

# Year round ready-to-use lessons

## ReadingandRemembrance.ca

### 2010 Homeland Stories

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Free online resources presented first in 2005, the Year of the Veteran, for Remembrance Day, are now year round resources for Veterans' Week, Women's History Month and Character Education. Ten ready-to-use lessons that go online annually in September emphasize reading, diversity, equity, and research into local history. More than 50 archived lessons and approximately 30 shorter "Minutes" are a boon to school librarians, teachers and supply teachers seeking Canadian-based, high-interest stimulus materials that supplement curricula in English, Civics, History, Music, Visual and Dramatic Arts, Law and Family Studies.

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### PAST THEMES HAVE INCLUDED:

*"In Flanders Fields"*

[www.readingandremembrance.ca/2005.html](http://www.readingandremembrance.ca/2005.html)

*Anti-Racism and Holocaust Education*

[www.readingandremembrance.ca/2006.html](http://www.readingandremembrance.ca/2006.html)

*Women and War*

[www.readingandremembrance.ca/2007.html](http://www.readingandremembrance.ca/2007.html)

*The Art of Dissent*

[www.readingandremembrance.ca/2008.html](http://www.readingandremembrance.ca/2008.html)

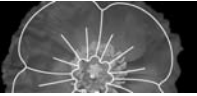
*Medals and Memories*

[www.readingandremembrance.ca/2009.html](http://www.readingandremembrance.ca/2009.html)

The top three lessons of 2009, "Feathers, Fur and Hide", "First Nations" and "A Difficult Cross to Bear" (about mothers of fallen soldiers) were downloaded over 4,000 times in one month. The 2010 roster for

Homeland Stories of WWII features materials on child war guests from Britain, tons of gold shipped to Canada for safekeeping, submarine battles in the St. Lawrence River, a "Queen of the Hurricanes", comic book hero Johnny Canuck and even war grooms, the men Canadian women married when they came to train in the Commonwealth Air Training Program.

READING AND REMEMBRANCE PROJECT 2010  
PROJET LECTURE ET SOUVENIR 2010



## HOMELAND STORIES

The Aerodrome of Democracy: the Commonwealth Air Training Program in Ontario

Character Education

- Relate to the importance of historical landmarks in one's own vicinity
- Value the impressive range of Canadian contributions on the home front during WWII
- Enrich the understanding of the advancement of women towards equality

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**Facts**

- During WWII, The Commonwealth Air Training Plan had 231 training sites. Canada graduated a total of 131,553 air crew many of whom were American or from Commonwealth countries
- Infrastructure for *The Plan* in Canada involved building 8,300 structures of which 700 were to house airplanes; storage for 118 litres of fuel was installed; 100 sewage treatment and disposal plants, 120 water pumping stations, 3200 km of main power lines and 861 km of underground electrical cable were put into place
- 17,038 women enlisted in the RCAF Women's Division most of whom supported *The Plan*
- The Ottawa Memorial commemorates 800 men and women who lost their lives while serving or training with the Air Forces of the Commonwealth in Canada, the West Indies and the United States and who have no known grave

**Before the Reading**

- List all the small airports you know of in Ontario. Why were such small airports built?
- How do wars boost economies in any time period?
- With women being child-bearers and mostly having primary responsibility for child-raising, why do they choose to work outside the home?
- When and why did women first start to get into the workforce?


HOMELAND MINUTES



Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum Mount Hope, Ontario  
www.warplane.com/ | Photography Mary Cook

**Little Norways: proud pockets of freedom**

By June 1940, the Nazi juggernaut had quashed Norwegian resistance. The Norwegian whaling fleet fled to Halifax where many of its ships were converted into anti-submarine corvettes that fought in the *Battle of the Atlantic*. What was left of the Norwegian air force fled to Britain. During this time of stress, the Norwegian government-in-exile in London was already negotiating to lease the Toronto Island Airport for training to re-build the Royal Norwegian Air Force under the auspices of the Commonwealth Air Training Plan. A training camp at the south-west corner of Bathurst Street and Queen's Quay officially



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The 2010 lessons follow a **161 km Rule**. Practically every young person in Ontario should be able to find an air base, adopted ship, prisoner of war camp or a WWII tie-in within 161 km of his or her community. From Windsor to St. Eustache and from Kapuskasing and Thunder Bay to Port Stanley and Dunnville, hundreds of men, women and children contributed on the home front during WWII. With some adjustment to the 161 km rule there is scope for local research and the commemoration of WWII contributions in other provinces as well. Adopted ships, war industries, air crew training and prisoner of war camps were spread throughout Canada.

