

## What was different about the Great War that demands Remembrance? – Chris Leach

With the end of the Great War started the systematic and public act of remembrance in a manner that previous wars had not inspired. Why? Was this war more gruesome? Had war changed? Or was it peoples' expectations that had changed? This brief talk will consider these issues as a way to contemplate our own commemoration of the war and the importance of it in Canadian identity.

**Dr. Christopher Leach** teaches European, military and cultural history at the University of the Fraser Valley. His research has focused on the representation of warfare in British mass culture prior to the Great War.



## Swords and Ploughshares: Langley and the Great War - Warren Sommer

In August 1914 Langley joined with other Fraser Valley communities in rallying to the aid of Britain in her struggle with Germany. By the end of the war about 400 men (a number equal to about half the adult male population) had served in uniform. One in ten would never return. This illustrated talk examines community members' experiences overseas as well as the contributions of those who laboured on the home front to achieve the final victory.

**Warren Sommer** was born and educated in Vancouver and has dedicated his professional career to the management of municipal heritage services and to community cultural consultation. He is currently the principal of Legacy Heritage Consultants, a firm that specializes in heritage studies and community history. Sommer is the author of six books, including *Nothing Without Effort: A History of Langley*; *The Ambitious City: A History of the City of North Vancouver*; *Frail Memorials: The Cemeteries of Langley*; and *Canucks in Khaki: Langley, the Lower Mainland, and the Great War of 1914 to 1918*. He earned his M.A. in historical geography from the University of British Columbia. Sommer lives in Fort Langley.



## From the West Coast to the Western Front: British Columbians and the Great War – Greg Dickson & Mark Forsythe

Greg Dickson and Mark Forsythe explore a crucial chapter in B.C.'s history, and the profound impact the Great War had on the lives of people in every corner of our province. Drawing in part on stories and photos from CBC listeners, they'll discuss changes the war brought on the home front, B.C.'s incredible flying aces, a premier's submarine smuggling exploits, the role of B.C.'s Nursing Sisters and indigenous soldiers rising to the challenge. The authors will also share what they've learned about their own families' intersections with the Great War, and how this has rippled through the generations.

**Greg Dickson** was a CBC journalist and radio show producer for over twenty years. He co-wrote three books on BC history with contributions from CBC listeners. The last was the story of BC's great war experience, *"From the West Coast to the Western Front."* He grew up in the Okanagan where he heard the war stories of his grandfathers - both Vimy vets who survived trench warfare. He now lives in Vancouver where he is communications manager for the provincial regulator of financial institutions.



**Mark Forsythe** worked with CBC Radio for 30 years where he hosted the province-wide BC Almanac broadcast. He's travelled across the province to conduct interviews and moderate public forums. Now retired from CBC, he volunteers with the Langley Heritage Society and other non-profit groups. Mark and Greg Dickson earned the Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Historical Writing in 2014 for their book, *"From The West Coast to the Western Front"*. (Harbour Publishing)



## Service and Sacrifice: Canadian Children on the Home Front in the First World War – Susan Fisher

Canadian children are rarely mentioned in Canadian histories of the First World War. Yet, despite their safe distance from the battlefields, they were profoundly affected by the war. At home, at school, and in the community, Canadian children were expected to contribute to the war effort and to show that they were good citizens, worthy of the sacrifices being made by the soldiers.

**Susan Fisher** taught Canadian literature and served as an associate dean at the University of the Fraser Valley; she is now a professor emerita. Her 2011 book, *Boys and Girls in No Man's Land: English-Canadian Children and the First World War*, won the Canada Prize in the Humanities. She is also the author of the chapter on the Great War in the *Cambridge History of Canadian Literature* (2009). Recent projects include a chapter in *L. M. Montgomery and War* (2017) and an article on popular romance and the First World War.



