

## MEDALS AND MEMORIES MINUTES



*The WWI Memorial at  
Osgoode Hall, Toronto by  
Frances Loring  
Image: The Law Society of  
Upper Canada*

### 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 almost 50 years. In 1918 they received a commission from the Canadian War Records Department to portray civilians in the war industry. Loring created seven bronzes including a bronze plaque "Noon Hour at the Munitions Plant" which depicted active, strong women in a positive way. Loring's reputation became so great that she worked tirelessly on memorials throughout the 1920s. In 1928 in Italy she completed her finest memorial for the Great Library in Osgoode Hall. Loring's seven-foot tall Carrara marble statue depicted a draped, nude young man, palms upward, before a panel of names of those who lost their lives in the Great War. The unveiling ceremony took place Nov. 11, 1928. At the head of a grand procession were Bishop Sweeney and Canon Baynes followed by the choir of St. James cathedral, the Lieutenant Governor and the justices of the Supreme Court. Then came all the benchers, in full regalia with robes and war medals, followed by the relatives of those who fell in battle. In the awesome silence thereafter Col. G.R. Geary read the roll of the fallen. At the same time as Loring worked on the Osgoode Memorial, she sculpted "The War Widow", a mother and two children and a tympanum figure panel, "The Recording Angel" for the memorial chamber of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa—a work all Silver Cross Mothers have seen. The Art Gallery of Ontario has 250 Loring and Wyle works in storage and evidence of their creativity waits to be re-discovered in many Ontario communities.