



ARCHIVES OF THE



VIMY  
BRANCH 145



ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

*VOLUME 2*



## A small gesture of respect



DAVE CHIDLEY The London Free Press

Brodee Cole, 6, brought London-area veteran Archie Munro, 77, to tears by walking out of the crowd to hand him a bouquet of yellow chrysanthemums from her home garden during yesterday's Remembrance Day parade in London. For more on local observances, see Page A3. For a story on national ceremonies in Ottawa, see Page A7.

**\* \* PROGRAM \* \***

**Friday, November 9th, 2001**

**\***

**MOCHA TEMPLE AUDITORIUM**

468 Colborne Street • London

Parking behind the Temple — off Queens Avenue

The President, Bob Mahar, IN COMMAND

Vimy Band

H.K. Wooster, Conductor

1800 hours .....Reception

1845 hours .....Last Post, Reveille, We Remember

The President will state "Mr Vice, The Queen"

The Vice President states "Gentlemen The Queen of Canada"

All members will stand to attention.

The band will play "The

Members will then raise glasses

1900 hours .....

2030 hours .....

Introduction of Col. Tom

Address by H. Col. La

Report of the Nominating C

Treasurer's Report

Introduction of New Me

Long Service Awar

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DINNER TARIFF \$30.00 PER

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Members are requested to wear your Service Medal and Honours.

\*\*\*

Members are requested to bring 'Glass Turkeys'. Proceeds to the Legion Memorial Bo

\*\*\*\*\*

Members are requested to make a voluntary payment of your 2002 dues. The assessment has risen

at the national services of Dominion Command, and \$1.8

to support our band and its music, printing and mailing of notices

to be sent with you, payable to Vimy Branch 145, RCL

\*\*\*\*\*

Members Welcome: Members are invited to sponsor qualified

application forms are available from any member of the executive

committee. Details of the program and bylaws of the branch be outlined for prospective new members.

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REMEMBERS — November 11th — Vimy will once again participate in the

Remembrance Day Parade as a Unit.



*Vimy Dinner*

**Friday, April 4th 2003**

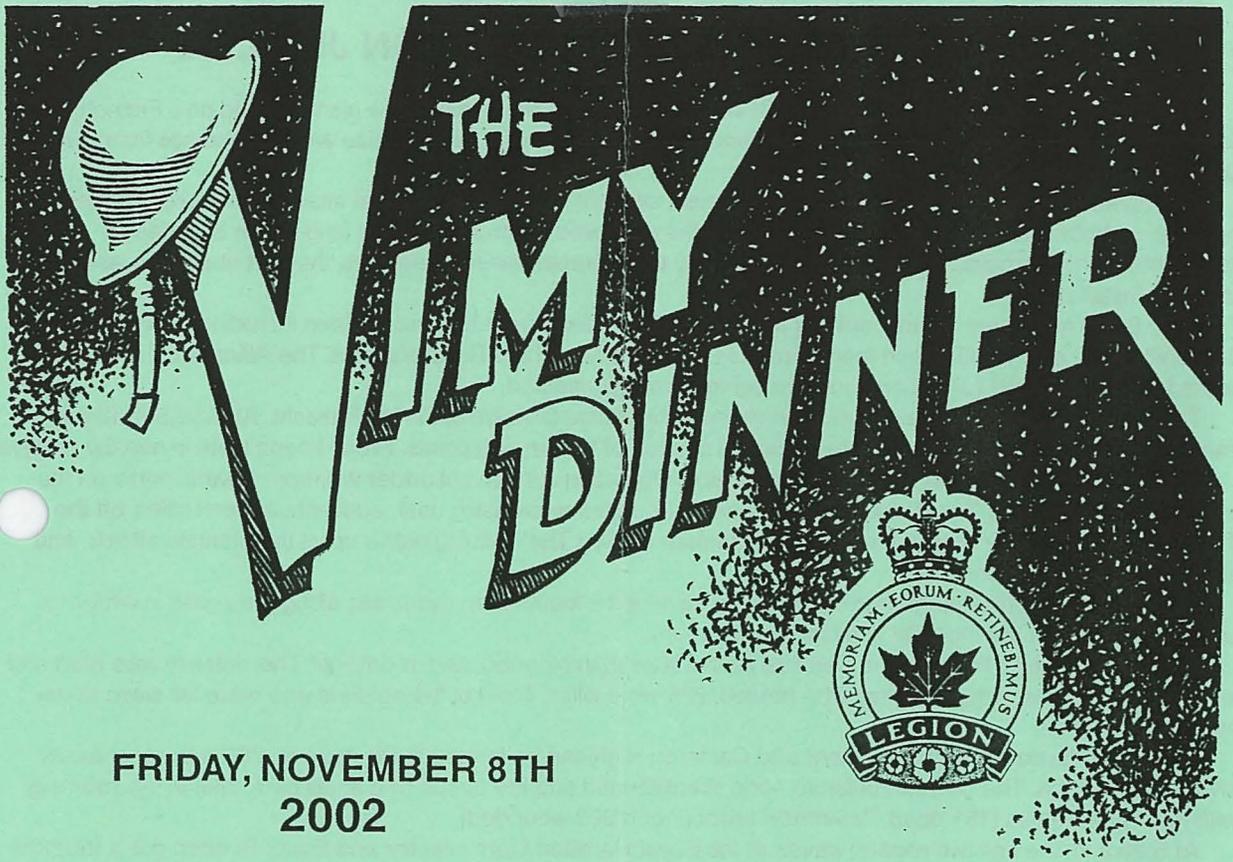
**SPRING REUNION**

*Mocha Temple Auditorium*

*468 Colborne St. London*

1800 hours Reception

1845 hours Dinner



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH  
2002

## FALL REUNION

MOCHA TEMPLE AUDITORIUM  
468 Colborne Street • London, Ontario

1800 hours  
1830 hours

Reception  
Dinner

# THE RAID ON DIEPPE – OPERATION JUBILIEE

In April of 1942, after the Allied raid on St. Nazaire, the Allies again took up a plan of a raid on a French harbor on the Channel coast. The Allied High Command chose Dieppe because of its size and the distance from England, allowing substantial air cover.

The operation was to last 12 hours, with the main brunt of the assault a frontal attack on the beach, after landings on both sides at Pourville and Puys, and the proposed destruction of the long-range batteries at Varengeville and Berneval. The intent was to destroy the German coastal defenses, the port structures and all the strategic installations.

Over 6,000 men were to land, among them 4,965 Canadians from the 2nd Division including the crews of 50 Churchill tanks, and 1,200 British men from the Commandos and the Royal Marines. The Allies used some 250 boats for transport and 1,000 bombers and fighters were committed.

The Dieppe area was under the responsibility of the 302nd Division of the Wehrmacht. About 2,500 highly trained and well equipped troops were stationed at each of the landing points. Fresh troops were in nearby reserve.

On the evening of August 18, the naval forces of Operation Jubilee got under way from several ports on the south coast of England. The various groups made a trouble-free crossing until, suddenly, several miles off the coast the flotilla unexpectedly encountered a small German convoy. The ensuing battle upset the planned attack, and alerted the enemy defense.

At 4:50 a.m. the 4th Commando successfully achieved a foothold on two areas along the coast, in order to catch the battery at Varengeville in a pincer movement.

At Puys, the Royal Regiment of Canada landed later than planned, and in daylight. The defense was alert and in less than an hour of the 600 men who landed, 225 were killed. Most of the soldiers who were left were taken prisoner.

The South Saskatchewan Regiment and Cameron Highlanders landed at Pourville at 4:50 a.m., and easily invaded the village. The German defense soon strengthened and the troops had to fall back later in the morning with heavy casualties (151 dead, 266 made prisoner and 269 wounded).

At 5:20 a.m. the first two assault waves of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry and Essex Scottish got a foothold on the beach. The tanks of the 14th Canadian Army Tank Regiment landed later with great difficulty and could not support the foot soldiers. All were exposed to heavy fire.

The exposed men of the Essex Scottish were quickly stopped. The Allied command, sent in fresh back-up troops, who landed amid great confusion. The order to draw back was given at about 11:00 a.m. Of the 2,000 men who had landed, 400 were dead, and only 400 were able to make it back to England. At about 1:00 p.m., the battle was over.

Operation Jubilee ended with drastic results: the allies counted 1,300 dead (913 Canadians), 1,600 wounded and over 2,000 taken prisoner. The Royal Air Force lost 107 aircraft, more than on any one other day. The Germans lost only about 40 planes. Forty-eight French civilians were killed. The Germans counted 345 dead or missing.

## LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Certificates are presented for continuous membership in the Vimy Branch, Royal Canadian Legion in the year 2002.

### 55 YEARS

C.R. Ivey

### 40 YEARS

Douglas Lauder

### 35 YEARS

D.W.C. Brent

### 25 YEARS

W.J. Bailey

### 50 YEARS

D.D.C. McGeachy

David Weldon

H.A.G. Campbell

R.S. Macnab

John Newton

W.F. Stott

G.W. Coburn

\* \* **PROGRAM** \* \*

**Friday, November 8th, 2002**

\*

**MOCHA TEMPLE AUDITORIUM**

468 Colborne Street • London

Parking behind the Temple — off Queens Avenue

The President, Lt. Col. John McClure, IN COMMAND

Vimy Band

H.K. Wooster, Conductor

1800 hours ..... Reception

1845 hours ..... March in, Last Post, Reveille, We Remember

1900 hours ..... Dine

2030 hours ..... Annual Meeting

Introduction of Dieppe Veterans  
 Report of the Nominating Committee  
 Treasurer's Report  
 Introduction of New Members  
 Long Service Awards

\* \* \*

*DINNER TARIFF \$30.00 PER PERSON*

\* \* \*

You are requested to wear your Service Medal and Honours.

\* \* \*

Draw for 'Glass Turkeys'. Proceeds to the Legion Memorial Boys and Girls Club. Tickets \$2.00 or 3/\$5.00.

\* \* \* \* \*

We solicit payment of your 2003 dues. The assessment is \$35.00, of which \$26.00 goes to support the national services of Dominion Command, and those of our Zone A6. The remainder supports our band and its music, printing and mailing of notices, and incidental costs. Please bring your cheque, payable to Vimy Branch 145, RCL

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New Members Welcome: Members are invited to sponsor qualified friends for Vimy membership. It is suggested that the unique traditions of Vimy branch be outlined for prospective new members.

\* \* \*

VIMY REMEMBERS — November 11th — Vimy will once again honour our fallen, participating in the annual Remembrance Day Parade as a Unit.

\* \* \*

The Prime Time Big Band of London has recorded a number of musical selections similar to those performed by the renowned Vimy band. The Vimy executive agreed that a number of the CD recordings be made available for purchase at this event. See Ken Wooster.

\* VIMY BRANCH NO. 145 OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE 2002 \*

PRESIDENT: Lt. Col. John McClure  
 HONOURARY VICE-PRESIDENTS: Lt. Cmdr. W.R. Poole  
 PAST PRESIDENT: Capt. Robert Mahar  
 VICE PRESIDENT: F/Lt. Arch. Munro  
 CHAPLAIN: The Ven. Archdeacon John N. Doidge  
 TREASURER: Col. Ed. C. Quinn  
 SECRETARY: S/Ldr. Ivor Williams

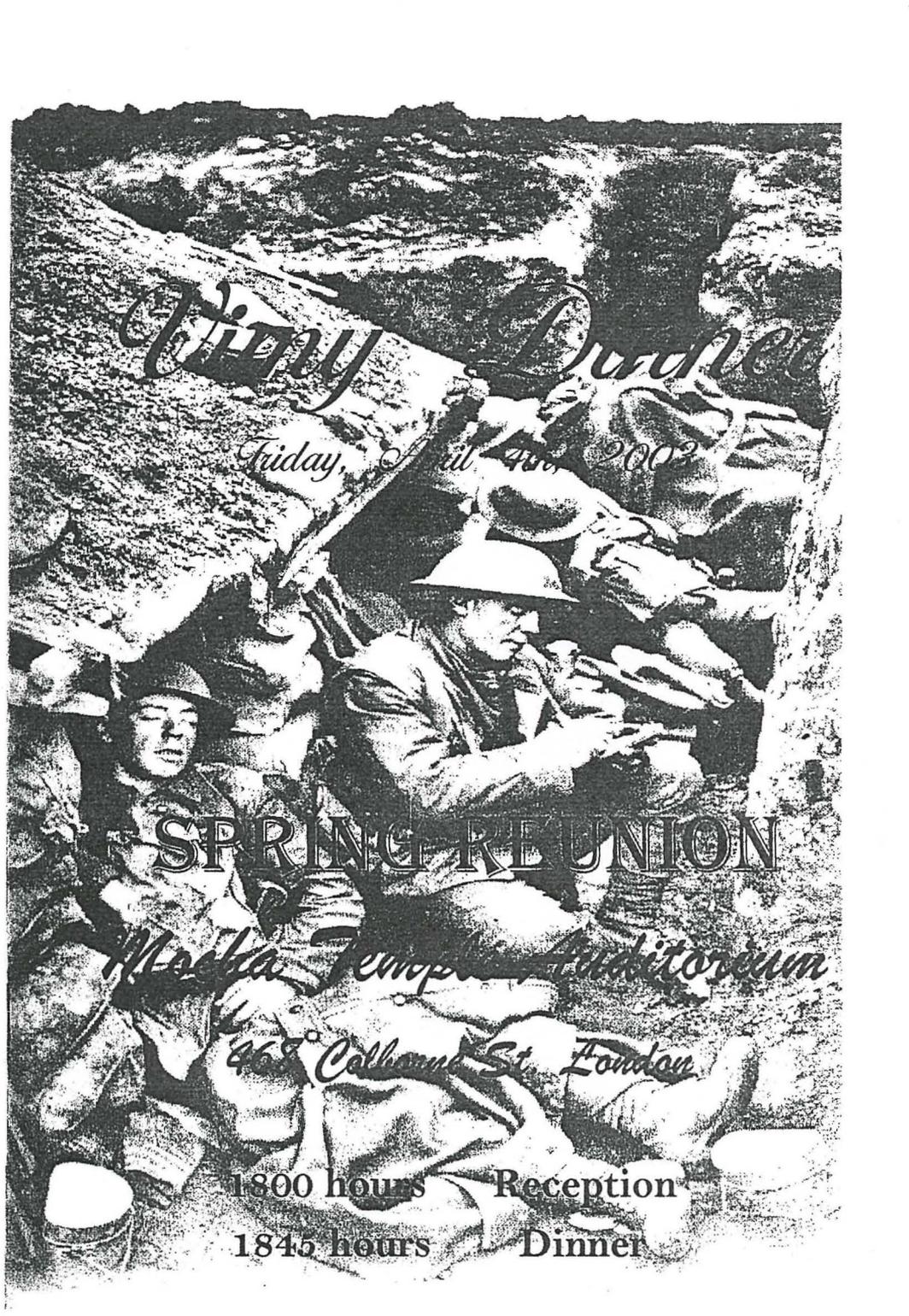
DIRECTORS:

R. William Reid	K.A. Tanswell	Robert Doyon	Ernie Lee
R.A. Warring	J.A. Conyers	W.J. Magee	Jack Malone
Les Davison	Malcolm Kay		

PAST PRESIDENTS:

1929-30	* Brig. M.M. Dillon	1968	Lt. W.E. Bell
1931	* Capt. J.G. Gillanders	1969	* Capt. B.I. Baldwin
1932	* Col. G.E. Reid	1979	* Major J.B. Stratton
1933	* Lt. Col. H.K. Ingram	1971	* Lt. W.J. Robinson
1934	* Major L.E. Mills	1972	* W/C G.A. MacDougall
1935	* Lt. Col. D.B. Weldon	1973	* Capt. W.J. Roadhouse
1936	* Major D.J.H. Ferguson	1974	* Lt. Col. L.S. Lauchland
1937	* Capt. R.I. Watt	1975	* Major K.B. Keefe
1938	* Capt. C.H. Ivey	1976	Lieut. D.D.C. McGeachy
1939-40	* G.F. Kingsmill, Esq.	1977	* Lt. Col. J.P.C. Macpherson
1941	* J.H. Stevens, Esq.	1978	* Major J.P. Cook
1942	* Major L.T. Hayman	1979	* F/O J.N. Given
1943	* Capt. J.I. Carling	1980	Lt. Col. Jack Harris
1944-45	* Capt. E.H. Shuttleworth	1981	Major R.S. Macnab
1946	* Brig. Gen. R.H. Beattie	1982	F/Lt. G.E. Wilson
1947	* Capt. G.W. Foote	1983	Major W.F. Stott
1948	* S/L H.F. Davison	1984	W/O-I John Stevens
1949	* Col. G.W. Little	1985	* Brig/Gen. A.R. McIntosh
1950	* Lt. Col. H.L. Hayman	1986	Surg/Lt W.W. Wilkins
1951	* Lt. J.B. Nash	1987	S/Ldr T.B. Nelligan
1952	* S/L J.E. Jennings	1988	* William G. Reid, Esq.
1953	* Major D.J. Urquhart	1989	o Lt. Col. S. Lerner
1954	* Capt. Joseph Jeffery	1990	Lt. Cmdr. W.J. Magee
1955	* Lt. G.W.H. Bartram	1991	Brig. Gen. W.P. Doohan
1956	W/C G.M. Burns	1992	Major B.A. Urquhart
1957	* Lt. Cmdr. F.N.D. Carmichael	1993	P/O B.K. West
1958	* Capt. H.W. Hockin	1994	* L/Col F.M. Vine
1959	Lt. Col. R.M. Dillon	1995	S/Ldr Ivor Williams
1960	Lt. Cmdr. W.R. Poole	1996	Lt. Col. D.J. Bonner
1961	* Lt. Col. G.E. Humphries	1997	Lt. H.K. Wooster
1962	* Capt. Norman McBeth	1998	CPO James Driver
1963	* Capt. C.C. Ross	1999	S/Ldr Chas. Grigg
1964	* Capt. A.M. LeBel	2000	Col. Ed. C. Quinn
1965	Lt. Col. W.R. Buchner	2001	Capt. Robert Mahar
1966	* Major J.O. Howitt		
1967	* Major J.W. Nolan		

\* Deceased



*Windy Durdene*

*Friday, April 4th, 2002*

**SPRING REUNION**

*Moche Temple Auditorium*

*468 Callham St London*

1800 hours

Reception

1845 hours

Dinner

## The Battle of Reservoir Hill

*6 October, 2003, marks the 190th anniversary of the "Battle of Reservoir Hill" in London.*

Following the battle of Moraviantown on the lower Thames River, a small band of British regulars, warriors of the Shawnee Band and some local militiamen under the command of Captain John Carroll, withdrew along the Longwoods Road and Commissioners Road pursued by US forces from the command of Gen. Wm. Harrison. Being drastically outnumbered they selected the top of Reservoir Hill as their defensive position. This forced the Americans to fight while scaling the rise. The strategy succeeded, and with the help of a local farm women, Rachel McNames, whose husband was a militiaman and whose exploits rivaled those of Laura Secord at Queenston, the Canadian / British force drove off the American attackers.

This skirmish marked the end of the advance of the American forces and their deepest penetration on to Canadian soil. They subsequently retreated to Fort Detroit..

While the Moraviantown battle cost the life of Shawnee Chief Tecumseh, his Shawnee and Delaware tribesmen continued to support the Canadian cause through the remaining months of the War of 1812. The war ended with the treaty of Ghent in December, 1814, and all captured lands were returned to their original national owners.

*While no military records have been found to substantiate this account, it is generally accepted by local historians that the skirmish took place largely as described.*



The President, F/L Archie A. Munro, in command

The Vimy Band

H.K. Wooster conducting

1800 hours Reception

1845 hours O Canada, We Remember

Toast to the Queen

Introduction of head table

1900 hours Dinner

2030 hours Guest Speaker

Introduction of new members

\*\*\*\*\*

Dinner tariff \$30.00 per person

You are requested to wear your service medals and honours

Draw proceeds to support The Boys and Girls Club

# VIMY BRANCH 145 OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE 2003

PRESIDENT: F/Lt. Archie A. Munro

HONOURARY VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Lt Cmdr. W.R. Poole, Lt.Col. W.R. Buchner, F/Lt. G.E. Wilson

PAST PRESIDENT: Lt.Col. John McClure

VICE PRESIDENT: Les Davison Esq.

