

Remembrance Day at PCVS

Remembrance Day is extremely important at PCVS as we are intimately connected to it. Alumnae of our school have served in every major conflict since World War I and continue to participate in the Canadian forces in both conflict and peace-keeping missions.

During World War I, PCVS or Peterborough Collegiate Institute (PCI) was the only school in the Peterborough area and therefore every soldier who enlisted had at one time been part of this school (if they had stayed in school that long). You will find the names of those who lost their lives during World War I on the marble plaque to the right of the auditorium doors. Archives found through the government of Canada and Veterans Affairs have copies of the enlistment papers for some of our “boys”. Copies have been posted and you can see some personal details of these young men included. Beside the enlistment documents is a copy of the digital certificate of death with a photo of the cemetery in which they are interred. There are many, many similar cemeteries all across Europe with thousands of white headstones for Canadian soldiers. It is interesting to note, that the cemeteries are maintained and operated by the Canadian National Park service.

On the wall across from the office is a stone plaque listing the names of PCVS students who were killed during World War II. The photos and summaries of the young men are particularly poignant. They come from the 1946 yearbook, *Echoes*, and tell of the interests of the boys in school, how they were killed and their age at the time of death. In total, ninety-one young PCVS men were killed during the conflict. The Yearbook is in the main office and you may take a look, however it is rather fragile. A quote from the yearbook is as follows:

“... they will never be forgotten as long as the ideal for which they died remains an ideal, not only in war-time, but in peacetime – and as long as we devote the same energies to the aiding and preserving human life as we have devoted to destroying it. Their goal was true democracy and equal opportunity for all men – in this will lie their immortality.”