



Media Advisory

June 1, 2016

For immediate release

Official Installation Ceremony for Garden of Tears

Beginning this evening, 1500 commemorative Forget-Me-Nots will be planted Monday through Thursday evenings on the lawns of the St. John's Arts and Culture Centre, forming the Garden of Tears, designed by Newfoundland-born artist Jim Maunder. This installation will continue throughout the month of June, until the July 1st anniversary of the battle of Beaumont Hamel.

Please join Opera on the Avalon at the St. John's Arts and Culture Centre this evening, Wednesday June 1st, at 6:15pm as we are joined by The Honourable Frank Fagan, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador, Honorary Colonel of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, and Her Honour Patricia Fagan for the official launch of the Garden of Tears.

About

Forget-Me-Nots, a symbol of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, will be installed beginning June 1. One for each Newfoundlander and Labradorian that died during World War I. Each day at sunset, as a solitary trumpet plays out The Last Post, successive flowers will be installed until the last flower is planted on July 1, 2016

To honour our brave soldiers, the public will have the opportunity to purchase their own unique, individual Forget-Me-Not Flower that will be planted in this garden. All proceeds from the sales of Forget-Me-Nots are in support of the Beaumont Hamel opera *Ours*, with a portion of the proceeds going to the Royal Canadian Legion's Poppy Fund.

For more on this unique project visit <http://operaontheavalon.com/gardenoftears>

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