



Pacific Coast Branch

The Great War – 1914-1919

Remembering – Honouring – Learning



2019 Seminar Program

8, 9 and 10 March 2019

Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) Officers' Mess, Bay Street Armoury, Victoria, BC, Canada



Friday, March 8 – Evening

18:00 – 21:30 Check-in, Social Gathering, and Silent Auction/Show and Tell Setup

Saturday, March 9 – Day

08:00 – 09:00 Check-in (Coffee, tea and refreshments served)

09:00 – 09:15 Greetings, introductions and moment of silence: John Azar

09:15 – 10:30 The Legacy of Canada's Great War: Dr. Tim Cook, Canadian War Museum

10:30 – 10:45 Stretch Break

10:45 – 11:00 Shelbourne Memorial Avenue: Ray Travers and Alan MacLeod

11:00 – 12:00 Secret Treaties: Salvatore Compagno

12:00 – 13:15 Lunch: Silent auction, video greeting and C Scot R museum

13:15 – 14:00 Mons, Belgium, 11 November 2018: John Azar and Keith Maxwell

14:00 – 15:00 "What every disabled soldier should know"—Canada's Great war military hospitals and convalescent homes and their legacy: Yvonne Van Ruskenveld

15:00 – 15:15 Canadian Great War Project Update: Jim Kempling and Greg Norman

15:15 – 16:00 Beaverbrook Vimy Prize Program: John T. Evans (Student, Mt. Douglas H.S.)

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Saturday, March 9 – Evening

- Mess Dinner:** Jackets and ties or mess-kit for gentlemen, suits or dresses for ladies
- 18:00 – 18:50** Cocktails and Silent Auction Bidding. The C Scot R museum will be open.
- 19:00 – 21:00** Dinner
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Tim Cook—Experiences of a Great War Historian
- 21:00 – ☉** Socializing in mess bar, silent auction bidding, payment and pickup
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Sunday, March 10 – Morning

- 08:30 – 9:00** Coffee, tea and refreshments served
- 09:00 – 10:00** Punjab in the Aftermath of the First World War: Dr. Chandar Sundaram
- 10:00 – 10:50** My Grandparents' Story: Allan Hart
- 10:50 – 11:00** Stretch Break
- 11:00 – 11:55** General Meeting: The Future of the Pacific Coast Branch
- 11:55 – 12:00** Farewells
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- 12:00** Group team-building clean up
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Descriptions and Speaker Bios

Saturday, March 9

The Legacy of Canada's Great War: Dr. Tim Cook, Canadian War Museum

An examination of why we still care about the war, how it continues to haunt us as a people, and the legacy of the war in politics, culture, and society.

Dr. Tim Cook is an historian at the Canadian War Museum. He is the author of eight books and several dozen academic articles. In 2012, he was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal for his contributions to Canadian history and in 2013 he received the Governor General's History Award for Popular Media: The Pierre Berton Award. He is a member of the Order of Canada.

Shelbourne Memorial Avenue: Ray Travers and Alan MacLeod

Thanks to the efforts of WFA-PCB members Ray Travers, Mary-Jane Shaw, Alan MacLeod and others, Shelbourne Street – the location of the First World War memorial trees in the Greater Victoria municipality of Saanich – has been designated Memorial Avenue. Ray and Alan will inform us of the effort that culminated in the designation and the installation of commemorative signs and interpretive panels. The next stage is to convince the City of Victoria to designate their portion of Shelbourne Street.



Ray Travers is a retired Registered Professional Forester who has had a long interest in memorial trees and avenues. It is thanks to his leadership, dogged determination and massive effort that this initiative has succeeded.

Alan MacLeod's interest in commemoration resulted in his book *Remembered in Bronze and Stone: Canadas Great War Memorial Statuary*. He can now add living wood to his memorial repertoire.

Secret Treaties: Salvatore (Sal) Compagno

The "Secret Treaties" prior and during WW1 were to orchestrate and alter the configuration of the maps of Europe & Asia. The war was a deliberate real estate venture on the part of both sides of the conflict and the present world is still engaged in its shape. These treaties made the modern world.

Sal Compagno was formerly president of the World War 1 Historical Association. He is a California native, traveled widely and led battlefield tours on the Western Front. His interest in WW1 was sparked by a brief but moving experience in the Verdun area of France. He has been attending the Pacific Chapter Branch seminars since its beginning.