CHAPLAIN: The Ven. Archdeacon John N. Doidge

TREASURER: Col. Ed C Quinn      SECRETARY: Maj R.R. Doyon

## DIRECTORS:

F.O. Ernie Lee, F.O. R. William Ried, Tel. R.A. Warfing, F/L Bondy,  
Maj J.A. Conyers, S/L Jack Malone, Maj K.A. Tanswell, L Col Malcolm Kay

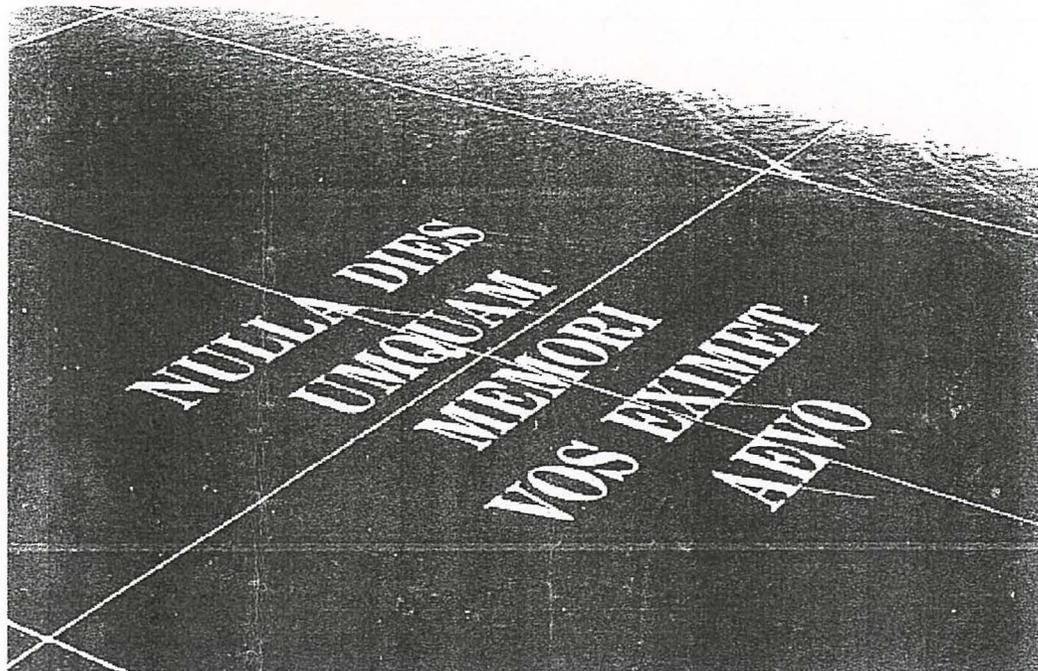
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1929-30* Brig M.M. Dillon	1957 *Lt Cmdr F.N.D. Carmichael	1982 F/L G.E. Wilson
1931 * Capt J.G. Gillanders	1958 * Capt H.W. Hockin	1983 Maj W.F. Stott
1932 * Col B.E. Reid	1959 Lt Col R.M. Dillion	1984 WO1 John Stevens
1933 * Lt Col H.K. Ingram	1960 Lt Cmdr W.R. Poole	1985 *Brig/Gen A.R. McIntosh
1934 *Maj L.E. Mills	1961 *Lt Col G.E. Humphries	1986 Surg/Lt W.W. Wilkins
1935 * Lt Col D.B. Weldon	1962 *Capt Norman McBeth	1987 S/Ldr T.B. Nelligan
1936 *Maj D.J.H. Ferguson	1963 *Capt C.C. Ross	1988 *Wm G. Reid Esq.
1937 *Capt R.I. Watt	1964 *Capt A.M. LeBel	1989 *Lt Col S. Lerner
1938 *Capt C.H. Ivey	1965 Lt Col W.R. Buchner	1990 Lt Comdr W.J. Magee
1939-40*G.F. Kingsmill, Esq.	1966 *Maj J.O. Howitt	1991 * Brig Gen W.P. Doohan
1941 *J.H. Stevens Esq.	1967 *Maj J.W. Nolan	1992 Maj B.A. Urquhart
1942 *Maj L.T. Hayman	1968 Lt W.E Bell	1993 P/O B.K. West
1943 *Capt J.I. Carling	1969 *Capt B.I. Baldwin	1994 *F.M. Vine
1944-45 *Capt E.H. Shuttleworth	1970 *Maj J.B. Stratton	1995 S/Ldr Ivor Williams
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1948 *S/L H.F. Davison	1973 *Capt W.J. Roadhouse	1998 CPO James Driver
1949 *Col G.W. Little	1974 *Lt Col L.S. Lauchland	1999 S/Ldr Chas Grigg
1950 * Lt Col H.L. Hayman	1975 *Maj K.B. Keefe	2000 Col E.C. Quinn
1951 *Lt J.B. Nash	1976 *Lt D.D.C. McGearchy	2001 Capt Robert Mahar
1952 *S/L Jennings	1977 *Lt Col J.P.C. Macpherson	2002 Lt Col John McClure
1953 *Maj D.J. Urquhart	1978 *Maj J.P. Cook	
1954 *Capt Joseph Jeffery	1979 *F/O J.N. Given	
1955 *Lt G.W.H. Bartram	1980 Lt Col Jack Harris	
1956 W/C G.M. Burns	1981 Maj R.S. Macnab	

# Vimy Spring Dinner



Friday, April 2nd, 2004



## Canadian Memorial Garden

Inscribed on a black granite slab are the words of *Virgil's Aeneid*,  
*"Nulla dies umquam memori vos eximent aevo"*  
(Nothing shall ever blot you from the memory of time)



*Alocha Temple Auditorium*

*468 Colborne St. London*

*1800 hrs Reception*

*1845 hrs Dinner*

## **D-Day, 6 June 1944**

***The Canadian media made D-Day the news story of the century, and so it should be.***

For many, the scale of Canada's wartime contribution to victory in the Second World War is amazing. Canada had a population of 11.5 million in 1939. Its army was tiny, its air force basically non-existent and the navy could put a half a dozen ships in the water. Five years later, a million Canadians were in uniform, the air force had hundreds of planes and the navy was the third largest in the world.

Canada's stature was never clearer than on D-Day. Of the five invasion beaches on the Normandy coast- Omaha, Utah, Gold, Juno and Sword- four were the responsibility of the United States and Britain, the superpowers of the day. But the fifth, Juno, was all Canadian.

Canadian bombers and fighters were overhead. Canadian minesweepers cleared the sea lanes for the transports. Canadian naval guns pounded the shore batteries and installations. And Canadian landing craft carried the soldiers ashore.

By dusk, the Canadians had made the deepest penetrations inshore of all the attackers. They dug in to beat off the inevitable German counterattacks.

340 Canadians died and 574 more were wounded during the frenzied hours of what German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel called "***the longest day***".



***The President, Les Davison in Command***

***The Vimy Band, H.K. Wooster conducting***

***1800 hrs Reception***

***1845 hrs O Canada, We Remember***

***Toast to the Queen***

***Introduction of the Head Table***

***1900 hrs Dinner***

***2030 hrs Guest Speaker***

***Introduction of new members***

Dinner tariff is \$32.50,  
(payment by cheque would be appreciated)

You are requested to wear your service medals and honours

# Vimy Branch 145 Officers and Executive 2004

President: Les Davison Esq

Honourary Vice Presidents: Lt Cmdr W.R. Poole, Lt Col W.R. Buchner, F/Lt G.E. Wilson

Past President: F/Lt Archie A. Munro, Vice President: Maj K.A. Tanswell

Treasurer: Col E.C. Quinn, Secretary: Maj R.R. Doyon

Chaplain: The Ven. Archdeacon John N. Doidge

## Directors

F/L D. Bondy, Maj J.A. Conyers, LCol M. Kay, F/O E. Lee, S/L J. Malone

F/O R.W. Reid, Tel R.A. Warring, Maj R.A. Wilson

## Past Presidents

1929-30	*Brig M.M. Dillon	1956	W/C G.M. Burns	1980	Lt Col J. Harris
1931	*Capt J.G. Gillanders	1957	*Lt Cmdr F.N.D. Carmichael	1981	Maj R.S. Macnab
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1954	*Capt J. Jeffery	1978	*Maj J.P. Cook	2002	Lt Col J. McClure



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1953 \*Maj D.J. Urquhart--1954 \*Capt J. Jeffery--1955 Lt G.W.H. Bartram  
1956 W/C G.M. Burns--1957 \*Lt Cmdr F.N.D. Carmichael 1958 \*Capt H.W. Hockin--1959 Lt Col R.M. Dillon  
1960 Lt Cmdr W.R. Poole--1961 \*Lt Col G.E. Humphries--1962 \*Capt N. McBeth --1963 \*Capt C.C. Ross  
1964 \*Capt A.M. LeBel--1965 Lt Col W.R. Buchner--1966 \*Maj J.O. Howitt  
1967 \*Maj J.W. Nolan--1968 Lt W.E. Bell--1969 \*Capt B.I. Baldwin-- 1970 \*Maj J.B. Stratton  
1971 \*Lt W.J. Robinson--1972 \*W/C G.A. MacDougall--1973 \*Capt W.J. Roadhouse  
1974 \*Lt Col I.S. Lauchland--1975 \*Maj K.B. Keefe--1976 Lt D.D.C. McGeachy  
1977 \*Lt Col J.P.C. Macpherson--1978 \*Maj J.P. Cook--1979 \*F/O J.N. Given  
1980 Lt Col J. Harris--1981 Maj R.S. Macnab--1982 F/L G.E. Wilson--1983 Maj W.F. Stott--1984 WO I. Stevens  
1985 \*Brig Gen A.R. McIntosh--1986 \*Surg/Lt W.W. Wilkins--1987 S/Ldr T.B. Nelligan  
1988 \*W.G. Reid Esq.--1989 \*Lt Col S. Lerner--1990 Lt Cmdr W.J. Magee--1991 \*Brig Gen W.P. Doohan  
1992 \*Maj B.A. Urquhart--1993 P/O B.K. West--1994 \*Lt Col F. Vine--1995 S/L I. Williams  
1996 Lt Col D.J. Bonner--1997 Lt H.K. Wooster--1998 CPO J. Driver--1999 S/L C. Grigg  
2000 Col E.C. Quinn--2001 Capt R. Mahar--2002 Lt Col J. McClure--2003 F/L A.A. Munro

Vimy Branch No. 145 RCL  
Westmount Postal Outlet  
785 Wonderland Road South  
London, On, N6K 4L9



# Vimy Fall Dinner



Friday, November 5th, 2004



Mocha Temple Auditorium  
468 Colborne St. London  
1800 hrs Reception \*\*\* 1845 hrs Dinner



**NEWMAN**  
William Robert "Bob",  
Colonel, OstJ. CD.

Peacefully at the age of 76 years, on Thursday, June 14, 2007 at Victoria Hospital, London, after a long hard fought battle with cancer. Born, February 21, 1931 in Tillsonburg, Ontario, he was the son of the late Helen (Devitt) and Charles Newman, beloved husband and best friend of Gerry (Buck), much loved and adored father of Nancy and Ian Haley and Lois and Ray Stark. Bob was the proud grandfather of his three grandsons, Fletcher Haley who called him Furry Arms and Matthew and Brandon Stark who named him Bumpa. He is survived by his aunt, Jean Armynta Wray of Toronto as well as his in-laws, Jean Blackman and family, and Barbara and Eric Johnson. Bob leaves many cousins across Canada, and friends he has made along the way. Bob spent over 40 years working for Bell Canada. He started out stringing cables across southwestern Ontario and retired as a Manager in the late 1980's. Along with his civilian career he spent 25 years as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces Reserve. He commanded the 1st Hussars and later London Militia District retiring in the rank of Colonel. Following retirement "Colonel Bob" remained very active in the London military community. He was the driving force behind many projects in the 1st Hussars and was a member of the

Cavalry Fund and Museum Committees. He belonged to the Royal London Military Institute, Vimy Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, The Garrison Community Council as well as the 22 Service Battalion Senate. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires. Bob was a life member of the Wolseley Barracks Officer's Mess where he could be found most Thursdays presiding at Lunch. He will be truly missed. The family would like to thank Dr. Larry Schmidt, his family doctor, Dr. Vincent and staff at LRCC, and the nurses of C7 Oncology Victoria Hospital. We would also like to thank Dr. Jeje for his wonderful care and compassion. Thanks also to Dr. Schreier and Dr. Ryan, Joyce and the nurses on the 6 floor Palliative Care Unit for all their compassion and support. In addition, a very big thank you to Dr. Donald Bondy for always being there for us. We could not have made it through without your help. Friends will be received by the family from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Monday at the **A. Millard George Funeral Home, 60 Ridout Street South, London.** A memorial service will be held at Wolseley Barrack's Officer's Mess on Tuesday, June 19th at 11:00 a.m. As an expression of sympathy memorial donations may be made to the London Regional Cancer Program, 747 Baseline Road East, London, ON N6C 2R6 or 1st Hussars Cavalry Fund, 701 Oxford Street East, London, ON N5Y 4T7. On line condolences accepted at [www.amgeorgefh.on.ca](http://www.amgeorgefh.on.ca)

### Welcome to the future of business.

...more to the point, welcome to the future of business — where an ability to innovate and improvise is deemed as valuable as an ability to understand double-entry book-keeping.

"The idea is to force the students to embrace creativity," said Michael Sider, assistant professor, management communications at Ivey. "We've always known leaders need to be creative, but a lot of business education has been about process and structure.

"And in an environment where things are rapidly changing and the pace of business is increasing, I think we're finding the environment moves more quickly towards chaos than ever before."

That's why Hughes and fellow members of the George Laidlaw Quartet, saxophonist Laidlaw, pianist Alan Osborne and bassist John Griffiths, performed and talked about jazz at this special session.

The idea, according to Sider, is that effective business people need to understand how to utilize the random and intuitive "right brain" aspects of their personality as well as the logical workings of the left

From Page B1

And like jazz musicians, they need to do this within the co-operative framework of a group.

"These students know how to do process and structure," Sider said. "What they need to add is the capability to adapt and flex — to be OK with the challenge of not knowing where they're going."

Sider said too many businesses get caught in the "competence trap" where they become good at doing things one particular way.

"Organizations discover a way that works and they enforce it with incentives," he said. "But then what happens is the environment changes, what's working no longer works . . . and they're dead."

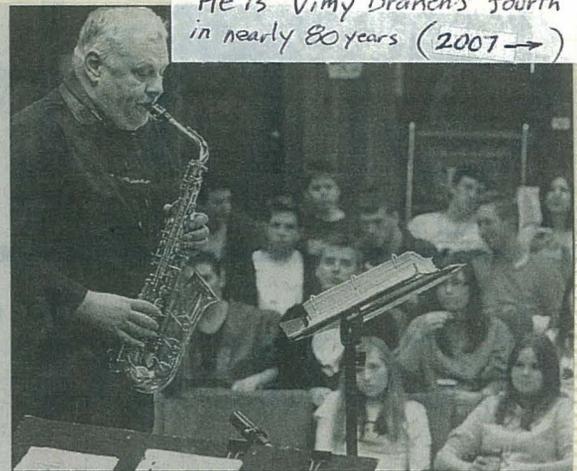
The idea to bring jazz musicians into the mix came from Janis Wallace, media relations officer with Western's Don Wright faculty of music, who saw how musicians routinely do things — like listening closely to their fellow players — that can be applied to other disciplines.

The members of the Laidlaw Quartet clearly understand those concepts.

"(A band) is a co-operative enterprise and everybody has their own individual talents and personality," said Laidlaw, who also teaches at Western's faculty of music. "And it's all about bringing these diverse skills, backgrounds and talents together.

"It's exciting," he added.

Story about Vimy bandmaster  
GEORGE LAIDLAW.  
He is Vimy Branch's fourth  
in nearly 80 years (2007 →)



MORRIS LAMONT Sun Media

### ADDING CREATIVITY: George Laidlaw on sax plays with his jazz band for students at UWO's Ivey School of Business yesterday.

but you never know exactly what's going to happen."

At one point in yesterday's seminar, Laidlaw asked if any of the students had heard of the great jazz pianist Thelonious Monk. (Nobody had.)

But despite that generation gap (nobody could identify the quartet's rendition of Duke Ellington's Satin Doll, either), the students seemed energized by the musicians.

In addition to playing some samples, the musicians talked at length about the principles of jazz.

Osborne, for instance, told the students that creativity is about five per cent inspiration and 95 per cent perspiration.

And he cited the No. 1 key to working successfully with a group: Show up.

Of course, these guys are jazz musicians. So there were times when the discussion touched on some rather unorthodox aspects of their craft, including the magic of intentional mistakes. ("The wrong note at the right time sounds so perfect," said Laidlaw.)

"Frankly, we really didn't have much of an idea what was going to happen," said Sider after the first of the morning's two seminars. "And I like to think that that in itself was kind of creative and jazz-like."

### IAN GILLESPIE



THE CITY 05 DEC 07

You'd think somebody teaching a university business class would be droning on and on about cash flows, sales forecasts and profit and loss statements — or at least something equally dry and, well, businesslike.

So why, then, was jazz drummer Bob Hughes clapping, bouncing and weaving in front of about 100 undergraduate students at the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario yesterday morning?

Why was Hughes urging the students to sing "Do what, do what, do what, doooooo what"? And why were the students responding enthusiastically to this unbusiness-like request?

Welcome to the Ivey school's latest "creativity project."



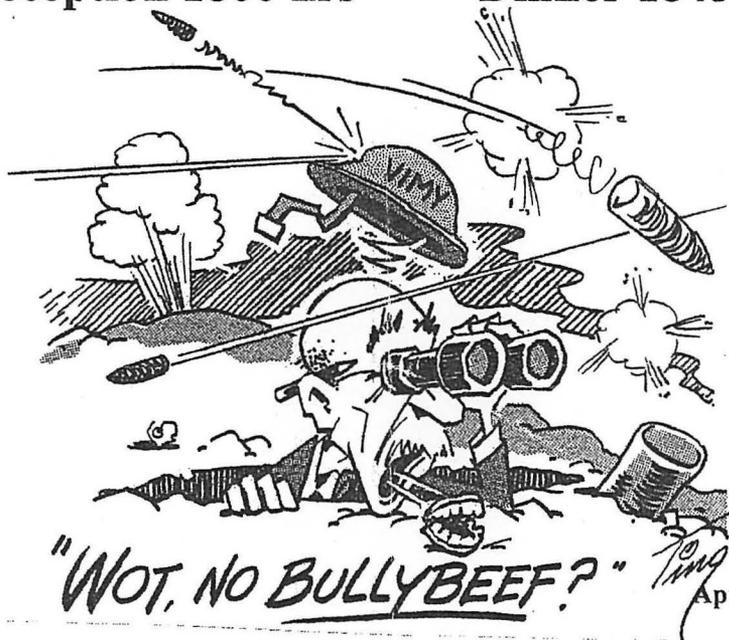
**Friday, 10 November 2006**

**Mocha Temple Auditorium**

**468 Colborne St. London**

**Reception 1800 hrs**

**Dinner 1845 hrs**



April 1981

**This day in history**

10 November 1941, The RCAF is awarded its first George Cross when LAC K.M.Gravell is posthumously awarded the decoration for the attempt to rescue his pilot from their crashed tiger Moth aircraft.

## Please Note

The 2007 membership dues, \$40.00 and the dinner tariff, \$35.00, will be collected at the door.

A CHEQUE payable to "Vimy Branch 145 RCL" for \$75.00 would be appreciated.

In the past we were billed for the number of dinners served. Regretably we are now being billed for the number of dinners we order. The Branch is not in a position to absorb this additional cost. Therefore, if you indicate your attendance when phoned and do not attend, you are requested to remit the dinner tariff along with your membership dues.

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# Programme



**The President, F/O R.W. Reid in Command**

**The Vimy Band, H.K. Wooster conducting**

**1800 hrs,  
Reception**

**1845 hrs,  
O Canada,**

**We Remember**

**Toast to the Queen**

**Introduction of the Head Table**

**Dinner**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Speaker**

**Introduction of guests**

**Intoduction of new members**

**2007 Officers and Executive**

**Raffle draw**

**(proceeds to support Parkwood Veterans Care)**

# Vimy Branch 145 Officers & Executive 2006



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Past President: Maj. K.A. Tanswell

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1933 *Lt Col H.K. Ingram	1960 Lt Cmdr W.R. Poole	1985 *B Gen A.R. McIntosh
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1946 *Brig R.H. Beattie	1971 *Lt W.J. Robinson	1996 Lt Col D.J. Bonner
1947 *Capt G.W. Foote	1972 *W/C G.A. MacDougall	1997 Lt H.K. Wooster
1948 *S/L H.F. Davison	1973 *Capt W.J. Roadhouse	1998 CPO J. Driver
1949 *Col G.W. Little	1974 *Lt Col I.S. Lauchland	1999 S/L C. Grigg
1950 *Lt Col H.I. Hayman	1975 *Maj K.B. Keefe	2000 Col E.C. Quinn
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1953 *Maj D.J. Urquhart	1978 *Maj J.P. Cook	2003 F/L A.A. Munro
1954 *Capt J. Jeffery	1979 *F/O J.N. Given	2004 Les Davison Esq.
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- 11 to new branch

# The war hero who returned home to help forge a booming Ontario

As executive director of an Ontario Hydro task force, he drew on all the skills he had accumulated as a soldier, a design engineer, a dean in an academic bureaucracy and a consultant to government



SANDRA MARTIN

smartin@globeandmail.com

Although he never held public office, Richard (Dick) Dillon was very much involved in the so-called London mafia that surrounded and supported lawyer and politician John Robarts, who was premier of Ontario from 1961-1971. Mostly they were, like Mr. Robarts, veterans of the Second World War, graduates of the University of Western Ontario, and lawyers, engineers and businessmen who supported the Progressive Conservative Party.

In the late 1960s, there was a feeling in Ontario that government was growing too fast and becoming both too powerful and too cumbersome. There's nothing unusual in that sentiment, of course, or the notion that the solution lies in public-private partnerships and a reorganization of the civil service. What is slightly unusual is that Mr. Robarts, himself, in the dying days of his administration, actually did something about it by establishing Ontario's Committee on Government Productivity. Ontario Hydro was such a powerful entity that it was given its own sub-committee with the mandate to examine ways that it might decentralize some of its operations, based on the Hydro Quebec model.

Mr. Robarts wanted Dick Dillon to run Task Force Hydro. When the appointment came before cabinet, it was questioned by Leslie Rowntree, minister of financial and commercial affairs. "He could be a little bit stuffy," said Darcy McKeough, who was then minister of municipal affairs.

