

The Maple Leaf Legacy Project L'heritage de la feuille d'erable

UPDATE!

A Project in Remembrance of Canada's War Dead

Latest Numbers

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

On December 3, 2004 the number of Canadian war graves or commemorations photographed on hand is:

78,378

On the above date

287

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

521

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



Seasons Greetings to you all,

So, the festive season is upon us once again. One of the most heart wrenching gifts some people will receive this year will be the photo of a family member's grave in some far off land. Unfortunately, not many can get these gifts at Christmas but many people request them in the hopes of having it in time to present to a parent or grandparent for Christmas. It is a bittersweet gift to be sure, but always most cherished and moving. It may be a photo that one of you took this past year. Who gets these photos is just a matter of how many I can get through at this hectic time. Rest assured that if it is one of your shots, I will forward to you any thank you notes that are received.

Speaking of hectic times, I am looking forward to going back home to Kitchener for three weeks in December. Nothing like going home for the holidays and spending time with the ones you love and people that matter most in your life, especially when you live so far away. With this in mind, I would appreciate it if incoming emails over this period are kept to a minimum. So, if it can wait until January, I would appreciate it.

While I am in Canada, I plan to travel to Ottawa to promote the project, do some research at the National Archives, do a couple of talks, meet with officials at Veteran's Affairs Canada, maybe the Canada War Museum and as many of the area volunteers as possible. So, if you are in the Ottawa area, please get in touch so we can arrange to meet. These opportunities, to meet the volunteers, come along all too rarely so I hope I can meet you all.

Remembrance Day in Ypres brought on slightly bigger crowds than last year. I have included a photo of the scene here for those of you unfamiliar with the setting.

I understand that the erection of the scaffolding and the start of the renovation work has begun at the Vimy Memorial. It will likely be closed to tourists for the next 18 months or more. So if you were planning a trip over here in that time

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please don't be too disappointed that you won't see this memorial. You will still be able to tour the rest of the Vimy Memorial Park with the trenches and tunnels.

I have heard nothing about any change in plans to correct the mistakes on the panels of names during this renovation.

Please, if you care about them doing it right, please contact your local MP or Veterans Affairs Canada or Public Works Canada or the Prime Minister.

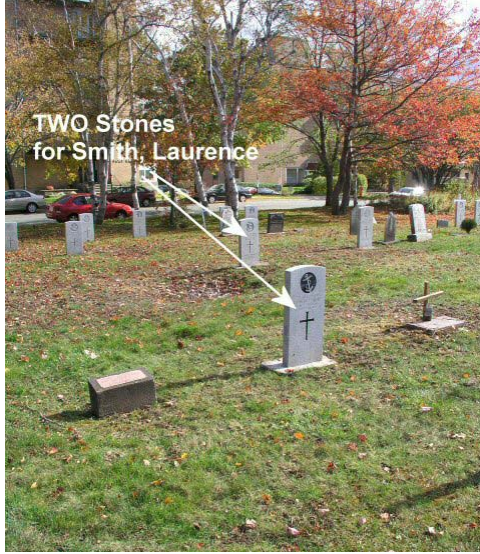
I wish you all a safe and happy festive season. Merry Christmas, Joyeux Noel, Happy Hanukkah and to all a wonderful and productive

2005. By the way, this is a combined two-month edition because of the holidays. Look for the next edition by mid-January.

Steve Douglas
Project Founder & Director



Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium, 11/11/2004
54,000 names of the missing including
6,924 Canadians are commemorated here.



Mount Olivet Cemetery
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Ken Roberts, the MLLP Representative for Nova Scotia, has come across another case where there are duplicate headstones for the same person. Earlier this fall, Ken discovered that there were two headstones for the same man, LJR FINBOW, located in Halifax's Fort Massey cemetery. He brought this to the attention of officials at Veteran's Affairs who are trying to resolve this issue.

