

CANADA REMEMBERS TIMES

Veterans' Week Special Edition — November 5-11, 2023

75 years of United Nations peacekeeping



Canadian peacekeeper at United Nations observation post in Eritrea in 2001.

Canada has a long tradition of standing up for peace and security around the world. One of the ways our country has done this is by taking part in peacekeeping missions.

Peacekeepers are neutral international troops. They go to places in turmoil to try to reduce tensions and restore peace. They can play many roles. This includes monitoring ceasefires, patrolling buffer

zones and clearing landmines. Peacekeepers also provide humanitarian aid, help refugees and investigate war crimes.

More than 125,000 Canadian Armed Forces members have served in peace operations in dozens of countries through the decades. Over 4,000 officers from the RCMP and other Canadian police forces have also participated.

Our country played a key role in the evolution of peacekeeping. Lester B. Pearson, Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for helping establish the UN Emergency Force in Egypt during the 1956 Suez Crisis. Pearson later became Canada's prime minister in 1963. The

Nobel Peace Prize was also awarded to all UN peacekeepers in 1988 for their impressive contributions over the years. This inspired our country to create the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal for those who have served in these missions. It also helped spur the unveiling of Reconciliation—the Peacekeeping Monument in downtown Ottawa in 1992.

The role of a peacekeeper is very challenging. The toll it takes on service members is often high. Approximately 130 Canadian Armed Forces members have lost their lives during these operations over the years. Many more have returned home with physical and psychological wounds that can last a lifetime. We recognize our brave peacekeepers who have done so much to help others.

DISASTER OFF THE COAST OF NOVA SCOTIA

The Canadian Armed Forces perform many important duties here in our country. One thing they do is launch search-and-rescue operations when ships are in distress or planes go down in remote areas. They have helped save many lives over the years. But sometimes they play a different role after a major accident.

On September 2, 1998, Swissair Flight 111 took off from New York City on its way to Geneva, Switzerland. Smoke was detected in the cockpit about an hour into its flight. The plane was quickly diverted to Halifax International Airport. Despite the best efforts of the pilots, at 10:31 pm the plane crashed into St. Margaret's Bay, about eight kilometres off Nova Scotia's coast.

Military personnel and local people tried to rescue possible survivors in the dark of night. The violent crash meant there was no one to save. 229 passengers and crew tragically lost their lives in the accident. The rescue mission soon became a recovery mission. Canadian Armed Forces members helped collect debris and evidence so investigators could determine the cause of the accident.

HMCS Preserver became the command ship for the recovery efforts. Military aircraft searched for human remains and wreckage in the water. Soldiers collected debris that washed up on shore and helped handle the recovered material.



Debris on the deck of a recovery ship near Peggy's Cove.

Many of the personnel who participated were young reservists. The recovery efforts were physically and emotionally exhausting. Some who helped in the aftermath of the Swissair Flight 111 crash suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). For many, hard memories would follow them for years afterward.

The Italian Campaign

More than 93,000 Canadians served in the Italian Campaign during the Second World War. This important chapter in our country's military history began when our troops came ashore in Sicily on July 10, 1943. The Allied invasion of this strategically important

Italian island in the Mediterranean Sea was known as Operation Husky. In the weeks that followed, the Canadians faced extreme conditions. The summer heat and dusty air was suffocating as our troops advanced through hundreds of kilometres of enemy territory.



Canadian Nursing Sisters on night duty in February 1944 during the Italian Campaign.

Italy was on Germany's side early in the war. After the Allies captured Sicily, Italy overthrew dictator Benito Mussolini and formally surrendered. Germany refused to see the country fall to the Allies, though. It quickly moved its soldiers in to fight and the campaign continued.

Canadian soldiers landed in mainland Italy on September 3, 1943. They joined the long, tough Allied advance up the peninsula. The terrain gave the determined German defenders a great advantage. Italy's many mountains, deep valleys and rivers helped them make it tough for the Allies to liberate the country. Despite the challenges, the Canadians helped push the enemy back in a series of battles through places like Ortona, the Liri Valley and Rimini.

Our soldiers weren't part of the final Allied victory in Italy. Beginning in February 1945, they were transferred to fight in Northwest Europe with the First Canadian Army. More than 26,000 Canadians were killed or wounded during the Italian Campaign. This includes nearly 6,000 who gave their lives.

