



University of Saskatchewan Remembers

Tour by: Murray Gross, President, Jane's Walk Saskatoon and graduate of the University of Saskatchewan

<https://janeswalksaskatoon.ca/>





The University of Saskatchewan is on lockdown, due to the COVID 19 pandemic. As a former student, the university grounds are super quiet. That is why the U of S is an excellent place for a walk. This tour explores the many war memorials and other memorials that can be found around the bowl and a few other places. This tour begins at the College building above and should take about an hour to walk. The tour includes a few oddities, that may not be war memorial related, but I like to include, because I can ... after all it is my tour. Please note the doors to most if not all buildings are locked, so you cannot get into the buildings to further explore.....

College Building (STOP 1)

For example, the College Building (Administration Building or Mackinnon Building), a 1909 Vallance and Brown Collegiate Gothic Building is host to a large number of ceramic yellow ribbons where the names of all students, faculty and staff who enlisted in the Great War, world War 1 could be remembered. Nearly 300 people, mostly students, including future Prime Minister John Diefenbaker enlisted.

More information:

<https://news.usask.ca/media-release-pages/2012/university-of-saskatchewan-renames-historic-college-building-to-honour-peter-mackinnon1.php>



46 th Battalion – Canadian Expeditionary Forces Memorial Stone (STOP 2)

This often overlooked memorial is located just steps away from the College Building, just to the north east of the College Building and its cornerstone. A memorial stone and plaque honouring the memory of those who served with the 46th Canadian Infantry Battalion (South Saskatchewan), Canadian Expeditionary Force, 1914-1918, sits under a tree on the northeast corner of the Bowl.

Formed in February of 1915, the 46th battalion was filled primarily with Saskatchewan youths, many via USask. Also known as the "suicide battalion," it fought in some of the bloodiest encounters of the war. Of the 5,374 men in the 46th battalion, 4,917 were either killed or wounded. A particularly costly battle was Passchendaele, where there were 403 casualties from the battalion's strength of 600 men.

With the end of the war came demobilization and the end of 46th battalion. The soldiers became veterans and returned to civilian life. Many re-enrolled or entered the university for the first time. Many others did not return.

The plaque depicts the transition of fighting men from the wheat field to the battle ground.

More Information: <https://canada150.usask.ca/our-grads/suicide-battalion.php>



Farley Mowat (STOP 3)

The Farley Mowat statue is located between the Arts Building and the Murray Library. When asked where he would like the statue to be placed, Mowat suggested Saskatoon. He had told Rhodes that "Saskatoon would be a wonderful place to spend the rest of my days."

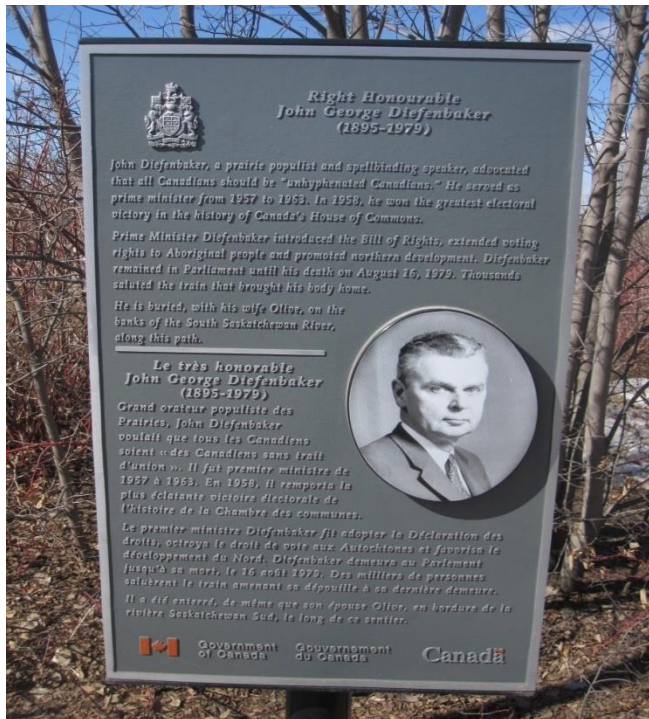
Farley Mowat spent his formative years in Saskatoon. He was a soldier, a naturalist and a writer. One of his books, "And No Birds Sang" is a powerful, true account of the action he saw, fighting desperately to push the Nazis out of Italy, evokes the terrible reality of war with an honesty and clarity fiction can only imitate. In scene after unforgettable scene, he describes the agony and antic humour of the soldier's existence: the tedium of camp life, the savagery of the front, and the camaraderie shared by those who have been bloodied in battle.