A special lesson on the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, IODE is in honour of their 110 years of service to communities

across Canada. A great model for Character Education and the roles of women during times of war and peace, the lesson proves to all young people that although nobody can do everything, everyone can do something.

Reading and Remembrance 2010: *Homeland Stories* lessons and minutes may be found at [www.readingandremembrance.ca/2010.html](http://www.readingandremembrance.ca/2010.html)

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## THE LESSON TEMPLATE DECONSTRUCTED:

### MEDALS AND MEMORIES: First Nations

**Character Education**

- Explore multiple perspectives to achieve consensus on universal attributes
- Develop common ground on the values we share as Canadians
- Learn to think critically about the world
- Increase levels of personal and social responsibility

**MEALS AND MEMORIES MINUTES**



**Francis Pegahmagabow (1891-1952)** three times awarded the Military Medal in WWI was an expert marksman and scout credited with killing up to 378 Germans and capturing 300 more. The Ojibwa from Parry Island was twice wounded but willingly returned to his unit after recovery. His citation for the Battle of Paschendaele reads, "November 6th/7th, 1917, this NCO did excellent work. Before and after the attack he kept in touch with the flanks, advising the units he had seen, this information proving the success of the attack and saving valuable time in consolidating." Francis served in the Algonquin Regiment after 1919, as chief of the Parry Island Band 1921-1925 and as Supreme Chief of the Native Independent Government in 1943. Joseph Boyden's 2005 novel *Three Day Road* was inspired in part by Pegahmagabow.

**Facts**

- More than 7000 persons, then called Indians, served in WWI, WWII and the Korean War, along with an unknown number of Métis and other individuals with First Nations heritage
- Francis Pegahmagabow, from Ontario was the most highly decorated Canadian native in WWI; among his many medals was the Military Medal with two bars for bravery
- Tommy Prince from Manitoba earned 11 medals during WWI and Korea including the American Silver Star for gallantry

**Before the Reading**

- What do you know about Joseph Brant or Molly Brant or any other First Nations persons who in the past served Canada in war and peace?


**Reading #1 – A Fighting Tradition**

**Character Education** is the first heading after the title of the lesson. Based on the Ontario Ministry of Education document *Finding Common Ground: Character Development in Ontario Schools, K-12*, three or four bullets per lesson present actions to “empower students to think critically, feel deeply and act wisely.”<sup>1</sup> The emphasis is on service to others, appreciation of equity and the valuing of diversity. The bullets suggest character developing actions that teachers may embed in their lessons.

**Facts**

- in 1939 the Royal Canadian Navy consisted of about 10 warships and 3,700 men. By the end of the war, there were 378 warships and nearly 100,000 navy personnel
- German submarines destroyed 23 ships in Canadian territorial waters with the loss of over 500 lives. They landed two spies on Canadian territory and set up a weather station in Labrador
- Twelve RCAF squadrons and 129 Canadian warships received Battle Honours for their contribution to the defense of Canada during The Battle of the St. Lawrence

**HOMELAND MINUTES**



**Cold Comfort: Navy Nursing Sisters: Sub-Lieutenant Margaret Brooke, M.B.E. and Sub-Lieutenant Agnes Wilkie**

*“When the torpedo hit it stunned me. Agnes got up quickly however and we rushed to our lifeboat on the port side. It had been shot away. Agnes didn’t know how to put her lifebelt on so I did it for her. They helped us onto a capsized lifeboat. There were about a dozen of us. We clung to ropes. The waves kept washing us off, one by one. And eventually Agnes said she was getting cramped. She let go, but I managed to catch hold of her with one hand. I held to her as best I could until day-break. Finally, a wave took her .... When I called to her, she didn’t answer.”*

These recollections from a hospital interview of Margaret Brooke describe the night of October 14, 1942, when she clung to a capsized lifeboat in the frigid waters of Cabot Strait struggling for hours to keep her friend Agnes Wilkie alive. The torpedoed ferry *Caribou* on which they had been passengers had sunk in five minutes.

