

## War Memories across Canada Conversation Kit:

# War Trophies Sites in Prince Edward Island



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During the First World War, Dominion Archivist, Sir Arthur Doughty, created a detailed inventory of German artillery captured by Canadian soldiers as trophies of war. These pieces were allocated to communities across Canada to serve as monuments to fallen soldiers.

By the end of the Second World War many of the war trophies had been melted down and used in munitions production. Some artillery pieces survive today in museums and public spaces across Canada as monuments of remembrance and are preserved as historical artifacts of war.

### Discussion Questions:

Do you think war trophies serve as reminders of the horrors of war or as symbols of freedom? Can they be both?

What constitutes a good war monument? Some communities plant rows of commemorative trees, commission statues, cenotaphs, fountains or other structures to honour and remember Canada's war effort. There are online memorials such as the [The Canadian Virtual War Memorial](#) and the [Canada Remembers Facebook page](#). What do you think is the best way to remember the sacrifices made by Canadians during the First World War in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

### Activities:

Set up a formal debate on the following topics:

Monuments such as commemorative statues, fountains, cenotaphs, stone structures, and artifacts from the war (i.e. war trophies) are relevant in today's society and are worth the long-term maintenance.

War trophies are appropriate as museum exhibits not monuments of remembrance.

Are there any First World War artillery pieces on display in your community? Visit them and research how they are maintained. This might involve contacting a museum or a local veterans group.

Create an inventory of your community's First World War artillery pieces. Where are they located? In a park or museum? What is their provenance? This is an archival term referring to an item's origin, ownership or history.

### Resources:

#### Websites

Big Guns of the Great War: Photo Archive  
<http://www.worldwar1.com/pharc005.htm>



Bibliothèque et Archives Canada – Library and Archives Canada/  
PA-003200

Monuments of the First and Second World Wars –  
Historica Canada

[http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/monuments-of-the-first-and-second-world-wars/#h3\\_jump\\_1](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/monuments-of-the-first-and-second-world-wars/#h3_jump_1)

Available in [French](#).

PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation

<http://www.peimuseum.com/>

Prince Edward Island's War Memorials

<https://www.cdli.ca/monuments/pei.htm>

Sir Arthur George Doughty (1860-1936) – Library  
and Archives Canada

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/king/023011-1050.16-e.html>

Available in [French](#).

The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery

<http://canadianartillery.ca/war-trophies/>

A listing of war trophies by province. Available in  
[French](#).

### Books and articles:

All quiet on the Western Front, by Erich Maria Remarque. Originally published in 1929. (German title: Im Westen nichts Neues)

A story about a German soldier's wartime experience. A movie of the same name, directed by Lewis Milestone, was made in 1930.

Shelldrake: Canadian artillery museums and un monuments, by Harold A. Skaarup. Luniverse Inc., 2012.

Tangible demonstrations of a great victory: War trophies in Canada, by Jonathan F. Vance. Material Culture Review. Vol. 42, Fall 1995.

<https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/MCR/article/view/17659/22307>

The unknown soldier, by Linda Granfield North Winds, 2008. (Available in French: Le soldat inconnu)

To mark our place: A history of Canadian war memorials, by Robert Shipley. NC Press, 1987.

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