Billy Bishop Museum's 2026 Honouring Our Local Veterans

Corporal Myrtle Ellen (Wyonch) Craigie
Canadian Woman's Army Corps

Family Life

Myrtle Ellen Wyonch was born on September 24, 1925, in Tobermory, Ontario, to Lottie and Charles Wyonch, and was sister to Gertrude, Eva, Cora, Ethel, Willow, Dora, Dan, Levi, and Dave. She attended St. Edmunds Public School.

On September 24, 1951, she married William Robertson Craigie in Wiarton, Ontario. Together they raised two children, Charlotte Elizabeth Craigie (born November 26, 1954) and William Charles Alexander Craigie (born March 17, 1956). Myrtle also became stepmother to William's daughter, Marlene Mae Craigie (born July 9, 1942).

Throughout her life, Myrtle was involved in several local businesses and community organizations, including operating a trucking company with her two brothers. During the 1960s, she worked alongside her sister at Watson's Home Hardware. From 1968 to 1973, Myrtle was a part-owner of the Tobermory Lodge during a period of growth in the local tourism industry.

Later, she worked as a bartender at the Tobermory Legion and was also an active member of the organization.

Myrtle died on June 18, 1989. She was interred at Dunk's Bay Cemetery, Tobermory.

Decorations

- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal

Military Service

Myrtle Ellen Wyonch enlisted in the Canadian Women's Army Corps (CWAC) on October 10, 1944, at Toronto, Ontario. Beginning her military service as a Private, she later attained the rank of Corporal before being discharged on June 27, 1946.

Following her enlistment, Myrtle received training in Kitchener, Toronto and Ottawa.
She was eventually posted to CWAC Headquarters in Ottawa, where she served the remainder of her wartime service. While her specific duties are not recorded, her location at headquarters suggests that she likely worked in a clerical position, supporting the day-to-day operations of the Canadian Army. This work commonly involved maintaining records, preparing correspondence and reports, organizing files, managing daily paperwork, and assisting with personnel administration.

Myrtle's service spanned the final years of the war and the immediate postwar period. Her promotion to Corporal reflects both her experience and her contribution to the organization during this time. As one of thousands of Canadian women who served in the CWAC, she participated in a significant expansion of women's roles in military service and public life during the 1940s.

After returning to Tobermory, she remained deeply involved in community life through local businesses, the Legion, and tourism initiatives. She was also a driving force in the establishment of the Tobermory Museum. Remembered for her commitment to giving back to her community, Myrtle was also a devoted mother, grandmother, and friend whose contributions helped shape Tobermory and left a lasting legacy.