More Information: <https://49thshelf.com/Blog/2012/06/28/Farley-Mowat-s-And-No-Birds-Sang-An-Excerpt>

Burial Sites:

Did you know that the University of Saskatchewan is the site of four burial sites...

Before moving on can you guess who they are....



John Diefenbaker and Olive Diefenbaker (STOP 4)

The University of Saskatchewan is home to the Diefenbaker Centre and is the resting place of Prime Minister John Diefenbaker and his wife Olive. (Burial Sites 1 & 2).

A young John Diefenbaker volunteered for overseas training in 1916. He wrote.. *Carnage at the front was incredible. Young officers would leave today and appear in casualty lists the day after tomorrow. Generals seemed to measure their success in the number killed in action. There were not territorial gains worth mentioning. The outpouring of blood on the Somme, when the Newfoundland Regiment went into action was in my opinion one of the most disgraceful episodes of history.*

Perhaps his most famous quote is...

I am a Canadian, free to speak without fear, free to worship in my own way, free to stand for what I think is right, free to oppose what I believe wrong, or free to choose those who shall govern my country. This heritage of freedom I pledge to uphold for myself and all mankind.

More Information: <https://diefenbaker.usask.ca/>



Saskatoon Road Runner Association Seating Node (STOP 5)

It's my tour, I can do where I want to. Just past the Diefenbaker Centre is my running club 's Seating Node. It has a terrific view of the city, maybe the best. Our friends David and Michele were married here. I bought a stone to memorialize my father, who was a WW 2 veteran.

More Information: <https://saskatoonroadrunners.ca/>

Every year on Remembrance Day, the Saskatoon Road Runners Association and I host the 'Remembrance Day Run'. We always read this poem by World War 1 poet Charles Hamilton Sorley.

The Song of the Ungirt Runners

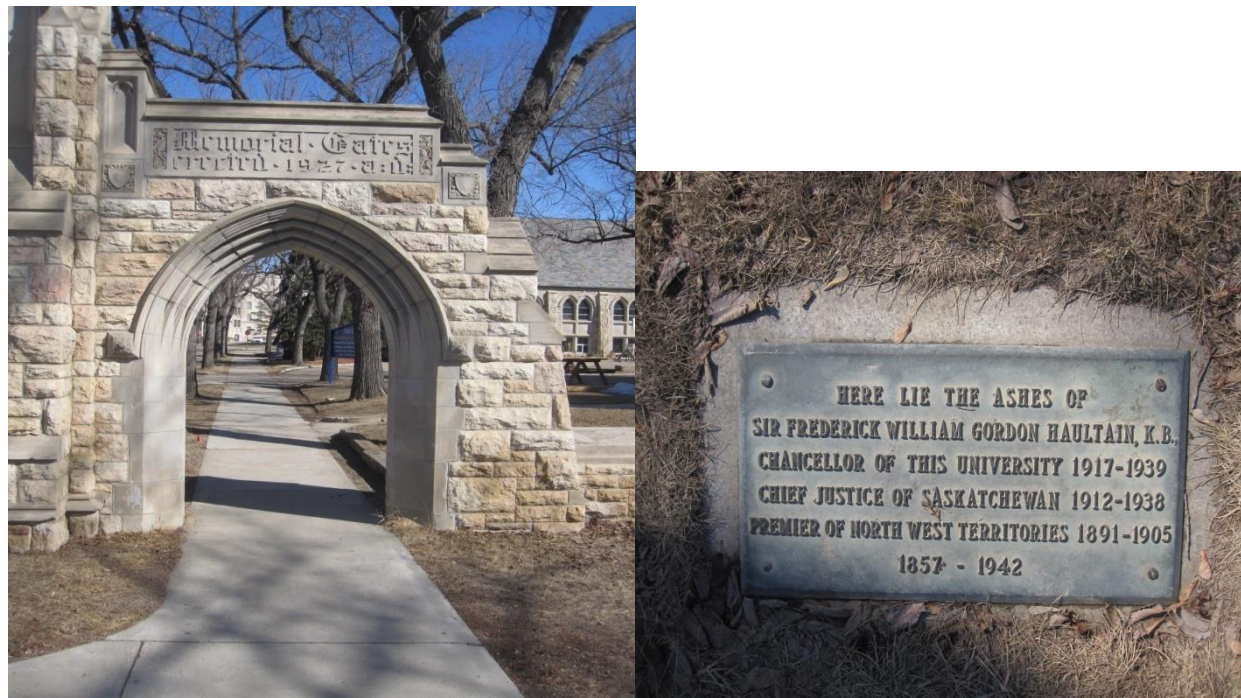
We swing ungirded hips,
And lightened are our eyes,
The rain is on our lips,
We do not run for prize.
We know not whom we trust
Nor whitherward we fare,
But we run because we must
 Through the great wide air.

