

The  
Maple Leaf  
Legacy  
Project



L'heritage  
de la feuille  
d'erable

## UPDATE

A Project in Remembrance of Canada's War Dead  
Un projet pour la commémoration des morts de guerres du Canada

### Latest Numbers

The aim of the Maple Leaf Legacy Project is to photograph or obtain a photograph of every Canadian War Grave of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

On June 20, 2004 the number of Canadian war graves or commemorations photographed on hand is:

**69,213**

On the above date

**190**

commemorations were added.

This project relies solely on the kind assistance of the hundreds of volunteers and sponsors around the world to get the photographs or to donate funds to help pay for the good work of the project. To date the project has been honoured with the assistance of at least

**462**

wonderful and generous volunteers from around the world who have contributed photographs or other services.

*For Canada, for Canadians,  
for the fallen, lest we forget.*

*We remember*

### MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Hello,

Well, for some of you it's been a long time since you have heard from us. For others we are in almost constant touch. To all of you, 'Welcome' to the new improved MLLP newsletter. It has been three and a half years since the last issue of 'Update' was mailed out around the world. The cost of photocopying, paper, postage etc just got to be too much for our non-existent budget so I resorted to

putting the updates into the web site and anyone that was interested could catch up on what was going on there. Now, thanks to new volunteer Dale Croy, in Halifax, Canada, you will be able to get this e-newsletter sent directly to your inbox so you can get a quick check on things. My sincere thanks to Dale for taking this on.

This project continues to amaze and humble me. The fact that it has involved over 462 volunteer photographers around the world, spawned four more national projects, and touched the lives of many hundreds of people is truly humbling to me.

I said four other national projects. In January 2000, Matt Smith initiated the Australian project ( <http://www.australianwargraves.org> ). Spring of 2002 saw the launch of the New Zealand project ( <http://www.nzafmp.org> ) by Gary & Donna Morris and then last June was the birth of the British project ( <http://www.britishwargraves.org.uk> ) by Richard Howman. And now, this summer will mark the birth of the latest war grave project, that of South Africa, by our own war grave photography volunteer, Ralph McLean. I wish him good luck with this new venture.

Many of our volunteers have already been photographing the SA graves when doing the Canadian, Australian and Kiwi graves. Many are also doing the Indian, Chinese, West Indies, Channel Islanders, and other nationalities in the expectation that eventually projects for those countries will be started. Thanks to you all for getting into the spirit of the cause.

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And now to our **really big news**. After 7 years and 2 months, the MLLP is now a registered not-for-profit corporation in Canada and has just received its charitable tax number. This is a major development for the project. Having this 'validation' enables us to apply for corporate, government and foundation sponsorships that were closed to us without it. Our board will now decide on a fund raising strategy with input from a number of interested people with experience in this field. Special thanks go out to Mr Michael Hartney, of Blumell & Hartney, of Calgary for taking us through the application procedures.

**Address for sending tax deductible donations:**  
**Maple Leaf Legacy Project**  
**Suite 401, 933 17 Avenue S.W.**  
**Calgary, Alberta T2T 5R6**

Our new Board of Directors consists of Mr David Peever of Calgary, Ms Heather Darney of Vernon, BC, Mr Matt Smith of Brisbane, Australia, LCol Eric Reid of Ottawa, Mr Ludovic Louis of Colmar, France and myself. The quantity and make-up of the board may change down the road but this group of dedicated volunteers will set the tone and direction of the project for the foreseeable future.

This month marked the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy. A small group of current and future project volunteers attended many of the events as well as visiting other Canadian significant sites from WW1 and WW2 such as The Somme, Dieppe and Flanders. Everyone enjoyed the experience and was humbled and honoured to be able to visit such historic and tragic sites and the graves of so many Canadian and Commonwealth soldiers. I have included a few photos from the trip here. I was fortunate enough to be able to speak briefly to Her Excellency, Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, the Honourable John



*Enjoying the great outdoors at the MLLP Volunteer Feast*

McCallum, Minister of Veteran's Affairs and MP's John O'Reilly and The Hon. Rev. Bill Blaikie. I informed them all of our project's goals and accomplishments. Follow-up letters will be sent out after the election.

