



VIMY  OAKS

LES CHÊNES DE VIMY



Vimy Oaks Repatriation Project
100th Anniversary Commemorative
April 1917 – April 2017



The Project:

- A Franco-Canadian collaboration to create a living museum along the D55 'Chemin des Canadiens' using Vimy Oaks on both sides of the road:
 - Walkway with way stations that include educational descriptive panels;
 - Viewing gazebo or deck;
 - Protected and enhanced significant vistas;
 - Interactive exhibits.



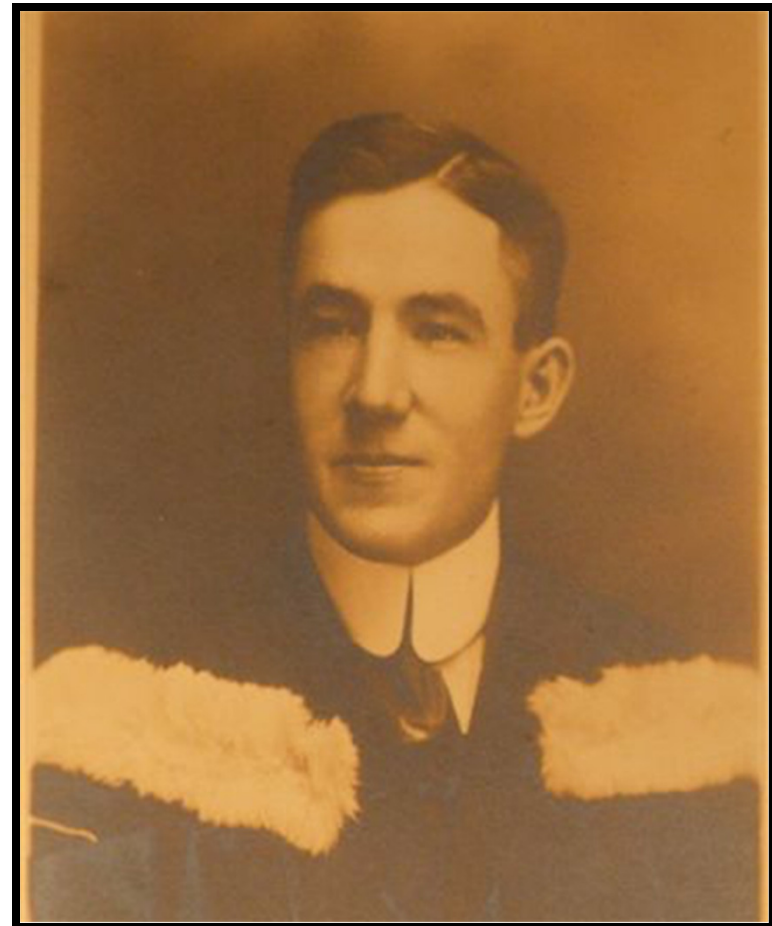
The Purpose:

- To repatriate the Vimy Oaks as a living memorial;
- To honour the memory of all those who fought;
- To physically connect modern Canada with modern France and the Battle of Vimy Ridge;
- To reaffirm our comradeship with France and her people.



The Soldier:

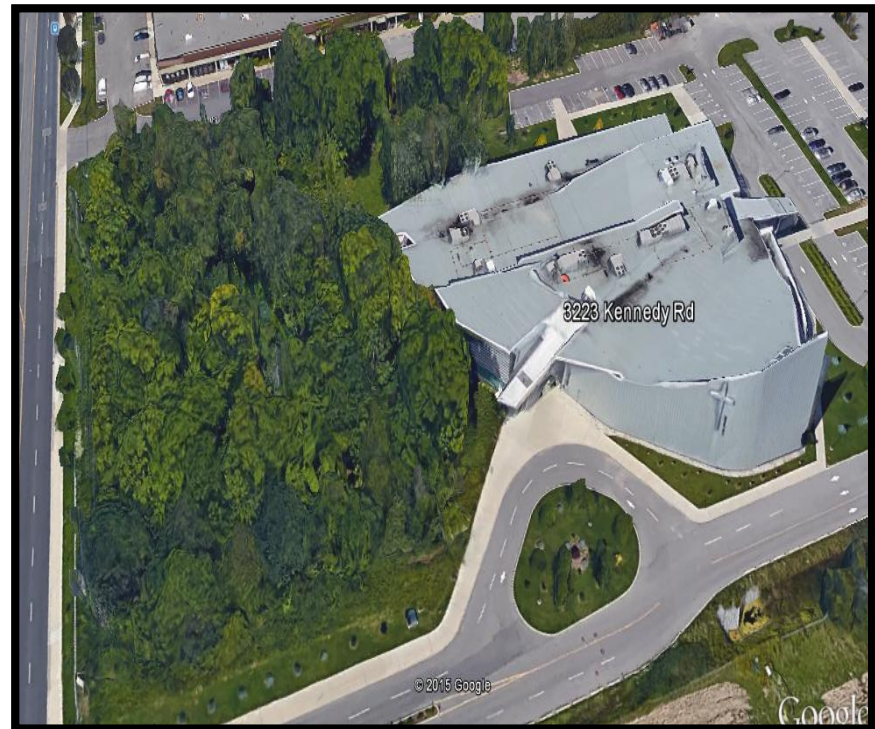
- A Canadian soldier of the Great War (1914-1918), Lieutenant Leslie Miller.
- He gathered acorns after the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1917 and sent them home to Canada.
- These acorns were planted and grew on his farm in Ontario.