"We are wondering who this Richard M. Dillon is?" Mr. Rowntree asked archly, according to Mr. McKeough. To which Mr. Robarts replied: "He is the dean of engineering at the University of Western Ontario, he is the past president of The London Club, he is a past church warden at Bishop Croynyn Church and he is a past president of the Progressive Conservative Association. Is there anything else you would like to know, Mr. Rowntree?"

Clearly that was enough information for Mr. Rowntree, for the appointment was duly made, but there was much more that Mr. Robarts could have said about Mr. Dillon — holder of the Military Cross for bravery during the war, professional engineer with a gold medal from UWO and a graduate degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, among other attributes. What Mr. Robarts couldn't know, back in 1970, was the complex role that Mr. Dillon would later play as a deputy minister, volunteer, and facilitator of bilingual education.

Born in Simcoe, Ontario on Aug. 4, 1920, Richard Maurice Dillon was the eldest of five children of Brigadier Marmaduke Murray Dillon and his wife Muriel (née Hicks). His father was a soldier and an engineer who won the Military Cross early in 1918 for "conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty" as an officer of the 1st Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun corps.

The Dillons settled in London, Ont., where Richard went to local elementary schools and then London South Collegiate Institute. As the son of a military family, he was encouraged to join the army. He became a signaler in the Canadian Fusiliers when he was 15 and received his commission as a second lieutenant in the Canadian Officer's Training Corps in 1938 when he was a first-year student at UWO. He withdrew from university a year later to enlist in the Canadian Active Service Force after Canada declared war on Germany in September, 1939.

He joined The Royal Canadian Regiment in England in June, 1941. He was in com-



In 1993, Dick Dillon was named Colonel of the Regiment of his old regiment. Left, is the Wolsley pith helmet with puggaree and the regimental cap badge. Six years earlier, he received the Order of Canada from Governor General Jeanne Sauve. DILLON FAMILY PHOTO



Dick Dillon, circa 1944, wearing captain's rank and the cap and collar badges of the Royal Canadian Regiment.

**His final order was usually 'wipe that smile off your face' which produced huge laughter and, which as far as I know, never made it into the military lexicon.**

Ann Dillon, daughter

mand of a Bren-gun carrier platoon in the Allied invasion of Sicily that began on July 10, 1943, with both amphibious and airborne landings. Essentially, the Italians resisted the invasion by retreating. The Germans would not be so compliant further up the boot.

It was later that same month that Capt. Dillon, like his father before him, earned the Military Cross for distinguished and meritorious service in battle. On July 23, 1943, two companies of The RCR were ordered to skirt the town of Assoro, under cover of darkness and attack it from the rear. Nothing went according to plan: The commanding officer was killed, communications broke down and Capt. Dillon, with a section of carriers, was instrumental in re-establishing contact with the beleaguered forward companies, which were in disarray. According to his MC citation, he "led the carriers skillfully across difficult rocky and mountainous country during daylight under constant mortar and machine gun fire, and through enemy patrols, contacted the forward companies and carried out his mission.

The officer displayed leadership and outstanding devotion to duty in carrying out his difficult mission." The citation is signed by, among others, Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery, commander of the Eighth Army.

Subsequently, he was given command of "A" Company and was wounded on Christmas Day, 1943 when a grenade exploded beside him during the battle of Ortona, a ferocious close-combat battle between German paratroops and the 1st Canadian Infantry Division. He was evacuated first to England and then to Canada and spent the rest of the war teaching at the Army Staff College in Kingston, Ont. Permanently deaf in his right ear, he would occasionally scratch pieces of shrapnel from his scalp for the rest of his life.

Throughout the war he had been corresponding with Elizabeth Dempsey, a young woman he had met at UWO in 1938. She was engaged to a friend of his, and the three of them palled around. Both men went overseas, but only Mr. Dillon came back. He and Miss Dempsey were married in London, Ont., on April 21, 1945.

He returned to UWO to complete his interrupted undergraduate education and graduated in 1948 with an honours degree in mathematics and the gold medal. He and his wife then moved to Cambridge, Mass., where Kelly, the first of the Dillons' three daughters, was born and Mr. Dillon acquired a masters of science degree in civil engineering in 1950 at MIT.

They returned to Canada where Mr. Dillon worked briefly for Dominion Bridge in Toronto before settling in London, Ont. That's where daughters Ann and Katherine (Kate) were born and where Mr. Dillon joined M.M. Dillon & Co. (now Dillon Consulting), a firm of consulting engineers that had been founded in January, 1946, by his father and a colleague and fellow veteran, George Humphries. Besides working in his father's firm as a design engineer, and later as a partner and director, Mr. Dillon also continued his military career as a reservist.

He rejoined the Canadian Fusiliers as a company commander in 1946 and when it affiliated with The RCR in November, 1954, he took com-

mand of the London and Oxford Fusiliers (3rd Battalion, The RCR). Two years later, he retired to the supplementary reserve. Ann Dillon remembered her father's peacetime military career in the eulogy she delivered at his funeral by describing how "he would line up his three girls, shiny fresh from their baths and in their pj's and do his parade inspection," on Monday nights before he headed out, in his uniform, for his weekly commitment to the militia.

"He would prod us here and there with his swagger stick and bark out orders — should-ers back chest out ... his final order was usually 'wipe that smile off your face' which produced huge laughter and, which as far as I know, never made it into the military lexicon," she said.

Monday-night drill was very different from the semi-annual Vimy dinners that were always held on Fridays at the Legion because, on Saturday mornings, Ms. Dillon said of her parents "you approached their bedroom at your peril: a toss-up between being overcome with the fumes or deafened by the snoring." As the years passed, the snoring, unimpeded by marital admonitions, probably grew louder, as Mrs. Dillon's hearing began to fail as well.

After nearly a decade working in his father's firm of consulting engineers, including serving on the advisory committee to establish an Engineering Department at UWO, Mr. Dillon was asked to become the first dean of the Faculty of Engineering Science. It was 1960 and he was 40. In *Western's First Century*, by John Gwynne-Timothy, Mr. Dillon was commended for his "energetic direction" as dean in upping the quality of the undergraduate program, developing a graduate and research program and enhancing links with "the wider working world of industry and business."

Those links included serving as a project officer on the Science Research and Development Committee for the Royal Commission on Government Organization (the Glassco Commission), which recommended a decentralized organizational model for the federal government. He also went on a three-month Colombo Plan (a framework for bilateral aid and technical assistance that came out of a Commonwealth Conference of Foreign Ministers in Ceylon in 1950) mission in 1963 to Thailand to advise the government on engineering education.

From 1965-67, he was a member of the Ontario Advisory Committee on Confederation, which was set up by Premier Robarts to advise the government on issues such as bilingualism and multiculturalism vis-à-vis the other provinces (especially Quebec) and the federal government. After finishing this assignment, Mr. Dillon was seconded in 1970, from his position as engineering dean at UWO, to become the executive director of the Task Force Hydro Committee on Government Productivity, a task that required all of the skills he had accumulated as a wartime soldier, a design engineer, an aspirational dean in the academic bureaucracy and a consultant to government.

To help Mr. Dillon penetrate Hydro's monolithic culture, Mr. Robarts arranged for him to attend the meetings of the Hydro Electric Power Commission, "which was highly unusual [for an outsider]," said Mr. McKeough. "George Gathercole, who was the chair, would hold forth at great length and finally say, 'Is there anything anybody else would like to say?' To which one of the other commissioners would dutifully reply, 'No, George, you have said it all.'" And so the meeting would end, but the tale lived on in Mr. Dillon's retelling.

From the task force, Mr. Dillon was appointed deputy in Mr. McKeough's Ministry of Energy in 1973. Mr. McKeough, a younger but stalwart member of the London mafia, knew Mr. Dillon well. "He was a very bright person and an engineer

and understood energy and was a fan of Candu [a pressurized heavy-water reactor] and he knew the inside of Hydro because of the task force."

In 1976, Mr. Dillon moved from Energy to Resources Development and then to Municipal Affairs and Housing before leaving the civil service in 1982 to go back into business as a founding partner of Alafin Consultants. Nevertheless, business was only part of his life for the next 15 years, which was largely devoted to volunteer work, to building dubious road and sea-worthy vehicles with his grandchildren and to serving his regiment. He was appointed Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the 4th Battalion, the RCR, a rank he held from 1986 to 1993 and then promoted to Colonel of the Regiment (of The RCR), an honorary position he held from 1993 to 1997.

The Confederation debates of the 1960s and 1970s and the rise of the Parti Québécois, which Rene Levesque led to power in the Quebec provincial election in 1976, created linguistic aspirations and prompted conciliatory gestures in Ontario. One of them involved Mr. Dillon and Richard Schmeelk, a wealthy American banker who had represented Salomon Brothers in Ontario since the mid 1950s. After retiring as a senior executive from Salomon in 1986, Mr. Schmeelk established the Schmeelk Canada Fellowship to create a better understanding between English and French-Canadians. The idea, which percolated at a dinner with Mr. McKeough, John Turner and Mr. Schmeelk, was to have students from UWO and Laval University in Quebec City study at each other's institutions. The initial capitalization of \$1-million dollars has more than doubled over the years and the program has expanded to include the University of Calgary in Alberta and the University of Montreal in Quebec. Mr. Dillon was executive secretary from 1995 to 2001. "Dick was the guy who handled all the heavy duty [lifting] over the years and made a great contribution to the scholarship," said Mr. Schmeelk. "He went to all the meetings and did a great job and was a great friend over the years."

In the late 1990s, Mr. Dillon began to suffer from memory problems. "My father was a wonderful dancer," said his daughter Kelly Meighen. "He taught the three of us how to dance, and I can remember thinking at my 50th birthday party [in November, 1999], that he no longer knew how to dance."

Mrs. Dillon cared for her husband at home until finally, when he could no longer recognize his loved ones and even a walk in the garden could frighten him, she allowed him to be moved into the veteran's wing at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre on Nov. 8, 2006. Eighteen months later, two days after the Dillons' 63rd wedding anniversary, he died there, surrounded by his family.

About an hour later, the chaplain and some of the nurses on duty came into Mr. Dillon's room at Sunnybrook. "The Chaplain read some passages and said a prayer," said Ms. Meighen. "Then she looked at my mother and said: 'On behalf of the people of Canada I want to thank you and your husband for his service to the country and for the freedom we enjoy today.' And then, they placed the flag over his body," said Ms. Meighen. "It was such a lovely gesture that we were stunned."

## DICK DILLON

Richard Maurice Dillon CM, MC, was born on Aug. 4, 1920 in Simcoe, Ont. He died of complications from Alzheimer's Disease on April 23, 2008. He was 87. Mr. Dillon is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, his three daughters, and his seven grandchildren. Predeceased by his brother, John, he also leaves sisters Shelagh and Diana and his brother, Michael, and his extended family.

# HOME



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## COVER STORY

The buyers of Bill and Nancy Poole's forested northeast London haven will inherit a direct link to the city's past.

Page H6

# A home with a history



Nancy and Bill Poole stand in the doorway of their home of more than 50 years.

MIKE HENSEN mike.hensen@sunmedia.ca



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A view of Nancy and Bill Poole's stately northeast London home from the west shows it looking very much as it did when it was first built in a grove of trees.

Bill Poole, an avid horticulturist, planted trees and gardens on the grounds for 50 years to create a tranquil haven from city noise and bustle.



Photos by MIKE HENSEN mike.hensen@sunmedia.ca



■ **COVER STORY:** Nancy and Bill Poole share some of their home's many stories as they prepare to move.

# A window on London's past

JANIS WALLACE  
Special to Sun Media

Protected by a mature stand of trees and nestled among gardens and a pond, the house sits proudly on an historic piece of property. It's a place with plenty of stories to tell. As its current owners prepare to move, they wanted to share some of those stories.

Nancy and Bill Poole have lived in the home for more than 50 years. Despite being about 130 years old, the house has been home to only three families — each of them significant contributors to the city's development.

William and Elizabeth Geary emigrated from Ireland in 1818 as part of a group known as Richard Talbot's Settlers. Talbot, a relative of Thomas Talbot who distributed land west of London, obtained land north of London in Middlesex County.

Geary was designated a "gentle-

man" on the list of settlers. Other included farmers, a carpenter, saddler, shoemaker, whitesmith, glazier and painter, and a pensioner. He settled on the north half of Lot 14, Concession 5, and built a home he called Wilton Cottage.

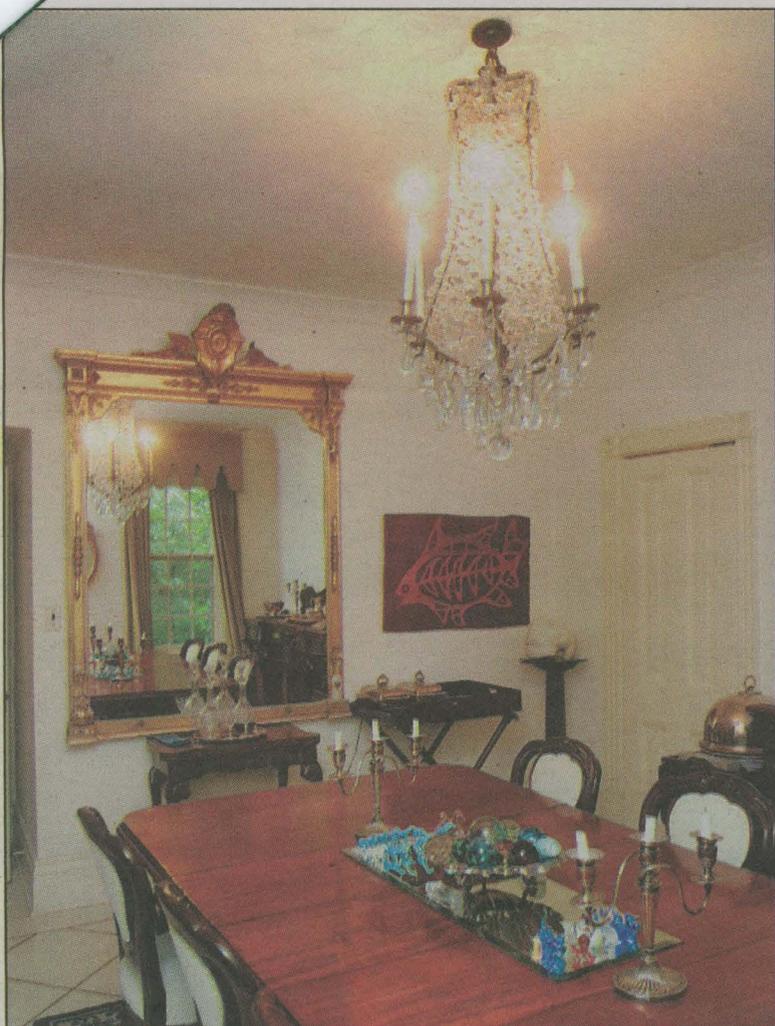
William and Elizabeth's five children helped build the area. Sons John and William Jones, known as W.J., built log cabins for the early settlers of Adelaide Township. They also built roads and bridges.

John's eldest son, George, bought a lot down the road from his parents. He later moved to West Nissouri in 1867, where he built and operated a grist and saw mill on the Thames River in a hamlet that would become Plover's Mills.

George moved back to East London where he started an oil refinery and invested in Imperial Oil. Flexing his entrepreneurial spirit even more, he and brother John began importing Aberdeen



A small pond provides a welcome haven for ducks and wildlife, and hours of entertainment for the Pooles.



A sparkling chandelier is reflected in a gilt-framed mirror in the dining room, which has been the scene of many lively dinner parties with colleagues, family and friends.

The elegant curve of the stairs caught Nancy Poole's attention the first time she saw it. The graceful entry and staircase sold her on the house.



Photos by MIKE HENSEN mike.hensen@sunmedia.ca



The library has been Nancy and Bill Poole's favourite room, a cozy place for reading, viewing the garden or watching the rabbits, ducks, deer and birds who visit. The flag belonged to Nancy's father, who served with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps in France during the Second World War. It also had flown over a University of Western Ontario-sponsored military hospital in the First World War.

Angus cattle, English shire horses, and Lincoln and Shropshire sheep, in 1882. This business took George to Missouri, Iowa and eventually, to Alberta.

John stayed in London and became a founding partner of Imperial Oil. He bought property down the road from his parents, built a home and a cheese factory.

John's son, George, became a lawyer and later a school trustee, alderman, controller and mayor of London from 1910-12. Serving

in the First World War, he received the Military Cross, the French Legion of Honour, and was named to the Order of the British Empire. Postwar, he was a Conservative MP for 10 years, and was named justice minister by prime minister R.B. Bennett in 1935.

A third brother, Robert, inherited 100 acres (40 hectares) when his father died in a buggy accident in 1873. He followed in his brothers' footsteps, importing

Clydesdale and Shire horses and sheep for sale in Montana and Utah. In 1880, he built a new brick house for his bride, Eleanor.

Accounts of the house in *The History of Middlesex County*, published in 1889, describe it as "a handsome two-story brick, which is pleasantly located in a grove of forest trees."

"I like that," said Nancy Poole, on hearing the description. She also liked the house the minute she stepped into the front hall.

The property was familiar to her, as she often bicycled past it. At that time, the Rubinoff family owned it.

The Rubinoffs developed Stoneybrook subdivision, founded the Holiday Inn chain in Canada, established Leeds of London and developed White Oaks Mall, making a contribution to the city as the Geary family had before them.

The morning after Nancy, then 25, was shown the house in 1956, the Pooles made an offer. "Mrs. Rubinoff was delighted," said Nancy.

"I bought the house on a Friday night," said Nancy, now 79. "When I walked in the door, I thought, 'Yes, this is my house.' Bill made the mistake of going out for dinner."

"That's not inaccurate," teased Bill, 91. "You spotted the house. You bought the house. You've been running it ever since. You did the whole thing, but put up the cash."

The Pooles liked old houses. Before buying the Geary property, they lived in the coach house across from Grosvenor Lodge.

Both the Rubinoffs and Pooles renovated the house, "so there is no architectural integrity left," said Nancy.

But the elegant sweep of the curved staircase still grabs your attention when you enter the front door, just as it did Nancy's so many years ago.

"It was April and the light was coming in the window on the stairs. The sun was setting through the living room window," she recalls.

The living room is a wonderful mix of family heirlooms and art. Nancy's grandmother's kitchen table and a 17th-century English chest are two of the many items loaded with memories and family history. Another is a painting of their daughter, Andrea, at 16.



Sun Media file

Nancy Poole enjoys a quiet moment two decades ago in her favourite room: the library the couple added to the 130-year-old property.

FROM PAGE H7

The windows overlook a pond, where a heron regularly feeds on the goldfish. Before the surrounding area was developed, a herd of deer grazed on the grounds.

"We've watched the concession change from rural to suburban," and the road from concession to busy artery, said Nancy.

The Pooles feed the ducks, and enjoy watching their antics, as well as rabbits, squirrels and chipmunks. In the winter, they can watch foxes hunt pheasants.

Their favourite place to sit and view nature's reality show is the library that opens to the garden behind the house.

"This room we added, and we live in here," said Nancy. "It's control central, where I can see the fireplace (and) all the birds."

Bill, who has a horticulture diploma from the University of Guelph, added many trees and splendid gardens on the property. Andrea was married in the garden; what was her playroom off the kitchen is now his garden room.

The house has seen many parties and family events.

"We've never treated it with reverence," said Nancy. "It's not

**It's not the kind of house where you have to take off your shoes ... It was a house to be lived in.**

Nancy Poole

the kind of house where you have to take off your shoes. It's had muddy-pawed dogs and children running through it. It was a house to be lived in."

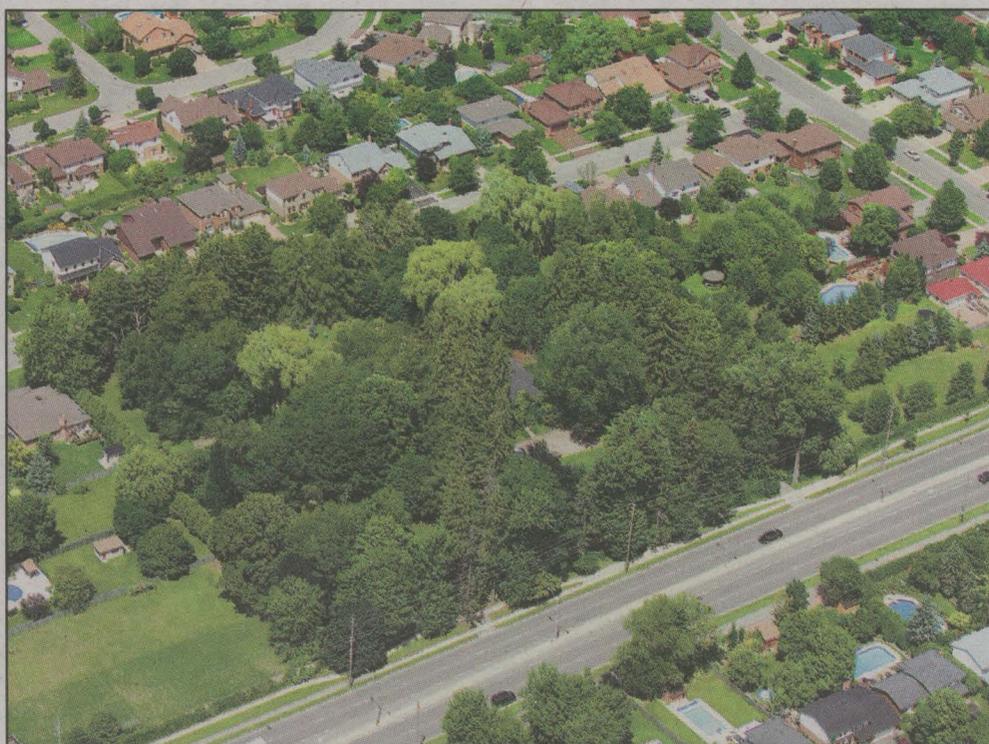
Bill's law class partied regularly there. As honorary president of Western Law's Class of '69, he hosted another gathering of his former students this month.

