

WORLD WAR WEEKEND – CANADIAN HISTORY 621

In Canadian History 621, we spend a great deal of time studying Canada's role in World War One and World War Two. The accomplishments of our soldiers and service persons during these conflicts are a great source of pride. We learn about the experiences of brave Canadians in the battlegrounds of Europe and Asia. In order to better demonstrate the experiences of our forces in Europe, MRHS is going to allow its students to experience a military/wartime life for one weekend, commencing June 5, 2009.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

- ⚔ Staff members (including Mr Coffin, Mr Wynne, and Mr Duncan) shall accompany the students. Mr Wynne and Mr Duncan, members of the PEI Regiment, will assume command of basic military maneuvers throughout the course of the weekend. The location for this weekend is a local woodlot, located 2 kilometers west of MRHS on the property of Preston and Phyllis Coffin.
- ⚔ Students will be led through military maneuvers by the commanding members of the PEI Regiment. They will experience a simulation of the experiences of CEF soldiers preparing for battle in the woodland regions of France and Belgium in WWI and the Netherlands and Germany in WWII.
- ⚔ Students will participate in a four-mile march (from MRHS to the woodlot, through farmer's fields and wooded areas) and will be required to maintain and carry a weighted rucksack to simulate one-half of the weight assumed by CEF soldiers. The weekend concludes with a paintball battle, sponsored by Spike's Paintball.

SCHEDULE:

On Friday afternoon/evening (June 5) and Saturday morning (June 6), our student soldiers shall participate in a simulated basic training competition in order to achieve appropriate rank for Saturday's 'battles'. Basic training activities shall include the following: basic training, digging trenches and filling sand bags (each group shall be required to dig a 1x3 foot trench covering a distance of 20 feet), marching, preparing military-style meals, building stretchers from materials found in the woods, and clearing space for each company's headquarters.

- ⚔ At the conclusion of Friday's training session, all students shall experience life in 'the billets' in a large farmhouse on the Coffin's land. During the stay in the billets, students will be treated to a military-style meal and will prepare for the next morning's battles. There will also be some wartime entertainment, in the style of the era.
- ⚔ At daybreak on Saturday, the military leaders shall lead students in a discussion of the simulated battle they are about to experience and will offer tactical advice. Following the lecture, the owners of Spike's Paintball shall lead the students in a seminar concerning paintball safety and shall provide students with the necessary protective gear in preparation for the battle.
- ⚔ At approximately 9 AM, each camp shall travel by bus to the battle site (prepared and supervised by the PEI Regiment and Spike's Paintball) for the battle. Following the 'battle', students will be treated to a barbeque.
- ⚔ At the conclusion of the battle, all students and supervisors shall return to the billets for 'demobilization' (clean up and pack up) and shall return to MRHS at noon, when they may be picked up by parents.

NON-NEGOTIABLE RULES:

- ⚔ Under no circumstances are students permitted to have cell phones, music devices, or contact with the world outside our own simulation. All items shall be confiscated at the beginning of the weekend. Mr Coffin will have a cell and the number shall be provided to parents, as will the phone number for our hosts, Preston and Phyllis Coffin.
- ⚔ Students are not permitted to take food for the weekend. You will be fed in the manner of Canadian soldiers preparing for battle during the war. Anyone caught with food shall be at the mercy of your commanders (meaning you'll march, polish buttons, and clean up after everyone). Any food allergies must be disclosed well before the date of the assignment.
- ⚔ This activity shall be assessed by Mr Coffin, the PEI Regiment commanders, and by students and their peers. It is in students' best interest to take it seriously and make the most of the opportunity.
- ⚔ There shall be no use of drugs/alcohol/tobacco during our simulation. Students caught with these items will be immediately sent home and will face expulsion from school.
- ⚔ Students will be required to take their own backpack, round-pointed shovel and sleeping bag. Otherwise, all other materials shall be provided.

MRHS WORLD WAR WEEKEND 2007

A Soldier's Basic Needs (for backpacks):

- ☹ Sleeping bag
- ☹ Warm clothing for sleeping
- ☹ Bug spray
- ☹ Pencil and paper (for letters home and battle commands)
- ☹ Band Aids
- ☹ Roll of Toilet Paper
- ☹ Extra socks
- ☹ Round-pointed shovel
- ☹ If you require medication (insulin, etc), then it is your responsibility
- ☹ Extra weight (World War One soldiers were expected to carry an extra 70 lbs of equipment – you will carry an extra 10 to 20)

What Will Be Provided:

- ☹ Farmhouse shelter
- ☹ Food and drink
- ☹ Transportation to Spikes for paintball 'battle'
- ☹ Portable toilet (port-a-potty)

What You MUST NOT Have:

- ☹ Cell phone (in case of emergency, Mr Coffin will have a phone, as will our weekend hosts)
- ☹ Electronic music devices like iPods, mp3 players, PSP, etc. (If soldiers want to have their own musical instruments for the night in the billets, that is an option– clear this with Mr Coffin and your commanding officers before June 1)
- ☹ Food (students have agreed to participate in a simulation of Canadian experiences in World War One and World War Two. Part of their experiences involved subsisting with a minimum amount of food and water. We will provide enough on which to survive overnight, but not hotel-style meals. If students aren't prepared to eat like the rest of the soldiers, they will be hungry).
- ☹ Alcohol/drugs/tobacco products are strictly prohibited during this activity. If students bring any of the products above, they will immediately be sent home and will lose all course credit. They will also face school suspension/expulsion and exclusion from graduation activities at the end of the school year.
- ☹ This is our second attempt at the MRHS World War Weekend. The original weekend in 2007 was a great success. Hopefully, all students will enjoy the experience and make the event successful.