A NEWFOUNDLAND PILGRIMAGE TO WORLD WAR 1

The years 2014-2018 mark the 100th anniversaries of the First World War. We must never forget the tremendous contributions and horrendous sacrifices that so many Newfoundlanders and Labradorians made to that cause. Fighting in both Navy and Army uniform, in Merchant Marine and Forestry Corps, our brave forebears never hesitated to stand in harm’s way to protect our homes and values. While many of them paid the supreme sacrifice, many more came home wounded in body and/or mind. We must also never forget the suffering at home of wives and children for whom the effects of that war would be felt for the rest of their lives. Of course, we are also aware of and grateful for the pastoral guidance provided by a Newfoundland Padre who served as Chaplain to the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and later as Newfoundland’s representative on the Imperial War Graves Commission as Director of War Graves Registration and Inquiry. His vision of the “Trail of the Caribou” has now become a reality, and is a touchstone for many of those who wish to stand “where once they stood.”

Knowing that many of those brave volunteers were members of our Newfoundland Churches, we are sponsoring a spiritual pilgrimage to the battlefields of Europe in the summer of 2016 and we have asked Craig Travel, a well-known travel company, to work out the details. Over the next few months you will begin to see advertisements for their special tour tentatively called, “On the Trail of the Caribou, 2016.” You are invited to consider this tour as we visit both the battlefields where our people fought in World War One and the cemeteries in which they are buried. In June-July 2016, there will be many groups from Newfoundland and Labrador travelling to France and Belgium, and converging with many other groups at Beaumont Hamel on July 1. On that day, representative wreaths will be laid in the remembrance ceremony at Beaumont Hamel.

INCLUSIVE FEATURES & HIGHLIGHTS

- 8 nights accommodation in standard hotels
- 16 meals included - 8 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners
- Porterage for one piece of luggage
- Airport transfers in Europe
- Services of tour escorts and local guides
- Beaumont Hamel Centenary Service
- Sunset at Menin Gate
- Visit such iconic sights as: Gueudecourt Hilt Trench, Monchy-le-Preux, Vimy Ridge, Courtrai, Ypres, Flanders Field Museum, Sailly-Saillisel, Masnieres and Cambria
SAMPLE ITINERARY

Vimy Ridge
We make our way to Vimy Ridge to visit the Memorial to the Canadian soldiers who died during the Battle of Arras April 9 – 12, 1917. Afterwards, we continue to Monchy-le-Preuex to visit the Caribou Memorial commemorating the Royal Newfoundland Regiment for their actions during the Battle of Arras.

Courtrai and Ypres
This morning, we cross into Belgium and to Courtrai to visit the Newfoundland Memorial Caribou commemorating the Regiment’s actions during the Battle of Courtrai and the Hundred Days Offensive in 1918. Later, we arrive in Ypres to see Essex Farm Cemetery where Lt. Col. John McRae wrote the immortal poem – ‘In Flanders Field’ and visit the Museum and Cloth Hall. In the evening, we attend the Ceremony of the Last Post at the Menin Gate before returning to our hotel in Valenciennes.

Abbeville – Masnieres
Today we visit the graves at Sailly-Saillisel before making our way to Masnieres. Here we visit the Newfoundland Memorial Caribou which commemorates the actions of the regiment during the First Battle of Cambrai in 1917.

Lochnager
Our journey continues as we make our way to the Lochnager Crater. Here is where the Lochnager Mine on July 1, 1916 at the time was the largest detonated. We also visit the Beaumont-Hamel Caribou Memorial which commemorates the Royal Newfoundland Regiments’ sacrifice during World War I.

Beaumont-Hamel Centennial
Today is the day we have been waiting for! We shall attend the ceremony of the centennial at Beaumont Hamel. The bravery and optimism of the Newfoundlanders in the 88th brigade of the 29th division will be celebrated for the sacrifices they made at Beaumont Hamel during the Battle of Somme. The loss of the Newfoundland regiment, the colony’s premier contributor to the imperial war effort marked many future generations with a sense of loss and patriotism. Reflect today on the great hopes and sacrifice of our ambitious Newfoundlanders.

Gueudecourt
Today we make our way to Gueudecourt, a key location during the Battle of the Somme in 1916. We see the Hilt Trench and the Newfoundland Caribou Memorial. This commemorates Royal Newfoundland Regiment for their actions during the Battle of the Somme.

Paris Sightseeing
This morning we make our way back to the French capital of Paris. Upon arrival, sightseeing with a local specialist, we see the sights and sounds of Paris. We see the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs Elysees and ascent up the Eiffel Tower to the 2nd level for a stunning view of the city. In the evening, we dine at a local restaurant for our Farewell Dinner to celebrate our journey.

Note: There will be multiple departures and itineraries will not all be in this particular order, but will include all of the visits listed.

To reserve your spot on this tour, simply complete the enclosed enrollment form, indicating the tour you wish to join and your home city, and forward it with your fully refundable future tour deposit of $100 per person to:

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Upon confirmation of tour details you will be provided with your choice of itinerary to transfer your future tour deposit to and the remaining balance of the deposit amount will be due within 15 days along with any applicable insurance premiums.