"It was a great party place. We had a lot of parties. I used to have fundraising garden parties. I think the first was for the National Ballet and Celia Franca was here."

Andrea filled the house with friends, too. Nancy recalls once when the two of them sprinkled talcum powder from the staircase to create an indoor snowfall.

The house was also the setting of many artistic meetings. "Dozens of artists came through," said Nancy. She represented, promoted and helped establish the careers of a number of artists

# A place to reflect and recharge



The Pooles' home peeks out from the forest canopy covering the property on Fanshawe Park Rd.

Photos by MIKE HENSEN  
mike.hensen@sunmedia.ca



Above, warm light spills from the windows of the Poole estate. The home is nearly covered with vines.

At left, Poole enjoys the lush gardens planted by her husband, Bill, around their home, in mid-July 1989.

Sun Media file

by trees, gardens and wildlife, it has been a place where they could reflect and recharge.

The proportions of the stairs, with their gorgeous curve and intricate scroll valence highlighted by sunlight pouring through the curved window above, may have sold Nancy on the house. But they're also a big reason she, a wheelchair user, and Bill have sold the house.

"I think what I'll miss most is watching the birds at the feeder and the ducks in the pond," said Nancy. "Each evening, the bunnies come out and hop over each other."

"The stairway brought me here, but I won't miss it."

The new owners have not only purchased a stately and dignified residence. They've also inherited a storied link to London's past.

Janis Wallace is a London writer

through her Nancy Poole Studio, Herb and Margot Ariss, Kim Ondaatje, Tony Urquhart, Jack Chambers and Charles Comfort among them.

Nancy's passion for art led to her appointment to the governing council of the Ontario College of Art, which she later chaired. She was also a committee member and director of the London Regional Art Gallery and London Regional Art and Historical Museums.

Many artists visited her home, including Duncan deKergommeaux, Greg Curnoe, Larry Russell, John Boyle, Rob Martin, Paterson Ewen, Roly Fenwick and Eric Atkinson.

Both Nancy and Bill have had distinguished careers, contributing to the area's cultural, educational and social fabric.

Their home was often the centre of their activities, but it was also their haven. Surrounded

lfp PHOTO GALLERY

See more photos at [lfp.com/gallery](http://lfp.com/gallery)



**H.G. Mackie**  
Bathgate, Scotland

Happy 90th Birthday  
Uncle Hughie

August 14th, 1918

14 AUG. '08

**WEST, Ken** - At McCormick Home, on Tuesday, December 2nd, 2008, Mr. Ken West of London. Beloved husband of Madelon. Loving father of Kenneth West (Victoria) of Halifax and Robert West (Cheryl) of Edmonton. Much loved grandfather of Benjamin and Simon West of Halifax, Christopher, Andrew and Madeline West of Edmonton. Dear brother-in-law to George Glenn (Alma), Leonard Glenn (Connie) and Marlene Kennings (Reg). A memorial service will be conducted at the **WESTVIEW FUNERAL CHAPEL**, 709 Wonderland Road North, on Saturday, December 6th, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. with visitation one hour prior to the service. Private family inurnment, Oakland Cemetery. Those wishing to make a donation in memory of Ken are asked to consider the McCormick Home Foundation or a charity of your choice. Online condolences may be sent to [condolences@westviewfuneralchapel.com](mailto:condolences@westviewfuneralchapel.com). 1344773

### Fox's death a true loss

It was with profound sadness that I learned of Charley Fox's unfortunate death in a car accident. What a loss when such a person dies.

I have been going to air shows for the past four years and Fox always seemed a fixture at them with his lively chat, humility, wit and perspective on his flying career. There was never a dull moment and he was always a pleasure to listen to.

I was at Geneseo, N.Y., last July and was fortunate to speak with Fox. He was a real gentleman and I was honoured to shake his hand and thank him for all he has done for us all.

I hope somehow that someone can get a Spitfire up over London to honour him at his funeral. As for Geneseo next year, I hope the show is full of Spits and is a tribute to him.

Let us all remember how fragile life is, especially for our veterans.

Let us all remember on Nov. 11 to go up to our veterans and thank them for what they did for us. They have earned it. The world is a better place due to men and women of our armed forces who did their duty and remained

**OBITUARY:** Canadian Second World War Spitfire pilot and hero Charley Fox spent a lifetime instilling in young people the lessons he learned in war

# An unforgettable veteran

BY KATHY RUMLESKI  
[krumleski@lfpres.com](mailto:krumleski@lfpres.com)

The tragic death Saturday of Canadian war hero Charley Fox — who escaped death many times during a remarkable military career — has left family and friends reeling and wondering who will take on the huge role Fox filled as an educator of youth and spokesperson for veterans.

Fox, 88, a Second World War Spitfire pilot, was killed in a car crash in Oxford County, shortly after attending a Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association meeting near Tillsonburg.

With Remembrance Day less than a month away, the popular Fox's schedule was packed full of activities.

"He'd want us to continue to remember our veterans. Somebody else (must) pick the torch up and continue those things he started because it was so important to him," said Fox's daughter, Sue Beckett of Thamesford.

His family said his activities put 70,000 kilometres on his vehicle each year.

Fox's son, Jim, said Fox, a London resident, stopped in at his grandson's hockey game in Kitchener last Thursday even though he had business to take care of.

"He had a to-do list for the day and I'm sure there were 17 things on it."

Said Beckett: "He had all of these other things to do... but he always had time for us, too."



SUSAN BRADNAM [sbradnam@lfpres.com](mailto:sbradnam@lfpres.com)

In this Nov. 11, 2005, photo, veteran Charley Fox displays a 'Lest We Forget' wrist bracelet he designed to raise money to support the Torch

# Charley Fox

February 26th, 1920

October 18th, 2008



**FOX, Charles "Charley"** - Suddenly as the result of an accident on Saturday, **October 18, 2008**. Charles "Charley" Fox DFC, CD of London, Honorary Colonel of 412 Squadron of the Canadian Air Force, in his 89th year. Beloved husband of the late Helen (Doughty) (1995) and dear father of Jim (Cheryl) of Kitchener, Sue (Doug) of Thamesford and Adrienne (Bruce) of Budd Lake, NJ. Dear grandfather of Kristi, Todd, Steven, Ryan, Amy, Katie, Travis, Jeff and Jen their spouses and step-grandfather of Dominique, Frank and Veronica. Also loved by 6 great grandchildren. Sadly missed by 3 sisters-in-law Mary, Barb and Christine, many nieces, nephews, and some very special ladies who were additional daughters to Dad. Predeceased by 2 brothers Ted and George. Charley served his country as a decorated Spitfire Pilot during WWII. He ended his tour of duty in January 1945 but became active in the London-based 420 Reserve Squadron after the war. On April 30th, 2004 he was

Honorary Colonel of 412 Squadron itely devoting his time and energy to the veterans, past and present. out his working career, Charley ad 30 years to the success of Tootsies and Lyons of London. He missed by family, friends and whose lives he touched. Visitation at the **HARLAND B. BETZNER L HOME**, 177 Dundas Street, rd on Wednesday from 7 - 9 pm hursday from 2 - 4 pm and 7 - 9 pm. service will be held at East London Ministries, 2060 Dundas Street idon on Friday, October 24, 2008 at m. Rev June Hough officiating. it will be at Forest Lawn Memorial

As an expression of sympathy donations may be given to the Harvard Aircraft Association, on Children's Camp, or the Hospital Foundation of Western

11289979

## Old veterans speak volumes through books

LFP 12 NOV '08

**T**he dead don't talk. Or maybe they do, and we just don't hear.

But if we try — if we press our ears to the echoes of history and the impressions, however feeble, that remain — maybe we can catch a glimpse of those who died for us in conflicts past.



**Ian Gillespie**  
THE CITY

In the lobby at city hall, for instance, tucked in a corner behind a staircase, sit two glass-topped cabinets containing the two volumes of the city's Book of Remembrance.

The book on the left, dedicated in 1950, contains information regarding 480 London and army servicemen killed during the Second World War.

The book on the right is newer, its pages whiter. Compiled in 1998, it includes names — about 70 more — omitted from the first book.

Every morning, one of the commissioners at city hall unlocks each cabinet and turns



**SUE REEVE** sue.reeve@sunmedia.ca

This Book of Remembrance at City Hall recounts the stories of Londoners who died overseas during the Second World War.

Yesterday, the first book lay open to the entry for Charles Alfred Cornelius, and states he was born in London on Nov. 25, 1915, served overseas in the Royal Canadian Regiment, was killed Oct. 2, 1943, and buried in Ortona, Italy.

It's not much. Just a glimpse. The history books tell us the Battle of Ortona raged Dec. 20-28, 1943, and that 1,375 Canadians were killed before the Germans withdrew.

The Book of Remembrance tells us Cornelius died three months before that battle, but

But it includes a photo of Cornelius, his mouth set into a line that is nearly a smile, but not quite — almost as if he grimly suspected what the photo might ultimately be used for.

The book on the right features two entries, including one for Donald Leonard Grimes, who served as a navigator in a Lancaster bomber with No. 9 RCAF squadron. After returning from a raid over Germany on Nov. 8, 1942, and while trying to land at Haddington base in England, the bomber collided with another Lancaster

was 21.

There's no picture. But the book states Grimes "was the son of Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Grimes of 70 Craig Street."

I drive over to Craig street, in Wortley Village, thinking maybe I'll find the house he grew up in. But there is no No. 70; the even-numbered houses on the south side of Craig end at No. 58, which sits next to the Tuckey Home Hardware parking lot.

I call Don Tuckey, who worked at the store in 1946. Now 83 years old, Tuckey says they demolished two houses — Nos. 60 and 62 — and a Chinese laundromat to make room for the hardware store.

He doesn't know anything about No. 70, although he recalls a Grimes family lived nearby. Maybe they changed the street numbers, or the address in the book is wrong.

But for a while anyway, on this Remembrance Day, the names of Don Grimes and Charlie Cornelius and others like them float out of the past and into the present, where they prod us, with gentle persistence, to never forget.

*Ian Gillespie is the Free Press city columnist.*  
ian.gillespie@sunmedia.ca

## From Vimy 11 to Vimy 1

In November, 2008, then president Mal Kay, member Ron Patrick, and their wives joined a group of 30 other Ontarians on the "Maple Leaf Route" tour. Guided by Belgian born and raised Jacques Pauwel, now a Brantford travel agent, this group visited WW1 and WW11 Canadian battlefields and military cemeteries from Juno Beach to Arnhem and dozens of sites between.

Mal had been in touch through the previous summer with the director of the Vimy Ridge Memorial to arrange the group's visit and the presentation of a plaque from Vimy Branch 145, designed to rekindle the historic connection between the two Vimys. The French commemorate Remembrance Day on the Sunday before 11 November. In 2008, that was Sunday, 09 Nov., and that is the day the Kays, the Patricks et al arrived at Vimy.

On the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the armistice which ended the Great War, several hundred gathered on that clear, bright, but decidedly cool Sunday to take part in the ceremony. Dignitaries, both civil and military, as well as bands, came from France, Belgium, the UK, Canada, and the US. Scores of wreaths were laid, hymns sung (in a mix of languages), prayers incanted, and tributes paid.

Following a tour of the site, the Ontario group, in response to an invitation from the site director, attended a soiree/reception in the nearby town of Vimy. It was here, for many onlookers to see and hear, that Ron and Mal presented our plaque. It reads:

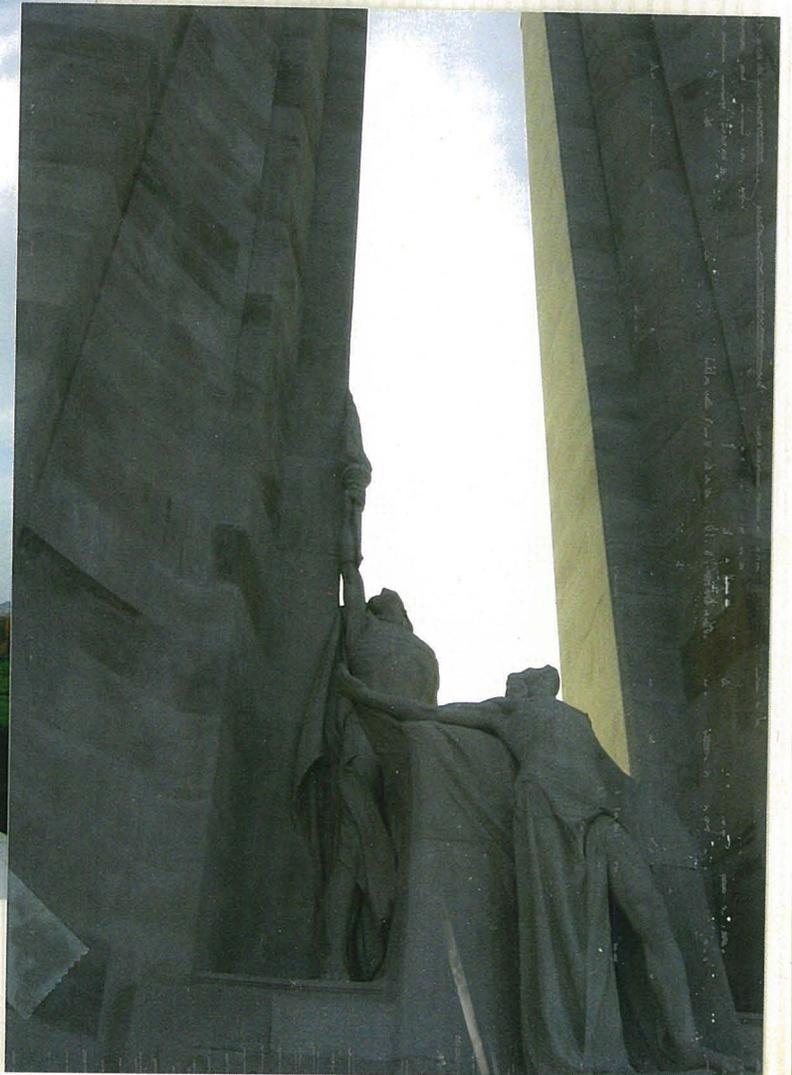
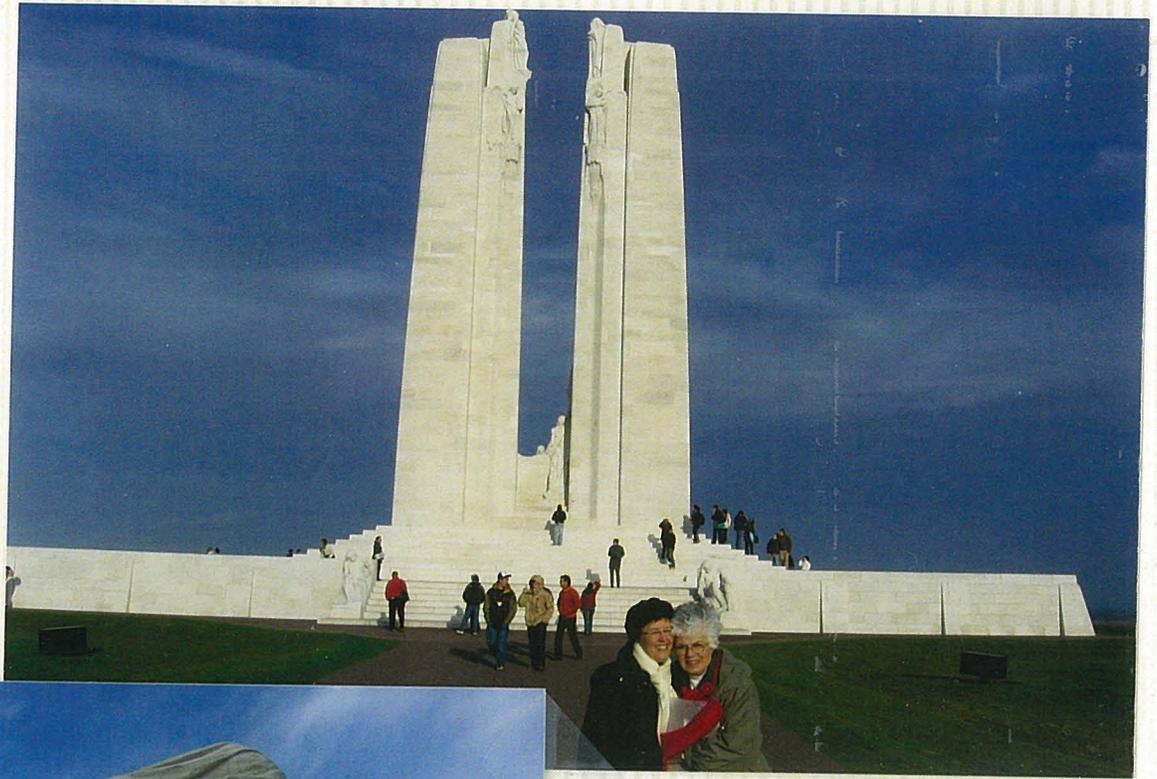
**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, VIMY BRANCH 145**

**FOUNDED BY VIMY VETERANS**

**Presented November, 2008**



We present our Vimy Legion plaque to the Memorial site's director at a reception following the ceremony



# Londoners remember

12 Nov. '08

## the fallen

BY JANE SIMS

jane.sims@sunmedia.ca

War veteran Jack Malone is well aware the number of comrades on parade with him gets smaller every year.

"I hear we're losing them at a rate of 500 a week," the 85-year-old London man said yesterday before falling into line to march to London's cenotaph for Remembrance Day services.

"It's a difficult day anyway," he said, thinking of those who lived beyond the battlefields of Europe and the Pacific.

On a day marked to remember the supreme sacrifices of so many young men and women, the loudest applause along the parade route was reserved for the vets who made the march.

Some did it in wheelchairs; others walked the blocks with a determination reserved for this day. All of them wore their medals with pride.

Thousands of people gathered at Dufferin and Wellington streets to pay tribute to our heroes and remember those we have lost.

Veterans and members of the armed forces marched to the cenotaph shortly before 11 a.m. when the skies grew a sombre grey just as the downtown church bells chimed and the Last Post played to mark the 11th hour of the 11th day.

Scores of wreaths were laid at the steps of the monument. While the crowd stood silent, Silver Cross mother Carolyn Wilson, whose son Trooper Mark Wilson of London was killed in Afghanistan in 2006, was first.



John McClure, 87, thought of those who died.



Bob Doyon, 77, of Vimy branch, feels pride.

Malone's mind turned to that time long ago when Canada was at war. He thought about his friend Blackie McKinnon, his "No. 2" from western Canada who flew in the Spitfire Malone piloted over Europe. McKinnon died when he was hit by flak over northern Italy during a strafing mission after they had dive-bombed anti-aircraft barges.

Malone was 20; his buddy

was about 19.

"He's buried there," he said.

Gord Burns, 86, a heavy bomber pilot, said he was "one of the lucky ones" who came out of the war without a scratch when the casualties for his squadrons were 10 to 15 per cent every night.

"My mind is taken up by some of the crews we lost during the war," he said.

Ivor Williams, 85, and former managing editor of The London Free Press, said he thought of his brother who died overseas "and all the fellows that I flew with who lost their lives."



Jack Malone, 85, knows vets are dwindling.



Gord Burns, 86, one of 'lucky ones.'

John McClure, 87, said he thought of "the guys on the squadron that didn't make it back."

And Jack Harris, 86, who served in the Royal Canadian dental corps, thought of those who died long ago and those serving now in Afghanistan and other hotspots around the globe.

Lou Latham, 82, who served with the British Navy on HMS Duke of York in the Far East, laid a wreath. He was thinking of his wife Enid, who died last year.

"She was in the service, too," he said with pride. "She was a wonderful lady."

He also thought of his daughter, Glynis Belec, 52, with him at the cenotaph. She is battling ovarian cancer.

"Everyone has their crosses to bear, but you come here and it puts a whole new perspective on things," Belec said. "If it wasn't for my mother and father we wouldn't be here."

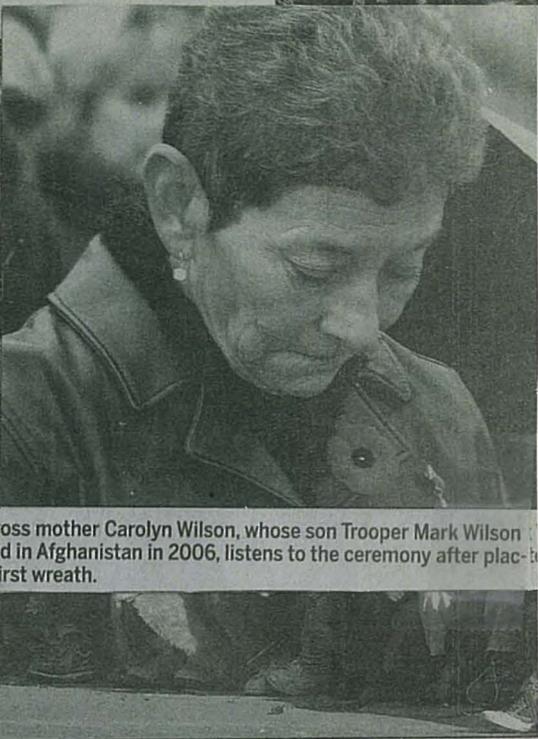
Pride was seen in the eyes of Bob Doyon, 77, who spent 35 years in the military and is president of Vimy branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

"Today I just feel very proud to be a Canadian," he said.