The Woodlot:

- The Vimy Oaks Woodlot in Ontario is owned today by the members of the Scarborough Chinese Baptist Church.





The Process:

- Cuttings (scions) were taken from the Vimy Oaks in Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, in January 2015.





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- Cuttings (scions) of the Vimy Oaks were grafted onto French Oak (*Quercus robur*) root stock from Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada.





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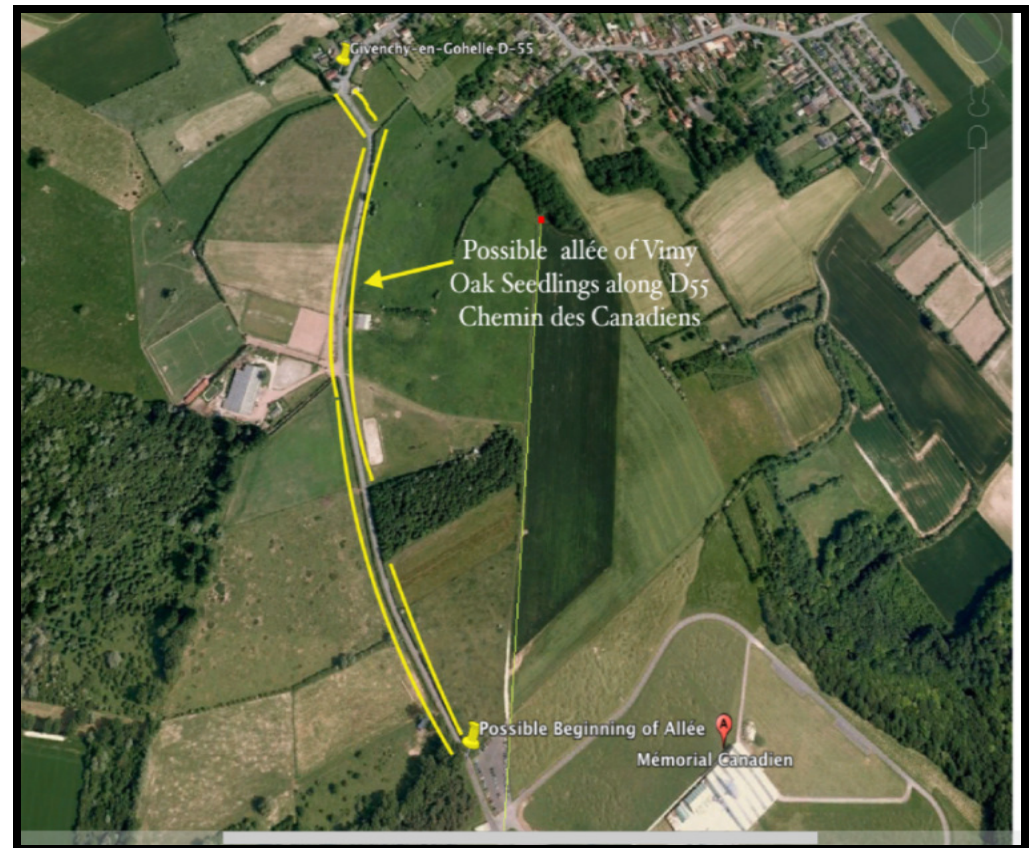
- The grafted oaks are growing in quarantine at Connon Nurseries in Ontario while waiting for their shipment to France.





The Location:

- Along the D55 - Chemin des Canadiens between the Canadian National Vimy Memorial and Givenchy-en-Gohelle – the Vimy Oak Allée.
- Feasible, meaningful and enduring.





The Reasons:

- An allée completes an existing design intention;
- Links the Canadian National Vimy Memorial and the village of Givenchy-en-Gohelle;
- Reinstates a French planting tradition that is illustrated in historic photographs of the region.



Vimy Ridge 1917



The Invitation:

Please join us in answering
Canada's famous poet
John McCrae who wrote
'In Flanders Fields'

The torch; we hold it high.
We have not broken faith;
with you who died.





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LEST WE FORGET
THANK YOU

"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in"

(Greek proverb)