The immediate sounds of the boilers exploding, steel

**Before the Reading**

- Why do you think the information about German submarine and the loss of life in Canada’s territorial waters were played down during WWII?
- What does it take to be a hero today?
- Look at a map that shows the Gulf of St. Lawrence area to find Cap Chat, Gaspé Peninsula, Cabot Strait, Port aux Basques, North Sydney, New Carlisle, St. Martins (N.B) and Strait of Belle Isle

**Reading – Battles on the Home Front**

**The Battle of the St. Lawrence**

We tend to think of World Wars taking place “over there”, somewhere far away from Canada. Most of the attention to World War II is focussed on Europe with some attention paid to the war in the Pacific, Northern Africa and Burma.

The **Facts** section presents up to five bullets with information that underlies the lesson. The facts provide the teacher with a hook to catch young people’s interest.

**Before the Reading** prompts are based on a variety of strategies that prepare students for the Ontario Literacy Test. Before the Reading questions and brainstorming set the scene for the readings and they create an atmosphere of readiness that stimulates inferences and connections during the readings.

**Reading(s)** are compiled, digested or extracted from a variety of sources available online or through public libraries and archives. In instances where there is more than one reading or readings with separate parts, the components stand alone. For example, the different parts of the IODE and the “Safe Haven” lessons may be assigned for pair or group work.

By the time the BCATP ended March 31, 1945, Canada had received 159,340 trainees.

The 72,835 RCAF graduates consisted of:  
25,747 pilots  
12,855 navigators  
6,657 bombers  
12,744 wireless operator/gunners  
12,917 gunners  
1,913 flight engineers. (The Flight Engineers School in Aylmer, Ontario had first opened in July 1944.)

Canadians had trained:  
9,606 crew for the Royal Australian Air Force  
7002 for the New Zealand Air Force and  
42,110 for the Royal Air Force  
a number that included:  
448 Poles  
677 Norwegians  
800 Belgian and Dutch  
900 Czechs  
2,600 Free French

The Naval Fleet Air Arm of *The Plan* had trained 5,296 personnel. Canadian civilian personnel in the thousands supported *The Plan*. With its major contribution to the training of air personnel for WWII, small wonder that President Franklin D. Roosevelt called Canada "the aerodrome of Democracy".

#### After the Reading

- List *The Plan* facilities in this reading that are within 161 km of where you live. What remains of them today?
- Why were Polish, Norwegian, Czech, Belgian, Dutch, Danish and Free French in Canada for air training during WWII? How would they have gotten here from occupied Europe?
- What is most astounding about Canada taking the lead in the Commonwealth Air Training Plan?
- List all the airplanes that were used as part of the training. Find a photo of one of these

ReadingAndRemembrance.ca

#### Extensions

- The Edenvale Aerodrome (No. 1 Relief Field for Camp Borden) has had a fascinating history that includes being a racetrack and a bunker. Research and write its history or that of an aerodrome near where you live
- Jack Wilfred Williams describes his training at the Deseronto Air Instrument Training School for The Memory Project [www.thememoryproject.com](http://www.thememoryproject.com) Use this valuable Memory Project resource to research a veteran from *The Plan* that comes from a community near you
- Flight Ontario [www.flightontario.ca/bcatp-schools.htm](http://www.flightontario.ca/bcatp-schools.htm) provides a simulation program that allows you to experience what trainees of *The Plan* felt. Report your experiences with this simulation to your classmates