Jane Sims is a Free Press reporter.



**MORE:** See the cenotaph ceremony; read our Remembrance Week coverage at [lfpress.com](http://lfpress.com)

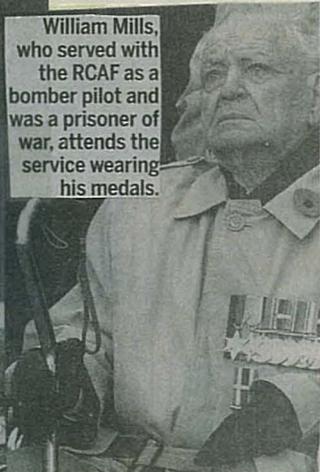


Silver Cross mother Carolyn Wilson, whose son Trooper Mark Wilson was killed in Afghanistan in 2006, listens to the ceremony after placing the first wreath.

Children gathered along Wellington Street at Dufferin Street for the Remembrance Day parade and se



Scores of wreaths lay on the ground before they were placed at the cenotaph in Victoria Park yesterday.



William Mills, who served with the RCAF as a bomber pilot and was a prisoner of war, attends the service wearing his medals.

# VIMY FALL DINNER

*Friday*

*7 November 2008*



FOR THE HISTORY OF THE GREAT WAR  
AND THE NATIONAL WAR MUSEUM

**Mocha Temple Auditorium**

**468 Colborne St. London**

*1800 hrs Reception*

*1845 hrs Dinner*



The 2009 membership dues, \$40.00, and the dinner tariff,  
\$35.00, will be collected at the door.

A CHEQUE payable to "Vimy Branch 145 RCL"  
for \$75.00 would be appreciated.

Those unable to attend should mail their membership  
dues to

Vimy Branch No. 145 RCL

P.O. Box 10

London, On. N6A 4V3

Your membership card will be mailed out on receipt.

### Please Note

In the past we were billed for the number of dinners  
served. Regretably we are billed for the number of  
dinners ordered. The Branch is not in a position to  
absorb the additional cost those not attending.

Therefore, if you indicate your attendance when phoned  
and do not attend, you are requested to remit the dinner  
tariff along with your membership dues.



# Programme



The Vice President, Maj R.R. Doyon in Command

The Vimy Band, G. Laidlaw conducting

1800 hrs,  
Reception

1845 hrs,  
O Canada,  
We Remember  
Toast to the Queen  
Grace

Introduction of the Head Table

Dinner

Speaker

Introduction of guests

Introduction of new members

2009 Officers and Executive

Raffle Draw

(proceeds to support Parkwood Veterans Care)

## Vimy Branch 145 Officers and Executive 2008

*President: LCol M. Kay*

*Honourary Vice Presidents*

*Lt Cmdr W.R. Poole, Col E.C. Quinn*

*Past President: S/L J. Malone*

*Vice President: Maj R.R. Doyon*

*Treasurer: Maj R.R. Doyon,, Secretary: Mr W.J. Slade*

*Membership: Maj D.G. Robinson,,*

*Director of Music: Mr G. Laidlaw*

*Chaplain: The Ven. Archdeacon John N. Doidge*

### Directors

*F/L D. Bondy, Maj J.A. Conyers, F/L S.W.H. Haley,*

*LCdr M.J. Hoare, F/O E. Lee, Capt S.L. Ricketts, Maj M.R. Steele*

## Vimy Branch 145 Past Presidents

*1929-30 \*M.M. Dillon, 1931\*Capt J.G. Gillanders, 1932 \*Col G.E. Reid, 1933 \*Lt Col H.K. Ingram, 1934 \*Maj L.E. Mills, 1935 \*Lt Col D.B. Weldon, 1936 \*Maj D.J.H. Ferguson, 1937 \*Capt R.I. Watt, 1938 \*Capt C.H. Ivey, 1939-40 \*G.F. Kingsmill Esq. 1941 \*J.H. Stevens Esq. 1942 \*Maj L..T. Hayman, 1943 \*Capt J.R.. Carling, 1944-5\*Capt E.H. Shuttleworth, 1946 \*Brig R.H. Beatie, 1947 \*Capt G.W. Foote, 1948 \*S/L H.F. Davison, 1949 \*Col G.W. Little, 1950 \*Lt Col H.I. Hayman, 1951 \*Lt J.B. Nash, 1952 \*S/L J.E. Jennings ,1953 \*Maj D.J. Urquhart, 1954 \*Capt J. Jeffery, 1955 Lt G.W.H. Bartram, 1956 W/C G.M. Burns, 1957 \*Lt Cmdr F.N.D. Carmichael, 1958 \*Capt H.W. Hockin, 1959 Lt Col R.M. Dillon, 1960 Lt Cmdr W.R.. Poole, 1961 \*Lt Col G.E. Humphries, 1962 \*Capt N. McBeth, 1963 \*Capt C.C. Ross, 1964 \*Capt A.M. LeBel, 1965 \*Lt Col W.R.. Buchner, 1966 \*Maj J.O. Howitt, 1967 \*Maj J.W. Nolan, 1968 Lt W.E. Bell, 1969 \*Capt B.I. Baldwin, 1970 \*Maj J.B. Stratton, 1971 \*Lt W.J. Robinson, 1972 \*W/C G.A. MacDougall, 1973 \*Capt W.J. Roadhouse, 1974 \*Lt Col I.S. Lauchland, 1975 \*Maj K.B. Keefe, 1976 Lt D.D.C. McGeachy, 1977 \*Lt Col J.P.C. Macpherson, 1978 \*Maj J.P. Cook, 1979 \*F/O J.N. Given, 1980 Lt Col J. Harris, 1981 Maj R.S. Macnab, 1982 F/L G.E. Wilson, 1983 \*Maj W.F. Stott, 1984 WO J. Stevens, 1985 \*B Gen A.R. McIntosh, 1986 \*Surg/Lt W.W. Wilkins, 1987 S/L Nellegan, 1988 \*W.G. Reid Esq. 1989 \*Lt Col S Lerner, 1990 L Cmdr W.J. Magee, 1991 \*B Gen W.P. Doohan, 1992 \*Maj B.A. Urquhart, 1993 P/O B.K. West, 1994 \*L Col F. Vine, 1995 S/L I. Williams, 1996 Lt Col D.J. Bonner, 1997 Lt H.K. Wooster, 1998 CPO J. Driver, 1999 S/L C. Grigg, 2000 Col E.C. Quinn, 2001 Capt R Mahar, 2002 L Col J McClure, 2003 F/L A.A. Munro, 2004 Les Davison Esq, 2005 Maj K.A. Tanswell, 2006 \*F/O RW Reid,\* Maj RA Wilson, 2007 S/L J Malone,*



**MACKIE, Hugh** - Peacefully at University Hospital, London, on Tuesday, February 24, 2009. Hugh Gardiner Mackie of London in his 91st year. Beloved husband of Iris May (Davey) Mackie 63 years. Loving brother of Jessie Glover and Bethia Winchester all of Calgary. Dear brother-in-law of Doris Turcott and Bob Davey and wife Bette. Also missed by his nieces and nephews; Davey, Diane, Bob, Harlan, Jim, Jane, Bo, Tim, Karen, Mike, Linda, Iris and his great-nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his siblings Bill, Andy, Robert, Elizabeth and Margaret and his brother-in-law Allan Turcott. Major Mackie served with Lord Strathcona's Horse (RCAC) for over 30 years. He was a member of Vimy Legion No. 145, member of FSNAS and member of the London United Services Institute. Hugh was a veteran of WWII and Korea. Friends will be received by the family from 2-4 pm on Friday, February 27, 2009 at the **A. MILLARD GEORGE FUNERAL HOME**, 60 Ridout Street South, London, where the funeral service will be conducted in the chapel on Saturday, February 28, 2009 at 10:30 am. Interment in Woodland Cemetery, London. As an expression of sympathy, donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society, 123 St. George Street, London ON N6A 3A1. Online condolences accepted at [www.amgfh.com](http://www.amgfh.com)

11425175



**WOW!**  
**Tony's 80!** (Tony Elmslie)  
**Happy Birthday**  
from all of your family 28 MAR. '09



**POMMER, Kenneth David** - Passed away suddenly at his residence, on Saturday, August 29, 2009, Kenneth David Pommer, at the age of 81 years. Beloved husband of Teresa. Dear father of David (Vicki Brown) of Calgary, AB; Margaret (Peter Warmels) of Rockwood, ON; and Daniel (Regina Saunders) of Orlando, Florida. Grandfather of Jacob and Timothy Warmels, Eryn and Adam Pommer, Rachel Grace Pommer, and great-grandfather of Daneeka Pommer. Predeceased by his son Richard, brothers Donald and Howard, and sisters Norma, Evelyn and Betty. Ken was a long-time member of the London Police Force and served as a Detective-Sergeant for many years. A recipient of the Order of Canada and board member of St. John Ambulance.

**NEWTON, John Rodney** - passed away Saturday, May 9, 2009 at Parkwood Hospital a week before his 93rd birthday. Beloved husband of the late May Belle (Judge) 2003. Dear father of John and Anne Newton of Sudbury, Sharon and Peter Snell of London, Pam and Moe Booker of Waterdown, Kerry and Marie Newton of London. Greatly missed by brother Norm and sisters June and Millie, and by sister-in-law Mayme. Grandfather of Steve and Kim, Trevor and Karl Lyn, Darcy, Russ and Elaine, Linda and Steve, Heather, Sarah and Mark, Simon, Dave and Stacey, Vicki and Trent. "Big Poppa" and "G-G" to his great-grandchildren Shane, Keith, Malcolm, Owen, Elliott, Clay, Calen, Kylie, Nick, Jacob, Tyler, Jack, Olivia, Grace and Gabrielle. Predeceased by infant son, John Wayne; brothers Clarke and Buck; sisters Vera, Joan and Florence; and son-in-law Paul Thomas. Special thanks to all the

## Deaths

**ADAMS, Craig James (Major, Rt'd.) C.D.** - Suddenly at University Hospital on Sunday, June 14, 2009. Beloved husband and best friend of Felicity Davies. Predeceased by his parents Douglas and Jessie Adams of Newmarket, Ontario. Fondly remembered and loved by his cousin Sue O'Driscoll and her family and by many friends. Long time member, 22 Service Battalion; Officer, St. John Ambulance, London Branch; member Vimy Branch, Royal Canadian Legion. Companion in the Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Memorial Service to take place at St. Paul's Cathedral, 472 Richmond Street at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23, 2009. Cremation has taken place. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. John Ambulance, London Branch would be appreciated as expressions of sympathy. **LOGAN FUNERAL HOME**, 371 Dundas St. in charge of arrangements. 519-433-6181. Online condolences [www.loganfth.ca](http://www.loganfth.ca)



**GREENLEES, Thomas** - Suddenly at St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital on Tuesday

## Deaths



**JOHNSON, Leonard Naismith** - Peacefully at University Hospital on Wednesday, May 13, 2009, in his 95th year. Beloved husband of Josephine for 64 years. Proud father, grandfather and great grandfather: son Dr. L. Stephen Johnson and wife Patricia Johnson (Toronto), their children Dr. Andrea Murphy (husband Shayne Murphy, Dublin), Emily Endicott (husband Craig Endicott, Toronto), Sarah Johnson (Toronto), and Patrick Johnson (Toronto), great grandchildren Olivia and Luke; son Dr. Neil Johnson and his wife Dr. Gail Cook Johnson (Toronto), their children Alexander (London, UK), Leonard Gregory (Singapore); and, son Peter Johnson and his wife Leslie Johnson (London), their children Dr. Catherine Johnson (Boston), Dr. Rosalyn Johnson (husband Dr. David Liscombe, Boston), Andrew Johnson (London), Gillian Johnson (Toronto), Michael Johnson (London), Eric Johnson (London). Survived by his brother Dr. Archibald Johnson and his family (Vancouver). Leonard was proud to have served in WWII from 1939 to 1945 where he met and married Josephine in Groningen, Holland in June 30, 1945. He and Josephine returned to London at the end of the WWII. From 1952 until he retired, Leonard worked for the Ministry of Natural Resources in various leadership positions. He was a founding member of Soil Conservation Society. Thank you to the compassionate and caring staff at University Hospital and the incredibly kind and caring staff at Highview Residences who made a home for both Leonard and Josephine. Thank you also to Mary Wellman and her team at Medical Priorities who provided great care and company to Leonard. A private family service will be conducted at the **JAMES A. HARRIS FUNERAL HOME**. Friends are most welcome to join in a celebration of Leonard's life at the London Hunt and Country Club on Saturday, May 16 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to the Fanshawe Pioneer Village would be appreciated. ([www.HarrisFuneralHome.ca](http://www.HarrisFuneralHome.ca))

# Deaths



**DILLON, Dr. Michael Talbot** - January 13, 1926-September 16, 2009 - It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Dr. Michael Talbot Dillon at Victoria Hospital on September 16, 2009 at the age of 83 years. Michael was born in Simcoe, Ontario in 1926 and attended London South Collegiate. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts and a Medical Doctorate from the University of Western Ontario. He served in the Medical Corps Militia from 1953 to 1968, retiring as Lt. Colonel O.C. of the 15th Medical Company. He was president of the Defense Medical Association in 1973, and president of the Medical Staff at St. Joseph's Hospital and Parkwood Hospital in 1979. He served on the Building Committee of Parkwood Hospital from 1980-1984. Michael served as president of the London and District Academy of Medicine in 1982 and was appointed Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine, University of Western Ontario Faculty of Medicine in 1980. He served as Senior Treatment Officer for Veterans Affairs Canada from 1981 to retirement. Michael practiced family medicine in East London from 1961-1991. He was involved for many years with the London West PC Association and took great enjoyment from singing in the choir at St. James Westminster Anglican Church. Predeceased by the love of his life, his wife Maggie in 2002 and parents Brigadier General M.M. Dillon and Mrs. Muriel Dillon (Hicks), stepmother Midge Dillon (Jeffers), and his siblings Richard, John, Shelagh, Diana, brother-in-law Gerry Johnston and stepsister Becky Guthrie and her husband Jack. He is survived by his sons and daughters in law, Timothy and Christine, Kirk and Julie, and David Dillon and by his grandchildren Morgan, Rebecca, Kate, Logan and Jennifer. He is also survived by his sister-in-law Lyb Dillon, brother-in-law Dr. Neil Watters, stepsister Cathy Moore and husband Tim. Michael was loved and admired for his kindness, compassion and loyalty to his family and friends. He was a wonderful musician with a gift for piano and a formidable chess player. He enjoyed learning and created a wonderful archive of family history during his retirement years. He was a force to be reckoned with during rousing games of euchre with his children and grandchildren. He will be very dearly missed. A memorial service will be held at St. James Anglican Church, 115 Askin Ave. London, Ontario on Monday September 28th at 2 pm. Reception to follow in the church hall. If desired, memorial donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, St. James Westminster Anglican Church, or the RCR Education Fund for the Children of Fallen Soldiers. (JAMES A. HARRIS FUNERAL HOME, 519-433-7253)

1196244

11669952

**ALLISON, William Lloyd** - With great sadness the family of W. Lloyd Allison of London announce his passing at Parkwood Hospital on Sunday, July 19, 2009 in his 99th year. Beloved husband of the late Marjorie E. (Moffatt) Allison (2000). Dear father of Nancy J. Allison of Chilliwack, B.C. and Roberta L. Cox and her husband Randolph of Burlington. Loving grandfather of Tristan and his wife Aimee, Christopher, Nicholas. Dear brother of Isabel Miller of St. Catharines, Agnes Huras of London. Predeceased by his sister Jane Tanner. Lloyd was a very proud Canadian. He was a WWII veteran who had achieved the rank of Major. He performed many years of volunteer services for Kiwanis projects including CCTC at Victoria Hospital. He also volunteered his time for the Salvation Army and other local organizations. He belonged to various clubs and associations such as the Kiwanis Club of Middlesex, Life Fellow of Kiwanis International, Royal Canadian Legion - Vimy Branch, The Public Service Alliance of Canada as a Life Member and the London Camera Club. A memorial service will be conducted at the **A. MILLARD GEORGE FUNERAL HOME**, 60 Ridout Street South, London at a later date. Cremation has taken place. As an expression of sympathy donations may be made to the Salvation Army, 371 King Street, London, Ontario, N6G5J6 or to Jesse's Journey, P.O. Box 5099, London, Ontario, N6A4M8. Special thanks to caring staff at Parkwood Hospital, 3 Kent, Western Counties Wing. Online condolences at [www.amgfh.com](http://www.amgfh.com)

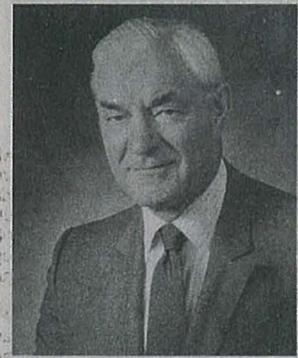


June 10, 1925  
September 27, 2009

**BONNER, Lt.-Col. Dan (ret'd)** - At London Health Sciences Centre, Victoria Hospital on Sunday, September 27, 2009 Lieutenant-Colonel Dan Bonner (ret'd) in his 85th year. Loving husband of Helen Bonner. Proud father of Susan Grant and her husband Paul, Dianne Bonner-Rasevych and her husband Gerry, Dan Bonner and his wife Anne and Cathy Newton and her late husband Eric (1996). Loving grandfather of Sean (Melinda) Grant, Daniel Rozak, Matt (Kim) Bigelow, Julia Bonner, Mike Newton and Rick Newton. Adored great grandfather because he's "great" of Dawson and Georgia. Predeceased by his brothers Dennis, Roger, and Bill (Sally) and his sister Helen. Brother-in-law of Margaret Bonner and Margaret Gougeon. Uncle Dan will be missed by his several nieces and nephews. Lt.-Col. Bonner served in WW II and was a member of the Canadian Military for 37 years. In his 37 years of service Lt.-Col. Bonner has seen many changes but one thing that he feels has not changed is the spirit and professionalism displayed by Officers and Men of The RCR. Visitors will be received at **JOHN T. DONOHUE FUNERAL HOME**, 362 Waterloo Street at King Street, on Wednesday, September 30th from 10:30am - 11am when a RCR memorial service will be held and then until 12 noon at which time Military Rites will be observed. Interment in St. Peter's Cemetery. Donations to London Regional Cancer Program c/o London Health Sciences Foundation would be appreciated.

