near Virden, in 1964. The Hodsons have continuously farmed since 1889, five generations now. Albert and Joan retired to Virden, leaving the farm to the next generation.

Reston

1915 on the family farm in the Hillview area. He served in the Canadian Air Force during World War II but never returned home until 1945. He returned to the Reston District in Manitoba. He married Merle "Bud" Bulloch in 1946. He received the Volunteer Service Medal and the WWII War Medal. He died in 1983, and was a loyal member of the Canadian Legion for over thirty years.



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November 11th

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THANKS TO OUR VETERANS



TOWN OF VIRDEN



INCORPORATED 1904

Important notice to citizens of Virden

Wednesday September 12, 1945

The boys from overseas have finished their job and we can expect their return in sizable numbers in the near future.

It is certain that all of our citizens feel that steps should be taken for expressions of welcome.

In order that all citizens may be able to express their thoughts on the subject and that the necessary arrangements can be made it is thought advisable to have a public meeting where a complete working plan may be arranged.

This will mean representatives from each and every organization as well as other persons interested should attend.

We have noticed from the Press where various localities have made plans already and the Virden district can be relied upon to carry out to their part in a proper manner befitting our representation in the world's conflict and the worthy manner in which our boys have borne their part.

We have real reason to be proud of their record on the fields of battle. Each one of us is keenly aware of the dangers, the hardships and misery which these boys have undergone during the past years of war.

While our hearts go out in sympathy for those who cannot hope for the return of their loved ones, it is right and fitting that those returning should be given the welcome that they so richly deserve.

There will be a meeting of all interested in this good work in the Council Chambers Monday evening, September 17th at eight o'clock. Let us all get together and work out a worthwhile program.

H.N. Thompson, Mayor



We reflect on the
contributions made
by those who lost
their lives in service
to our country,
our values and the
preservation of
peace.



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AND YOUR SACRIFICE



Thank You

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served our country
and those who are
currently serving



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we honour our
Veterans and
their **sacrifices**

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THANKS TO OUR VETERANS



~ History from 1945 ~ Virden gives thanks for a victory in Europe at a public service

Wednesday, May 9th, 1945

Virden's auditorium was filled to capacity for the V-E service at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday. Seated on the platform were Mayor Thompson, Rev. Father Paulhuis, Rev. W. A. Osborne, Rev. A. H. Cummings, Miss M. Carr and Rev. F. G. Janzen, backed by a choir of forty with Norman Sangster as choirmaster and Miss Dorothy Timms as organist.

Rev. W. A. Osborne opened the service with prayer. After singing the National Anthem the congregation remained standing while the anthems of the United States, Canada, France and Russia were played on the organ.

Mayor Thompson paid tribute to those who would had given their lives in the war and to

their families, and stressed our responsibility to the returned man.

Rev. F. G. Janzen gave thanks in prayer. Miss Carr read passages of Scripture suited to the occasion. Rev. A. H. Cummings gave the address, reminding his hearers of the dark days of the war when Britain's downfall seemed almost inevitable. He called on them to give thanks to God who has given us the victory and to devote their lives to the building of better human relationships.