#### Sources

- "Elsie MacGill, Queen of the Hurricanes", *The Maple Leaf*, National Defence and the Canadian Forces, [www.forces.gc.ca](http://www.forces.gc.ca)
- Mackey, Doug. "Little Norway Remembered in Royal Visit", *Community Voices*, May 24, 2002, [www.pastforward.ca/perspectives/may\\_242002.htm](http://www.pastforward.ca/perspectives/may_242002.htm)
- "Queen of the Hurricanes", *Canada: a People's History*, CBC Learning, [www.cbc.ca/history](http://www.cbc.ca/history)
- Saxberg, Kelly, *Rosies of the North*, NFB 1999, [www.nfb.ca/film/rosies\\_of\\_the\\_north](http://www.nfb.ca/film/rosies_of_the_north)
- "The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan", *Canada Remembers*, Veterans Affairs Canada, [www.vac-acc.gc.ca](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca)
- "The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan" and "The Royal Canadian Air Force Women's Division", Juno Beach Centre, [www.juno.beach.org](http://www.juno.beach.org)
- "The Women who serve that men may fly", CBC Digital Archives, [www.archives.cbc.ca](http://www.archives.cbc.ca)
- "WWII History: Number 4 Wireless School", Milnet.ca Forums, [www.forums.milnet.ca](http://www.forums.milnet.ca)
- WWII posters Rare Books and Special Collections, McGill University Library, [digital.library.mcgill.ca/warposters/english/index.htm](http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/warposters/english/index.htm)
- [www.flightontario.com/bcatp-schools.htm](http://www.flightontario.com/bcatp-schools.htm)

#### Audio Visual Clips

- [archives.cbc.ca/war\\_conflict/second\\_world\\_war/clips/5096/](http://archives.cbc.ca/war_conflict/second_world_war/clips/5096/) "The women who serve that men may fly"
- [digital.library.mcgill.ca/warposters/english/index.htm](http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/warposters/english/index.htm)

i The Plan ended up costing \$2.2 billion of which \$1.6 billion was Canada's share. The Canadian government cancelled Britain's training plan debts of \$424 million in March 1946

ii There were 11 Bombing and Gunnery Schools in Canada with 32,318 RCAF receiving bombing and gunnery training

**After the Reading** bullets prompt students to look for details, summarize main ideas, make connections and extract values from the readings. These activities, taken mostly from OSSLT preparation ideas, often link to character development.

**Extensions** lead into activities in different subject areas, provide stimulus for local research and raise controversial issues for further study. For example, the internment of Japanese-Canadians and the failure of Canada to welcome Jewish refugees during WWII are raised in the Extension sections to prompt further thinking and critical research.

The **Sources** section lists materials from which the readings and illustrations were derived as well as audio-visual resources. The visual sources are credited with the photo or painting.

**HISTORY MONTH OR CHARACTER BUILDING WORKSHOPS.**

**MEDALS AND MEMORIES MINUTES**

**The Mighty Eleven**  
The names of Khan, Negi and Thapa appeared in the Reading for WWI. Another eight Indian names are among the roll call for Victoria Crosses, the highest British Commonwealth award, during WWI. Sepoy Chatta Singh of the 9th Bhopal Infantry was awarded the VC, for his devotion in protecting his commanding officer. Sepoy Singh bound up his C.O.'s wound, dug cover for him with his entrenching tool and remained with him for five hours until nightfall, shielding him with his own body, until eventually under the cover of darkness he was able to take the officer to safety. Lance Naik Lala dragged a British Officer of another

**MEDALS AND MEMORIES MINUTES**

"Cadets taught me how to fly. I never knew how high it would take me." Chris Hofffield, Canadian aviator  
July 8, 2009, as the city of Oshawa lay beneath him, Air Cadet Warrant Officer second class, Alex Harmson of Cobourg, could see into his future. He had just logged his first solo flight in a Cessna 172 as part of a flying scholarship he had earned. One of 82 Air Cadets selected from across Ontario, Alex will log

**MEDALS AND MEMORIES MINUTES**

**Félix Adolphe Éboué.** born in French Guiana. educated in Africa  
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**MEDALS AND MEMORIES MINUTES**