More recently, Ken found another example of duplicate stones this time in Halifax's Mount Olivet Cemetery for Laurence Smith, PO/2614A. H.M.S. "Calgarian". Royal Naval Reserve. With the help of the cemetery superintendent Raymond Coolen and the Commonwealth Graves Commission Ken is trying to sort out this situation as well. Here is Ken's photo of the two headstones.

(Editor's note: Our sympathies go out to Ken's wife Pat who lost her mother and brother earlier this fall.)

SISTER PROJECTS UPDATE

This month we're helping Ralph McLean, Director of the South Africa War Graves Project, get the word out about what's new with his project.

Here's Ralph's update....

*Hi all,
I'm pleased to make the following announcements:*

- Colyn Brookes has agreed to take on the role of National Coordinator - South Africa. Colyn has already snapped over 2000 pixs in South Africa and frequently travels to cems to take more. Many of you may already be aware of Colyn and his efforts with the other projects so if anything this is the SAWGP acknowledgement that he has decided to take on this task. I am hoping that a few other volunteers will assist him with the mammoth task in South Africa as regional coordinators. We wish him good luck in the project's home country and the SAWGP's largest country commitment. Should you need to contact Colyn email him here: culvwrcm@bmf.co.za*
- Rupert Drake, a fairly new volunteer to the projects, has agreed to take on the role of National Coordinator - UK. While Rupert has just started helping out he has already shown an eagerness with his amazing photos and quick delivery of same and has gone out of his way to gather new volunteers on his own. Quickly running out of cems to do for SAWGP in his area he asked the projects if he could help with theirs. I asked Rupert to take on the project of National Coordinator because he is new and I feel new blood should always be welcomed and many of you may already be overburdened with being regional reps for the other projects. We wish him good luck in the SAWGP's 4th largest country commitment. All UK emails should be cc'd to Rupert Drake for at least the next month until he is receipt of the UK cemetery lists, at which time he will take over the day to day emails for the UK, all*

UK volunteers and coordinators please email Rupert here: drakes@drakes1066.fsnet.co.uk

We have only been up and running for a short time but I'd like to thank all volunteers and supporters for their help thus far, in terms of progress we have made leaps and bounds and I am very pleased with everyone's efforts. Already we have one country completed! Oren Jalon a Canadian backpacker that I met in Pushkar, India on my world travels recently snapped pix in Lebanon and Syria for all projects and completed SAWGP's commitment in Syria for us while doing so. Congrats Oren on your first country completed!!! Oren is currently in Israel and hopes to contribute more at a later date.

Other advances include but are not limited to:

- **Belgium** - Jean-Michel Van Elslande - 8 cemeteries completed and undertaking more
- **UK** - 20 cemeteries completed with the help of Rupert Drake, Steve Rogers, Mike McCann, Howard Wootton, David Barker, Chris Collier, Kevin Johnstone, Dave Napier, Ken Ferris and Barry Miles. 33 other cemeteries are underway by numerous other volunteers.
- **New Zealand** - 1 cemetery completed by Christine Liava'a

We have offers of assistance or cemeteries underway in Belgium, France, Ireland, South Africa and UK. In addition we have photos from Egypt, Greece, Myanmar and Turkey already in our collection!

One final honourable mention must be noted to my webmaster who gets new country updates from me sometimes 5 times a day. Paul Klassen has been working very hard the last few months to make sure we have had the most up to date information available for the volunteers and my hat goes off to him for his patience with me in these first few months.

I continue to look forward to working closely with all volunteers, project directors, national and regional coordinators and thank you for your support thus far!

On behalf of the SAWGP and the memories of those who we are trying to preserve, thank you all for the effort so far!!!

Ralph McLean
Project Director
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WEB LINKS

Here's a wonderful web page that provides a glimpse of what life was like in Holland during World War II. In addition to historical background, there are links to information on battlefield tours, museums, monuments and special events to mark the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Holland. Check it out at :

<http://www.warhistoryholland.com>

Don't forget to let us know if you come across a link of interest to the MLLP volunteers. Just drop me a line at: dcroxy@chebucto.ns.ca. Thanks!
Dale Croy

PRESS CLIPS

Lest we forget – CBC News 11 Nov 2004

OTTAWA - People across Canada observed a moment of silence Thursday, remembering the sacrifices of those who served in the country's Armed Forces. Hundreds stood at the National War Memorial in downtown Ottawa as the clouds hung low and the temperature hovered near zero. Veterans of different battles stood shoulder-to-shoulder with dignitaries, defence officials, Prime Minister Paul Martin, Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson and other spectators.