Mons, Belgium, 11 November 2018: John Azar and Keith Maxwell

Mons, Belgium was the site of the first major engagement between British and German forces in August 1914. On the 11 November 1918, after fifty-one months of occupation, Canadian troops liberated the city of Mons. John Azar and Keith Maxwell will share their experiences during the series of memorable commemoration events held in and around Mons during the 100th anniversary of the city's liberation.

John Azar is the Chair of the WFA-Pacific Coast Branch.

Colonel (Retired) Keith Maxwell has a special relationship with the commemoration events at Mons. His long and varied military career (infantry and air force) included a posting to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE) in Mons in the mid-1990s. He became a serious student of the battles and began conducting battlefield tours and organizing commemoration events.

“What every disabled soldier should know”—Canada’s Great war military hospitals and convalescent homes and their legacy: Yvonne Van Ruskenveld

Soon after the Canadian Expeditionary Force fought its first battles on the Western Front in 1915, the government recognized that special medical and convalescent services would be needed back in Canada to care for badly injured and ill veterans. This talk will describe the role of the Military Hospitals Commission and its successor, the Department of Soldiers Civil Reestablishment, in caring for these veterans and helping them, where possible, return to civilian life. The legacy of these organizations rests today in our public and occupational health system.

Yvonne Van Ruskenveld's interest in the Great War arose out of her historical walking tours in Ross Bay Cemetery where many Great War veterans are memorialized. She has given presentations to the Pacific Coast Branch on soldier memorials, nursing sisters, prisoners of war, the Royal Flying Corps in Canada, and the cycle corps of the CEF. She is a member of the WFA Pacific Coast Branch, the Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria, and the Victoria Historical Society.

Canadian Great War Project Update: Jim Kempling and Greg Norman

Over the last 15 years, the Canadian Great War Project (CGWP) has grown from a simple web site into the largest searchable database dedicated to the Canadian men and women that served in the CEF during the Great War. Much of the CGWP's success has come from its relationship with the University of Victoria (UVic) which has been upgrading and expanding the database. Jim Kempling and Greg Norman will provide an update on the status of the CGWP.

Colonel (Retired) Jim Kempling is a doctoral candidate at the University of Victoria. He facilitated the relationship between UVic and the CGWP during his work on *Birth of a Regiment* and *A City Goes to War* projects.

Greg Norman is the database developer for the CGWC project.

Beaverbrook Vimy Prize Program: John T. Evans (Student, Mount Douglas H.S.)

John will share his experience as one of 14 students from Canada to receive the Beaverbrook Vimy Prize 2018. This is an educational program for youth to study the interwoven First and Second World War history of Canada, Great Britain and France.

John Evans is 18 years old, and a Gr. 12 student enrolled in the Challenge program at Mt. Douglas Secondary School in Victoria, BC. John continues to act as an Ambassador for the Vimy Foundation. Besides his interest in history, John enjoys the study of music, especially that of composition, pipe organ, and piano.

Sunday, March 10**Punjab in the Aftermath of the First World War: Dr. Chandar Sundaram**

Approximately 400,000 or 60% of the 765,000 Indian recruits in the First World War were from the Punjab, the land of five rivers and home of the martial races. This region accounted for about 17% of the British Colony of India's total population. But what happened to the Punjabi soldiers upon their return to civvy street after the war? This presentation will tell that story, focusing on the district soldier boards that the government set up to deal with soldier and ex-soldier grievances and welfare. This was deemed important, for the Raj depended upon its military, especially given the popular Indian agitations of the interwar period, and that military still depended on Punjabi manpower.

Dr. Chandar Sundaram is a historian of the colonial Indian Army. His latest book, due out next month, is *Indianization, the Officer Corps, and the Indian Army: the Forgotten Debate, 1817-1917*, published by Lexington Books.

My Grandparents' Story: Allan Hart

In the early morning of April 9, 1917, Allan Woods Hart of the 44th Battalion joined other Canadian soldiers in the assault on Vimy Ridge where he not only survived, but was promoted for valour and awarded the Military Medal. Allan Curties Hart will share the memories of his grandfather, Lieutenant Allan Woods Hart, and his English war bride Maud Curties.

Allan Curties Hart graduated from the University of Alberta in 1974 with a major in both history and computing science, a unique combination at the time. Although he chose a career in information technology, he never lost his interest and passion for history. In recognition of the centennial of Vimy Ridge in 2017, Allan donated all of his Grandfather's war artifacts to the District of Oak Bay Archives where a virtual album will be prepared for current and future generations. Allan was so impressed with his experience working with the archives team, he has become a volunteer archivist for the District of Oak Bay and is enjoying the experience immensely. Just like his Grandmother Maud, his lucky number is 44.



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