



VIMM Newsletter

Fall 2018

Vancouver Island Military Museum

Their Name Liveth For Evermore *How We Remember the Fallen of the Great War*

By Angus Scully

When the Great War ended on November 11, 1918, there were some celebrations and parades, but the world was also wrapped in grief and mourning. The number killed was staggering. Canada had a population of just 8 million but had suffered the loss of 66 000 killed and many more wounded in body and mind. To compound the senses of loss was the impact of the great flu epidemic. For example, victory celebrations were muted by the ban on public gatherings that was designed to curb the spread of flu. In Canada, 50 000 died. Around the world more died from flu than in the war. The great victory was also a great tragedy.

Even before soldiers began to return home in 1919, communities across the country had already started to consider how they would remember the war dead. There were dedications of monuments, buildings, streets, schools and scholarships and many of these are still with us.

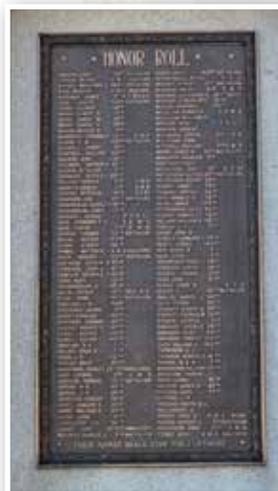
In Nanaimo, a committee of citizens was formed and called for submissions. On February 5, 1920, the public was invited to Forester's Hall on Bastion Street to view the 22 entries and vote for their choice. Mayor Henry McKenzie chaired the meeting. One of the submissions was from famed architect Alex. Henderson who had designed the Nanaimo Hospital, the Masonic Temple in Nanaimo, and St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. But the winning design was by a local recently returned veteran, Cyril Ewart John Millins of 30 Chapel Street, who was also a sculptor and owner of a stone and monument business in Nanaimo.

The Nanaimo Cenotaph



Cyril Millins' winning design was made of granite from Nelson Island and cost \$5000 to build. The monument represents a doorway to the sacred enclosure of an ancient Egyptian temple. In the door space itself a bronze tablet lists the names of the war dead of Nanaimo, Wellington, Gabriola Island, and Cedar. The symbolic meaning of the monument is that the men gave their lives blocking an attack on the sanctity of human life. At the foot of the tablet was the inscription "Their names shall live for evermore."

Mayor McKenzie chaired the War Memorial Committee that raised the money for the monument from public donations. The contract for construction went to Cyril Millins' company, Millins and Henderson.



Cyril Millins winning design still stands in Nanaimo and is the focal point for annual Remembrance Day ceremonies.

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From the President

We are nine months into 2018 and have experienced an increase in visitors to our museum. We are 562 visitors over the number we had this time last year. The cruise ships *Explorer of the Seas* (twice), *Star Princess*, and the smaller ships, *National Geographic Sea Lion* and *Sea Bird* that visited Nanaimo had an impact on the increase in numbers. Also, during the summer months there has been an increase in the international visitors and tour groups from out of town.

Volunteer Ian Stewart is away working in Yellowknife but will return in December. Our new volunteer Greg Devenish has volunteered to re-organize our library which is no easy task. We were fortunate to have donated to us the Frank Palmer-Stone military book collection which amounted to a few thousand books.

Phase four of our “**Wall of Honour**” was completed and installed in June.

The museum had a summer BBQ August 29 at Branch #256 Legion in Lantzville which was well attended.

We are gearing up for Remembrance Day, November 11, and our annual Christmas Party in early December (actual date TBA).

We are still anticipating work on a Gulf War display and upgrading the Korean War display.

As always, I would like to thank the directors and volunteers for their dedication and super effort in keeping the museum functioning to a high standard.

Roger Bird

Medal Mounting

The VIMM will gladly mount your medals in court mounting or in a frame. Contact us for further information and prices.



Museum Directors and Staff

Roger Bird, President

Brian McFadden, Vice President

Phil Harris, Secretary

Pat Murphy, Armoury

Pat Patterson

Jack Ziebart, Computer

Bruce Davison, Volunteer Coordinator

Bill Brayshaw, Acquisitions

Angus Scully, Newsletter Editor

Follow the Changing Role of Women

As you walk around the Museum, watch how the role of women has changed in Canada and in the military. There is a display Women in the Armed Forces but look carefully in other displays and trace how they show the changes.