At war in Korea

After years of rising tensions, North Korea invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950. This act of aggression triggered an international crisis in a place traditionally known as the "land of the morning calm."

The United Nations voted to send a multinational force to East Asia to intervene. More than 26,000 Canadians served during the Korean War. In the summer of 1950, the Royal Canadian Navy sent destroyers to patrol the waters off Korea and the Royal Canadian Air Force began air transport runs between North America and Asia. The Canadian Army sent ground forces soon after and our soldiers saw heavy action in places like Kapyong, Chail'i, Hill 355 and "the Hook." 516 Canadians were killed during the Korean War.

After more than three years, an armistice was signed on July 27, 1953. This agreement ended the fighting but was not a peace treaty, which means that the war never officially ended. 7,000 Canadian military personnel continued to serve in Korea in a peacekeeping role until 1957. Today, tensions along the border between North Korea and South Korea remain high.

2023 is the 70th anniversary of the signing of the armistice. We remember the brave Canadians who served in the Korean War.



Canadian soldiers cleaning their weapons during a quiet time on the front lines.

It’s cool to remember!

There are many ways Canadians honour those who have served our country at home and around the world. During Winterlude 2023 in Ottawa, remembrance was very cool thanks to a special ice sculpture near the National War Memorial.

This year is the 25th anniversary of the 1998 Ice Storm. Days of freezing precipitation in January of that year knocked down thousands of power lines. Millions of people lost electricity in parts of Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick.

Winterlude is a major festival in our nation’s capital. The ice sculpture and educational panels there helped visitors learn how more than 15,000 Canadian Armed Forces members stepped up to help after the natural disaster. Codenamed

Operation Recuperation, this military effort assisted people left in the dark and cold. Our service members cleared downed trees and helped feed thousands of people forced from their homes. They also helped restore the severely damaged electrical grid.



The special Winterlude ice sculpture commemorated the 1998 Ice Storm.

Photo: Veterans Affairs Canada

Three cheers for the INVICTUS ATHLETES

The Invictus Games is a special sporting competition for ill and injured military members and Veterans. “Invictus” is a Latin word that means unconquered. This international event highlights the courage and sacrifice of those who have paid a high price for their service.

Harry, Duke of Sussex and a Veteran of the British Armed Forces, founded the Invictus Games in 2014. Participants from around the world take part in

sports like archery, track and field, cycling, indoor rowing, powerlifting, sitting volleyball, swimming, wheelchair basketball, and wheelchair rugby.

For the competitors, the Invictus Games is a chance to represent their country, but in a different uniform. Canada will host the first hybrid summer-winter Invictus Games in British Columbia in 2025. Let’s cheer on Team Canada and all of the remarkable participants!



Team Canada Invictus Games 2020.

Photo: Department of National Defence

Did you know?

Remembrance Day has its roots in the First World War, which came to an end 105 years ago this year. The fighting in that deadly conflict finally stopped in 1918 at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. That’s why we take two minutes of solemn silence at 11 a.m. every November 11. Lest we forget.

Maintiens le droit— At home and overseas



Two members of the North-West Mounted Police during the South African War.

Photo: Public domain

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) is one of Canada’s most famous symbols. The Mounties wear a distinctive dress uniform: Stetson hat, scarlet tunic, dark blue pants with a yellow stripe and knee-high brown boots. Originally known as the North-West Mounted Police, the force’s roots date back to 1873. Today, the RCMP is present from coast to coast to coast.

Did you know the RCMP’s history also includes international military service?

More than 250 North-West Mounted Police officers took part in the South African War. During the First World War, over 1,000 members served in Europe and even in Siberia. This proud tradition continued during the Second World War and the Korean War, especially with the Canadian Army’s Provost Corps (military police). More recently, RCMP members have taken part in international peace operations. Since 1989, they have deployed to more than 30 countries.

The RCMP motto is *Maintiens le droit*, which means “maintain the right.” The brave RCMP members who have served over the past 150 years have helped protect peace both here at home and around the world. We salute their impressive efforts.

CANADA’S HUNDRED DAYS

The First World War was an important chapter in Canada’s history. By the beginning of 1918, the conflict had been raging for almost three and a half years. Yet the front lines in France and Belgium had moved little since the opening months of the fighting. Both sides had repeatedly tried to launch major offensives to break the stalemate but failed. The Germans tried again in the spring of 1918 and advanced to within 70 kilometres of Paris before the Allies were able to stop them.



