



# Mary Armstrong



Teacher Volunteer

Mary Armstrong was born in 1855 in London, Ontario. Shortly thereafter her family relocated to Strathroy, where Mary attended Colborne Street School. She completed her teacher's certificate at Colborne and would go on to teach there for 50 years. Mary's pupils at Colborne recalled the great influence she had exercised over them, praising her uprightness, her sense of justice, her humour, and her caring attitude. Mary's appreciation of spiritual values and her desire to help others contributed to her distinguished legacy of volunteer service in the community. Her charitable spirit led to the local chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire (IODE) being named after her. In 2015 the Mary Armstrong Chapter of the IODE celebrated its 100th anniversary.

The IODE is a women's group devoted to improving the quality of life for children, youth, and those in need through education, social services, and citizenship programs. The Mary Armstrong Chapter actively supported British and Canadian war efforts during World War I and World War II, and provided care packages for British women who were left without necessities due to bombings.

The funds required to erect the cenotaph beside Town Hall in Strathroy were raised by the Mary Armstrong Chapter, and it was unveiled on August 24, 1924. The Mary Armstrong Chapter continues to help maintain the cenotaph to this day.

Mary passed away in 1935, but her memory persists through the numerous charitable initiatives organized and supported in her name by the IODE.



## INVICTUS MANEO

**MUSEUM**  
STRATHROY-CARADOC

PHOTO:  
IODE members participating in the Strathroy Old Boys Reunion parade, 1919.

QUOTE:  
'Invictus Maneo' is Latin for "I Remain Unvanquished", the motto of Clan Armstrong.

SPONSORED BY:  
The IODE Mary Armstrong Chapter