War of 1812

Who was the woman who became famous in history, even a part of Canadian myth?

Red Cross, St. John Ambulance

What did nurse Jane Bemrose do to be awarded the Military Medal for bravery?

The Secret War

The high-tech world of code breaking employed women in the traditional roles of clerk and spy, but also began to recognize the need to employ all the intellectual strength of society in defeating the enemy. At Bletchley Park in England, and in similar code breaking centres in Canada, women and men worked together to crack German, Italian, Japanese, and Vichy French codes.



VIMM Display

The Home Front

In a total war, the whole population becomes involved in the war effort. In the Great War, women were employed extensively in agriculture (a traditional occupation) and in factories producing munitions. Skilled women assembled explosives, and aircraft. In 1918, they lost these jobs as factories closed and they were expected to give up paid work outside the home to returning soldiers. The contribution of women in the war supported the broadening of the franchise to include women. Throughout the inter-war period, other changes led to greater legal equality. In the Second World War, women again played a crucial role in war production, and women entered the Army, Air Force, and Navy. By today's standards this was only a partial step towards equality, but at the time represented a big step forward and recognition that all the human resources of Canada needed to be employed to win the war. Women, however, were not allowed in combat roles, were paid less than men, and were expected again to give up their war work in 1945.

Women in the Armed Forces

Look closely at the photos and you can see Grace Macpherson in the Great War fixing her own ambulance. Recognized today for her perseverance in her desire to take an active part in the Great War and for her bravery and good cheer in evacuating the wounded, this photo was published around the world.

Afghanistan

The changes that took place in Canadian society in the years after 1945 are demonstrated in our Afghanistan display. The drive for full recognition of equality of the sexes was finally expressed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982. The legal declaration meant that by 1989 all roles in the Armed Forces were open to women. Women could qualify for the infantry, artillery, engineers, and armour. Women became fighter pilots, commanded war ships, and served in the cramped quarters of submarines. And in Afghanistan, they died in combat. The first Canadian woman killed in action in a combat role was Captain Nichola Goddard of the artillery. Three other military women died in Afghanistan, and a woman reporter covering the combat. The process of change has not been perfect - women still face glass ceilings and sexual harassment - but the process of equality continues.



Kristal Giesebrecht



Karine Blais



Michelle Lang



Nichola Goddard



Michelle Mendes

How Canadians Memorialized their Dead of the Great War

All around us are the memorials to the dead of the Great War. The promise was made that they would not be forgotten, and a century later that promise has been kept. Just up the road from the VIMM is a cenotaph - a tomb-like monument erected to a person buried elsewhere. There are hundreds of cenotaphs across Canada that are the focal point of Remembrance Day ceremonies. In addition to the cenotaph form, there are also hundreds of other monuments, the most famous of which are probably the National War Memorial in Ottawa and the Vimy Memorial in France. Locally there are several obelisks which are based on the ancient Egyptian representation of a petrified sun ray. All list the names of the dead – not forgotten.

Other forms of memorial are also around us. In Errington, in December 1919, a public meeting was held to decide on an appropriate form of memorial and the result was a building for community use. The Errington War Memorial Hall opened in 1922 having been financed by community bazaars, whist drives and concerts. Volunteers built the hall and materials were donated. In Clayoquot BC, a community hall was also chosen to be a fitting war memorial. In Parksville, a street was named Memorial Avenue and an elm tree was planted along the street for each of the fallen from the area. In 1922, Parksville also added a monument in the form of a cross, designed and built by Cyril Millins.

In 1925, in Newfoundland, citizens established Memorial University as a living memorial to those who died in the Great War. In Brampton Ontario, in the 1920s, a hospital was dedicated as a memorial. When a replacement for the Peel Memorial Hospital was built recently and the name was dropped, a public outcry forced officials to hastily dedicate a building as the Peel Memorial.



Nelson Island granite was used for the cenotaph in Victoria and for the BC Legislature.



Remembering the dead with something that serves the community. Errington War Memorial Hall.



In Chemainus, a beautiful location for the war memorial obelisk

Nelson Island Granite

Cyril Millins used granite from Nelson Island for his Nanaimo and Parksville memorials. This hard grey stone was also used for the cenotaph on the BC Legislature grounds and earlier for the foundation of the Legislature itself. The war memorials in Parksville, Ladysmith and Chemainus are also made from Nelson Island granite. Nelson Island is part of the Sunshine Coast, between Texada Island and the mainland.