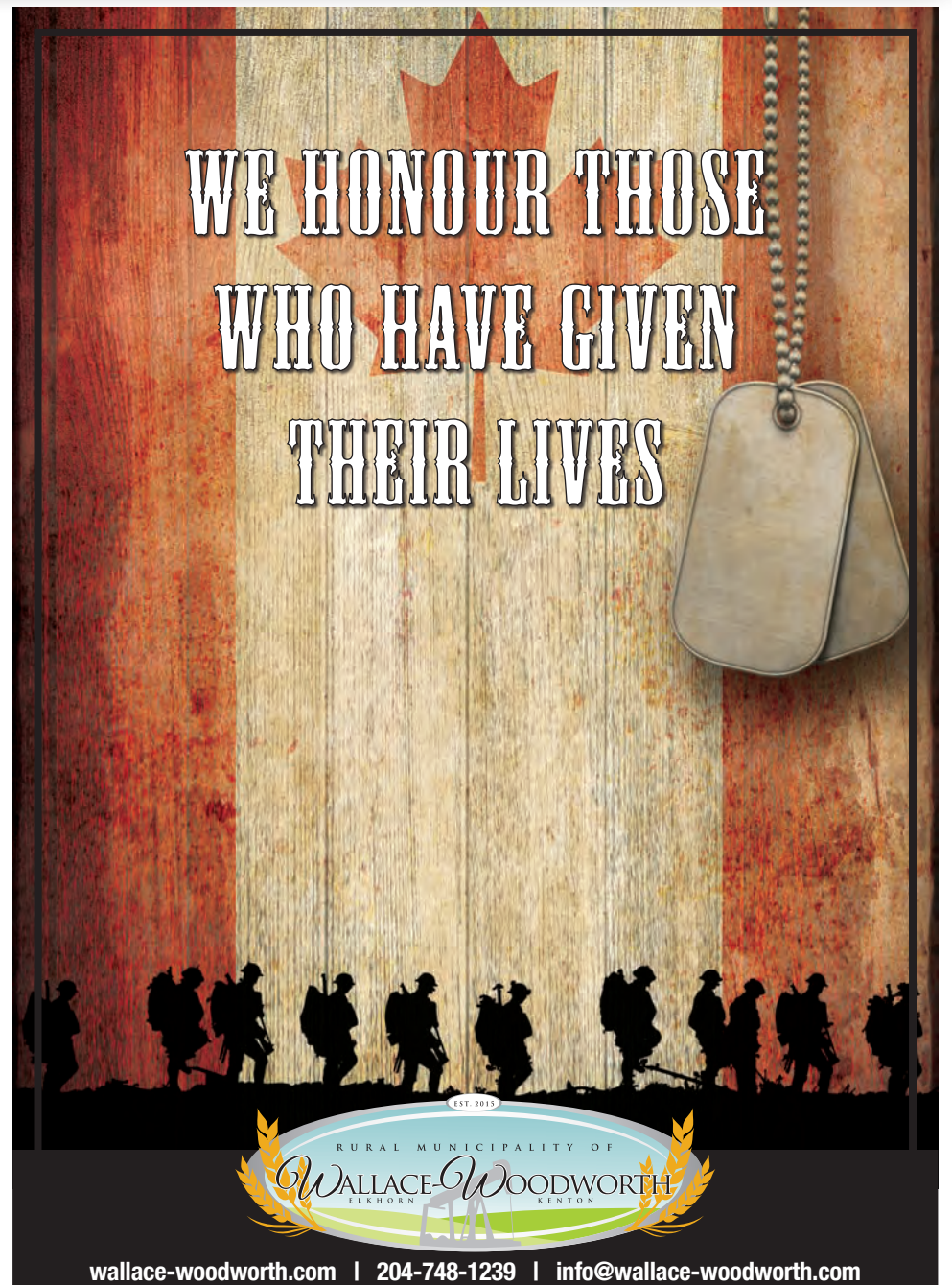
A minutes' silence and the playing of the Last Post once more paid tribute to the fallen. The hymns ---- "O God Our Help" and onward, Christian Soldiers" ---- were sung with Spirit by the large congregation, led by the choir.



