

McCrae 150 Memorial Tour Belgium – France - Netherlands From 19th to 29th August 2022

“In Flander Fields“ evokes a deep and intense feeling of respect and gratitude for those who gave their lives for freedom. John McCrae, had seen the horrors of war, but died having written a tribute that we must be proud of for our Military history and accomplishments that includes this poem from the Great War. There is much to learn, great sorrow and respect for a terrible conflict. This summer, join Guelph Museums for our second tour in honour of Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae: a Canadian poet, physician, author, artist and soldier during World War I, and a surgeon during the Second Battle of Ypres, in Belgium.

Toronto	August 19	Air Transat 188	depart: 21:10
Paris CDG	August 20		arrive: 10:35

Saturday August 20: Arrival – Paris – Bayeux (D)
 Arrival of the group at Paris airport. Meet and greet with our English speaking tour manager Mathilde. Transfer in a modern tour coach to Bayeux, ca. 285 km. Arrive at Bayeux in time for a stroll through the town and visit of the Memorial Museum of the Battle of Normandy (depending on the arrival time). Transfer to Caen, ca. 35 km.
 Check-in to our hotel in Caen: Hotel Campanile Centre Caen
 Welcome dinner tonight at the hotel

Sunday August 21: Juno Beach Centre – Normandy Coast – Arras (B, D)
 Breakfast at the hotel
 8.30 Transfer to Courseulles-sur-Mer, ca. 25 km
 9.30 Guided tour of the Juno Beach Centre created for guests to better understand the contribution of Canada in the Second World War
 Free time for lunch
 12:00 Panoramic drive along the Normandy Coast via Dieppe to Arras
 19.00 Check-in to our hotel in Arras, Hotel Mercure
 Dinner at the hotel and acoustic performance of Second World War-era songs

Monday August 22: Wimereux – Boulogne-sur-Mer – Arras (B, L)
 Breakfast at the hotel
 8.00 Transfer to Wimereux, ca. 120 km
 10.00 Visit of Wimereux Cemetery for McCrae graveside commemoration (*organized by the group*)
 12.00 Lunch
 13.30 Transfer to Boulogne-sur-Mer, ca. 10 km
 14.00 Guided walk through Boulogne-sur-Mer and time independent discoveries
 16.30 Transfer back to Arras, ca. 120 km
 Rest of the evening is open
 Overnight

Tuesday August 23: Vimy – Beaumont-Hamel – Somme (B, D)
 Breakfast at the hotel
 8.30 Transfer to Vimy, ca. 15 km
 9.00 Visit the Canadian National Vimy Memorial. The memorial site is dedicated to the memory of Canadian Expeditionary Force members killed during WWI. It serves as a place of

commemoration for WWI Canadian soldiers killed or presumed dead in France but have no known grave. The monument is the centerpiece of a 100 ha preserved battlefield park

11.00 Transfer to Beaumont-Hamel, ca. 50 km

On the way we will stop to buy a snack / lunch at shopping center near Arras

13.30 Visit of the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial

15.30 Transfer to Somme, ca. 30 km

16.00 Individual WWI visit at Somme Battlefield Cemetery

17.30 Transfer back to Arras, ca. 60 km

Dinner

Evening: Presentation of a "Sons of '17 performance" in the conference room "Edimbourg" at the hotel with 40 theatre seats (*organized by the group*)

Overnight

Wednesday August 24: Cemetery – Talbot House – Menin Gate (B, L, D)

Breakfast at the hotel

9.00 Transfer to Langemark, ca. 100 km

10.30 Stop at the Langemark German Cemetery and the statue of the Brooding Solider

12.00 Transfer to Poperinge, ca. 25 km

Picnic lunch at Talbot House

Visit Talbot House. The Talbot House was a very special place during WWI. It was established by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in December 1915 as an 'Everyman's Club' for soldiers and officers of the British Army. Now it is a 'living museum'