In Ladysmith the memorial is an obelisk made from Nelson Island granite

Nearly Forgotten Designer of Memorials Cyril Millins of Nanaimo and Victoria

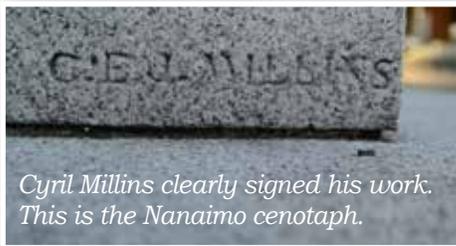


Cyril Millins designed and built the Nanaimo cenotaph and the war memorial in Parksville. His name is clearly on both monuments. But right from 1920 and the reporting of the winner of the Nanaimo design competition, his full name is consistently misstated, even today in City of Nanaimo documents. Cyril Ewart John Millins was born in England in 1885. Little is known of his life until he volunteered for the Army in March 1915. Then military records reveal something of the man. He was 5 foot 6 inches tall and had blue eyes. His “trade or calling” was listed as “Sculptor.” Before going overseas in July 1915, he married and over the next four years his wife lived in Victoria, Port Alberni, and Nanaimo. C. E. J. Millins spent 35 months on active service in France taking part in such great battles as Vimy Ridge, Passchendaele, and Amiens. Millins ended the war with the Canadian Machine Gun Corps and was wounded on November 10, 1918 – the second last day of the war.

Millins must have entered the Nanaimo memorial competition soon after returning to Canada in 1919. Documents of The Mining and Engineering Record Journal state that Millins was operating a “well equipped monumental and stone cutting plant” in Nanaimo in 1921. He also designed and built the war memorial in Parksville in 1922.

Millins moved to Victoria in the mid 1920s after buying the well-established Mortimer and Sons Monument works. He lived at 1126 Dallas Road, sang bass in the Masonic quartet choir, and led a successful and stable life until his death in 1950. Mortimer’s is still in business and still making and repairing war memorials.

It was most appropriate that a talented sculptor and local war veteran build these important war memorials from local materials. If any reader has more information about Millins, the VIMM would love to hear.



Cyril Millins clearly signed his work. This is the Nanaimo cenotaph.



Parksville Memorial’s Great War names.

Rudyard Kipling was a famous British poet and author who dedicated his poem “If” to his son who was killed in the Great War. Kipling was an original member of the Imperial War Graves Commission and was responsible for selecting the inscriptions that are today found on war memorials all around the world.

“Their name liveth for evermore.”
(From the the Bible – the full phrase is, *Their bodies are buried in peace, but their name liveth for evermore.*)
“A soldier of the Great War –
Known unto God.”

The inscription of the tablet of names on the Nanaimo cenotaph is a variation on Kipling’s selection.



C. E. J. Millins’ designed and built the Parksville memorial which has been moved and modified several times



Food as a Weapon of War

Our display about the Home Front in WW2 shows how Canada faced the challenges of feeding the armed forces and exporting food to Britain and other allied countries. A healthy Canadian work force that could produce food and weapons contributed to the home front and the cause of victory. Food was indeed a weapon of war.

Canadian food exports provided a life line to Britain. By war's end, 57% of British wheat and flour was provided by Canada. Also, 39% of pork, 15% of eggs, and 24% of cheese.

With a million men and women in Canadian uniform, there was a shortage of farm labour. Thousands of school children, young women, and adult women devoted their summers to low paid agricultural work as members of the *Farm Cadets*, *Farmerettes*, and the *Women's Land Brigade*.

Food controls and education programmes were introduced as the war progressed. Consumption was rationed by means of ration books, with a changing number of coupons required to buy food each week. Some foods were banned outright, and meatless Tuesdays were encouraged and later extended to meatless Fridays.

Conservation of food was promoted through *Victory Gardens* and "growing your own" was popular, with over 200 000 gardens in production. Home canning of fruits and vegetables was encouraged and families could contribute to the *Jam for Britain* programme.