Wounded soldiers at a dressing station during the Battle of Amiens.

Photo: Library and Archives Canada 3397051

On August 8, 1918, the Allies hit back and made a major breakthrough during the Battle of Amiens. The Canadians were at the spearhead of this attack, which one enemy commander called “the black day of the German Army.” The Allies seized the momentum and continued the pressure. Canadian soldiers would lead the way in victory after victory in the late summer and fall. This remarkable period became known as “Canada’s Hundred Days.”

The brave Canadians fought through the Hindenburg Line, across the Canal du Nord and into Cambrai. They were in Mons, Belgium, on November 11, 1918—the day the war finally ended. But their success came at a high price. More than 6,800 Canadian soldiers were killed and approximately 39,000 were wounded during the last three months of the First World War.

War memorials to remember

You may wonder, what is a memorial? Memorials are monuments or other special places that help us remember something important—like a person who died or a historic event such as a war.

One of our most striking monuments in Europe is the St. Julien Canadian Memorial. It is located in St. Julien, Belgium, where the 2nd Battle of Ypres took place in 1915. This was the site where Canadian troops withstood the first poison gas attack of the First World War. 2,000 of our soldiers died there.

Known as the “Brooding Soldier,” the memorial is almost 11 metres tall. It was designed by Saskatchewan architect and war Veteran Frederick Clemesha. At its top is a sculpture of a Canadian soldier



The Brooding Soldier on the St. Julien Canadian Memorial.

Photo: Veterans Affairs Canada

with his head bowed and his hands folded on his rifle butt. The expression on his face is somber as he reflects on the fate of his comrades.

The St. Julien Canadian Memorial was dedicated 100 years ago on July 8, 1923. Why not visit a war memorial in your community that honours those who have served? Take a moment to remember.



Some places in Asia where Canadians have served since the 1950s.

Hundreds of thousands of Canadians have served around the world in the cause of peace and freedom. Many of their deployments have taken them far from home, including Asia.

Canada’s military personnel served in Asia in the First and Second World Wars, and again during the Korean War. In more recent decades, Canadian Armed Forces members have returned to the continent to carry out new efforts. One notable time was the Gulf War of 1990-1991, when more than 4,000 Canadians in uniform deployed to the Persian Gulf region. Our country’s military mission to Afghanistan from 2001 to 2014 saw over 40,000 of our troops sent there. 158 Canadians died in this effort.

Canadians have also taken part in several peacekeeping and humanitarian

aid efforts in Asia. This includes missions to India, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Laos, Vietnam and East Timor. The country of Cambodia is one good example. More than one thousand Canadian peacekeepers served there during the course of four missions from the 1950s to 2000.

Canadians did many things to help the people of Cambodia. This included maintaining order, being military observers monitoring the terms of peace treaties, overseeing elections and the return of refugees, watching for smugglers, and removing deadly landmines. They also played key logistical roles, like arranging for accommodations for UN forces and transporting supplies and people around the country. Through it all, Canadian peacekeepers have made a difference.

An exemplary peacekeeper

Colonel (Ret'd) Donald Ethell is one of Canada's most decorated peacekeepers. Don was born into a military family in Vancouver in 1937 and always had a strong interest in serving his country. He was just 17 years old when he joined the Canadian Army.

Don became an officer in 1972. Canada was a leader in international peacekeeping in the post-war years and he served in 14 challenging missions. He deployed to hot spots like Cyprus, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Israel, Central America and the Balkans.

Throughout his 38 years in uniform, Don personified what it takes to be a

soldier of peace: commitment, fairness, composure, respect and humility. His post-military life has also been impressive. In 2010 he was named Lieutenant Governor of Alberta. If there was an all-star team for Canadian peacekeepers, Colonel (Ret'd) Ethell would be the captain.



Colonel (Ret'd) Donald Ethell

Photo: Veterans Affairs Canada

A proud career in uniform



Photo: Black Canadian Veterans Stories

Clarence "Gus" Este

Clarence "Gus" Este was born in Montreal in 1931 and joined the Canadian Army while he was still a teenager. He served overseas in the Korean War as a medical assistant. After a brief period back in civilian life after the conflict, he re-enlisted and joined the Canadian Postal Corps.

