



**City of Kingston  
Information Report to Council  
Report Number 18-340**

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**To:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**From:** Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services  
**Resource Staff:** Colin Wiginton, Cultural Director, Cultural Services  
Luke Follwell, Director, Recreation and Leisure Services  
**Date of Meeting:** September 4, 2018  
**Subject:** Plans for Commemorating the Centenary of the End of the First World War in 2018

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**Executive Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information regarding plans that have been developed to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War - or at least the end of the fighting between the allied countries and Germany - on November 11, 1918.

Each year, the City of Kingston partners with groups from across the community to recognize Remembrance Day on November 11<sup>th</sup> through a civic ceremony held in Macdonald Park. The same will happen this year but with a particular emphasis on the centenary of the end of the First World War that gave rise to this memorial tradition. In anticipation of that day, City staff have identified opportunities to raise awareness and to commemorate this year's centenary ahead of November 11<sup>th</sup> by profiling existing City assets that relate to the First World War and through information sharing and various programming initiatives that will be presented through the fall.

The City of Kingston has also been approached to partner with the Toronto-based organization, [The World Remembers](#), which was created to commemorate those who died during the First World War. The singular mandate of this organization is to share the names of those who died through a multi-week video installation that begins in September and concludes on November 11<sup>th</sup>. City staff have agreed to work with [The World Remembers](#) to bring this unique presentation to Kingston in 2018, to be installed and made accessible to the public in the City Hall Amphitheatre.

**Recommendations:**

This report is for information purposes only.

September 4, 2018

Page 2 of 5

**Authorizing Signatures:**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

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**Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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**Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer**

**Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:**

Jim Keech, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	Not required
Denis Leger, Commissioner, Corporate & Emergency Services	Not required

September 4, 2018

Page 3 of 5

**Options/Discussion:**

November 11, 2018 marks the centenary of the end of the First World War, also known as the “Great War”, that is expected to be commemorated in different ways in many different countries around the world. The First World War was particularly significant in relation to Canadian history because Canada entered the War as a colony but achieved nationhood through its many contributions to the War that included a significant loss of life. Over 650,000 Canadian men and women served in uniform during the First World War and nearly one in ten Canadians who fought in the War did not return.

The First World War also significantly impacted Kingston as it served as one of many training sites across the country. Within days of the start of the War, 399 Kingston residents had volunteered for service and by the end of the War, 922 residents of Kingston and Frontenac County had died. Today, many tangible reminders of Kingston’s connections and contributions to the war can be found throughout the City.

This year’s centenary provides an important opportunity for communities like Kingston to reflect upon what happened during the First World War and to remember those who gave their lives. In anticipation of the centenary to be commemorated on November 11<sup>th</sup>, City staff have identified opportunities to raise awareness ahead of time by profiling existing City assets that relate to the First World War, through information sharing as well as various programming initiatives to be presented through the fall. Dedicated content will also be made available through the City of Kingston website.

Of particular interest and significance is an opportunity that has emerged for the City of Kingston to partner with [The World Remembers](#), a Toronto-based organization, which was created specifically to commemorate those who died during the First World War. Working with [The World Remembers](#), the City of Kingston will be able to share a multi-week video installation to be presented in the City Hall Amphitheatre that features historical images combined with a list of names of over 1,003,000 people killed during the War.

**Kingston's War Commemorations**

The most prominent information to be featured on the City of Kingston website will be those assets that relate to the First World War that the City is responsible for managing. Those assets can be found in buildings and parks across the City and function as memorials that bring people together to remember the events associated with the War and to commemorate those who served and died during modern warfare and other military conflicts. Included among those assets are the following:

- **Memorial Hall** (City Hall), dedicated in 1921;
- **Stained Glass Windows, Memorial Hall** (City Hall), commemorating significant battles and profiling the role of different military personnel related to the First World War;
- **Memorial Wall, Memorial Centre** (303 York Street), dedicated in 2012 and engraved with the names of 1,022 Kingston residents who died in service;
- **Cross of Sacrifice** (Macdonald Park), erected in 1925 in memory of the Kingston residents who died during the First World War; and

September 4, 2018

Page 4 of 5

- **21<sup>st</sup> Battalion Statue** (City Park), a memorial statue dedicated to the men of the 21<sup>st</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (C.E.F.) and the battles where they fought and died.

### Programming Initiatives

Other programs are currently being planned and pending confirmation but a major focus of this centenary year will be the annual Remembrance Day civic ceremony organized by the City of Kingston that takes place on November 11<sup>th</sup> at the Cross of Sacrifice Cenotaph on King Street. The Cenotaph was originally commissioned by the Kingston Chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire in memory of the Kingston residents killed during the First World War. Today, the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment act as stewards of the Cenotaph that now serves as a symbol of all who have served and died during times of war. It has become a focal point for commemoration and remembrance and, as in previous years, it will serve as the site for the annual civic ceremony in which wreaths will be laid by local community, veteran and military groups and organizations.

### The World Remembers

As previously stated, the City of Kingston has been approached to partner with the organization [The World Remembers](#) to participate in the presentation of a multi-week video installation in the City Hall Amphitheatre. This partnership is being formalized through a letter of agreement under delegated authority and it is anticipated the presentation of the video installation will get underway sometime during September. Final details are still being confirmed by [yut](#) the necessary equipment has been sourced and the intent is to present the content nightly between 8:00 pm and 8:45 am up until, and including, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

The content itself consists of a rotating slide show of names and historical images. The first presentation in 2014 included a list of 292,207 names of those killed in 1914. The list of names has been added to in subsequent years and, in 2018, more than 1,003,000 names will appear representing those who died from a growing list of countries, including Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, the United States, Turkey, Belgium, Australia, the Czech Republic, Italy, New Zealand, Slovenia, South Africa, Ukraine, China and the former British Indian Army. The slide show runs for 11.5 hours each day and each name is programmed to appear at a precise day, hour and minute that can be searched online through the '[Search The Names](#)' function found on [The World Remembers](#) website.

In 2017, [The World Remembers](#) was presented in 60 locations across Canada and in embassies and museums in eight other countries. This year, as many as 90 locations across Canada may be participating and there will be a national display presented in Ottawa projected onto the former Government Conference Centre. A number of international locations have also been secured meaning [The World Remembers](#) will be accessible to people living in the United States, the United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Switzerland and Latvia as well as Germany.

[The World Remembers](#) provides a unique opportunity for the City of Kingston to participate in a truly international commemoration of the centenary of the end of the First World War. The impact is expected to be significant, especially at a personal level, and the presentation of [The World Remembers](#) helps enhance in a very contemporary and meaningful way the many

September 4, 2018

Page 5 of 5

commemorations and initiatives that exist in Kingston and that are expected to have even more resonance in 2018.

**Existing Policy/By-Law:**

Not applicable

**Notice Provisions:**

Not applicable

**Accessibility Considerations:**

Not applicable

**Financial Considerations:**

Costs related to the commemoration of the centenary of the First World War will be covered through the existing 2018 operating budgets, as approved by Council, and managed by Cultural Services and Recreation & Leisure Services respectively.

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**Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:**

Jennifer Campbell, Manager, Cultural Heritage, Cultural Services

Paul Robertson, City Curator, Cultural Services

Jaclyn Grimmon, Manager, Recreation Programs, Recreation & Leisure Services

JC Kenny, Director, Communications & Customer Experience

**Exhibits Attached:**

Exhibit A Sample Images, [The World Remembers](#), Government Conference Centre, Ottawa

Sample Images, The World Remembers, Government Conference Centre, Ottawa