A choir of children sang the national anthem and afterwards, a moment of silence was observed. A lone trumpeter blew the Last Post. Agatha Dyer, the Silver Cross Mother, was among those who laid a wreath at the memorial just after 11 a.m. EST. Every year, a mother is chosen to represent all mothers who have lost their sons or daughters in the line of duty.

Dyer's son, Cpl. Ainsworth Dyer, was one of four Canadian soldiers who died in a friendly fire incident in Afghanistan in 2002. "I was very, very angry but I can't keep it forever ... I am proud. That's what I say every day but I'm very sad. I'm still grieving," Dyer told CBC TV in a statement recorded earlier.

The prime minister, delegates from veterans groups and Albina Guarnieri, the minister of veterans affairs, were among those laying wreaths. More than 110,000 Canadians have died in the two world wars, the Korean conflict and other campaigns. Veterans Affairs has 210,000 veterans registered, with about 150,000 receiving disability benefits as a result of their military service. Other parts of the country also held ceremonies.

In St. John's, many families braved the cold, but sunny Newfoundland weather to applaud veterans as they paraded by. Hedley Smith, president of



the provincial command of the Royal Canadian Legion, said he was impressed by the large crowd and hoped that people remember the supreme sacrifice that was made. Several thousand people attended the Grand Parade Remembrance ceremony today in Halifax. Conservative Leader Stephen Harper laid a wreath along with representatives from dozens of local and provincial associations.

Morgan MacDonald, 22, said he's never missed a ceremony. "I know neither one of my grandfathers would ever speak about it, probably because they found it too hard," he said. "But also because I don't think you could ever put it into words – the horrors that they saw and went through ... I don't think that should ever happen again."

In Quebec City, Premier Jean Charest, veterans and serving members of the Armed Forces gathered around a cenotaph at the gates of the Plains of Abraham to remember. Charest said it is important for Quebecers to remember their contribution to world efforts for peace.

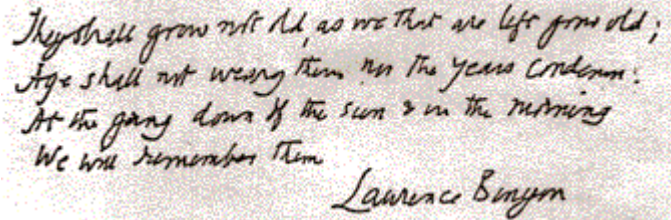
And in Winnipeg, an outdoor ceremony was held at the corner of Portage and Valour Road. Valour Road was once known as Pine Street, home to three Canadian soldiers who were awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery in the First World War.

POEMS & PROSE

The poem "For the Fallen", written by English poet Laurence Binyon (1869-1943), was first published in the Times of London on 21 September 1914, the second month of the First World War.

Binyon served as a Red Cross orderly during World War I and for his work was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor by the French Government. His poem gained further recognition when it featured at the unveiling of the London Cenotaph in 1919. In 1929 it was recited at the laying of the Inauguration Stone for the Australian War Memorial.

The fourth stanza of the poem is known as The Ode, and is recited at nearly all major services of remembrance.



*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn:
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*
Laurence Binyon

Image courtesy of the Hastings & Prince Edward District School Board, Belleville, Ontario

The Ode For The Fallen

Laurence Binyon (1869 - 1943)

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn in drums thrill: Death august and royal
Signs sorrow up into immortal spheres.
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.**

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again:
They sit no more at familiar tables at home;
They have no lot in our labor of the daytime;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a wellspring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars that are known to the Night.

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
to the end, to the end, they remain.



Photo courtesy of
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