

The Torch

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MUSÉE CANADIEN
DE LA GUERRE
CANADIAN
WAR MUSEUM

Friends of The Canadian War Museum
Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre



Remembrance by Fred Collins

There is a group of Canadian Firefighters who are worthy of special recognition. Their exploits are largely forgotten and most members of the Canadian Fire Service today have probably never heard of them. However, they wrote a special chapter in courage and service during the Second World War and in the annals of the Fire Services of Canada.

In 1941 the Right Honourable MacKenzie King, the Prime Minister of Canada visited England. During this visit the United Kingdom requested that Canada form a contingent of Firefighters to serve in Great Britain. This request was agreed to and shortly thereafter recruiting began for the Corps of Canadian Firefighters Overseas. Enlistment was voluntary and Firefighters from all across Canada answered the call. The original Corps, consisting of 422 members, was made up of men from 107 municipalities representing all provinces of the Dominion.

Their presence in the United Kingdom did not go unnoticed. The Manchester Evening News edition of Saturday, 15 May, 1943 referred to them as "a blood transfusion for a sorely wounded warrior." After a four week course following arrival in England, mainly of blitz firefighting, rescue work and drill, the contingent was assigned to 2 fire stations in Southampton, 2 in Portsmouth, 1 in Plymouth and 1 in Bristol. Corps headquarters was established in London. After a brief fa-

miliarization period the Canadians became solely responsible for their districts.

The Corps was commanded by Gordon E. Huff, a former Fire Chief of the Brantford, Ont. Fire Department. He was largely responsible for organizing and recruiting the unit. He was, at that time, a 23 year veteran of the Ontario Fire Service. He was chosen, in the words of MacKenzie King, because "He was a crack Firefighter, he knew the English well having been over in the last war and he had proved



his worth as a fire organizer".

During this period the cities where the Corps was stationed were subjected to heavy air raids. The fires started by the bombs had to be dealt with and those buildings which were destroyed but where no fires occurred made for unique rescue situations. Also, the number of alarms to be dealt with was far beyond those experienced in more peaceful times.

There were numerous injuries to Corps members, but few were serious. Only three members lost their lives; one in a traffic accident (cont. p.3)



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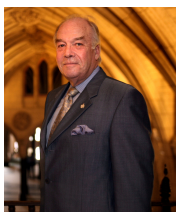
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President's Message Douglas Rowland



On 12 September, a number of Friends had the honour of being selected to meet with HRH Sophia, Countess of Wessex, during her visit to the War Museum which had, as its focus, the War of 1812 Exhibit. All were charmed.

On 29 October, Friends were represented at the Change of Command ceremony for the Chief of Defence Staff, which took place in the Le-Breton Gallery with General Walter Natynczyk, C.M.M., M. S.C., C.D. transferring his authority to General Thomas Lawson, C.M.M., C.D..

2012 marks the 150th anniversary of the creation of the Royal Highland Regiment of Canada. Friends are now working with representatives of the Regiment to suitably mark the occasion.

November will be another busy month for the Friends of the War Museum. Our guide interpreters will be called upon, as usual, to assist in making the experience of those Canadians who choose to mark 11 November in the War Museum, memorable. Two days be-

fore, Friends will be part of the party that receives and escorts the 2012 Silver Cross Mother on a tour of the Museum.

But before these important annual events take place, there will be, on November 2nd, a solemn ceremony in which the Diamond Jubilee Medal will be presented to recipients whose names have been advanced for the award, focussed on community service, by the Friends. The names of recipients are published in this edition of *The Torch*.

The recent presentation of the M1917 tank to the news media saw, for the first time, an invitation issued to all Ottawa-area members of the Friends to attend. In Calgary, on 18 October, locally residing Friends were made aware of and invited to attend two lectures by Dr. Laura Brandon on Art and War.

Your Board is working hard to expand the number of opportunities for members to become more directly engaged in the public events and the projects of the Canadian War Museum. Watch this space!



