



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 12 June 2024

CANADA DAY
Canadian Memorial Service – 1 July 2024

The Canada Day Service in Folkestone commemorates the 305 Canadian soldiers who died during WWI and are buried in the Shorncliffe Military Cemetery. A memorial service takes place each year on or near Canada Day at the Canadian Servicemen's graves at Shorncliffe, which is attended by local civic dignitaries, representatives from the Canadian High Commission and Canadian Provincial Governments, the local British Army Command, War Graves Commission and Veterans.

Children from several local schools are positioned by Canadian graves and lay flowers on the graves, while the adults are laying their wreaths on the memorial. This tradition started in 1919 and the Mayor of Folkestone stated in 1927 that "As far as Folkestone is concerned, the ceremony should last as long as it is in the power of human beings to do so." This statement is strongly endorsed by all who participate in the ceremony today.

The service will be held at the Cemetery on Monday 1 July 2024 at 1130 hrs. The Worshipful Town Mayor of Folkestone, Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly, will be attending the service and will be accompanied by the Councillors of Folkestone Town Council, representatives from the Canadian High Commission and the Canadian Detachment in the UK.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the service.

ENDS

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Georgina Wilson, Corporate Support Officer

Folkestone Town Council, The Town Hall, 1-2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1DY

Tel: 01303 257946 Email: georgina.wilson@folkestone-tc.gov.uk