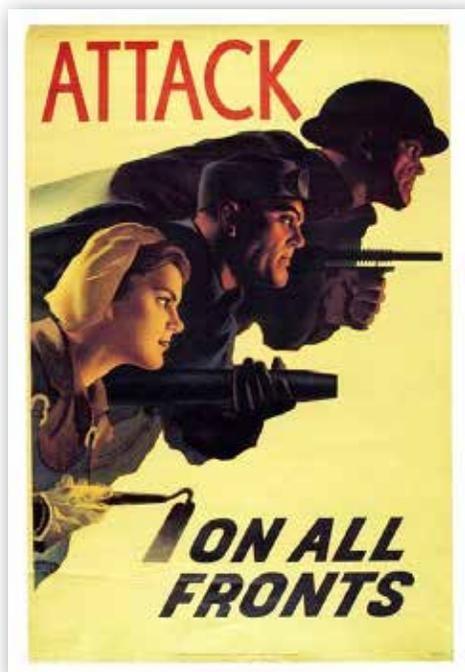
Saving fats and oils was essential for ammunition production. One pound (0.454 kg) of fat supplied enough glycerine to fire 150 bullets from a BREN gun.

Families with Two Children		
For 1 Adult and 2 Children Ages 1 to 10 yrs.		
Food	Amount per week	Cost per week
Milk	10 qts.	\$2.00
Cheese	1 lb.	
Butter	2 lbs.	
Potatoes	10 lbs.	1.15
Fresh vegetables	10 lbs.	
Dried vegetables	1 lb.	
Fresh fruit	5 lbs.	.90
Dried fruit	1½ lbs.	
Meat or fish	4 lbs.	.70
Eggs	1 doz.	
Bread	6 loaves	.40
Flours and Cereals	3 lbs.	
Other foods and flavorings		.40
Daily cost 25 cents a person.		\$5.15
For 2 Adults and 2 Children Ages 1 to 10 yrs.		
Food	Amount per week	Cost per week
Milk	12 qts.	\$2.40
Cheese	1 lb.	
Butter	2½ lbs.	
Potatoes	13 lbs.	1.60
Fresh vegetables	15 lbs.	
Dried vegetables	1 lb.	
Fresh fruit	6 lbs.	1.05
Dried fruit	2 lbs.	
Meat or fish	5 lbs.	.40
Eggs	1 doz.	
Bread		

Wartime rations. How does this compare to your diet?



Everyone had a ration book.



Healthier and Better Fed

The result was not only a huge contribution of exported food but also a healthier and better fed Canadian populace. The armed forces may have complained about food, but in fact they had on average more to eat and a better balanced diet than before the war. In the RCAF, the daily allowance was for 3900 calories. By 1945 civilian per capita consumption of fruits, vegetables, and dairy products was well above the pre-war level. After the war, Canadians ate less food through the 1950s, and did not match wartime consumption again until 1959.

DISPATCHES



Remembrance Day

VIMM will be open following the ceremonies at the Nanaimo cenotaph and until 4:00pm. Admission is free.



Record Set

August was a record setting month! VIMM had more visitors than any previous month.



VIMM docents Greg Devenish and Steve Sharp.

Visitors from Around the World

The summer of 2018 saw more visitors to the VIMM from outside Canada than ever before They came from:

Brazil	Poland	Ukraine
Netherlands	India	Romania
United Kingdom	Chile	Belgium
USA	Switzerland	Mexico
Germany	Australia	Japan
China	Italy	Venezuela
Russia	New Zealand	Costa Rica
Denmark	France	

Wall of Honour Complete

The fourth and final phase of the Wall of Honour was dedicated in June.

Welcome New Volunteer

Rick Stevenson

VIMM Trophy Presentations

Every year the VIMM presents trophies to local cadet units. Here are this year's winners:

VIMM Collishaw Trophy

Presented to the Air Cadet of 205 Squadron who displays the greatest interest in aviation. Presented by VIMM director Bill Brayshaw to **Air Cadet Sergeant Paradis**.

VIMM J. P. Bell Navy League Cadet Corps Trophy

Presented by VIMM vice president Brian McFadden to **CPO2 Mackenzie Wang**.

VIMM Mathews Trophy

Presented by VIMM director Pat Patterson to **Army Cadet CWO Jack Wilton**.

VIMM HMCS Sackville Award

Presented to the RCSCC Amphion cadet showing the most improvement in the guard. Presented to **LS B. Fairbrother** by VIMM director Bruce Davison.



The Collishaw Trophy