Gus went on to have a long career in military logistics. He rose through the ranks and was commissioned as an officer. He served in overseas peacekeeping missions to Egypt and Cyprus, and also deployed to West Germany for Cold War duty. Gus left the military in 1987 after 33 years of proud service.

In retirement he has been active in his community and with Veterans organizations. His remarkable service to his country and to his fellow citizens was recognized in special ways. The City of Ottawa renamed a park in his honour in 2013. Gus also received the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation in 2015 for his lifetime contributions. We salute Gus Este – a Canadian who has helped make our country a better place.

Fighting an invisible enemy



Photo: Public domain

Lieutenant-Colonel George Nasmith

There is an old saying that when one door closes, another door opens. This certainly applied to George Nasmith, who wanted to join the Canadian military when the First World War broke out in 1914. However, at only 1.37 meters (4 foot 6 inches) tall, he did not meet the height requirements to enlist.

But George was a water purification specialist. One thing all soldiers need is clean drinking water. Despite his height, the army recruited him for his expertise.

He soon took command of the newly-created Canadian Army Hydrological Corps. As one of the unit's first jobs, Lieutenant-Colonel Nasmith set up a sanitary water system at Camp Valcartier in September 1914.

In Europe, George served with the Canadian Army Medical Corps and ran the No. 5 (Canadian) Mobile Laboratory. George was an accomplished chemist. He set up mobile water purification units to battle an invisible threat: polluted water.

During the 2nd Battle of Ypres in Belgium, the Germans launched a poison chlorine gas attack on April 22, 1915. Thinking quickly, George helped our soldiers create makeshift gas masks to protect themselves from the deadly fumes.

It's impossible to measure George Nasmith's contributions to the Allied efforts in the First World War. But his special expertise likely saved many lives from enemies too small to be seen.

Remembrance blooms

More than 200 Japanese Canadians served our country during the First World War. One of these soldiers was Fumio Tatsuoka. He was born in Japan in 1888 and later immigrated to Canada. He was a 28-year-old store clerk when he decided to join the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Fumio enlisted in Calgary, Alberta, in

July 1916 and would become a sergeant in the 50th Battalion.

He was killed in action on August 20, 1917, during the Battle of Hill 70. More than 50 Japanese Canadian soldiers lost their lives during the First World War. Fumio is commemorated on the Canadian National

Vimy Memorial in France. His name is also engraved on the Japanese Canadian War Memorial in Vancouver. Beautiful cherry trees surround the monument. The colourful blossoms bloom every spring before withering and falling off. This is symbolic of the loss of life in times of war. Yet the blossoms return every year in a perpetual cycle of hope and renewal. What a special place to remember brave soldiers like Fumio.



Photo: Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Sergeant Fumio Tatsuoka

A family tradition of Indigenous warriors

Wendy Jocko was born in Pembroke, Ontario. She is part of an Indigenous family with a long military tradition stretching back to the War of 1812. This inspired her to join the Canadian Armed Forces when she was 19 years old.

Wendy served in Canada and also took part in two peacekeeping missions in the Balkans in the 1990s. But it was her time in Bosnia that stood out for her the most. The devastation and human misery were hard for her to witness. She often passed by a family living in a tiny

plywood dwelling near a landfill. Wendy wanted to help. So, every day she would visit them, bringing fruit and milk. She was happy to make a small difference for these people in need. The mission there was a life altering experience for Wendy.

After 23 years in uniform, Sergeant Jocko left the military. She went on to become the Chief of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation. Her family's proud tradition of military service has continued with her son, who also joined the Canadian Armed Forces.



Photo submitted

Sergeant Wendy Jocko with a local child she befriended in Bosnia.

Driven to serve

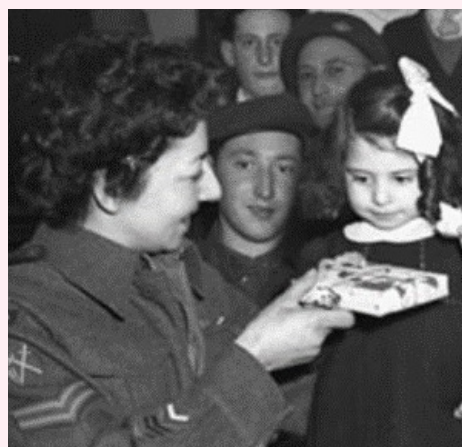


Photo: Library and Archives Canada PA-188717

Miriam "Mimi" Freedman offering a Hanukkah gift to a little girl in December 1944.