If anyone is interested in a visit to the battlefields of France and Belgium for next spring, drop me a line and if there is enough interest, I will look into the idea and related costs. Any such trip would involve photographing war graves in these areas and a digital camera would be an asset, though not a necessity.

Well, I have rattled on and on. Time to wrap it up for this month. I hope you find this newsletter informative and enjoyable. Please feel free to contribute your related stories, adventures, photos or anecdotes and perhaps they will be added to the next issue. Each issue will be archived on the web site for future reference. If you know of anyone else who would like to receive the UPDATE, then please let me know and I will send them an invite to subscribe.



*The MLLP Team at the B&B, south of Caen, Normandy left to right; Steve Douglas, Heather Darney, host Bruno Giard, Eric Sellwood, David Ollech, Jessie Hall, Scott Murray, Barrett Sellwood, Dutch friend son, Dutch friend Hanney, Derek Hall, Dutch friend Slava.*

Three cheers for the volunteers!!

Steve Douglas  
 Project Founder & Director  
[sdouglas2001@hotmail.com](mailto:sdouglas2001@hotmail.com)

### More Pictures from the 2004 MLLP Trip to Normandy and the Battlefields



Believe it or not, but that's our British Columbia Coordinator, Heather Darney, in a trench at Newfoundland Park, Beaumont-Hamel, Somme, France.

This area is of particular importance to Newfoundland as on July 1, 1916, almost the entire Newfoundland regiment was lost in the opening day of the Battle of the Somme. Special commemorations still take place every July 1 here and in Newfoundland where this somber anniversary is observed as Memorial Day.

Here's another great photo and one of our favorites: Heather with Canadian hero, Smokey Smith, VC at Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, Normandy.

Smokey Smith is the only surviving Victoria Cross holder in Canada. He served with the Seaforth Highlanders during the Second World War and was awarded the Victoria Cross for exceptional bravery shown in Italy at the Savio River in 1944.



*Do let us know if you're interested in participating in a trip to the battlefields of France and Belgium next spring. While always a humbling experience, next spring will be a special time to go as May 5, 2005 marks the 60th anniversary of the Victory in Europe, or VE Day.*



#### **A special note for our Canadian readers:**

Representatives of C-PAC, Canada's Political Channel, have told us that on July 1, Canada Day, they will be replaying the TV coverage of the D-Day anniversary events from Normandy. Please check the CPAC web site at [www.cpac.ca](http://www.cpac.ca) to verify this information closer to that date and to find the times of the broadcast.

## NEWS FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

This is the section that belongs to you - the volunteers and regional representatives. Why not let everyone know what's going on in your part of the world by sending us photos, progress reports or news about events? Please send your submissions to [dcory@chebucto.ns.ca](mailto:dcory@chebucto.ns.ca) with "MLLP Newsletter" in the subject line. Thanks to the following representatives and volunteers who have already sent us material.

*For Canada, for Canadians, for the fallen, lest we forget.*

## News from Belgium

Here's a photo of Belgian volunteer and good friend, Iris Van Landschoot, far left, and a group of Canadian Black Watch - some of whom are WW2 veterans - with some local school children in Adegem Canadian War Cemetery, Adegem, Belgium. Taken May 7.



## ...from our Canadian Representatives

### SASKATCHEWAN

*"Just to let you know that MLLP in Saskatchewan is almost done. I have taken care of the top half and June Bates, co-director, has taken care of the bottom half of this province. In all about 90% is done of the 1000 graves in this province. Just a few more cemeteries to be located and headstones snapped near the Prince Albert area in the north/central part of this province. I started with the MLLP in summer of 2002 and Linda, my wife, and I are having a real good time of it. Amazing who you find buried out there in the bald prairies. I find the project started by Steve Douglas to be very rewarding and interesting to say the least. "*

-TIM POPP

Tim Popp is a 14+ year veteran of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, currently serving in Battleford, SK, where the Mounties role is in general policing duties. He is also a veteran of the PPCLI regiment of the Canadian Army. Linda Popp is the Registrar for the Court of Queen's Bench and the Sheriff in their area. Linda's Dad was a veteran of the 49th Loyal Edmonton Regiment during WW2. Thanks Tim and Linda!

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

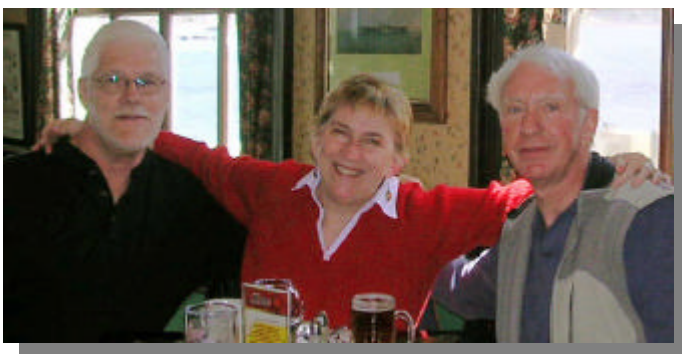
*"In British Columbia we have finished about 3/4 of the war dead photos. The volunteers are out and about taking photos now that the spring/summer weather is here. They are to be commended for their dedication and hard work in getting all the photos taken."*

- HEATHER DARNEY

Thanks to Heather for this report. Heather is our British Columbia regional representative and has proven to be totally dedicated to the cause of remembrance and a valuable member of the MLLP team. Heather was invaluable in organising speaking venues for my 2002 speaking tour of western Canada.

### NOVA SCOTIA

Thanks to Nova Scotia Representative **SUE BORGENSEN** for this photo which shows there are lots of opportunities to have fun as a MLLP volunteer. Here's Sue at the Mug and Anchor Inn in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia with (l to r) - **CLARKE JOHNSON**, Nova Scotia MLLP volunteer and **KENN DOERKSEN** visiting MLLP volunteer from Manitoba. As Sue writes, "A good time was had by all", but she also asks the all-important question, "how was the local brew Kenn?"



By the way, Kenn says his trip was enjoyable, just ambling around the lovely province of Nova Scotia, looking for little cemeteries (and a couple of larger ones). He also had two days in New Brunswick and found time to get to two cemeteries there. Thanks Kenn!

## SISTER PROJECTS UPDATE



**South Africa:** Our long-time volunteer photographer Ralph McLean of Winnipeg is starting a South African project this summer. As with the directors of our other sister projects, I'll be working closely with Ralph on this new initiative. Ralph is currently traveling, but once he returns home, I'll let you know how to contact him if you would like to help in the launching of his new project.



**British Project:** We're happy to report that Richard Howman of the British project is engaged to marry his girl Samantha. No date is set as yet, but we wish them the very best in their new lives together.

## A SPECIAL REQUEST – Missing brother

We have been asked to help locate a long lost brother of a Dutch acquaintance who has been not been heard from since he moved to Canada in the early 1970's. His very elderly mother is deeply saddened by not knowing what has become of him. His name was **Rudolf Paulus Bolland** but is believed to have gone by **Ralph Bolland** in Canada. He would be about 67 years old now.

He was last heard from in Vancouver. Date of birth is June 26, 1937.

If anyone knows anything about this man, could they please contact his brother Paul C Bolland at [pbol@planet.nl](mailto:pbol@planet.nl) If our MLLP contacts could forward this request to others they know, surely something can be learned of his fate. The family is, understandably, desperate to hear from him or learn of his fate.

### MLLP Contact Information:

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### For newsletter submissions:

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