

READING AND REMEMBRANCE PROJECT 2005

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72B Old Kingston Road
Pickering Village, Ajax ON
L1T 2Z8
Ph.905 686 7697
www.dwac.ca
info@dwac.ca

Dear Director of Education,

In 2005, the Year of the Veteran, we hope that you will welcome *Reading and Remembrance: A Provincial Project* into your schools. The project provides students with an active way to understand what it means to be part of a common cause: the cause of honouring our veterans. *Reading and Remembrance* proposes that thousands of school children read Canadian poet John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields" at 2:11 p.m. on Nov. 11, 2005—where possible with veterans in attendance. This felt experience of the common cause is not meant to replace the commemorative work being done for Remembrance Day in your schools. It is a special tribute in this special year to show veterans that young people feel and understand a small part of their motivation to serve their country. It will gladden veterans' hearts to know that thousands of children are reading to honour them.

Secondly, we dedicate this project to a current and very important common cause: literacy. We will provide pre- and post-reading materials to all registered schools free of charge. We also hope to grow a Veterans' Literacy Mentorship Program out of *Reading and Remembrance*. Interested veterans, their families, service people and schools will be provided with a model for a voluntary literacy program.

The Durham West Arts Centre, a charitable arts organization, is organizing the not-for-profit project to honour veterans and to support literacy. To date, DWAC has the support of the Royal Canadian Legion, Ontario Power Generation and Veterans Affairs Canada. We enclose a DRAFT poster and flyer to speed the information about this project to principals. Both drafts are available on our website www.dwac.ca. The final versions, with more supporters and logos, may be downloaded for reproduction. Registered schools will receive additional information via e-mail.

As you prepare for the 2005-2006 school year, we hope that you will let *Reading and Remembrance* pass through the information gate of your Board and that you will act as its advocate. With your help, schools will ring out with pride on Nov. 11th at 2:11 p.m. Help make this event happen for students, teachers, veterans and families.

Yours truly,

Angie Littlefield, Executive Director Durham West Arts Centre
On behalf of the *Reading and Remembrance Project 2005*