**Frances Loring**  
Mary-Ann Liu of Mission, B.C. designed the bronze overlay for Canada's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier unveiled in 2000. Marlene Hilton-Moore co-designed the Valiants Memorial unveiled in 2006. These two artists have a fore-runner in Frances Loring (1887-1968). Loring and fellow sculptor, Florence Wyle, met while art students in Chicago and moved to Toronto in 1913. Their studio/home (formerly a church) on Glenrose Avenue was a focal point for artists, scholars and students for

**MEDALS AND MEMORIES MINUTES**

Lance Corporal John Shiwak who received the British War Medal and the Victory Medal, died at the Battle of Cambrai in northern France Nov 20, 1917. Shiwak, a hunter and trapper of Inuit descent from the remote Rigolet community in Labrador, was a sniper and a scout with the "F" Company of the 1st Newfoundland Regiment.

**MEDALS AND MEMORIES MINUTES**

**Canada's Canine Hero "Sergeant Gander"**  
PDSA Dickin Medal Award citation: "For saving the lives of Canadian infantrymen during the Battle of Iwo Jima on Hong Kong Island in December 1941." As a black 60 kilo family pet chasing planes on the Gander airstrip, Pal the Newfoundland dog, was a nuisance. As a playful mascot for the Royal Rifles of Canada Regiment, the newly-named Gander was a joy; he learned to drink draft beer and

**Minutes** which are shorter, high interest readings were started in 2009 with *Medals and Memories* to capture younger readers and those with shorter attention spans. There are now sufficient **Minutes** for teachers to use this resource as a stand-alone lesson. Teachers may wish to assign one Minute per student or pair of students, for varied student presentations.

[www.readingandremembrance.ca/minutes.html](http://www.readingandremembrance.ca/minutes.html)

All six years of lessons are suitable for Veterans' Week and Character Education. Below are suggestions to use Reading and Remembrance to focus on equity issues for Women's History Month in October and to celebrate diversity in June.

**EQUITY IN FOCUS: WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH OCTOBER 2010**

**Minutes:** First Nations nurse Edith Anderson Monture, sculptor Frances Loring, Air Cadet Lorraine Rigden, composer Ruth Lowe, opera singer Portia White, airplane designer Elsie MacGill, volunteer organizer the Marchioness of Reading, naval officers Agnes Wilkie and Margaret Brooke, movie star Mary Pickford and war bride Pat LaVac

**Lessons:** *Women and War* lessons on female spies, war artists, pilots, munitions workers, nurses, decoders, and postal workers who made history. Lesson on Silver Cross mothers and wives in *Medals and Memories*. IODE lesson and War Brides lesson in *Homeland Stories*.

Arts focussed lessons in *The Art of Dissent*: "Girl in Hall" and "Nude"

**CANADIAN IDENTITY: National Aboriginal Day June 21<sup>st</sup>,  
Canadian Multiculturalism Day June 27<sup>st</sup>, Canada Day July 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Minutes:** Edith Anderson Monture, Portia White, William Edward Hall, Francis Pegahmagabow, Tommy Prince, Tul Bahadur Pun, Félix Adolphe Éboué, The Bikaner Camel Corps, The Mighty Eleven and Chandi Kaur.

**Lessons:** "First Nations", "The Inuit", "From Far and Wide" and "Twentieth Century Babel" in *Medals and Memories*. Lesson "Fighting on All Fronts" in *Women and War*. Lessons in *Anti-Racism and Holocaust Education*. Lessons on "First Nations" and "PoWs" in *Homeland Stories*.

Reading and Remembrance was started in 2005 by the Durham West Arts Centre with Ontario Power Generation Pickering as its founding sponsor. In 2009 the Ontario Historical Society joined Lead sponsor Ontario Power Generation as one of the chief supporters of the project. MP Mark Holland contributes to the success of this project, promoting it both in Parliament and the community. The Canada Remembers Program of Veterans Affairs Canada, the Pickering Central Library, SLiC and the Ontario School Librarians Association have been generous with their support.

<sup>i</sup> "Parents: Character Development Initiative", Ontario Ministry of Education,  
[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/charcter.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/charcter.html)