11660497

# Deaths



**McGEACHY, Duncan Donald Cameron P. Eng** - Don McGeachy passed peacefully November 25, 2009 in his 91st year, surrounded by family. Devoted and loving husband of Joan (Macdonald) for 28 years. Beloved father of three daughters and one son: Lynn (Bruce Smith), Joan, Ruth and Neil (Susan). Lovingly remembered by treasured grandchildren Cynthia and Cameron Andrews, Jana, Kristin, Diane and David McGeachy (Leslie), great-granddaughter Journey, step-granddaughter Kelly (Ralph Schatzmair) and their children Alexandra and Jack, step-niece Heather (Scott MacMillan) and their children Alec, Adam and Graeme. Don will be missed by nephews Ted (Ann), Jack (Jill) and Ken (Anneli) French, sons of his late sister Jean. Donald was raised in Vanderhoof, B.C., and educated at Queen's University in Mechanical Engineering, and in Business at UWO. War time employment included the British Admiralty and, as an engineer, a lieutenant on convoy duty for the Royal Canadian Navy onboard H.M.C.S. Lanark and Owen Sound. After the war, he built and developed Unifin and Wolverine Tube in London, Ontario. He was renowned as a pioneer of employee relationships. Subsequent activities included consulting and professional directorships to numerous business corporations, including Gore Mutual Insurance, Trimac Ltd. (Calgary), Unit Drop Forge Inc. (Milwaukee), and Fleet Aircraft (Ft. Erie). Don's community support work included advisory work with UWO, London Health Sciences Centre, YMCA, the United Church of Canada and the Council of Regents for Community Colleges of Ontario. With a strong social and philanthropic conscience, he was instrumental in the building of Westminster College in London and was president of the Stratford Festival Theatre. In later years he set up Takla Charitable Foundation and took a particular interest in environmental preservation projects. He was a hiker, a fly-fisherman and a pilot. A lover of literature, opera and theatre. Donald McGeachy was a gentleman, an ethical man and a model of integrity. He will be sorely missed. A memorial service will be conducted at Metropolitan United Church, 468 Wellington St. (at Dufferin Ave.) on Saturday, December 5 at 11 am by the Rev. Herbert Summers. Memorial donations to Nature Conservancy of Canada or the VON would be gratefully acknowledged. ([www.HarrisFuneralHome.ca](http://www.HarrisFuneralHome.ca))

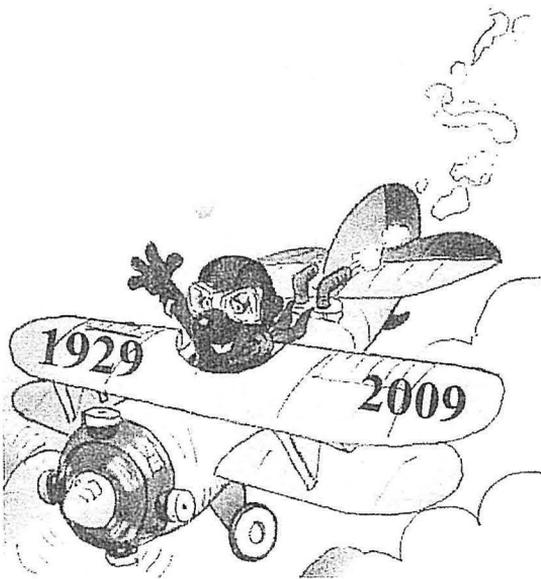
1172663



# Vimy Spring Dimmer

*Friday*

*3 April*



Moccha Temple Auditorium

468 Colborne St. London

*1800 hrs Reception*

*1845 hrs Dinner*



Vimy Branch 145 Officers and Executive 2009

*President: Maj R.R. Doyon*

*Honourary Vice Presidents; Lt Cmdr W.R. Poole, Col E.C. Quinn*

*Past President: LCol M. Kay*

*Vice President: Maj D.G. Robinson*

*Treasurer: Maj R.R. Doyon,, Secretary: Mr W.J. Slade*

*Membership: Maj D.G. Robinson,,*

*Director of Music: Mr G. Laidlaw*

*Chaplain: The Ven. Archdeacon John N. Doidge*

Directors

*F/L D. Bondy, Maj J.A. Conyers, F/L S.W.H. Haley,*

*LCol W.H. Haley, LCol B.N. Harris, LCol R.G. Moore,*

*LCdr M.J. Hoare, F/O E. Lee, Capt S.L. Ricketts, Maj M.R. Steele*



We present our Vimy Legion plaque to the Memorial site's director at a

**President Mal Kay and Ron Patrick present a Vimy Legion plaque to the Vimy Memorial site's director.**

**November 2008**



# Programme



The President, Maj R.R. Doyon in Command

The Vimy Band, G. Laidlaw conducting

1800 hrs,  
Reception

1845 hrs,  
O Canada,  
We Remember  
Toast to the Queen  
Grace

Introduction of the Head Table

Dinner

Speaker

Introduction of guests

Introduction of new members

2009 Officers and Executive

Raffle Draw

(proceeds to support Parkwood Veterans Care)

## Vimy Branch 145 Past Presidents

1929-30 \*M.M. Dillon, 1931\*Capt J.G. Gillanders, 1932 \*Col G.E. Reid,  
1933 \*Lt Col H.K. Ingram, 1934 \*Maj L..E. Mills, 1935 \*Lt Col D.B.Weldon,  
1936 \*Maj D.J.H. Ferguson, 1937 \*Capt R..I. Watt, 1938 \*Capt C.H. Ivey,  
1939-40 \*G.F. Kingsmill Esq, 1941 \*J.H. Stevens Esq.  
1942 \*Maj L..T. Hayman, 1943 \*Capt J.R.. Carling,  
1944-5\*Capt E.H. Shuttleworth, 1946 \*Brig R.H. Beatie,  
1947 \*Capt G.W. Foote, 1948 \*S/L H.F. Davison, 1949 \*Col G.W. Little,  
1950 \*Lt Col H.I. Hayman, 1951 \*Lt J.B. Nash, 1952 \*S/L J.E. Jennings ,  
1953 \*Maj D.J. Urquhart, 1954 \*Capt J. Jeffery, 1955 Lt G.W.H. Bartram  
1956 W/C G.M. Burns, 1957 \*Lt Cmdr F.N.D. Carmichael,  
1958 \*Capt H.W. Hockin, 1959 \*Lt Col R.M. Dillon,  
1960 Lt Cmdr W.R.. Poole, 1961 \*Lt Col G.E. Humphries,  
1962 \*Capt N. McBeth, 1963 \*Capt C.C. Ross, 1964 \*Capt A.M. LeBel  
1965 \*Lt Col W.R.. Buchner, 1966 \*Maj J.O. Howitt, 1967 \*Maj J.W. Nolan,  
1968 Lt W.E. Bell, 1969 \*Capt B.I.Baldwin, 1970 \*Maj J.B. Stratton,  
1971 \*Lt W.J. Robinson, 1972 \*W/C G.A. MacDougall,  
1973 \*Capt W.J. Roadhouse, 1974 \*Lt Col I.S. Lauchland,  
1975 \*Maj K.B. Keefe, 1976 Lt D.D.C. McGeachy,  
1977 \*Lt Col J.P.C. Macpherson, 1978 \*Maj J.P. Cook,  
1979 \*F/O J.N. Given, 1980 Lt Col J. Harris, 1981 Maj R.S. Macnab,  
1982 F/L G.E. Wilson, 1983 \*Maj W.F Stott, 1984 WO J. Stevens,,  
1985 \*B Gen A.R. McIntosh, 1986 \*Surg/Lt W.W. Wilkins,  
1987 S/L Nellegan, 1988 \*W.G. Reid Esq. 1989 \*Lt Col S Lerner,  
1990 L Cmdr W.J. Magee, 1991 \*B Gen W.P. Doohan,  
1992 \*Maj B.A. Urquhart, ,1993 P/O B.K.West, 1994 \*L Col F. Vine,  
1995 S/L I. Williams, 1996 Lt Col D.J. Bonner, 1997 Lt H.K. Wooster,  
1998 CPO J. Driver, 1999 S/L C. Grigg,, 2000 Col E.C. Quinn,  
2001 Capt R Mahar, 2002 L Col J McClure, 2003 F/L A.A. Munro,  
2004 Les Davison Esq, 2005 Maj K.A. Tanswell,  
2006 \*F/O RW Reid ,2006 \* Maj RA Wilson, 2007 S/L J Malone,  
2008 LCol M. Kay.



Tom Bird and Helen and Gordie Tapp



Ivor Williams and another man

SEPTEMBER 26, 2009



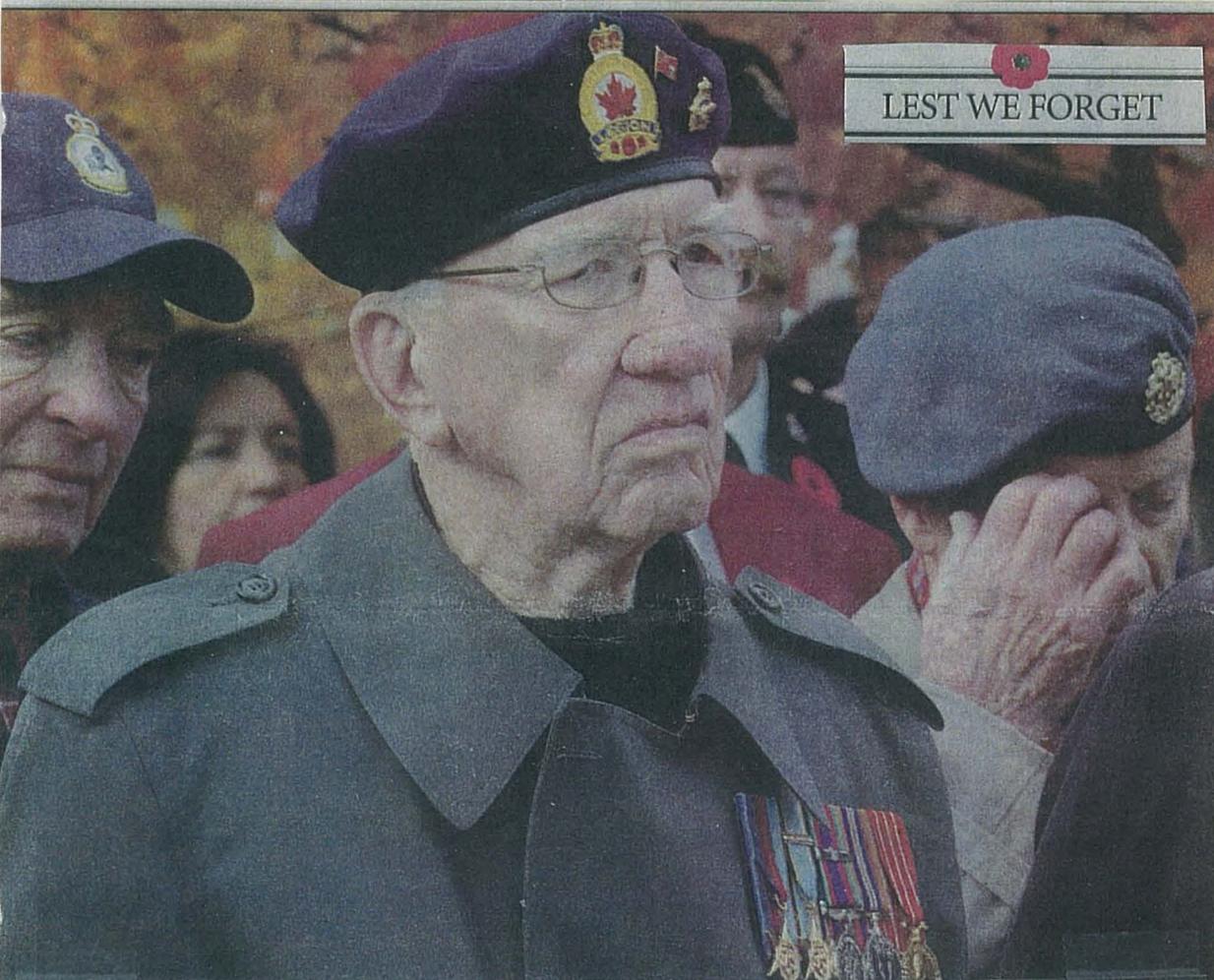
Peter Garland, Gordie Tapp, Lt. Col. J.W. (Scotty) Martin and Chip Martin

aroundthetown

NEWSMAKERS MAKING THE HEADLINES

The London City Press Club inducted five people into the Newsmakers' Hall of Fame last Saturday at the club. The 13th annual Newsmakers' event recognizes members of the news media and noteworthy people from all walks of life. This year's inductees were former London morning radio man Peter Garland, entertainer Gordie Tapp, Lt. Col. J.W. (Scotty) Martin, who had a 48-year military career and participates in community and military activities, Chip Martin, an award-winning London Free Press reporter, and the late Jeanne Graham, a Free Press photographer who blazed a trail for female news photographers in

CARROLL, Donald - Surrounded by family at Groves Memorial Hospital in Fergus, Ontario on Monday, November 30, 2009, Donald Victor Carroll passed away in his 87th year. Beloved husband of the late Joan Mabel Carroll (nee Elliott 2006). Dear father to Ross and his wife Deborah of Fergus, Gregg and his wife Martha of Owen Sound and Jill of Saskatoon. Loved grandpa to Duff, Brett, Brenda, Hannah, Alison and Timothy. Brother in law of Donald Elliott and his wife Marjorie of Fergus. Fondly remembered by his nephews, nieces and many friends. A celebration of his life will take place at the First Baptist Church (568 Richmond Street at Victoria Park, London, Ontario), on Friday Dec 4, 2009. Visitation will commence at 12:00 noon with a memorial service to follow at 1:00 P.M. Inurnment to follow service at Forest Lawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or Groves Memorial Hospital, Fergus, Ontario (cards available at the funeral home).



LEST WE FORGET



2009

Ivor Williams, a former Free Press managing editor who served in the RCAF as a Spitfire pilot from 1941-45, stands with other veterans as they listen to the Remembrance Day service at the cenotaph in London yesterday. SUE REEVE sue.reeve@sunmed.com

# Strathroy-area fans plan to honour First World War hero with statue

LFP 31 DEC. 2009

DEBORA VAN BRENK  
The London Free Press

Fans working to erect a statue in honour of Strathroy-raised war hero Gen. Sir Arthur Currie are approaching their task the same way Currie approached warring: methodically and with determination.

"One thing Currie used to say was, 'I'm not brilliant, but I'm determined,'" says John P. Sargeant, vice-chairperson of the Currie monument committee.

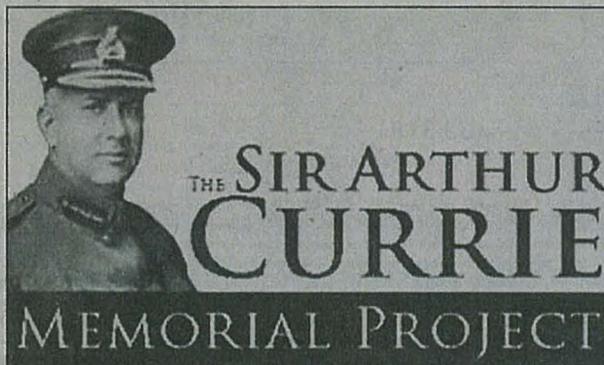
"We've got quite a ways to go, but we've got quite a bit of time to do it."

The aim is to raise as much as \$85,000 for a life-sized bronze or stone sculpture of Currie in the community where he was born and raised. Strathroy-Caradoc and the Sir Arthur Currie branch of the Royal Canadian Legion in Strathroy have each donated \$1,000 to the cause, while several hundred dollars in private donations have come in to the registered charity.

The committee hopes to have the work done by Nov. 11, 2010.

Sargeant said 2010 is also the 150th anniversary of the founding of Strathroy, so it's an appropriate year to erect the statue to the community's most famous son.

Currie, who died in 1933, was the first Canadian commander in the First World War, was considered one of the finest Canadian generals ever and was pivotal in making Canadians a



force to be reckoned with.

Renowned for his strategic approach to battle — he was first to make sure every soldier knew the objective, in an age when only officers were usually made privy to that information — Currie rose to No. 24 on a recent poll of 100 most influential Canadians.

"There's been a reluctance by Canadians to have military heroes recognized," said Currie Project chairperson Brian Angyal of Appin. "It's overdue. He should have some recognition at least in his hometown."

Sargeant fell into this mission almost by accident. While researching the 21st Battalion, he came across details of Currie's career and origins in Napperton, a crossroads just west of Strathroy.

On a visit to Strathroy, he asked where he could find the statue to Currie and discovered there is none. He asked where the plaque

at Currie's boyhood home was and learned there isn't one of those, either.

The latter is due to be remedied next year by Adelaide-Metcalf Township.

"He's an important Canadian person and his hometown should recognize that," Sargeant said. "The other thing is he's an inspiration and we all need an inspiration in our lives."

The group hasn't decided if it will seek a bronze statue or commission a stone statue based on a photo of the uniformed Currie posing on a set of stairs.

That image is rare in that it shows him wearing pants that don't balloon in an unseemly way around his waist.

"He was just a large man with a rotund figure. The clothes — he just didn't seem to be able to get it right," Sargeant said.

His disregard for those

surface details was in keeping with the rest of his low-key character, Angyal said.

Currie wasn't a brilliant tactician, although he knew which battle strategies to adopt for which situations. He cared deeply about the welfare of the men under his command and they respected him in return, although he was not naturally charismatic.

He deflected praise in First World War victory to his soldiers at Vimy Ridge and accepted his duty at Passchendaele — both battles where Canadians fought with nation-building distinction — even though he knew it would result in many deaths.

"He was typically Canadian. He was a farm boy from Strathroy. Hard work, plodding work, but you could be successful if you stuck to it (and) you had to stick to it. Maybe that was key to his whole life," Angyal said.

"He was a meticulous planner."

The group has registered charity status and will seek private, corporate, foundation and government donations and grants to complete the project.

Organizers are also planning a fundraising dine-in mess dinner in Mt. Brydges next May 1 with Great War historian and author Tim Cook as guest speaker.

More information is available at <http://curriememorialproject.tripod.com>

[deb.vanbrenk@sunmedia.ca](mailto:deb.vanbrenk@sunmedia.ca)



Strathroy-raised Gen. Sir Arthur Currie was the first Canadian commander in the First World War.

# Friends and Comrades

A history of  
Vimy Branch 145  
Royal Canadian Legion  
London Canada



Second Edition  
March 1929 to December 2006  
By Bill Corfield  
2009 Update by Malcolm Kay

# Friends and Comrades

VIMY BRANCH #145  
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION  
LONDON, CANADA

## *Greetings from the President*

This edition of Friends and Comrades is being made available due to the under-anticipated demand for the 2006 reprint edition. Copies of the 2006 edition are depleted, and the original hard cover edition has been out of print, not readily available, for many years.

Preliminary inquiries indicated that an identical reprint of the second edition was financially impractical. It was, however, determined that a modified edition could be produced at a cost compatible with our financial assets. The decision was made not only to reprint the history but to augment the existing 2006 volume with historically significant information from the ensuing three years. To proceed in 2009 appropriately recognizes the significance of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the granting of the charter to Vimy Branch 145 and it recognizes the desirability, if not the necessity, of keeping the past in the future and the availability of the history of Vimy to new members.

Bill Corfield, a current member and a former director for some fifteen years, having been involved in the production of the original version, generously provided his time and literary talent to update and produce the second edition. His advice was an important factor in the planning and production of this new edition.

Most, if not all, of the credit for the production of this edition must go to Mal Kay, a long time director and a Past President, who oversaw this endeavour from initial identification of the need, gaining of approval, locating a printer compatible with our financial situation and either authoring or soliciting for the production of new material.



**Dale Robinson**  
President  
December, 2009

## *The Battle for Vimy Ridge*

By the spring of 1917, The Great War had dragged into its fourth year. Soldiers of the allied armies had been wading through mud most of that time and the survivors wondered what was great about it. They had few victories to help them forget their wet socks and the many gaps in their ranks.

Then came the assault on Vimy Ridge.

Vimy was a village in France about 60 miles southeast of Calais in the Arras sector of the Western Front. The area was important militarily because its row of low hills [the Pimple, Hill 145, and Hill 135] commanded the plains of Douai to the northeast. The Germans had fortified mightily not only their position on Vimy Ridge, but also rearward defenses.

In 1915 some 150,000 French soldiers fell in the snow and mud but failed to win the sinister hogback. In 1916 the British took over but after another year had little to show for their casualties. By early 1917 the Vimy sector had earned a reputation for blood-soaked invincibility.

Then the Canadians were told to have a go.

For the first time in the war, the four Canadian divisions were brought together under one commander, Arthur Currie. He deployed airplanes, artillery, tanks, infantry, cavalry, kite

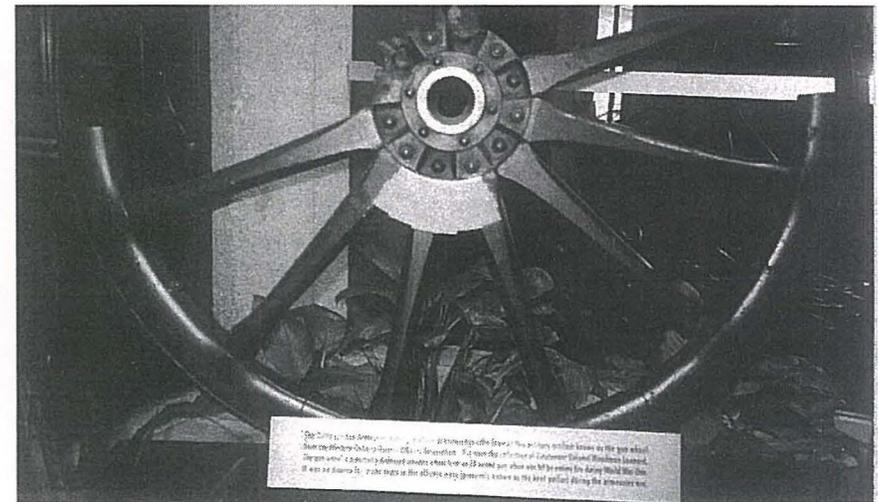
balloons and gigantic naval guns to mount one massive, unified push.

On Easter Monday, April 9, 1917, the assault began. For six bloody days the mutual massacre continued along a six-mile front. By dawn on the seventh day, the impregnable German fortress lay in the hands of the Canadian Corps.

The allies had their first victorious news in a long time.

Of the 100,000 Canadians who struggled up Vimy Ridge, 3,600 died and 7,000 were wounded. That bloody, snowy, muddy, but flawlessly executed battle, forged Canadian regiments into a national army and gave Canada a sense of pride that lives to this day.

For the veterans of Vimy Ridge and The Great War, the comradeships, which had been bonded by the horrors of conflict and mutual survival, had a deep and personal meaning, which they cherished long after their uniforms had become souvenirs.



see p. 13 for plaque inscription

## *Friends and Comrades Gather*

Canadian veterans were proud of their nation's contribution to The Great War 1914-1918. As soon as they were home, they got together to recall those days of glory and remember their friends who didn't return. Organizations sprang up all over the country. The largest in London was The Great War Veterans Association. One of its active members was Captain Murray Dillon, a veteran of the Battle for Vimy Ridge who won the Military Cross with the 135<sup>th</sup> Middlesex Battalion.

Some years before his death in 1979, he wrote about the birth of the Canadian Legion and the formation of Vimy Brand:

"In 1925 Earl Haig visited Canada and convinced veteran's organizations to band together as the Canadian Legion of The British Empire Service League. The Great War Veterans Association became Branch #2 Canadian Legion. A considerable number of ex-officers, myself included, joined in 1926 and 1927. At that time the membership was very large.

"During the period 1927-28, the ex-officer members had a fair representation on the executive. I had the honor of being elected one of the vice-presidents and other members of the executive were Col. Ibbotson Leonard, Lt. Col. W.H. Kippen, Major D.J.H. Ferguson and Sgt. Major Lisle Mills.