The waters of the seas
Are troubled as by storm.
The tempest strips the trees
And does not leave them warm.
Does the tearing tempest pause?
Do the tree-tops ask it why?
So we run without a cause
 'Neath the big bare sky.

The rain is on our lips,
We do not run for prize.
But the storm the water whips
And the wave howls to the skies.
The winds arise and strike it
And scatter it like sand,
And we run because we like it
 Through the broad bright land.

More Information: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/charles-hamilton-sorley>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sos-1LHKgw8>



Memorial Gates and the Burial site of Sir Frederick Haultain (Burial Site # 3) (STOP6)

The Memorial Gates, designed by David R. Brown of Montreal, were originally the entrance gates to the U of S. The Gates commemorate the 67 students and faculty who died in WW1. Behind the gates on the west side you will find the resting place of Frederick Haultain Chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan.

More information: <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/national-inventory-canadian-memorials/details/3300/>

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/sir-frederick-william-haultain>



Robert (Robin) Henry Dale (Burial Site # 4) (STOP7)

Our friend Dave's father was a physician in Saskatoon during the 1950s. Dave remembers his father's friend and colleague Robin. As Dave recalls Robin was a skilled and brilliant surgeon, who fell ill to a debilitating nerve disease. This illness combined with a failed romance pushed Robin to suicide. As Dave understands it, his father and a number of colleagues and friends, perhaps after a few drams of Scotch whiskey, buried Robins ashes beside the University Hospital. They also planted a small fir tree to memorialize Robin. The burial site can be found between the 'old' entrance to the RUH and the college of dentistry.



Rugby Chapel (STOP8)

The Rugby Chapel is located on College Drive, just east of Wiggins Ave. The Chapel was gift of the students and staff of Rugby School, England, Rugby Chapel was erected by the students of Emmanuel College under the leadership of George Exton Lloyd, M.A., Principal, 1908-1916.

There is a plaque on the exterior which indicates memorials within the Chapel record the service of pioneer workers and of men who gave their lives in the two world wars. And I understand, in 1926 a stained-glass window, "For the sake of the Name they went forth," was installed to commemorate the Emmanuel students who died in WWI.

More Information: <https://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=4994>



Memorial Union Building (MUB) (STOP 9)

The Memorial Union Building or MUB, was completed in 1955 and has been a hub for student activities since. The building, itself is a war memorial and the upper floor features a granite fireplace where the names of students, faculty and staff who fought in World War I and II are engraved. The Building also features Louis' Pub a popular student drinking hole.

More Information: <https://canada150.usask.ca/century-of-generosity/1955-memorial-union-building.php>



The Great War Bench (STOP10)

The Great War Bench is the U of S's most recently built War memorial. The bench was unveiled in 2018 to mark 100 years since the end of WWI.

The bench dedication ceremony was the culmination of four years of work by the committee to honour the students, staff and faculty members from the U of S who served in the WWI.

The bench is located in the plaza located between the two original campus residences, just south of The Bowl and immediately north of the Memorial Union Building.

More Information: <https://news.usask.ca/articles/general/2018/memorials-give-us-the-chance-to-sit-and-think-about-the-first-world-war.php>



In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKojvHcMLfc>