



The Bugler

A Quarterly Newsletter from the Last Post Fund
Vol. 1, No. 1 – November 2009

A New Information Tool

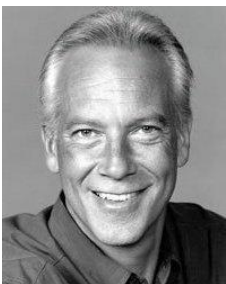
We are pleased to send you the all new quarterly newsletter of the Last Post Fund (LPF). It aims to inform you on our activities but also, to express our unending support of Veterans and their families.

Since 1909, our organization's mission has been to ensure that when they pass away, needy Veterans receive the dignified funeral and burial they are entitled to. We hope you will find this communication tool as informative as it is meant to be. You can also visit our Website:

www.LastPostFund.ca

Arthur Hair III

First Honorary President



Arthur H.D. "Chip" Hair III is the first Honorary President of the Last Post Fund. In this newly created position, Chip Hair will officially represent the organization and the National President at various functions and commemorative activities. He will also participate in the development of LPF policies.

This position is certainly fit for Arthur "the Third", as he is the grandson of LPF founder, Arthur H.D. Hair (1873-1947), who devoted 38 years of his life to the cause of Veterans in need.

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Born in Montreal in 1948, **Chip Hair** served in the Canadian Army Reserve with the RCASC during his late teens and early twenties. He has recently retired from Natural Resources Canada after some 35 years spent as a cartographic specialist and project officer.

Since his early childhood, Chip Hair has been attending, and participating in, the annual commemorative ceremonies at the LPF Field of Honour in Pointe-Claire, Québec. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of the LPF Québec Branch from 1984 to 1997.

Remembrance Day at the National Field of Honour



A special ceremony commemorating Remembrance Day will be held at the Last Post Fund National Field of Honour in Pointe-Claire at **10:30 a.m.** on **11 November**. Follow this link for details on our Remembrance ceremony:

<http://www.lastpostfund.ca/EN/newsdetails.php#remembrance>

48 Veterans' Graves Receive Military Markers Ontario Branch Host to a Dedication Ceremony in Chatham

In October, at the Maple Leaf Cemetery in Chatham, the LPF Ontario Branch dedicated a series of 48 headstones for Veterans buried long ago in unmarked graves.

As the Honorary Patron of the Ontario Branch, the Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario was invited to officiate at the ceremony.



While the names of the 48 Veterans were read off, a student from John McGregor Secondary School removed the Canadian flag that covered the grave, over which a military marker was then installed.

The Chatham cemetery had 64 unmarked graves. Eight of the remaining ones will be dedicated next year. However, more research and information are needed to mark the final eight graves.

This dedication ceremony hosted by the Ontario Branch was part of the centennial celebrations of the Last Post Fund, created in 1909.

A story to follow...



Flying Eagles for Three Canadian Rangers

In October, three deceased Veterans from the Canadian Rangers (CR) had their unmarked graves provided with a proper military headstone, with help from the LPF Ontario Branch. These Veterans lived in the remote communities of Sandy Lake and Fort Albany in northern Ontario. They were the first CR to receive such markers, through the LPF Special Grave Marker Program.



Canadian Ranger Peter Fiddler, an elder, uses an eagle feather to smudge the new military grave marker of Ranger Delilah Meekis from the Sandy Lake First Nation.

The headstones were dedicated in special ceremonies attended by Canadian and Junior Canadian Rangers, their families and chiefs, students and community members. Each marker bears a carving of a flying eagle, a proud reminder of the Rangers' rich cultural heritage.

"There was nothing on his grave, just flowers," recalled Madeleine Nakogee as she stood next to the newly erected marker for her brother, Ranger Michael Hookimaw. "We had a wooden plaque made for him when he died, but it rotted away. It's a nice feeling to see him recognized like this."

"This shows how we continue to honour our Veterans," said Major Guy Ingram, commanding officer of the 3rd CR Patrol Group. "We've embarked on a mission where we'll ensure that from now on, all Canadian Rangers gravesites are properly marked with a military headstone."

Last Post Fund Applauds the Veterans Ombudsman's Report "Serve with Honour, Depart with Dignity"



"The Veterans Ombudsman has capably demonstrated the importance of his position, with the release in September of his report on the federal government's Funeral and Burial Program, which we administer on behalf of Veterans Affairs Canada," said LGen (ret'd) Lou Cuppens, National President of the LPF.

"This thorough report raises a number of issues that concern the honour and respect we owe to Veterans and their families, he added. Colonel (ret'd) Patrick Strogran, the Ombudsman, is to be commended for bringing a greater awareness of the Last Post Fund during our centennial year. Our organization was created in 1909 by a most notable act of charity and we have never ceased to support and honour Veterans and their loved ones." Moreover, many of the recommendations contained in the Ombudsman's report have been advocated for several years by veterans groups across Canada.

In conclusion, Mr. Cuppens remains "most confident that Veterans Affairs Canada will consider all of the issues and recommendations made by the Ombudsman and that appropriate actions will be taken in a timely fashion."

Click on the following link to consult the Veterans Ombudsman's Review:

<http://www.ombudsman-veterans.gc.ca/reports-rapports/reports-rapports/090923-eng.cfm>

The Last Post Fund National Field of Honour Now a National Historic Site



In June 2009, the LPF National Field of Honour located in Pointe-Claire was officially designated as a National Historic Site by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Inaugurated in 1930, it is the first Canadian cemetery entirely devoted to Veterans. At the unveiling of the recognition plaque were, from left to right: Senator Pierre Claude Nolin, representing the Canadian Government; Colonel (ret'd) Marcel Belleau, President of the LPF Québec Branch; and Lieutenant-General (ret'd) Lou Cuppens, the Last Post Fund National President.

Special Medal for the Last Post Fund Centennial

The Last Post Fund has issued a beautiful double-sided centennial medal. On obverse is a bugler above the motto "Lest We Forget" while the reverse bears the crest of the LPF along with the years 1909-2009. Order your medal while quantities last by contacting the LPF National Office at 1-800-465-7113. The cost is \$20 plus COD shipping charges.



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