"Later in 1928 considerable differences of opinion arose between the other ranks and the ex-officers. The executive meetings often ended in a regular 'donnybrook'. At the next election of officers, all the ex-officer types were voted out of office and as a result practically all the officers resigned their membership.

"Early in 1929, John Roper, then Dominion president of the legion, came to London and at a small informal gathering in the Officers Mess at the Dundas Armory, suggested that we form a new branch, similar to the Sir Arthur Currie Branch in Montreal. Membership in this particular branch consisted of ex-servicemen in business and the professions.

"These comrades had several meetings, decided to call their organization Vimy Branch, since many had engaged in that epic battle, and applied for membership in the Canadian Legion. The charter for Branch 145 arrived in March 1929 bearing the names of its founding members:

Col. Ibbotson Leonard	Captain M.M. Dillon
Lt. Col. E.G. Shannon	Captain J.M. Watt
Lt. Col. W.H. Kippen	Captain D.B. Weldon
Lt. Col. Charles Grafton	Captain Harry Dickinson
Major D.J.H. Ferguson	Lieutenant M.P.A. Hare
Major H.K. Ingram	Lieut. Lloyd Chapman
Captain A.M. Dillon	Lieutenant George Cogdon

"The first meeting of Vimy Branch was at Longwood Inn, a historic wayside hostel in Lambeth at the junction of Highway 2 [then Ontario's main street] and the road to St. Thomas. It had achieved a tradition for warm hospitality from those days when horse-borne and carriage-borne travellers dallied for good food and liquid refreshment.

"Jimmy Carrol and his wife operated Longwood Inn. It was difficult at times to say who was the boss. However, Mrs. Carrol provided us with very good dinners for prices ranging from 75 to 85 cents. A friendly brewery donated beer and certain agents for distilleries were privileged at times to present premium bottles.

"There was no beverage room or cocktail lounge nor was it possible, in 1929, to obtain such a thing as a banquet license. It was, however, legal to have possession of liquor in a hotel room. The executive individually registered for several bedrooms in order that a few aperitifs could be served before dinner. The bedrooms were on the small size so that there was always some congestion in the upstairs corridors and it was necessary for most members to drink standing in the hall.

"Despite these troublesome details, Vimy Branch assembled and after dinner elected the executive, the manner in which escapes my memory."

The records show the initial executive:

President	M.M. Dillon
First Vice-President	J.G. Gillanders
Second Vice-President	G. Eric Reid
Secretary	Lisle Mills
Honorable Treasurer	John M. Watts
Members	H.K. Ingram, D.J.H. Ferguson, R.I. Watt, C.H. Ivey, Sgt. Major Hurrell

"A meeting of the executive was held shortly after the initial dinner at which certain decisions were made:

- [a] There would be two meetings a year.
- [b] The meetings would take the form of a dinner on dates, which would coincide as closely as possible with the anniversaries of the Armistice and the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

[c] That the branch would never at any time seek to acquire a clubroom.

[d] That is would be a good idea to have music or some form of entertainment at the dinner meetings.

[e] That the executive would carry out all the business of the branch and would call upon any member to render assistance to any veteran in need or for any other cause in which the branch was interested.

[f] That the officers and executive be nominated each year by the Nominating Committee.

“These decisions were incorporated into the minutes and constitute the only written record of any constitution which the branch ever had.”

Murray Dillon, Vimy's first President, founded a consulting engineering company, which became one of the largest in Canada. J. G. Gillanders, the original First Vice-President, was a partner in the law firm of Ivey, Elliot and Gillanders and became a Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. G. Eric 'Buster' Reid was responsible for the Eric Reid Memorial Home, which provided inexpensive accommodation for veterans on small pensions. Duncan Ferguson was a great worker in the benevolent section of the Canadian Legion. Tommy Hayman was a gunner who became a civil engineer and joined his family firm of builders.

These are brief biographies of the founders who met at Longwood Inn. The dinners were 75 to 85 cents, but with drinks, the cost rose to \$1.25. Treasurer John Watt collected. Those early sessions had no speaker but liquid refreshment produced much singing, dancing, and impromptu recitations. Between these semi-annual reunions, members were active in the Red Cross and the Poppy Fund. They established and sustained the Corps of Commissionaires. They helped to find jobs for unemployed comrades. Financial needs were usually met by 'passing the hat'.

## VIMY BRANCH MEMBERSHIP – 1933

Reginald Adam  
Duncan Anderson  
S.W. Archibald  
Adam Aveling  
Russell H. Beattie  
Harry J. Bennett  
F.C. Betts  
H. Bingle  
G.D.A. Blandford  
G.R. Bradbooke  
Claude Brown  
William J. Brown  
J.A.M. Campbell  
E.H. Chesham  
George B. Cogdon  
Rupert B. Crouch  
Gordon M. Cooper  
Wilmer L. Denney  
James M. Dickinson  
Arthur M. Dillon  
Murray M. Dillon  
Victor Dow  
G. E. England  
Norman B. Emory  
G. H. Ellis  
D. J. H. Ferguson  
F. S. Fisher  
A. G. Fraser  
William G. Freel  
George R. Gardner  
J. G. Gillanders  
M. F. Gladman  
F. H. Greenlees  
Sidney Grimble  
James Haldane  
H. W. Hare  
A. J. Haynes  
Ralph Hedger  
W. B. Henderson  
Ralph Hicks  
K. W. Huntin  
W. G. Hurrell  
H. Kenneth Ingram  
G. F. Ingram  
Charles H. Ivey  
Leon W. Jackson  
Jack. E. Jennings  
W. H. Kippen  
William G. Lennox  
Ibbotson Leonard

A. Lillico  
George Little  
D. Lyall  
H. W. McCrimmon  
Daniel McDonald  
Hugh A. McKay  
William McLean  
George McDonald  
G. T. E. Martin  
F. D. Millan  
Lisle E. Mills  
H. Murphy  
K. A. Murray  
Norman F. Newton  
S. C. O'Neil  
H. L. Petrie  
Fred C. Pickard  
Hugh B. Poston  
Llewellyn Purdom  
G. Eric Reid  
William Revell  
C. A. E. Roberts  
R. B. Ross  
F. S. Radway  
J. M. Ross  
Edward D. Redfearn  
L. W. Sargent  
E. G. Shannon  
Edgar Shuttleworth  
John E. Smallman  
R. M. Smith  
W. Raymond Smith  
Alec C. Spencer  
Benjamin H. Stead  
John Harris Stevens  
George C. Stevenson  
Frederick A. Taylor  
John G. Thompson  
E. B. Thurlow  
Allan Todd  
T. Logan Towers  
William M Veitch  
James Walker  
Thomas F. Walker  
E. B. Ware  
James M. Watt  
Robert I. Watt  
Douglas B. Weldon  
H. C. Wismer  
H. G. Wylde

The gatherings moved to the Hotel London in 1937 and livened the atmosphere of the sedate Crystal Ballroom. In the early years, members were mostly former soldiers, with a scattering of Royal Navy and Royal Flying Corps veterans because Canada had no flying service and but a small navy. However World War II graduated a new generation of veterans who served with the Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Canadian Air Force, as well as the Canadian Army. They had the same desire to keep alive the friendships of service life and join with comrades to preserve the standards and freedoms for which they had fought.

The old soldiers welcomed them warmly.

They added new voices to the singing and unusual new words to some of the tunes. They kept reasonably well in step in the Remembrance Day parades and eventually became leaders as The Great War survivors completed their tours. Hi Davison, an RFC pilot in The Great War, was the first RCAF officer of WWII to become President in 1948. The honor of being the first 'new veteran' President went to Howard Hayman in 1950. Jack Nash was the first RCN President in 1951.

Successive leaders of Vimy Branch have seen no reason to tamper with the succinct guidelines of its founders. The reunions have always been on the Friday before Vimy Day and the Friday before November 11. The friendly Hotel London, and its familiar drinking place, fell to the advance of urban renewal in 1972. Rumors persisted that some of the more elderly Vimy members wandered pathetically up and down the hoardings, searching vainly for the entrance to their dear old friend. For several years Vimy reunions livened the Holiday Inn on King Street, which disappeared in turn. The Branch found a lasting home in the Shrine Club on Colborne Street.

Successive leaders did, however, bow to the social practice of programming guest speakers. At the April meeting in 1958, a General Henri Le Clair, veteran of the French Army, spoke in such derogatory terms about the Canadian effort in Korea that a near riot almost erupted in the Crystal Ballroom.

Jack Steven [President 1941] managed to gain control and revealed that the 'general' was actually a business friend and amateur actor. The comrades then had a jolly laugh at themselves, and Hotel London security relaxed.

At the November meeting that same year, members were on guard against hoodwinking and laughed knowingly when President H.W. Hockin announced the speaker was Sir Robert Watson-Watt, the British inventor of radar. It was indeed the famous scientist and they listened with youthful attention. Other outstanding speakers were Sir Neil Ritchie, commander of the British Army at Tobruk and author Leonard Brockington, former Chancellor of Queens University. The Honorable J. Keiller McKay, Supreme Court Justice and Lieutenant Governor of Ontario gave a somber message. Flight Lieutenant Bill Smiley, a humorist, was irreverent. He claimed that the main requirement to become a senior officer was the ability to tie shoelaces under all stress conditions, which explained why RCAF flight boots had zippers.

The branch saluted five winners of the Victoria Cross at the November 1962 dinner: Lieutenant Colonel David Vivian Currie, Lieutenant Colonel John Keefer Mahoney, Major Frederick Albert Tilston, Captain Charles Smith Rutherford and Corporal Frederick George Topham. Col Mahoney became Vimy Secretary in 1977. Brigadier Milton Gregg, who won the Victoria Cross in The Great War, was a member of Vimy Branch but was unable to attend.

The November 1968 reunion marked 50 years since the end of The Great War. The 'old sweats', now affectionately called "The Select Prostate Platoon", assembled at a table of honor. Over 50 survivors of that war received commemorative copies of Vimy Ridge by Alexander McKee.

The guest at the April 1980 gathering was identified only as 'a naval person'. Some members with better memories suspected another 'hoodwink'. That was the wartime code name for Winston Churchill, former Prime Minister of England. The speaker was, however, an old friend, member and naval hero.

John Robarts had moved from a boyish lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Navy to become Prime Minister of Ontario.

Not to be outdone, the air force types saluted the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain at the November reunion in 1980, and decorated the hall with memorabilia.

The army marched forward in 1983 to salute the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Royal Canadian Regiment. Vimy member Wally Stott [President 1983] was Chairman of The Regiment's centennial committee, member Tom Lawson was Honorary Colonel, and Alex McIntosh [President 1985] commanded the Fourth Battalion (Canadian Fusiliers) The Royal Canadian Regiment.

As age and weariness crept upon the comrades, their acceptance of tedious speakers became fragile. At a more recent reunion, a legionnaire spoke of his 10-day pilgrimage to the battlefields of Normandy. By the time the comrades' attention span had dwindled to a glimmer, he had not completed 'day one'. He paused, however, to check his notes. A daring infantryman started to clap, everyone enthusiastically joined in, the thanker jumped to his feet to do his bit, and another tactical crisis was solved.

During the Presidency of Fred Vine in 1994, concern arose about the future as WWII veterans were also fading away in disturbing numbers. The unwritten requirement for membership approval was military service before the end of the Korean War. If this rule was followed, Vimy was headed for rapid decline and oblivion. The 1994 directors added an astute amendment: members may be accepted 'by invitation'. Honorary and serving officers of the active and reserve forces were 'invited' and a new generation of comrades joined the reunions.

The reunion dinner in the Shrine Centre on Friday April 4, 1997 commemorated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, but there was no 'select prostate platoon' which was buoyantly saluted at the November gathering in 1968. Two Gunners, Bill Davis and Tom Sanderson, sat together and shared

the last of a bottle of Scotch, which had survived some reunion of long, long ago. With their passing, the old soldiers of The Great War faded from Vimy's roster.

However, the ceremony did remember a veteran of that conflict. Colonel Woodman Leonard, who commanded artillery at Vimy and died from wounds, sent to his family a gunwheel that German explosives had shattered. That trophy was mounted and displayed in the London Garrison Officers Mess at Dundas Armories for decades. The dedication plaque preserved this message:

*"This wheel was blown off No. 4 Gun, 12<sup>th</sup> Battery, Canadian Field Artillery, 1st. Canadian Division, British Expeditionary Force, by a 5.9 inch German Howitzer Shell, which burst under the gun, during the second battle of Ypres, April 22 to May 15, 1915. The 12<sup>th</sup> Battery was formerly the 6<sup>th</sup> London Field Battery, composed largely of Londoners and commanded by Major Woodman Leonard of this city."*

When the armories was closed in 1987 and converted to the Delta Armories Hotel, the gunwheel trophy remained in the lobby. Vimy President John McClure and Stewart Geddes of the London Gunners Association borrowed it for this special remembrance of The Great War.

On Monday April 7, 1997, London Mayor Diane Haskett proclaimed the Battle of Vimy Ridge Commemorative Week. A plaque was dedicated at Delta Armories Hotel designating it a Historic London Landmark. On Tuesday, April 9, the actual day on which the assault commenced, Vimy Vice President Jim Driver headed the Canadian Legion remembrance ceremony at the cenotaph.

Later that year, on a sunny, hot June 27 afternoon, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip visited London and talked with many veterans during a 'walkabout' in Victoria Park. Among the Vimy members who received royal greetings were Les Davision, Jack Newbegin, Charles Grigg, Bill Corfield, Sam Lerner, Dan Bonner, and Tom Burdett.

The members adhered to the branch's tradition and annually headed the Remembrance Day parade to the cenotaph. The band often was out of step, causing a flurry of shuffling and muttered expletives. They managed, however, to present an impressive force at the saluting base and to smile with satisfaction as their hearing aids picked up the applause of the admiring crowd. They stood each year as straight as their weary bones permitted during the service. Weather varied their numbers year by year. Freezing rain coated garments one year. Cold was always a threat to their tender extremities. Hot chili and cheer at the Shrine Club rewarded their dedication. They felt good, deep down, because they had kept faith and remembered their friends and comrades.

So, in 1999, Vimy Branch 145, Royal Canadian Legion, passed its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary and entered the new millennium with re-newed vigor. Fred Vine's amended membership philosophy of 1994 produced a splendid crop of young enthusiasts of 'post Korea' service. Many were veterans of United Nations or NATO missions in foreign lands which were bringing new histories, traditions and honors to the Canadian military.

Progressively this new generation of Vimy Legion enthusiasts assumed roles of leadership. Colonel Ed Quinn, commanding officer of Canadian Forces Base London, became Treasurer in 1996 and President in 2000, the first of this new generation. In 2006 Major Richard A. Wilson became the first Vice President who had risen through the ranks of the 'post war' reserve army. Others of this 'new generation' to become directors were Major Robert R. Doyon, Lieutenant Colonel Malcolm Kay, Flight Lieutenant Donald Bondy, Major J.A. Conyers, Captain Stephen Rickets and Major Dale Robinson.

At the reunion in April 2006, comrades were divided about equally between them and the gently aging 'warriors of yore'.

## *Friends and Comrades Singing*

Since the first meeting at Longwood Inn in 1929, music has formed a memorable part of Vimy dinners. In fact, the idea for an orchestra originated that first night, as Murray Dillon recalled in his memoirs:

"Music, at that first meeting, consisted of just the piano being played rather indifferently by the newly-elected President. Two members, Ed Shuttleworth [President 1944] and Edgar Westby, volunteered to bring their violins to the next meeting. I discussed music with Harry Wooster and we decided to recruit more players and have a real orchestra.

"Jim Bach, a friend of mine, played the cello; Roger Gardiner, a patient at Westminster Hospital, was a fine flutist, having played in the Boston Symphony Orchestra; Tommy White, a veteran, was a fine clarinetist; two militia officers, Ken Ferguson, originally played trumpet with Lombardo; [Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians, a dance band which originated in London]; Grant Maloney played a very sweet trombone. Then we discovered a very versatile pianist, Wally Armour, who had been playing professionally in Toronto. We also found that Gordon Thompson [President of Supertest Petroleum] was a most competent drummer. It was then that the Vimy Orchestra was complete with strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion.

"This particular combination played on a number of occasions for the patients at Westminster Veterans Hospital and the Byron Sanatorium. In the early 1930's there was a need for new Poppy boxes for the annual Poppy Day sale and there was no money available. The orchestra put on two concerts, one in the auditorium of Central Collegiate and the other in Beal Technical School. At this second concert we had an augmented orchestra of 51 players. There were musicians from the Royal Canadian Regiment band, Al Keene's Orchestra, and players

from two Sunday school orchestras. The London Male Chorus and the London Little Theatre also participated.

“We had no chance to rehearse this large organization as a group, but were able to have a couple of rehearsals in bits and pieces. Also we gave them a bit of liquid refreshment before they started. This was smuggled into the sacred precincts of the school by one Robert I. Watt, who, I might add, was a teetotaler and therefore could be trusted. The proceeds from these concerts were sufficient to pay for the poppy boxes with a bit left over for the fund.

“The orchestra also performed during dinners given at noon on Christmas Day during the 1930’s in the Hotel London for veterans who were down and out. These dinners were sponsored by the Red Cross and run by the executive of the Vimy Branch who, along with other legion members, acted as waiters and served the boys with food and beer. It was remarkable to see the difference in the vets after dinner and a few beers. Some came in with nothing on but an undershirt under a tattered overcoat and, in some mysterious way, they left fully clad.

“Some time in 1934 Wally Armour left London and we acquired a new pianist – Harry Hadwin. Like some of the original group, Harry joined the armed forces in 1939 and was out of circulation during the war.”

When Murray Dillon rejoined the army in 1940, Harry Wooster assumed the baton, and he continued the history of Vimy Orchestra:

“Young servicemen in London had nothing to do on Sunday nights, having, I presume, done it all on Saturday night. We offered the Vimy Orchestra to entertain them in the YMCA. Ed Shuttleworth arranged for his Kiwanis Club to provide a Master of Ceremonies and entertainers. During the war, 103,747 men and women in uniform attended. On weeknights we played at Westminster Hospital, the RCAF Technical School at St. Thomas and the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers School at Western Fair grounds.

“Membership in the wartime orchestra was changing constantly. Adult members began leaving for military service so we recruited teenagers, including Murray Dillon’s son Dick, Ed Shuttleworth’s son Ted, and my son Ken. I was pleased to lead some loyal stalwarts such as Andy McCormick, Fred Hoffman, Bert Thomas, Harold Bentley, Dominic Cortese, Alex Calder, Wilf Coad, Gordon Thompson, Billy Bending, Stan Byfield, Harry Jarvis, Tom Burton, and Ed Shuttleworth. Many of them went into the services so we searched for more musicians. The Kiwanis Club gave us great support and bought the music. Kiwanian Bert Weir became our pianist. I must pay tribute to the near perfect attendance of Harry Jarvis, Ed Shuttleworth, Gordon Thompson, Bert Thomas, Alex Calder, George Blake, Jim Campbell, Harold Bentley, Andy McCormick, Fred Hoffman, Julius Cohen, Dunc Carswell and Dominic Cortese. Ed Shuttleworth often led the singing and conducted with his usual enthusiasm.

“Other members of Vimy Branch who assisted were Innes Carling [President 1943], Jack Stevens [President 1941], Fred Kingsmill [President 1939], Ken Ingram [President 1933] and Tommy Hayman [President 1942]. Over 500 members of the armed forces attended each concert, about all who could get into the ‘Y’ with standing room only. We put on well over 200 concerts – all without benefit of the liquid stamina we were accustomed to at the Vimy dinners.

“On a few occasions since 1945, the orchestra played some Armistice services in churches. These were not highly successful. One service in St. Paul’s Cathedral resulted in a competition between the organist and the orchestra. The organist sent a note, which read: ‘I can’t hear the organ’. The conductor wrote on the reverse side: ‘I can’t hear the orchestra.’

“At another service in Cronyn Memorial Church, the organist changed the key of one of the hymns whereupon our pianist Harry Hadwin whispered out the side of his mouth: ‘the son-of-a-gun double crossed us.’ We decided church services were not for us, because:

[a] Sunday mornings after a tough Saturday night are not conducive to a proper mood.

[b] There is no opportunity to take on this essential spiritual nourishment prior to performing.”

By the 1960's, musicians who gathered for the twice-a-year banquets included Conductor Murray Dillon, Associate Conductor Harry Wooster, Norman Alexander, George Blake, Jack Brooke, Richard M. Dillon [President 1959], Tom Hedger, Harry Jarvis, H.O. Moyer, E.H. Shuttleworth, James R. Bach, Charles Middleton, Robert Chapman, Charlie Hoare, Al Keene, Harold Bentley, Leonard Macdougall, James Campbell, Bert Thomas, Martin Boundy, J. Gordon Thompson and Harry Hadwin.

After the retirements of the two original conductors, Tom Hedger waved the baton for his musicians to play the tunes of glory during the 1980's and 90's: Jim McMurrin, Gordon Thompson, Dick Dillon, Jerry Carter, Nick Ryen, Sam Mackness, Earl Robilliard, Ken Symons, Vilio Sandrin, Dick England, Bill Bending, Bill Wantz, Raymond Neal, Bill Brown, Ernie Jackson, Charlie Keele, Norm Johnston, Ken Wickens, Harold Eastwood, Jim Bolton, Tom Brooks, Percy Welch and Bill Clarke.