Remembrance (Continued from page 1)

In the course of training and the third due to a robot bomb. In addition, only three other members were seriously injured during their tour. Commander Huff puts this down to "good luck" but I suspect it was more a case of good training and professionalism. However, as is always the case, some luck does come into play. On one occasion, a bomb destroyed the hostel of one of the crews. They were away fighting a fire at the time the bomb hit.

The Corps served with distinction until the war ended. Corps members were awarded: 1 Order of the Brit-

ish Empire (Commanding Officer Huff), 1 Member of the British Empire, 2 British Empire Medals, 1 Royal Humane Society Testimonial on Parchment and 2 Royal Humane Society Testimonials on Vellum. As well, all who served were awarded special badges signifying their service.

When they got back to Canada many of them joined various Fire Departments across the country, bringing with them their unique experiences, training and knowledge from their war service.

I was privileged to serve on a fire department with one of

these individuals. Captain Duncan Doan of the Welland Fire Department related many stories of his exploits while he was serving in Plymouth and London. Like all heroes, he said nothing of the bad times but only related the good and the humorous. Two other members of the Corps I met later. These two individuals are likely known to many of the older Firefighters still serving. They are Martin S. Hurst, who later became the third Fire Marshal of Ontario and Ralph Leonard, who became the first Chief Instructor of the Ontario Fire College.

The Author: Fred Collins is the father of Rob Collins, one of the FCWM Volunteer Interpreters.

The M1917 Tank Unveiling

In our last edition we reported on the M1917 Six-Ton Tank, but unfortunately we had gone to press before the unveiling of the specimen restored for the Canadian War Museum.

At a ceremony held in the Lebreton Gallery on 13 August attended by a large number of Friends, Volunteers and other guests including the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Walter Natynczyk, the product of four years of restoration was unveiled.

Acknowledgement of this achievement was marked by

Dr Dean Oliver on behalf of the Museum; Douglas Rowland, President of the FCWM; and, by Mr. Richard Iorweth Thorman who had provided the donation that made the restoration possible.

In addition to the accolades accorded to Mr. Thorman, special recognition was given to Jim Whitham, Director General of the Museum who had originally found the rusting hulk in a field in Alberta; to the volunteers of the tank shop who had laboured tirelessly over the past four years to produce the magnificent restoration; and to the

DEW company which had produced a number of vital missing components including the turret.

The important product of this co-operative effort may now be seen in the Lebreton Gallery.





Volunteer Profiles

Not all of our volunteers are grizzled veterans. **Krista Duncan** began volunteering with the Friends in April of 2010, taking on the role of Youth Friends Co-ordinator.



In this role, she is attempting to attract and include those under 18 as youth friends by encouraging their interest in Canadian military

history.

Krista has been volunteering since the age of 8 in positions that range from helping out at food banks, to animal shelters, to local museums. She has always had an interest in museums and all things heritage and comes from a strong military family that includes grandparents, uncles, cousins, her brother and even her mother all being formerly or presently involved with the Canadian military in some way.

As a result of her love for history, Krista acquired a BA in History at the University of Ottawa, and is soon to complete a degree in Museum Studies through the Ontario Museum Association as well as a certificate in Archives and Records Management from Algonquin College.

She has been lucky enough to have had the opportunity to travel and see history first hand from touring Normandy, to a sombre visit to Dachau when in Germany, and closer to home visiting the Plains of Abraham.

She is looking forward to using her education and volunteer experience to begin a career in the heritage field, but absolutely loves volunteering and plans on being a lifelong volunteer within her community.

The Origins of Daycare submitted by Krista Duncan

Did you know that daycares and nurseries have been around since the 1850's? At that time, it was often churches and charities caring for children of poor working mothers who could not afford to stay home. It wasn't until the Second World War that all that changed and daycare was needed by many more families, that great demand caused new facilities to open.

