

LEST WE FORGET

Remembrance Day Service

Fort York National Historic Site
Strachan Avenue Burial Ground
250 Fort York Blvd
Monday, November 11, 2019
10:45 a.m.



The Procession

Opening Remarks

Mr. Richard Haynes, Fort York National Historic Site

O Canada

Mr. Robert Divito

Prayers and Readings

The Reverend Jan Hieminga

Call to Remembrance

The Reverend Jan Hieminga

Litany

Leader: Let us remember before God, and commend to God's sure keeping, all those who have given their lives in the service of this land. Lord, in your mercy,

Response: Hear our Prayer.

Leader: Let us pray for the safety of those who serve in the Canadian Armed Forces remembering specially those who serve on peacekeeping duties around the world. Lord in your mercy,

Response: Hear our Prayer.

Leader: Let us pray for all those who suffer as a result of war, for the injured and disabled, for the homeless and refugees, and for all those who have lost family members. Lord, in your mercy,

Response: Hear our Prayer.

Leader: Let us pray for the leaders of the nations that they may have wisdom and courage to work for the cause of justice and peace in the world. Lord in your mercy,

Response: Hear our Prayer.

Leader: Let us pray for ourselves and for the people of Canada that we might be a nation committed to the cause of freedom and peace, and that we might foster a spirit of reconciliation in our own country and overseas. Lord in your mercy,

Response: Hear our Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer Address

The Reverend Jan Hieminga

Last Post

Mr. Robert Divito

Two Minutes of Silence

Lament

Reveille

Mr. Robert Divito

Laying of Wreaths

Announcements

Mr. Richard Haynes

Dismissal

The Reverend Jan Hieminga

God Save the Queen

Mr. Robert Divito

Recessional

Fort York National Historic Site and Strachan Avenue Burial Ground

Fort York National Historic Site is where modern, urban Toronto was founded in 1793. Located on the original shoreline of Lake Ontario, the 17-hectare (43-acre) site encompasses Fort York, Strachan Avenue Burial Ground, Fort York Armoury, Victoria Memorial Square, Garrison Common and, the recently opened Fort York Visitor Centre. The Strachan Avenue Burial Ground, established in 1863 on the Garrison Common lands between Fort York and Stanley Barracks, is Toronto's second major military burial ground – the first, dating from 1793, is located at the Victoria Square Memorial Park on Portland Street. This cemetery served as the burial ground for soldiers of the garrison including Crimean War veterans and their families. The last known interment took place in 1911 and there may be as many as 200 graves on the site. Garrison Common itself remained an active military centre after the closing of the cemetery. Troops continued to be stationed at Fort York until 1933 and at Stanley Barracks until the late 1940s.

The City of Toronto purchased Fort York in 1909 and began a two-year restoration in 1932. On Victoria Day in 1934, Fort York opened as a museum. Today, Fort York is being restored and redeveloped

to reflect its enormous importance as a National Historic Site. The transformation of Fort York is part of an overall revitalization program for the City-owned historic sites and landscapes managed by Museums & Heritage Services, a unit of Economic Development & Culture.

Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire

The IODE is a Canadian women's charitable organization with the mission to improve the quality of life for children, youth and those in need, through educational, social service and citizenship programmes. The Municipal Chapter has had a long association with the Strachan Avenue Burial Ground and the annual Remembrance Day service held here. The IODE was instrumental in restoring the neglected military burial grounds early in the 20th century. On November 11, 1922, the Mayor of Toronto unveiled a bronze tablet, presented by the Toronto Chapter of IODE, honouring the soldiers interred here.

In the following years, members of the organization continued to care for the site and in 1952 held a Remembrance Service on the grounds. About 100 people attended the first ceremony, including pipers of the 48th Highlanders and buglers of the Queen's Own Rifles. The service has become an annual tradition.



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