15.30 Transfer to Ieper, ca. 15 km

20:00 Menin Gate – Ceremony to lay down a wreath (*organized by the group*). The Menin Gate is the memorial dedicated to the officers and men of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth Forces who died in the Ypres Salient before 16 August 1917 and who have no known grave. Here 54,896 names of the soldiers are displayed on the gate designed by Sir Reginal Blomfield. Check-in at our hotel in Ieper, Novotel Ieper Centrum Flanders Fields

Dinner

Thursday August 25: Flanders Fields Museum – Cemetery (B, D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Walk to the museum (ca. 5 minutes)

9.30 Guided visit at the In Flanders Fields Museum (IFF) Visitors are invited to reflect on the major historical events and also experience the personal stories of individuals. Additionally the museum shows how the First World War affected the lives of thousands of people of many different nationalities.

Open for independent lunch at the IFF Museum cafeteria

13.00 Short ride to the Essex Farm Cemetery, ca. 5 km

Individual visit of Essex Field Dressing Station and Essex Field Cemetery. Essex Farm got its name from a small cottage nearby. From 1915-17 the concrete bunkers found here comprised a dressing station. The Canadian Medical Officer John McCrae served here and, in 1915 he wrote possibly the war's most well known poem, 'In Flanders Fields'. 1,200 service men of which 103 are not identified are buried or commemorated in the Essex Field cemetery.

15.00 Transfer back to our hotel, ca. 5 km

Open until dinner this evening

Time for the "McCrae in the Mirror" presentation (*organized by the group – final details and time to be advised*)

Overnight

Friday August 26: Passchendaele – Bruges – Ieper (B, food tour)
Breakfast at the hotel

8.30 Transfer to Passchendaele, ca. 10 km

9.00 Visit the Memorial Museum Passchendaele - an 'open museum': everything we learn during our museum visit is reflected in modern Zonnebeke and the landscape. We can see a direct link to the vast war heritage in the surroundings. The descriptions received with these relics at the museum help to increase our understanding, similar to the information found at the locations themselves. Aside from the MMP1917 and the chateau park, which houses the museum, there are two important war sites in Zonnebeke: Tyne Cot Cemetery and the Polygon Wood

11.00 Transfer to Zonnebeke, ca. 5 km

Short stop at the Tyne Cot Cemetery for individual cemetery visits

12.00 Transfer to Bruges, ca. 50 km

13.00 Discover the culinary Bruges during a walking food tour

17.00 Transfer back to Ieper, ca. 75 km

Open evening and overnight

Saturday August 27: Groesbeek – Apeldoorn – Amsterdam (B, L)
Breakfast boxes

7.00 Transfer to Groesbeek, ca. 290 km

11.30 Light lunch at the Freedom Museum. Afterwards we tour through the museum that tells the cross-border and multi-perspective story of War and Freedom

Short transfer, ca. 2 km

Stop at the Canadian War Cemetery of Groesbeek

14.30 Transfer to Apeldoorn, ca. 65 km

15.30 Audio tour on "The Canadian Walk". On the way we follow the soldiers who fought for the liberation. Experience 26 personal stories of veterans and resistance fighters

Brief stop at the national Canadian Liberation Monument

17.00 Transfer to Amsterdam, ca. 90 km

18.30 Check in to our hotel in Amsterdam

The evening is open for individual discoveries

Sunday August 28: Amsterdam – Farewell dinner (B, D)
Breakfast at the hotel

10.00 In the morning we enjoy a boat tour on the famous Grachten through Amsterdam

Rest of the day is open for sightseeing or shopping or simply for a stroll

Farewell group dinner and exclusive Ford-Foster acoustic performance

Monday August 29: Departure (B)
Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to the airport of Amsterdam Departure of the group back to Toronto

Amsterdam	August 29	Air Transat 341	depart:	14:55
Toronto			arrive:	17:10

Terms and Conditions

Our Tour includes:

- Interpretation by Guelph Museums curator Dawn Owen and curator emerita Bev Dietrich
- Mike Ford and Murray Foster, private performances of the "McCrae in the Mirror". "Sons of '17" and exclusive acoustic concerts