When so many men left to go fight in the war, women were needed to replace them in the workplace, specifically munitions factories and other wartime industries. With no one to care for their young children, some women took drastic measures unheard of today such as tethering their child to a fencepost outside their home and asking a neighbor to look in

on them and feed them lunch, tying them to a bedpost, or leaving them at an orphanage and only seeing them on the weekends.

The government needed women to work, so they decided to create the Wartime Day Nursery in 1942 so that children had a place to go. This also created a new field of Early Childhood Education in which those who would work at these daycares and nurseries were trained.

The daycares were only for those women who were working in wartime industries and cost them 35 cents a day. It was the first and last time that the government made money available for daycare. After the war, the funding was pulled and many of these

nurseries were closed. However, many women lost their husbands to war and were forced to continue to work and while others didn't *have* to work they simply wanted to work and they fought to keep the nurseries open.

These daycares had structure and educational activities that were said to be way ahead of their time. This is where daycare as we know it today began.

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/archives/categories/society/family/who-cares-for-our-kids-the-changing-face-of-daycare-in-canada/day-care-during-wartime.html>



Remembrance of Brock By Howard Mansfield

*We boast not of the victory,
But render homage, deep
and just,
To his - to their - immortal
dust,
Who proved so worthy of
their trust;
No lofty pile nor sculptured
bust
Can herald their degree.*

*No tongue can blazon forth
their fame -
The cheers that stir the sa-
cred hill
Are but mere promptings of
the will
That conquered them, that
conquers still;
And generations yet shall
thrill
At Brock's remembered
name.*

This extract from the eulogistic poem to Sir Isaac Brock by Charles Sangster, serves to remind us that, 200 years after the battle, Brock should be remembered.

He is indeed well-remembered

at the "lofty pile" - Brock's Monument at Queenston Heights, but also at the less well-known plaque on the Town Church at St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands, which, surmounted by the Crest of the Province of Ontario reads as follows:

**MAJOR-GENERAL SIR
ISAAC BROCK KB 1769 -
1812**

One of Canada's outstanding military heroes, Isaac Brock was born on this island. He entered the British Army in 1785, became a Lieutenant-Colonel of the 49th Regiment of Foot in 1797, and served in Europe 1799 -1801. The following year he was posted to Canada with his regiment. In 1811 just prior to the outbreak of war between Great Britain and the United States, Brock became President of the Executive Council and Administrator of Upper Canada (now Ontario)

and rapidly organized the defence of the infant colony. His leadership culminated in the capture of Detroit and the defeat of the U. S. invaders at Queenston Heights in 1812. He was mortally wounded in the latter engagement and is buried on the battlefield.

*Erected by the Archeological and Heritage Sites Board
Department of Public Records and Archives of Ontario*



On this, the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Queenston Heights, we yet thrill at Brock's remembered name.

It's Membership Renewal Time



It is time to renew your FCWM membership for 2013 and you will receive your renewal form shortly. Your early attention to this matter

will be appreciated.

Early renewals allow us to better gauge our financial and membership posture for the coming year and to plan accordingly.

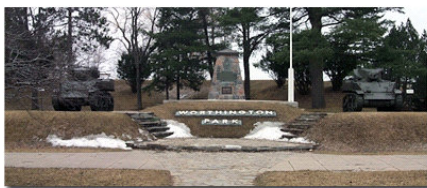
You are also encouraged to recruit others to become members or, perhaps to give someone the gift of membership in the FCWM.



Base Borden Military Museum

The Base Borden Military Museum is one of Canada's largest Military Museums. It is located about 100 km north of Toronto on the grounds of CFB Borden. The museum, which combines all the separate museums on the base, was established in the 1990s.

The Museum holds a significant collection of WWI, WWII and post-war armoured vehicles, trucks, and aircraft. The Museum tells the story of Camp Borden and the various Schools, Corps and Branches that have their heritage vested at Base Borden.