Miriam "Mimi" Freedman was born in Montreal in 1911. She would be one of twelve members of her family who served in the Second World War. After signing up in 1939, she soon joined the London Ambulance Service. In 1943, Mimi became a member of the Canadian

Women's Army Corps (CWAC). She was a driver with the Canadian Military Headquarters.

Mimi's service kept her close to the front lines for much of the war. She landed in Normandy in August 1944. She followed the advancing Allied troops through Belgium and into Germany. Her amazing ability to speak English, French, Dutch, German and Flemish was often put to good use. She translated during conversations with the local people and helped interrogate German prisoners of war. She also interpreted at court hearings after the conflict ended.

Staff Sergeant Freedman returned to Canada in 1946 and left the military. She earned a Mention in Dispatches for her remarkable military service. Freedman is the only known Jewish Canadian woman decorated for bravery during the war.

In a peacekeeper's own words...



A peacekeeper's role is very challenging. George Villeneuve of Ottawa was deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in the 1990s. What he experienced there had a great impact on him. Scan this QR code to hear him tell his story.



SERVING WITH PRIDE

Ross Hamilton was born in Pugwash, Nova Scotia, in 1892. He enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1916 during the First World War. Ross first served as an ambulance driver before joining an all-male team of performing soldiers. Using a high falsetto singing voice, he played a female character on stage named Marjorie. The first outfits Ross put together were made from tent canvas, old curtains, pillow feathers and rosary beads.

Hamilton became a member of the famous vaudeville-style acting troupe, the Dumbells. For the rest of the war, Ross performed in shows for the troops. He and Marjorie were so popular he had to change out of costume before going back to the barracks for fear of being mobbed by fans.

As one soldier said, “When [Ross] marched into a mess in costume, every officer would stand to attention until he was seated. Then, in a truck driver’s voice, he’d call for a drink—and the illusion soon vanished!”

Ross volunteered for service when the Second World War broke out in 1939. Once again, he found himself



Private Ross Hamilton in character as Marjorie during the First World War.

entertaining soldiers as part of a group called “Chin up.” This time, his female character was a middle-aged opera singer. However, military authorities discovered that Ross was gay and discharged him from the army. Unfairly, members of the 2SLGBTQI+ community were officially barred from military service during the war years for no reason other than their sexual and gender identities.

Ross retired to a quiet life in a log cabin back in Nova Scotia to read, garden and help others in his home community. He died in 1965 at the age of 76.

Photo: Library and Archives Canada



Want to learn more?

Check out our new “**Pride in service**” web feature to learn about the many 2SLGBTQI+ Canadians who have served in uniform. Visit veterans.gc.ca and search for “**Pride in service.**”

A trailblazer from Wendake

Jocelyn Paul grew up in Wendake, a Huron-Wendat First Nations community near Quebec City. He learned how to make shoes and canoes from his father, like his own father had learned from his ancestors. Paul joined the Canadian Armed Forces reserves in 1988 while studying history in university. Three years later, he moved to the regular forces and became an officer with the *Royal 22e Régiment*.

Jocelyn has served in a wide variety of roles in Canada and overseas during his long military career. He was Aide-de-Camp for former Governor General Roméo LeBlanc. He was also assigned to the Privy Council Office and went on military deployments to Croatia, Afghanistan, Israel and Italy.

In June 2022, Lieutenant-General Paul became the commander of the Canadian Army. He is the first Indigenous person

to reach this top role. He now uses his talents to lead our men and women in uniform, reflecting Canada’s diverse society.



Lieutenant-General Jocelyn Paul in uniform.

Photo: Department of National Defence

Peacekeeping in Vietnam?

You might have heard about the Vietnam War from Hollywood movies and TV shows. Did you know that the Canadian government also sent our military to Vietnam? But they didn’t go there to fight.



Canadian peacekeepers in Vietnam in 1973.

