



### BHCARA News and Events

#### Calgary, Alberta Trip

BHCARA Executive Director, Canada Sandra Joyce and Regional Director Karen Mahoney had a very successful trip to Calgary, Alberta mid-October. The Calgary Public Library Event was attended by over 140 people! MLA Dr. Neil Brown, invited by Director Bruce Skilling, attended the meeting, showing his support of British Home Child Day in Alberta.

#### London, England Trip

Sandra Joyce will be spending the first week of November in London, staying with her cousin Moira, the only female Beefeater in the history of the Tower of London. Sandra will be visiting the "Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red", a remarkable display of 888,246 ceramic poppies which flow from a window in the Tower to fill the moat. This display was created to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War and will be opened until

November 11<sup>th</sup> 2014. Each poppy represents a member of the Commonwealth forces who perished in the First World War - including our 1,043 British Home Children who died in the war. Also, Sandra Joyce will be attending the Remembrance Day Parade, in London in which BHCARA Director Bob Wilkinson will be marching.

#### Barrie, Ontario Legion Special Event

The Royal Canadian Legion, Dr. W.C. (Bill) Little M.M. Branch 147 in Barrie, together with the Barrie and Simcoe County Historical Associations, will be hosting a special event on Tuesday November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Speaking at "Breaking the Silence" will be Lori Oschefski and Sandra Joyce. This event will be held to honour our BHC's story as well as their unique contributions to the First World War.

#### Ontario's Ceremony of Remembrance

The BHCARA will be attending Ontario's Ceremony of Remembrance on Tuesday November 11<sup>th</sup> to place a memorial wreath at the Veteran's Memorial, Queen's Park in Toronto. The wreath is in remembrance of our BHC who served in the Wars.

### Cecilia Jowett



*Author*, missionary nurse, animal rights' advocate and youth hostel housemother, Cecilia Clara Ellen Jowett was sent to Canada in 1901 along with her sister Ethel Annie by the Dr. Barnardo's organization. The girls were taken to the Hazelbrae Home in Peterborough, Ontario. Cecilia was placed in the Barnardo's Homes in England when she was three and was only five when she arrived in Canada with an identification ticket pinned to her coat. At first, the sisters were separated. Happily, through the efforts of the minister whom Cecilia was with, a placement for Ethel was found nearby. Cecilia's mother moved to Canada in 1905 as a widow along

with Cecilia's two step-sisters and her brother. Even though she quickly remarried, the family was never really reunified. In Cecilia's book entitled "No Thoughts of Tomorrow - The Story of a Northern Nurse", that Canadian author Stephen Leacock encouraged her to write, she does not mention her mother nor her sisters, although throughout the book constantly writes about her longing for her family.

In her book which was published in 1954, she wrote in her book: "When I was five years old I was brought out to Canada from England, with a ticket pinned to my coat, and with the resolve already in my childish heart that someday I would make a place for myself in the great, cold world, where I could help others as the kind nurses had helped me." Cecilia was able to fulfill her dream, graduating from the Orillia General Hospital and then offering her services to settlers in a rural northern Ontario community where she lived with her brother Ernest in a shack before building a humble cabin. There, she lived for seven years. Through a legacy left by a grateful patient, Cecilia was able to return to the land of her birth and meet her father, who had abandoned her family by going off to sea when she was an infant. Realizing that there was no room in her father's life for her, she returned to Canada to Rama, where she had once worked as a young nurse during the Spanish Flu Epidemic. There, alone with her dog Prince, she lived out the remainder of her years, helping the sick and the poor.

One other comment from her book, shows her dismay and the stigmatization that she faced as a young girl in Canada and then remarked upon later on in life:

"Oh, I'd never take a child like that into my home" I have heard ladies say, "You never know how they will turn out." And there I was, a graduate nurse, in their homes, rendering skilled assistance, perhaps saving or helping to save a life. Yet they didn't dream that I was one of "those children" once."

*On May 30<sup>th</sup> 2015 Lori Oschefski & Sandra Joyce will be speaking at the Sparrow Lake Historical Society, just outside of Orillia. Lori will be presenting the story of Cecilia*