The museum complex consists of several buildings and a memorial park. The main Museum buildings are located in former tank hangars. These buildings detail the history of Borden. Major General Worthington Memorial Park, commonly referred to as "Tank Park", contains some armoured vehicles and artillery pieces from Canada and from other

countries around the world. These date from WWI to the present day. In tribute to the man viewed as the Father of the Armoured Corps, his wish to be buried at Camp Borden was granted. Major General Worthington Park is consecrated ground containing two graves and four cenotaphs. It is a quiet area of reflection with benches provided for visitor comfort.



The armoured vehicle building mostly contains vehicles that are related to the development of armoured warfare in Canada. There are some very rare Canadian-made vehicles on display, including three Rams, a Sexton, a Grizzly (Canadian-built M4A1 Sherman) Firefly, a Valentine Mark VI, and the only surviving example of the Bobcat APC, a fully-tracked vehicle developed during the 1950s. An excellent collection of British and American AFVs used by Canada include a Whippet, Churchill Mark I, Mark VI light tank, Matilda Mark II, and a Sherman Crab flail tank.

Postwar vehicles include a Centurion, an M60A3, the very unusual T-55AM2B cutaway tank, and a Soviet T-72.

Base Borden is also the Birthplace of the Canadian Air Force. This proud heritage is exhibited in the Museum's WWI Heritage Hangar. Displayed inside this Hangar, one will find the Avro 504 K aircraft, the oldest flyable aeroplane in Canada, a Tiger Moth, a Silver Star as well as a Tutor aircraft, which is similar to the aircraft now flown by the "Snowbirds", Canada's Military aerobatic team. In addition, there are many interesting artefacts detailing the history of the Air Force in Borden. Not far from the Air Force Annex are several Canadian aircraft proudly displayed on pedestals.



This Museum serves as a reminder of the role of the Canadian Forces in preserving our freedom.

Published courtesy of LCol (Ret'd) Stuart Beaton, Curator of Base Borden Military Museum



Friends Awarded Jubilee Medal



The Friends of the Canadian War Museum were allotted a number of Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals. A committee was established to determine eligibility criteria and a final list of award winners was announced. Most of the medals were presented in the Lebreton Gallery during a ceremony on 2 November. The presentations were made by Honorary Director, General (Ret'd) Ramsey Withers.

The following is the list of current FCWM members awarded the medal:

LCol. (Ret'd) William Aikman,

Mr. John Anderson, Mr. Robert Anglin, Col (Ret'd) Berard Bennett, Dr. Marvin Blauer, Mr. Gerald Bowen, Capt. (N) (Ret'd) Michael Braham, Col. (Ret'd) Angus Brown, Mr. Eric Brown, Mr. Alan Cameron, Mr. William Campbell, Mr. Larry Capstick, Lcol. (Ret'd) Donald Carrington, Ms. Mai-Yu Chan, Mr. Robert Collins, Maj. (Ret'd) Walter Conrad, Maj. (Ret'd) John Courtney, Mrs Tina Creber, Maj. (Ret'd) Maurice D'Amour, Maj. (Ret'd) Thomas Dent, Mr. Hunter Dunn, Mr. Stephen Dunne, Mr. Stewart Elder, Mr. Gordon Foster, Mrs. Jacqueline Gagnon, Maj. (Ret'd) Pierre Garneau, M. Maurice Gauthier, Mr. Charles Gruchy, Capt. (Ret'd) J. Haley, Mr. David Holmes, Col. (Ret'd) Murray Johnston, LCol.(Ret'd) Neil Johnstone, Mr. Nelson

Langevin, M. Adam Leclerc, Mr. George Logan, Maj. (Ret'd) William Love, Maj. (Ret'd) Frank Luciano, Mr. J.R. MacDougall, Lt. (Ret'd) Peter Mace, Maj. (Ret'd) Howard Mansfield, Mr. Robert Margeson, Mrs. Connie Mooney, Mr. Frank Moran, Mr. Jerry Nudelman, Mr. Gordon Parker, Mr. W. Patrick, LCol (Ret'd) Alfred Rasmussen, Ms. Phyllis Reading, Maj. (Ret'd) Donovan Redknap, Capt. (N) (Ret'd) William Reed, Maj. (Ret'd) John Robertson, Dr. George Smith, Maj. (Ret'd) William Smith, Mr. Hugh Spence, Mr. Edward Storey, Maj. (Ret'd) Howard Stutt, Mr. Richard Thorman, Ms. Marie-Josée Tremblay, Gen. (Ret'd) Ramsey Withers.

