



IODE CANADA EXPRESS NEWS

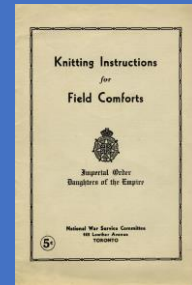
Founder's Day Message 2018 *Building on the Legacy*

1918 was a momentous year. Although it was not at all clear at the beginning of that year, WW I would finally be concluded. That victory was preceded by unprecedented bloodshed and loss. It brought only an uneasy peace which, unfortunately, did not last. Nevertheless, IODE continued the role it played since the beginning of the conflict – to provide field comforts to our Canadian Forces, to provide weapons and machinery (at the request of the federal government), to care for the refugees of the conflict and to support the military families waiting for the conflict to end and their loved ones to return home safely. Not all wishes were granted.

One hundred years later, IODE continues to support our soldiers and their families, refugees and those in need. IODE was there during WW II, the Korean Conflict, the many peacekeeping missions our heroes have braved and every other mission in which our forces have been put at risk. Our members preserve monuments, honour cenotaphs, maintain books of remembrance and participate in patriotic events. IODE members are loyal and ever aware that our freedoms require defense.

They are also aware of their responsibilities to those in need. They count their blessings and help those whose blessings are few. The Mission of IODE continues to be relevant – and needed. Canada is known as a country of extensive social programs available to all. However, many people fall through the cracks of those programs and IODE is there to help. Our history of assistance is notable. Even today, members find new ways to help, update projects to make them relevant today, turn their attention to those marginalized and ostracized and recognize needs even before they come to the attention of the public.

IODE is particularly aware of those in remote areas of Canada that need assistance – Good Grooming Bags, Adopt-A-Class programs, Toys For The North, Services Packing projects, *Born To Read*, Labrador Bursaries – all across Canada chapters are helping people they will never meet; members who take it on faith that they are being effective.



IO.D.E. WORKROOM AT HEADQUARTERS, TORONTO

A “thank you” comes randomly and renews that faith. And we carry on. We do what we have always done. For 118 years now, we have heeded the appeal of Margaret Polson Murray back in 1900. We rally to her idea. We are IODE and we have a proud legacy – a legacy that members today honour. A legacy of helping those in need: a helping hand; a hand up, a smile, a gift freely given. IODE is as relevant today as it was so long ago. Let us continue that legacy.

Let us build on that legacy. Mrs. Murray needed an “army” of women ready to help. Every army needs reinforcements. Today we need to reinforce our IODE army. Reinforce our chapters; reinforce our membership. We have “generals” ready to retire and they need replacements. They need women to take up the challenge of leadership: leadership of our chapters; leadership of our projects.

Women are born leaders yet rarely see themselves as such. Clearly, raising a family needs leadership skills. Maintaining a caring relationship with your spouse and children – and their partners – needs negotiating and compromising skills. Determining what to buy this week and what meals to prepare needs budgeting and planning skills. Keeping track of family activities and who needs to be where and when – more planning and logistical skills. Wow – they even let us drive now!

Ladies, you’ve got it! Now go out there and recruit. Recruit the ladies who will come to be your new best friends; who want to help those in need (but don’t know how); who are ready to fulfill the Mission of IODE. Make this your personal goal this year. I promise to make it mine.

Bonnie G. Rees
President

About IODE Canada



Founded in 1900, IODE Canada is a national women’s charitable organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals through education support, community services and citizenship programs. For more information about our organization and charitable work, please visit our website. Become a Member.

www.IODE.ca