**"A salute to
those who
served"**

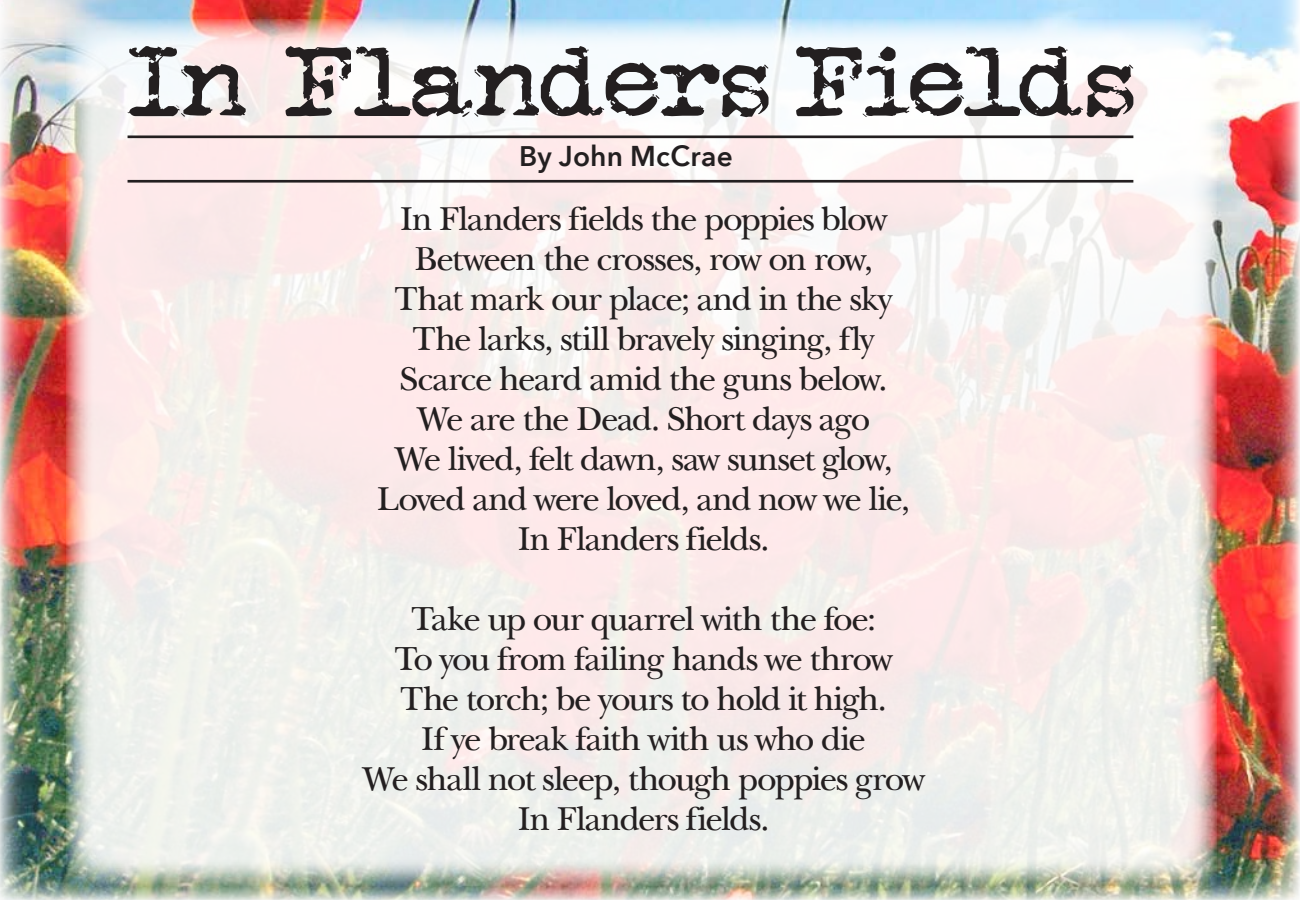


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THANKS TO OUR VETERANS



In Flanders Fields

By John McCrae

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.

Service Times

All services are open to the public. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Viriden – Service at Viriden Aud Theatre. Please be seated by 9:40am. Cookies and Coffee after the service for Viriden Legion #8.

Oak Lake – Service at Oak Lake Hall at 9:00am with lunch at the Oak Lake Legion #150.

Kenton – Service at 10:45am at the Kenton Hall with potluck lunch to follow at the Woodworth Legion #118.

Elkhorn - The congregation can be seated at 10:30am in the Elkhorn Legion Hall. The Remembrance Day Service begins at 10:45am for Elkhorn Legion #58.

Reston – Service at 10:40am held outdoors at the Reston Memorial Park.



Lest We Forget