Group Friends

ANAF Veterans in Canada – Dominion Command, Ottawa
Canadian Veterans Hall of Valour, Ottawa
Canadian Association of Veterans of U.N. Peacekeeping (Ottawa Chapter)
Korea Veterans Association of Canada (National Capital Unit)
NATO Veterans Organization of Canada, Spencerville
Royal Military Colleges Club (Ottawa Branch)
The Black Watch Assn – Pacific Coast Branch, North Vancouver
The Polish Combatants' Association of Canada (Ottawa)
The Polish Combatants' Association of Canada (Toronto)
The Royal Canadian Legion – Do-

minion Command, Kanata
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 002 (SK), Prince Albert
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 006 (ON) Owen Sound
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 011 (ON), Toronto
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 024 (ON), St. Catharines
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 037 (AB) , High Prairie
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 047 (NL) Labrador City
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 055 (SK), Grenfell
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 068 (QC) , St. Lambert
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch , 093 (NB), Oromocto
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch ,

120 (SK), Nipawin
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 130(SK), Hudson Bay
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 133 (ON), Cobourg
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 153 (MB), Carberry
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 167 (ON), Exeter
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 171 (ON), Alliston
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 177 (AB), Caroline
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 185 (QC), Deux Montagnes
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 195 (SK), Wakaw
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 201 (ON), Essex

(continued on p.8)



Donations: The FCWM thank all of the following who generously donated to the Friends between 1 Jul. - 30 Sep. 2012

MacFie Clan Society of Canada	Mr. Joseph Gambin	BGen. Derek J. McLaws
Mr. Lee Battiston	Dr. J. L. Granatstein	Mr. Wilfrid J. Pound
Mr. Michael Bedford	Mr. Donald and Mrs Jacqueline Heckman	Insp. Steven Wade
Mr. Paul J. Charlebois	LCol (Ret'd) Ralph L. MacIntosh	
Col. Gary Furrie		

In- Memoriam and Special Donations (1 Jul. – 30 Sep. 2012)

Dr. J.L. Granatstein in memory of Drew Hunter, RAF WWII	Gen. Paul D. Manson in memory of Col. Arthur C. Wade	Mr. And Mrs. Alex and Geraldine Plomp in memory of Alice and Bert Stanfield
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New Friends: The FCWM welcome the following who joined between 1 Jul. —30 Sep. 2012

MacFie Clan Society of Canada	Mr. William E. Dale	Ms. Diane Leclerc
Mr. Richie Anderson	Mr. Rene Danis	Mr. Jack Silverstone
Mr. William Blundell	Mr. Myles Gregg	Mr. Ian Sinclair
Mrs. Krista Cairns	Cmdre (Ret'd) Robert W. Hamilton	Insp. Steven Wade
Mr. Terry Christopher	Mr. Lane Johnston	Mr. Darryl Woods

Group Friends (continued)

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 238 (ON), Fenelon Falls	442 (ON), Erin	The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 593 (ON), Nepean
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 262 (ON), Elmvale	The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 447 (ON), Corunna	The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 606 (ON), Pickering
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 287 (ON), South Porcupine	The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 514 (ON), Gore Bay	The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 618 (ON), Stittsville
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 322 (ON), Ajax	The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 542 (ON), Westport	The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 641 (ON), Ottawa
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 415 (ON) Port Loring	The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 544 (ON), Lancaster	Western Front Association, Pacific Coast Branch, Ladner
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch	The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 580 (ON), Cobourg	



Lest We Forget