- Guelph Museums staff to coordinate local activities
- Return air transportation including all taxes based on present schedules
- Local tour manager Mathilde throughout (previous expert guide!)
- Private bus transfers in a modern coach
- 9 x Nights in a double/twin with breakfast buffet daily in our hotels
- 4 x Lunches (one a picnic lunch and a food tour)
- 6 x Dinners
- Visits include:
 - the Memorial Museum of the Battle of Normandy
 - Guided tour of the Juno Beach Centre
 - Wimereux Cemetery for McCrae graveside commemoration
 - the Canadian National Vimy Memorial
 - the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial
 - Individual WWI visit at Somme Battlefield Cemetery
 - the Langemark German Cemetery and the statue of the Brooding Soldier
 - Visit Talbot House
 - Menin Gate – Ceremony
 - Guided visit at the In Flanders Fields Museum (IFF)
 - visit of Essex Field Dressing Station and Essex Field Cemetery
 - Visit the Memorial Museum Passchendaele
 - stop at the Tyne Cot Cemetery for individual cemetery visits
 - the Freedom Museum
 - Stop at the Canadian War Cemetery of Groesbeek
 - Audio tour on “The Canadian Walk”
 - stop at the national Canadian Liberation Monument
- Museum entry fees
- Boat tour on the famous Grachten through Amsterdam

The offer does not include

Personal expenses

- Meals and beverages other than listed above
- Gratuities
- Baggage handling at hotels

Tour cost p.p.	\$4,735 Canadian (3% reduction if paid by cheque)
Single (very limited):	\$5,405 Canadian (3% reduction if paid by cheque)
Deposit Requirement:	\$750 Canadian per person
Final payment due:	June 10, 2022
Cancellation penalties:	
From date of booking to June 30, 2022	\$200*
From July 1, 2022 to 31-days prior	loss of deposit paid*
Within 30-days to date of departure	100% non-refundable*

This tour is strictly limited to a maximum of 36 travellers.

In the event that we are able to find a replacement from wait-lists or other requests received for the land tour between date of booking and 31-days prior to date of departure, a flat \$50.00 p.p. administration charge will be assessed. Within 31-days prior, we regret that all payments become

non-refundable with or without a replacement. We cannot guarantee a replacement for any cancelled passenger regardless of the date the cancellation is received in our office.

*** SPECIAL NOTES:**

COVID:

We realize the issues and uncertainty still surrounding COVID and travel and have arranged specific special terms with our suppliers. We have been able to have limited cancellation penalties through to July 1, 2022. Optional COVID covered travel insurance will be provided for your consideration at the time of booking that includes Covid coverage.

SHOULD WE CANCEL THE TOUR for the safety of our clients, full refunds of any funds received will be made to all travelers.

PASSPORT

A valid Canadian passport is required to travel to Europe. Your passport must be valid for at least 3 months beyond the date you expect to return home. We strongly recommend a minimum of 6 months validity to avoid any possible issues.

Exclusive reservations through:

[view the tour: worldwide.on.ca/johnmccrae2022](http://worldwide.on.ca/johnmccrae2022)



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About MF2 Musicals

Mike Ford and Murray Foster first partnered with Guelph Museums for a production of Sons of 17, portraying a pair of musicians that met to rehearse songs for soldier recruitment. The show was originally written by Ford in 2014 but has been updated and adapted, with McCrae-inspired material and elements of In Flanders Fields.

In honor of the 150th anniversary of the birth of John McCrae, Ford has penned a new show, McCrae in the Mirror, reflecting on John McCrae's story within a contemporary narrative.



Ford and Foster have collaborated on a number of projects since their early days as members of Canadian '80s band Moxy Fruvous. Foster also played with Great Big Sea.

"We do music with some theatrical elements sometimes, and we've both done theatre on and off, but never something like this before," Foster said. "It's hugely challenging."

Ford said that former McCrae House curator Bev Dietrich was very helpful in making sure both plays were as historically accurate as possible.