



LAST POST FUND
FONDS DU SOUVENIR

A Quarterly Newsletter from the Last Post Fund

THE BUGLER

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WISHING YOU A PEACEFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!



The Last Post Fund Management Team:
Left to right, **Daniel Redburn**, Québec Regional Manager; **Jean-Pierre Goyer**, Executive Director; **Jaime MacKinnon**, Ontario Regional Manager; **Marc Gauthier**, Atlantic Regional Manager; **Isabelle Chartrand**, Human Resources Advisor; **Dino Kaoukis**, Programmer Analyst; **Éliane Francœur**, Communications Advisor; **Michel Desnoyers**, Finance Manager; and **Ken Usher**, Western Regional Manager.



Upon this special time of year, let us remember and honour those who are no longer with us and cherish those who are.

May the love of your family, the closeness of friends and the comfort of home renew your spirits this Holiday Season.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a New Year blessed with Peace and Joy!

The Last Post Fund Management Team

A YOUNG SCULPTOR'S SOLDIER MEMORIAL In Picton, Ontario



As he grew up close to a Coast Guard base in Prescott (ON), **Marc Bourdon** was always very patriotic. He now lives near the Trenton Air Base and knows a lot of local Veterans. This young sculptor actually has a maple leaf tattooed over his heart! He used to work for the Campbell Monument company in Belleville where he helped produce over 1,500 Last Post Fund military markers for Veterans' graves, as part of the Funeral and Burial Program. He later "jumped back into stone sculpting and glass art."

Recently, Marc designed a Soldier Memorial on an artist trail at the Small Pond Arts Centre in Picton. In this 87-acre location completely surrounded by nature, artists can focus on their own projects or participate in collaborative artistic pursuits, free from the pressures of daily life.

"I chose to carry the stone into the woods by myself," he explains. "It was safer if I did it alone but I also wanted it to be 'all me'. It was both physically and emotionally exhausting. During the installation I got a large bug bite and scratched it on a branch walking through the woods. The bite became infected and I had to get a chunk of my leg removed (about half the size of a marble). I consider the scar to be my badge of honour for installing the memorial! I also designed the memorial so it could be hugged. I want it to be hugged at least 1,500 times and to let me know, I have made it out of limestone so the 'hugger' can leave a scratch in the stone. I am also using the memorial as a tool to teach my daughter the sacrifices that are made for our freedom."

He now has to check on his sculpture once in a while, says Marc, because birds like to hang around it. "At first it upset me, but now I see the birds as 'guardians of the Soldier Memorial'. I see them as a 'symbol of freedom'. Were it not for our fallen soldiers, I would not be able to soar up to unimaginable heights in the world's greatest country."

Marc Bourdon defines himself as an 'idea generator and doer' in that he is constantly creating. "I don't just say I want to create a Soldier Memorial, I actually do it." In 2008, he was the youngest artist to receive the Quinte Arts Council Recognition Award (average age is 55). "I will not wait until retirement to do all the things I want to do," he concludes.

THE MINISTER'S COMMENDATION FOR LPF HONORARY TREASURER



Rear Admiral (Ret'd) **Barry Keeler**, Last Post Fund Honorary Treasurer and President of the LPF for Nova Scotia, was among 12 citizens from that province to be honoured with the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation for their commitment and dedication to Veterans.

"These 12 individuals are making a real and lasting difference with their service and dedication to our nation's truest heroes," said Minister **Steven Blaney**.

"On behalf of all Canadians, I am proud to be able to acknowledge their extraordinary efforts in helping to provide the care and recognition our Veterans and their families deserve. Today we recognize their hard work and honour them."

The Minister's Commendation is presented to individuals who have contributed to the care and well-being of Veterans and to the remembrance of their contributions, sacrifices and achievements. The Commendation includes a bar, which can be worn below official decorations on a Veteran's blazer, as well as a lapel pin for civilian wear and a certificate.

For a biography of RAdm Keeler, click [here](#).

CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY AT THE LAST POST FUND NATIONAL FIELD OF HONOUR



Last November, during Veterans Week 2011, Canadians across the country have shown in many ways how they honour our Veterans.

Acting on behalf of the Honourable **Steven Blaney**, Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada, Senator **Pierre Claude Nolin**

remembered them during a candlelight ceremony at the Last Post Fund National Field of Honour in Pointe-Claire, Québec. Veterans, members of the military community and Montreal residents came together to honour those buried at the Field of Honour.

"Serving your country has risk, said Mr. Nolin, but it also brings extreme pride to the men and women who have provided selfless efforts to ensure our safe future. I am forever grateful for what our men and women in uniform have done for this country."

He added that, "we need to think of our Veterans all year long and not just one week a year. It is a sad reality that every year, the number of our traditional Veterans grow a little smaller, but there are new Veterans with complex health and social needs that differ from previous ones as they are in different places in their lives."

"Generations of Canadians have sacrificed a great deal so we may live in peace. Battles and place names such as Vimy Ridge, Dieppe, Gapyeong, Sudan, Bosnia and Afghanistan are now embedded in our collective memories. Our Government is dedicated to providing our Veterans with the support and care they need and so richly deserve."

The candlelight ceremony, which officially launched the 2011 Veterans' Week, was organized by the Last Post Fund, in partnership with Veterans Affairs Canada.



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