



Craft a Poppy

*& learn the history behind this
iconic symbol of remembrance*



THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

MUSEUM



The Poppy



a national symbol of remembrance

The famous red poppy is the enduring symbol of remembrance, dating back to the First World War. In 1915, Lt.Col. John McCrae, a doctor serving with the Royal Canadian Artillery, famously wrote the poem *In Flanders Fields*. In 1918 an American woman, Moina Michael, began wearing and distributing poppies to delegates at a conference for the Overseas YMCA War Secretaries. It was that first wearing of the poppy, only two days before the war ended, that began the tradition of wearing the flower as a symbol of remembrance.

Over the next few years through campaigns and the support Moina Michael received, the poppy was adopted as the American national flower of remembrance at a conference in Cleveland, 1920. Attending this conference was Anna Guerin, who envisioned the poppy could be sold to benefit the orphaned children in France. Anna would go on to found the American and French Children's league, which would approach veterans organizations in Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand about purchasing handmade poppies to raise funds to rebuild a war torn France.

It was in 1921 that the Great War Veterans Association (GWVA) of Canada adopted the poppy as the nations national symbol of remembrance. Only a few months later, the GWVA of Newfoundland would purchase 12,000 handmade French poppies from Anna's organization. Newfoundland adopted the poppy as a flower of remembrance for Armistice Day in October of 1921. The money raised from the poppy fund in Newfoundland was split between the National War Memorial Committee and the GWVA fund for veterans. The GWVA of Newfoundland voted to amalgamate with the Royal Canadian Legion in the early 1950s.

This year marks the Poppy's 100th anniversary of being Canada's symbol of remembrance.

Today, the Poppy Campaign is one of the Royal Canadian Legion's most important programs. The money raised from donations provides direct assistance for veterans in financial distress, as well as funding for medical equipment, medical research, homes services, long term care facilities and many other purposes.

Today, us Canadians wear our poppies to honour veterans of all times and all ages, as well as their dedication to serve our nation and their many sacrifices. We will remember them,



Pictured on the left is Sergeant Andre Cox, a member of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, with his daughter Alice Cox.

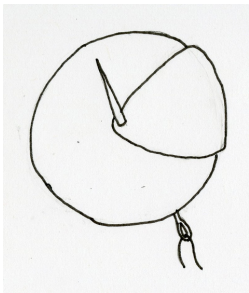
Pictured on the right is Gunner Leo Knox, a Second World War veteran, and one of the last surviving members of the 166th (Newfoundland) Field Regiment. He passed away in 2019, at the age of 94.



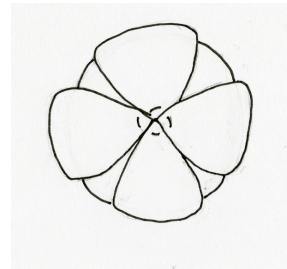
Sew a Poppy!

Craft supplies you'll need; a sewing needle, black thread, red felt, black felt and a safety pin.

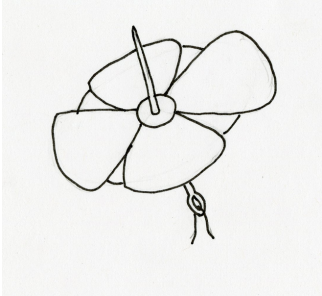
Step 1 - Cut out the shapes below. Trace **one circle** and **four triangles** on your red felt, and **one tiny dot** on your black felt.



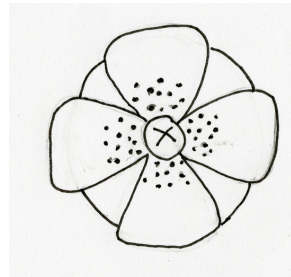
Step 2 - Sew your first petal into place.



Step 3 - Sew your remaining 3 petals into place, like the drawing to the left shows.



Step 4 - Secure your black center on to your poppy, over the cross section of your petals.



Step 5 - This step is optional, you can "speckle" your poppy by bringing your thread up and down through the felt.

Step 6 - Secure a safety pin to the back of your poppy! Now its safe to wear.