## Hill 70: Forgotten Victory - Peter Broznitsky

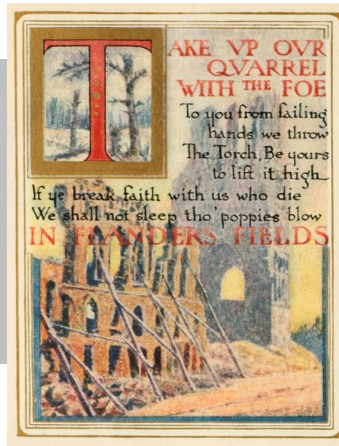
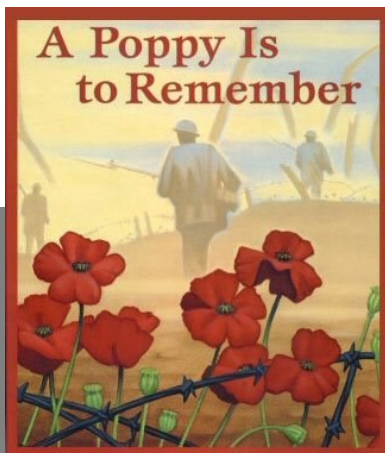
The Battle for Hill 70 in August 1917 represents a partial victory of the Canadian Corps that is often overlooked, falling between the success at Vimy Ridge and the horrors of Passchendaele. Perhaps significantly, six Victoria Crosses were won at Hill 70 compared to four at Vimy; and casualties were almost the same.

**Peter Broznitsky** has been researching various aspects of the Canadian experience in the Great War since 2003. More interested in tactics than strategy, he would rather tell you how many shrapnel balls were inside one shell than why Canadian generals were better than English generals. He has published several articles on various topics related to the Great War. Peter moderates the Canadian Expeditionary Force Study Group online forum and is the past chair of the Pacific Coast Branch of the Western Front Association. He resides in Ladner, B.C.



# April 22, 2017 Day Schedule

- 9:30am** Welcome
- 9:35am** Chris Leach - *What was different about the Great War that demands Remembrance?*
- 10:20am** Break (10 min)
- 10:30am** Mark Forsythe and Greg Dickson - *From the West Coast to the Western Front: British Columbians and the Great War*
- 11:15am** Break (10 min)
- 11:20am** Warren Sommer - *Swords and Ploughshares: Langley and the Great War*
- 12:00pm** Lunch (90 min)
- 1:30pm** Cemetery Tour with Warren Sommer  
(Meet at Fort Langley Cemetery)
- 2:00pm** Walk back to museum
- 2:15pm** Susan Fisher - *Service and Sacrifice: Canadian Children on the Home Front in the First World War*
- 3:00pm** Break (10 min)
- 3:10pm** Peter Broznitsky - *Hill 70: Forgotten Victory*
- 4:00pm** Close



## Aldergrove Kinsmen Community Centre

26770 - 29 Avenue, Langley  
604.533.6144

## George Preston Recreation Centre

20699 - 42 Avenue, Langley  
604.530.1323

## Langley Centennial Museum

9135 King Street, Fort Langley  
604.532.3536

## W.C. Blair Recreation Centre

22200 Fraser Highway, Langley  
604.533.6170

## Walnut Grove Community Centre

8889 Walnut Grove Drive, Langley  
604.882.0408

## Willoughby Community Centre

7888 - 200 Street, Langley  
604.455.8821

## Willowbrook Recreation Centre

20338 - 65 Avenue, Langley  
604.532.3500

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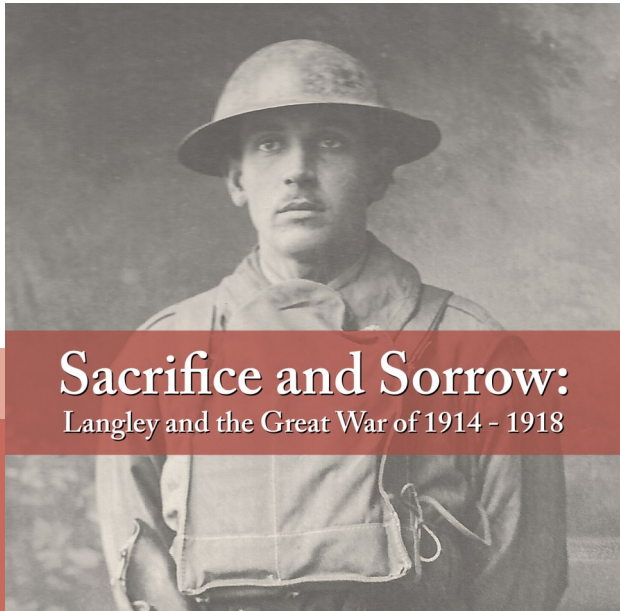
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Township of  
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## Sacrifice and Sorrow: Langley and the Great War of 1914 - 1918

## BC Remembers: Reflections on the Great War Program Guide

April 22, 2017

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Call 604.532.3536 to register.

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