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# THE **B**ROOKFIELD **B**ARK

## Remembrance Day: Honoring Our Veterans Edition

### Remembrance Day

On November 11, we celebrate Remembrance Day or Armistice Day, depending on where we come from. We observe this day to honor all the soldiers who fought in wars. We wear a red poppy to commemorate those who have died in battle and to support those who continue to serve. This practice was inspired by the poem *"In Flanders Fields"* by Canadian Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae. The poem describes the flowers found on the Western Front, which have become a symbol of remembrance.

### More Than a Holiday: The Deeper Meaning of Remembrance Day

Every November 11th, Remembrance Day is observed to commemorate soldiers who served and fell for their country. This annual practice holds deep importance due to the crucial roles it fulfills.

Primarily, the day honors the service and sacrifice of soldiers, acknowledging the bravery and heavy cost of war. By remembering the past, we appreciate the price paid for our current peace and freedoms. The observance also supports living veterans by recognizing their challenges and highlighting the need for ongoing care. Ultimately, Remembrance Day promotes future peace by encouraging learning from conflicts and

prioritizing diplomacy, guiding us toward a more harmonious world.

### A Tribute to Canada's Fallen

On Remembrance day in Ottawa, Canadians stand around the war memorial downtown in collective remembrance for those we have lost throughout war. The ceremony lasts from 10:30am to 11:30am and everyone is welcome to attend.

### Tom Longboat: Canadian Legend

Thomas Charles Longboat, also known as Cowagee meaning "Everything" in Onondaga, was born on July 4, 1886 in Ohsweken, Six Nations Reserve. After breaking world records and competing in the 1908 London Olympics, Longboat became one of the most famous runners of his time despite facing harsh criticism and racism throughout his career. Not only was Tom Longboat a legendary Canadian long-distance runner but also a prominent dispatch runner in World War One. In 1916, Longboat enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces as the vital but dangerous role of a messenger on the Western Front and was a member of the 107th (Timber Wolf) Battalion. Today, there is a Tom Longboat Award for Indigenous athletes established in his honor to continue his legacy.

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## **The Legacy of Billy Bishop**

Billy Bishop is a famous Canadian **p**ilot from Owen Sound Ontario, who fought during World War One. He was a member of the Canadian Royal Flying Corps (RFC). He was one of the best fighter pilots during the war and was known for shooting many enemy planes. For these very brave accomplishments, he was awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest military honor. His courage made him a Canadian hero and a symbol of pride. Next time you travel from Billy Bishop Airport in Toronto you will understand why they named an airport after him.

## **Queen of The Hurricanes**

Elsie MacGill (1905–1980) was a Canadian trailblazer and the world's first female aeronautical engineer. She shattered barriers by earning an engineering degree from the University of Toronto and becoming the first woman in North America to study aeronautical engineering at the University of Michigan.

During World War Two, MacGill's crucial expertise led the mass **p**roduction of the Hawker Hurricane fighter **p**lanes at Canadian Car and Foundry. Her innovative leadership earned her the famous nickname, the "Queen of the Hurricanes." Beyond aviation, she was a strong advocate for women's rights, contributing to the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada. MacGill's legacy of determination and courage

inspires generations of women to pursue science and engineering careers.

## **Truth Behind the Time Change**

"Why do we have daylight savings?" A question many of us have pondered on. Well, I'm here to answer it for you! Daylight savings is meant to ensure we have better use of our daylight. In the fall we move our clocks back by an hour so we can get more light in the morning, and in the spring we move our clocks forward so we have more light in the evenings. Although this might not be the most effective solution, it definitely **h**elped people make use of the limited light they had before the invention of electricity. Many people have many different opinions on daylight savings, nonetheless, it is a practice that has been going on for ages and it will likely continue well beyond our years.

## **Student Involvement**

Email this edition's word(s) to [bwils3@ocdsb.ca](mailto:bwils3@ocdsb.ca) for a shoutout in the next edition of The Brookfield Bark!

