

# How to Remember the Great War, Today

By Aiden Hill

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Some people, in our great nation, remember how their forefathers fought valiantly in defence of freedom, some paying the ultimate price. All those who fought stood firm and never let tyranny and oppression claim one inch of soil. Some remember how their grandfathers battled both the elements and the enemy to keep us safe. Some remember how their great-grandfathers aided the quenching of evil that arose at the start of the twentieth century. Today's youth are taught at a young age how we must never repeat the mistakes of the past.

Most Canadians know about the Great War and pay homage to it. However, because the war took place so long ago, this stops most people from being as emotionally involved in how they remember.

Now, this is not entirely our fault. Our shortening attention spans that can be blamed on the technology, and the simple fact that the human mind is fickle, are two problems that we today deal with when we attempt to remember. But, it should be known, that there are some very simple strategies to combat this erosion of

remembering these events that took place one hundred years ago.

The youth, like myself, must talk about the Great War with the senior members of our communities. Many of today's seniors had grandfathers or great-grandfathers who took up arms and would gladly teach younger people what they were taught when the Great War was much fresher in humanity's collective mind.

Some suggestions for Generation Zed's teachers and parents would be to modernize the Remembrance Day program altogether, while still helping youth understand the hardships of war. Technology, which is used for connection among youth, is an untapped resource when it comes to teaching youth how to remember.

What about Generation X or Xennials - those who strive to respect the past while raising a new generation? A simple suggestion for how they can remember, is to ask their children or their parents what they know about the Great War at a family time, such as supper, or when visiting relatives. People from this age bracket have both easy access to the knowledgeable senior-community members' vast knowledge, and they also know how to effectively use modern technology. So what can they do to aid others more effectively? For starters, they can be examples for their children. When a child sees their parent doing

something, their minds at least feel an urge to inquire about what that adult is doing. A Gen Xer wearing a poppy, or taking part in a Remembrance Day ceremony is a valuable learning opportunity for their children.

In conclusion, remembrance is possible and important for all ages, and remembrance can be an improved experience for all as well. Ultimately, how do we remember? We remember with our hearts. Fill the mind with information, as I have suggested in this essay, and the hearts will remember the sacrifices made over one hundred years ago.