

Contact: Angie Littlefield, Executive Director
Durham West Arts Centre
416-282-0646

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Reading and Remembrance: a provincial project Nov. 10 at 2:10 p.m.

The Durham West Arts Centre, Ontario Power Generation, Veterans Affairs Canada and the Royal Ontario Legion partner to honour veterans and promote literacy.

Pickering—The Durham West Arts Centre (DWAC) announced today it will hold its second province-wide tribute for veterans. On November 10 at 2:10 p.m., schools will ring out with young voices as children find meaningful ways to present readings that demonstrate the values for which veterans fought.

The plan is to reach 60,000 students in 220 schools – double last year’s participation.

In 2005 DWAC was presented with a plaque from ‘Canada Remembers’ Regional Director Jemy Robozza “for outstanding contribution and leadership in recognizing and honouring our Veterans”.

MP for Ajax-Pickering Mark Holland told Parliament, in October, 2005, “In creative and innovative ways, they will come together in this program that was started in my own riding. I am proud to say by the Durham West Arts Centre.”

Jacquie McInnes, Manager of Public Affairs for Pickering Nuclear adds, “OPG is proud to be a founding sponsor of such a worthwhile project, promoting in our young people both literacy and a better understanding of Canada’s heritage.”

“The 2005 success is a tough act to follow, but, we’ve kept all the John McCrae materials, added new materials that reinforce human rights and provided some French-language materials,” says DWAC Executive Director Angie Littlefield.

Educators may select readings from the Reading and Remembrance website. There they will also find links to other websites with excellent free resources. Teachers will find lots to inspire at www.dvac.ca.

As well, the day of the event is an opportunity to bring history right into the classroom with special guests. Last year, Lieutenant Governor James Bartleman participated in Kincardine, Ontario and mayors and councillors in Durham Region read with children or heard their readings in schools across the region.

This year the project will solicit participation from elected representatives at the municipal, provincial and federal level throughout the province.

“We’d like something as magical as what happened in Kincardine to take place in schools everywhere,” says Angie.

“There’s nothing that reinforces the importance of reading more than young people experiencing a public figure taking the time to read with them.”

Every registered school receives a Reading and Remembrance poster and has the school name entered on the Honour Roll <http://dwac.ca/press/readingRemembranceHonourRoll.html>.

The support of the lead sponsor, Ontario Power Generation, and the sponsorship of the Canada Remembers Program facilitate broad distribution of the posters in both English and French.

Register your school at www.dvac.ca by clicking on Reading and Remembrance or through info@dwac.ca.