



VIMY OAKS LEGACY LEGS des CHÊNES de VIMY

THE VIMY OAKS STORY

The Battle of Vimy Ridge in northern France, April 9th to April 12th 1917, is considered to be one of the defining events in the history of our nation. Where Allied troops had struggled and failed, the Canadians overcame great odds and captured the Ridge after four days of fighting at a cost of some 10,600 casualties. After the battle, **Lieutenant Leslie Miller of Scarborough, Ontario serving with the Canadian Expeditionary Force**, gathered up a handful of acorns from a partially buried English oak (*Quercus robur*) on the Ridge. He sent the acorns home to his family with instructions to plant them. In 1919 Lieutenant Miller returned, was given a 25 acre section of his father's Scarborough farm and transplanted the oaks along the borders of his woodlot. He named his farm "**The Vimy Oaks**". Today, a number of these majestic oaks are thriving in the same but smaller woodlot under the close care of the Scarborough Chinese Baptist Church that purchased the farm property in 2002.

In January 2014, a group of volunteers formed the non-profit **Vimy Oaks Legacy Corporation** to repatriate offspring of these descendant oaks back to Vimy Ridge, whose oak trees had all been destroyed in the First World War. These Vimy Oak saplings will be planted in the Vimy Foundation Centennial Park, adjacent to the Canadian National Vimy Memorial site, as part of centennial commemorations in France in 2017 and 2018.

Also, to honour the soldiers who fought at Vimy Ridge and other battles during the First World War, the Vimy Oaks Legacy Corporation has sold Vimy Oak saplings grown in Canada for sale to qualifying organizations and individuals to be planted at commemorative sites throughout Canada. Starting in 2018 saplings are being offered to private individuals for planting at private sites as well.