

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Students Honour Veterans

Grade 7 class connects with Canadian military heritage

February 23, 2016 - Duncan, BC, Canada – For students in Grade 7 at Queen Margaret's School, Remembrance Day last fall was very special due to a class project that honoured local veterans. The students' efforts earned them top honours in the *Historica Canada Grant McRae Commemorative Contest* for *The Memory Project*.

"My initial concept for our Remembrance Day project last fall was aimed at creating a sense of empathy and deeper understanding of what a local veteran experienced in the wars," explains QMS Grade 7 teacher *Elisabeth Ruiten*. "I walked through our local Mountain View Cemetery's Legion section, chose names and assigned them to my students." Members of Ruiten's class were asked to research the soldier, their military experiences and hand write a personal letter of appreciation. These letters were then delivered to the soldiers' graves in a special ceremony. It was only after this event that Ruiten became aware of the *Memory Project's* contest.

The *Grant McRae Commemorative Contest* asked young Canadians to thank a veteran in a creative way and play an active role in Remembrance. "These letters are authentic and straight from the heart," shares Ruiten. "I was proud of them before the contest, yet I'm thrilled that their efforts are being rewarded at a national level." The QMS Grade 7 class earned first place in the Junior Group Category winning an iPad. *Dylan Kruger* won first place in the Individual Junior Category, also earning him a personal iPad, while his classmate *Sharai Cooper* placed second in Canada.

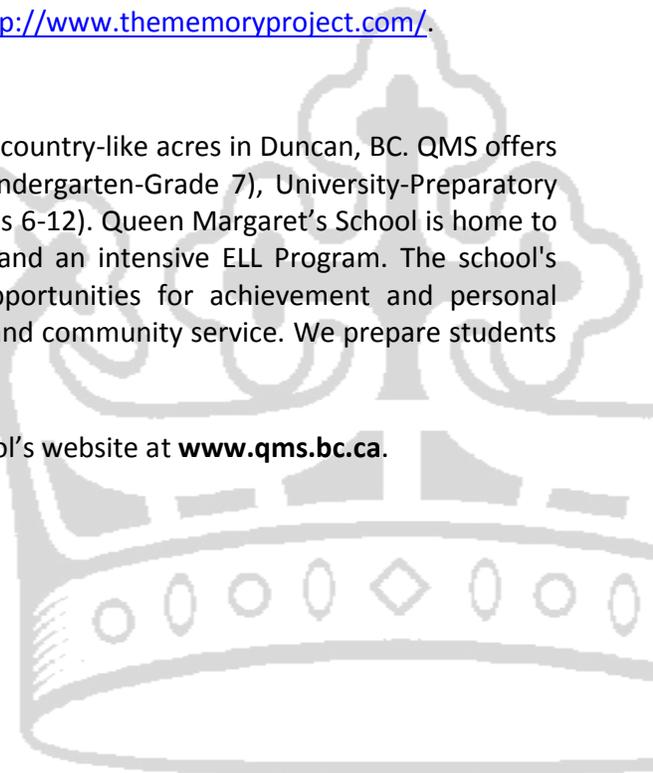
For *Sharai Cooper*, the process had profound meaning. "My father was in the navy and is still very involved. To share my soldier's story with my father and discover similar life experiences connected us in new ways." *Dylan Kruger* was surprised that his veteran had a connection to his family on the other side of the globe. "I discovered my Canadian soldier's battalion fought in the same war as my great-grandparents, who were in the South African army. This project turned facts and dates into real people I could visualize in my mind."

To learn more about *The Memory Project* by *Historica Canada*, visit <http://www.thememoryproject.com/>.

About Queen Margaret's School

Established in 1921, **Queen Margaret's School (QMS)** is located on 27 country-like acres in Duncan, BC. QMS offers a co-ed Early Childhood Education program, co-ed Junior School (Kindergarten-Grade 7), University-Preparatory High School for girls (Grades 8-12) and all girls Boarding School (Grades 6-12). Queen Margaret's School is home to Canada's *only* on-campus school English riding Equestrian Program and an intensive ELL Program. The school's comprehensive scholastic and extra-curricular program provide opportunities for achievement and personal growth through academics, sports, visual and performing arts, riding and community service. We prepare students for university, for higher education, for life.

For more details about Queen Margaret's School, please visit the school's website at www.qms.bc.ca.



For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:

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Photo: QMS Grade 7 teacher *Elisabeth Rüter* congratulates her students on winning national honours in *Historica Canada's Grant McRae Commemorative Contest*. *Sharai Cooper* placed second in Canada, while classmate *Dylan Kruger* took top award for their personal letters of gratitude to Canadian veterans.



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