Photo: Department of National Defence

Hundreds of Canadian peacekeepers served in this Southeast Asian country from the mid-1950s to the early 1970s. Canadian soldiers, sailors and aviators played a variety of roles. They acted as inspectors enforcing treaty agreements. They also performed logistical, communications, medical and security duties.

2023 marks 50 years since the last of our peacekeepers in Vietnam returned home. We remember the brave Canadians who served so far from home in the cause of peace.

PLACES OF RESPECT



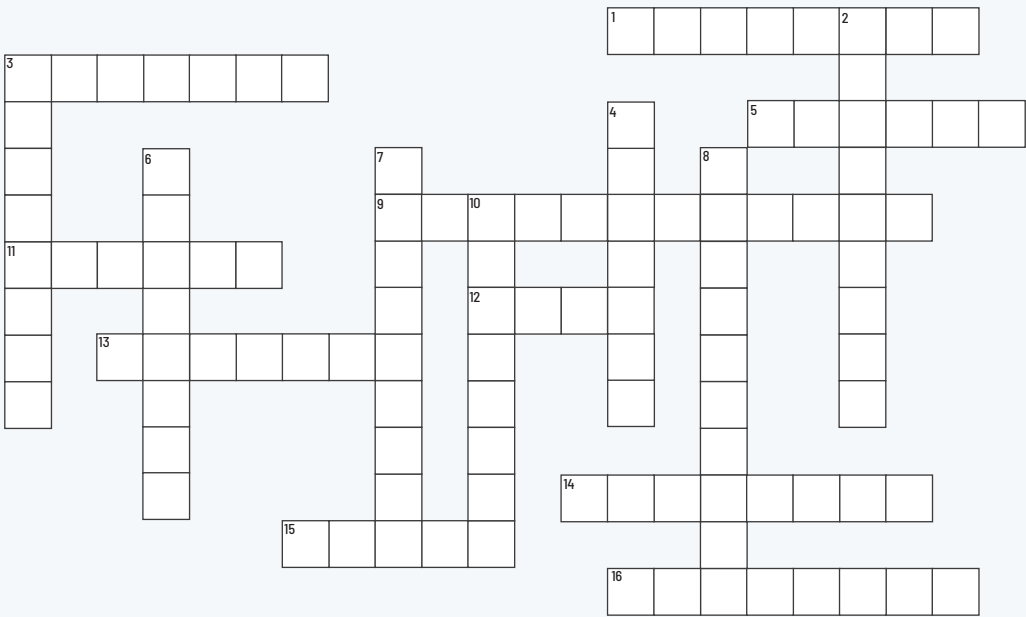
The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the National War Memorial in Ottawa.

Photo: Veterans Affairs Canada

War memorials commemorate those who put their lives on the line to serve in uniform. They are special ways for Canadians to acknowledge that what these people did is important.

Our country has thousands of military monuments from coast to coast to coast, as well as overseas. In our capital, the National War Memorial and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier stand as sacred places. When we quietly and respectfully visit them, we show ourselves and others that Canadians care. Those who died in military service, Veterans, and current Canadian Armed Forces members deserve recognition and respect. They put Canada before themselves when serving in uniform. Lest we forget.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Did you read the newspaper stories carefully? All the answers to the crossword clues are found in the newspaper.

Across

- 1 Last name of Jewish Canadian woman who earned a Mention in Dispatches.
- 3 City where Fumio Tatsuoka enlisted in the First World War.
- 5 Country in the Balkans where Wendy Jocko served in the 1990s.
- 9 Codename of the military operation to help during the 1998 Ice Storm.
- 11 Former peacekeeper named Lieutenant Governor of Alberta in 2010.
- 12 Belgian city where Canadian troops were on November 11, 1918.
- 13 First Nations community near Quebec City where Jocelyn Paul grew up.
- 14 Latin word that means unconquered.
- 15 Place known as the “land of the morning calm.”
- 16 Name of female character performed by Ross Hamilton.

Down

- 2 Last name of Italian dictator during the Second World War.
- 3 First name of Canadian Veteran “Gus” Este.
- 4 Type of dress hat worn by RCMP members.
- 6 Last name of the designer of the St. Julien Canadian Memorial.
- 7 Command ship for the Swissair Flight 111 recovery efforts.
- 8 Military camp where George Nasmith set up a water system.
- 10 Asian country where Canadians served from the 1950s to 2000.