The official marches of the navy, army regiments and the air force were traditional highlights of the musical program. Members of the two senior services rose and stood at attention in proper decorum. However, the rambunctious flyboys, by far in the majority, jumped to their feet and weaved around the room in column astern, some waving tiny RCAF flags. On one occasion, the marchers struggled past the head table and the guest speaker, Lieutenant Governor John Aird Black, and his aide Colonel Tom Lawson, rose to attention as if receiving a royal salute.

Norm McBeth [President 1962] was the architect of the first edition of Friends and Comrades. He wrote lovingly of the singing, even though his personal contributions were a rather varied collection of demi-semi-quavers. “As to music,

sometimes on a par with the orchestra was the enthusiasm of the chorale, the chorale being the entire body of men singing lustily at their tables. A more select and, if possible, more uninhibited group known as ‘The Glee Club’ would gather around the piano at dismissal while Bill Robinson [President 1971], resplendent in cravat of the Royal Ulsters, belted out the older favourites, which somehow got interspersed with unusual limericks, usually about a girl named Sue, and one called ‘Roll me Over’. The navy boys seemed to enjoy Friggin in the Riggin, although I can't understand why. To generalize, it must be said, singing, a large part of service life, recalls personal memories of old comrades that diminish only slightly as the years go by.”

As the Vimy reunions rollicked through the last decade of the twentieth century, music continued to be the symbol of comradeship, although the ‘orchestra’ was changing little by little into a ‘band’. Ken Wooster, one of the teenage musicians recruited in 1939, returned to London upon retirement, blew out his trombone and resumed his musical career. Gradually he recruited musicians so that the ensemble evolved from a ‘concert’ orchestra, with a range of string, wind and percussion instruments, to a ‘mini’ swing band with wind and rhythm sections. The livelier music suited the tastes of the WWII vets and the young generation of ‘peacetime’ military members.

Tom Hedger handed his baton to Ken Wooster in 1998. Ken promptly misplaced it, so followed the ‘big band’ tradition and conducted with his trombone. Experienced ‘swing’ musicians replaced retirees. By 2005 the Vimy Band was composed of Dave Cunningham, Doug Keenan, Ernie Sullivan, Joel Dell, Ernie Lee, George Stewart, Rick Murray, Chris Lesko, Bob Borbridge, Don Wright, Al Shipley, Chet Creider, Bob Hughes, Bob Livingston and Bill Clearke. Ernie Lee, a veteran of the Salvation Army musical tradition, in addition to playing the trombone, assisted Ken to reproduce the musical scores for marches and songs that kept the Friends and Comrades laughing and singing like long ago.

## *Friends and Comrades Remember*

Many organizations supported the veterans in their pledge to remember their comrades who had 'made the supreme sacrifice' in The Great War 1914-1918. An early newsletter of the Vimy Branch included chilling facts about that conflict:

*Enlistments in Canada – 619,936, 25% of the male population between 18 and 45 years.*

*Served outside Canada – 424,589*

*Deaths while in service – 61,061*

*Buried in France – 37,900; in United Kingdom – 3,500; in Canada – 9,000.*

*On the Menin gate at Ypres – 7,000 Canadians with no grave.*

*On the Vimy Memorial – 11,200 Canadians with no grave.*

In 1919, the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, long supportive of the armed forces, commenced planning a memorial for the war dead. They proposed a hospital for sick children. Londoners supported the project and War Memorial Children's Hospital opened near Victoria Hospital on South Street in October 1922.

There remained a feeling, however, that a cenotaph was needed for services to commemorate their endeavors. Again the IODE took the lead. With the support of many organizations and the two Canadian Legion branches in London, the decision was made in 1925 to erect a smaller replica of the cenotaph in Whitehall, London, England. The plans were purchased from Sir Edward Lutyens, the architect, in 1929. However, the depression delayed construction until 1934.

A full-size wooden replica was constructed, stored in the Armories, and moved onto Dundas Street each November for the Armistice Day ceremonies until the permanent structure was completed. On Saturday, November 10, 1934, the monument, of stone quarried near Niagara, was dedicated at the southeast

corner of Victoria Park. Hundreds of citizens and veterans, plus militia and permanent force troops, attended. The band of the Royal Canadian Regiment played. The choir of St. Paul's Cathedral, under George Lethbridge, sang. Rev. Canon T.G. Wallace of St. James Westminster Anglican Church gave the prayer of invocation. Right Reverend Charles Seager, Anglican Bishop of Huron, and Right Reverend John T. Kidd, Roman Catholic Bishop of Huron, led the dedication ceremony. Mrs. John D. Detwiler, Regent of the Municipal Chapter, IODE, released the Union Jack to unveil the gleaming column.

The next day, Sunday, November 11, 1934, the first Remembrance Day service was held at the new memorial. Vimy Branch, #2 Branch, and the Springbank Branch from the Village of Byron, led the parade. Vimy members Ed Shuttleworth and Jack Gore were parade marshals. Vimy Branch has retained the honour to lead the parade each Remembrance Day ever since.

Canadian veterans embraced another symbol to remember – the red flower of the poppy plant. The British Empire Service League had adopted the flower and created the Poppy Fund to raise money for needy veterans and families. The Canadian Legion followed and the three branches in London – Byron, #2 and Vimy – held Poppy Days early in the 1930's before Armistice Day. Disabled veterans were trained to manufacture them and a special committee administered the money to assist the needy. The Poppy Fund often paid for artificial limbs and eyes.

A wave of young, brash and enthusiastic veterans swelled Vimy membership after World War II, which also produced more Canadian war dead to be remembered. They joined with their older comrades to create a very practical memorial – The Canadian Legion Memorial Boys Club.

Trevor Moore was Vice-President of Imperial Oil and also President of the Boys' Clubs of Canada. He outlined the plan to several Vimy members: Jack Stevens [President 1941], Gordon Thompson, Charlie Ivey [President 1938], Doug Weldon [President 1935], Verse Cronyn, Russ Beattie

[President 1946], Bill Poole [President 1960], and Ken Ingram [President 1933]. The need was evident because the new Roosevelt Branch had been operating a club for boys since 1956 and found their facilities and resources were inadequate.

On May 29, 1962 Jack Stevens invited officials of all London branches to meet and discuss a communal effort. They agreed and a committee was elected:

President – Gordon Leghorn	Roosevelt Branch
Secretary – Gordon Bartram	Vimy Branch
Directors	Duchess of Kent Branch
Max Hudson	No 2 Branch
Herbert Lush	Vimy Branch
Bert Weir	Tweedsmuir Branch
Robert McKeown	Coronation Branch
Pat Whiting	Polish Veterans Club
Lien Macaguir	Vimy Branch
William Poole	Vimy Branch
Jack Stevens	Vimy Branch

This executive agreed to assume responsibility for the Roosevelt Branch club and re-named it The Canadian Legion Memorial Boys Club. In 1964, through the sole good offices of Jack Stevens, the executive acquired a 40-year-old house on Simcoe Street. Remodeling provided a games room and lounge on the first floor, a carpentry shop in the basement, clubroom and office on the second floor. Almost immediately there were 40 members, and 230 by the end of 1965. Bob Fallis, an RCAF veteran and Vimy member, was the full-time paid director from 1965 to 1973, and recalled:

“The boys needed this outlet for their energies. They enjoyed the friendships they made and appreciated the adult guidance without too many restraints. The clubhouse was crowded with boys who had nowhere to go and within two years we needed more room.”

Jack Stevens again took the initiative and obtained pledges from all legion branches. Then he conducted a personal

campaign amongst his friends, many of them Vimy members. The capital fund was well along when a building became available at an attractive price. Union Gas sold its surplus warehouse and service centre on Horton Street to the Boys Club for \$100,000. The building had been constructed in 1880 as a school, then became a cigar factory and later the Union Gas centre. Remodeling provided metal and woodworking shops, auto and bicycle repair shops, photography laboratory and a lounge with a stage for theatricals.

This new facility opened in 1969 and within a few months membership was over 300. Bob Fallis recalled: “We kept membership dues at \$1.00 a year for older boys and fifty cents for the young ones. We didn’t want any boy excluded because he couldn’t afford it. Legion branches and voluntary donations paid most of the bills, with Vimy Branch members leading the way.”

By 1971 the name had been changed to The Canadian Legion Memorial Boys and Girls Club and mixed membership passed the 500 mark. More space was needed. Once again Jack Stevens worked his magic. Half a million dollars built a gymnasium and swimming pool. Don Smith, President of Ellis-Don Construction, built at cost. On November 21, 1974, the expanded club opened, but Jack Stevens was absent. He died the previous May. His widow told the young members: “Always remember the war veterans who have done so much for their country and their community so that you may be free and happy.” The gymnasium and pool were dedicated to the memory of two Vimy members: Colonel George W. Little [President 1949] and Colonel William H. Kippen. The Ladies Auxiliary of Tweedsmuir Branch furnished the lounge and stocked the library.

Many Vimy members served on the executive to 1983: Gerry Wilson [President 1982], Pat Patterson, John Stevens, Ben Lowry, Walter Bell [President 1968], John Howitt [President 1966], Doug Parnell, and Gordon Bartram. By 1977 the club had outgrown the resources of the legion branches and

the club joined the United Way so that it could receive grants from this community fund. Vimy Branch continued modest financial support, but involvement waned.

Bob Fallis, from retirement, said: "The project is a great success. The club has saved a lot of young people and helped them to go straight. I have met some of the members who are now adults and they have told me how much the club meant to them. Legion members can be proud of their initiative."

As this updated history is written in 2006, the club continues to grow and prosper.

The old soldiers of The Great War faded away rapidly during the 1970's, and the next generation of Vimy members slid into retirement age with deeper feelings to remember their comrades of WWII.

Jack Mahoney was a major in a Western Canada regiment when he was awarded the Victoria Cross in Italy in 1944. He settled in London when he retired from the army in 1962. He was a long-time secretary of Vimy Branch until a few years before his death in December 1990. His comrades decided to erect a lasting memorial to him and on Remembrance Day 1992, after the cenotaph service, dedicated his portrait in the veterans' alcove in London City Hall.

During 1994 Canada prepared for a major celebration to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Victory in Europe – May 1945.

Bruce Urquhart [President 1992] was named Chairman of the 'Canada Remembers' program in London. The London United Services Institute proposed a Wall of Remembrance, with portraits of the city's war dead, as its contribution to the many celebrations. Vimy director Bill Corfield assumed this responsibility and used the original Book of Remembrance.

After World War II, the Silver Cross Mothers provided portraits and biographies of their sons who had died in the war. Military historian Colonel F.B. Ware spent several years to hand-script each page, mount available portraits, and assemble the tribute. This Book of Remembrance was dedicated in 1950 and placed on display in the entrance of London City Hall.

This original memorial was removed from its case in 1995 and each page was photographed twice. One set of portraits was mounted for the display in the Art Gallery. The second set was bound into a research copy and placed in the Central Library.

Hundreds of students reviewed the portraits of the war dead. Most were surprised to see that these warriors were so young. The Wall of Remembrance brought the London United Services Institute an award from Governor-General Romeo LeBlanc 'for a special contribution to the Canada Remembers program'. Bill Corfield received a citation from London's Mayor Dianne Haskett 'for keeping alive the memory of countless veterans who went to war that we may have peace'.

The Wall of Remembrance also sparked another nostalgic project for Vimy Branch. The Book of Remembrance contained the hand-scripted names of 480 young men but only 160 were presented with portraits and service records. Vimy President Charles Grigg and his directors wondered if research could discover more information about London's war dead. A committee of Bill Corfield, Archie Munro [President 2003], Ken West [President 1993] Dan Bonner [President 1996] and Gerry Chase were able to increase the Honor Roll to over 500. They collected service and casualty information for most of them, plus portraits of another sixty. On November 11, 1999 navy veteran Jim Driver [President 1998], army veteran Bob Mahar [President 2001] and air force veteran John McClure [President 2002] read representative salutes to one casualty of each service. Vimy Chaplain The Venerable Archdeacon John N. Doidge dedicated the Book of Remembrance Volume II, which was placed in City Hall in its glass case beside the original memorial. Research copies were donated to civic archives and the public library reference room.

Canadian veterans continued pilgrimages on anniversaries of major battles of WWII and Vimy members participated. Ivor Williams [President 1995] went to France in 1994 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of D-Day, June 6, 1944.

Lloyd Stevens was one of the thousands of veterans who returned to France on the fiftieth anniversary of VE-Day in 1995. Arch Munro [President 2003] and Lloyd Stevens joined the Canadian Legionnaires in Normandy in 2005 for the sixtieth anniversary of Victory in Europe – May 8, 1945. Les Davison [President 2004] visited Holland several times and remembered the battles around Arnhem.

The Canadian Government decreed that 2005 would be The Year of the Veteran, to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of Victory in Europe. To participate in this memorial, the directors decided to discontinue the small, annual donations to the Memorial Boys and Girls Club and donate \$1,000 to the Veterans' Wing at Parkwood Hospital.

And so this story ends, the way it began seventy-six years ago, with a new generation of Friends and Comrades carrying on the inspiration that emerged from the first gathering in Longwood Inn in Lambeth in November 1929:

[a] There would be two meetings a year.

[b] The meetings would take the form of a dinner on dates, which would coincide as closely as possible with the anniversaries of the Armistice and the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

[c] That the branch would never at any time seek to acquire a clubroom.

[d] That it would be a good idea to have music or some form of entertainment at the dinner meetings.

[e] That the executive would carry out all the business of the branch and would call upon any member to render assistance to any veteran in need or for any other cause in which the branch was interested.

[f] That the officers and executive be nominated each year by the Nominating Committee.

\*

*We will remember them*

## *Officers and Executive 2010*

### **President**

**Major G.D. Robinson**

### **Honorary Vice-Presidents**

**Lieutenant-Commander W.R. Poole**

**Colonel E. C. Quinn**

**Squadron Leader L.I. Williams**

### **Past President**

**Major R.R. Doyon**

### **Vice-President**

**Major J.A. Conyers**

### **Treasurer**

**Major R.R. Doyon**

### **Secretary**

**Mr. W.J. Slade**

### **Membership**

**Lieutenant-Colonel B.N. Harris**

### **Director of Music**

**Mr. George Laidlaw**

### **Chaplain**

**The Ven. Archdeacon John N. Doidge**

### **Directors**

**Flight Lieutenant Donald Bondy**

**Lieutenant-Colonel W.H. Haley**

**Flight Lieutenant S.W.H. Haley**

**Lieutenant-Commander M.J. Hoare**

**Lieutenant-Colonel R.G. Moore**

**Captain S.L. Ricketts**

**Major M.R. Steele**

**Lieutenant-Commander M. Van Den Bossche**

## *Presidents of Vimy Legion*

<b>1929-1930</b>	<b>Brigadier Murray M. Dillon</b>
<b>1931</b>	<b>Captain J.G. Gillanders</b>
<b>1932</b>	<b>Colonel G. Eric Reid</b>
<b>1933</b>	<b>Lieutenant H. Kenneth Ingram</b>
<b>1934</b>	<b>Sergeant Major Lyle E. Mills</b>
<b>1935</b>	<b>Lieutenant Colonel D. B. Weldon</b>
<b>1936</b>	<b>Major D. J. H. Ferguson</b>
<b>1937</b>	<b>Captain Robert I. Watt</b>
<b>1938</b>	<b>Captain Charles H. Ivey</b>
<b>1939-40</b>	<b>Gunner G. F. Kingsmill</b>
<b>1941</b>	<b>Private Jack H. Stevens</b>
<b>1942</b>	<b>Major L. Thomas Hayman</b>
<b>1943</b>	<b>Colonel J. Innes Carling</b>
<b>1944-45</b>	<b>Captain Edward H. Shuttleworth</b>
<b>1946</b>	<b>Brigadier Russel H. Beattie</b>
<b>1947</b>	<b>Captain George W. Foote</b>
<b>1948</b>	<b>Squadron Leader H. F. Davison</b>
<b>1949</b>	<b>Colonel George W. Little</b>
<b>1950</b>	<b>Lieutenant Colonel H. L. Hayman</b>
<b>1951</b>	<b>Lieutenant [N] John B. Nash</b>
<b>1952</b>	<b>Squadron Leader Jack E. Jennings</b>
<b>1953</b>	<b>Major Donald J. Urquhart</b>
<b>1954</b>	<b>Captain [N] Joseph J. Jeffery</b>
<b>1955</b>	<b>Lieutenant G. W. H. Bartram</b>
<b>1956</b>	<b>Wing Commander Gordon M Burns</b>
<b>1957</b>	<b>Lt. Commander [N] F.N.D. Carmichael</b>

<b>1958</b>	<b>Captain H. W. Hockin</b>
<b>1959</b>	<b>Lieutenant Colonel Richard M. Dillon</b>
<b>1960</b>	<b>Lt. Commander [N] W.R. Poole</b>
<b>1961</b>	<b>Lieutenant Colonel G. E. Humphries</b>
<b>1962</b>	<b>Captain Norman McBeth</b>
<b>1963</b>	<b>Colonel C. C. Ross</b>
<b>1964</b>	<b>Captain Arthur M. LeBel</b>
<b>1965</b>	<b>Lieutenant Colonel W. R. Buchner</b>
<b>1966</b>	<b>Major John O. Howitt</b>
<b>1967</b>	<b>Major Joseph W. Nolan</b>
<b>1968</b>	<b>Lieutenant [N] Walter E. Bell</b>
<b>1969</b>	<b>Captain Bentley I. Baldwin</b>
<b>1970</b>	<b>Major John B. Stratton</b>
<b>1971</b>	<b>Lieutenant William J. Robinson</b>
<b>1972</b>	<b>Wing Commander G. A. MacDougall</b>
<b>1973</b>	<b>Captain W. Joyce Roadhouse</b>
<b>1974</b>	<b>Lieutenant Colonel L. S. Lauchland</b>
<b>1975</b>	<b>Major Kenneth B. Keefe</b>
<b>1976</b>	<b>Lieutenant [N] Donald C. McGeachy</b>
<b>1977</b>	<b>Lieutenant Colonel J. P. Macpherson</b>
<b>1978</b>	<b>Major John P. Cook</b>
<b>1979</b>	<b>Flying Officer John N. Given</b>
<b>1980</b>	<b>Lieutenant Colonel Jack Harris</b>
<b>1981</b>	<b>Major Ron S. Macnab</b>
<b>1982</b>	<b>Flight Lieutenant Gerrie E. Wilson</b>
<b>1983</b>	<b>Major Wally F. Stott</b>
<b>1984</b>	<b>Warrant Officer John Stevens</b>
<b>1985</b>	<b>Brigadier General Alex R. McIntosh</b>
<b>1986</b>	<b>Surgeon Lieutenant [N] W. W. Wilkins</b>
<b>1987</b>	<b>Squadron Leader T. Barry Nelligan</b>
<b>1988</b>	<b>Leading Seaman William G. Reid</b>
<b>1989</b>	<b>Lieutenant Colonel Sam Lerner</b>
<b>1990</b>	<b>Lieutenant Commander W. J. Magee</b>
<b>1991</b>	<b>Brigadier General William P. Doohan</b>

1992	Major Bruce A. Urquhart	
1993	Pilot Officer B. Kenneth West	
1994	Lieutenant- Colonel Fred M. Vine	
1995	Squadron Leader Ivor Williams	
1996	Lieutenant-Colonel Dan. J. Bonner	
1997	Lieutenant H. Kenneth Wooster	
1998	Chief Petty Officer James Driver	
1999	Squadron Leader Charles F. Grigg	
2000	Colonel Edwin C. Quinn	
2001	Captain Robert Mahar	
2002	Wing Commander John McClure	
2003	Flight Lieutenant Archie A. Munro	
2004	Corporal Les Davison	
2005	Major Kenneth A. Tanswell	
2006	Flying Officer William Reid	and
2006	Major Richard A. Wilson	
2006,07	Major C. Jack Malone	
2008	Lieutenant-Colonel Malcolm J. Kay	
2009	Major Robert R. Doyon	
2010	Major G. Dale Robinson	

Note: Ranks shown are the most recent and not necessarily those when the Presidents were in office.

From 2006 to December, 2009

It is often said that some things never change. True enough, but some things *do* change. The following pages outline the things that changed or were at least different for the Vimy branch over a three year period.

As his father had years before him (1940's through the 1970's), Ken Wooster waved the baton as leader of the Vimy orchestra. Ken's period of leadership was from 1998 to 2007. In that year, he passed the baton to George Laidlaw, a retired secondary music teacher.

The musical group, now much more a band than an orchestra, continues to entertain with military marches, songs of World Wars I and II, and swing era classics. Dinner guests and members alike continue to be thrilled by the fine sounds produced by the band. It is, as one member recently expressed it, "the thing that makes our branch unique."

In addition to the countless members who have served in Canada's Active Forces during twentieth century wars, in peacekeeping missions, and other peace time roles, more and more of our newer members have and do serve in the Reserve Forces. It is only in the past 15 years that Reservists have been welcomed into the branch. More than 20 current Vimy members have served exclusively in the reserves, including more than half a dozen who have commanded their reserve units. Since the 2006 publication alone, these include LCdr Mark Van Den Bossche (HMCS Prevost); LCol Ian Haley (1 Hussars); and LCol Brian Harris and LCol Richard Phillips (22 Service Battalion).

Prior to transferring from the Regular Force to the Reserve Force, LCol Phillips completed a nine month tour in Afghanistan. His account of that posting follows.

**One of our Vimy members is comrade Lieutenant-Colonel Rick Phillips, current CO of 22 Service Battalion. The following, in his words, is his description of his 2007 tour with NATO forces in Afghanistan**

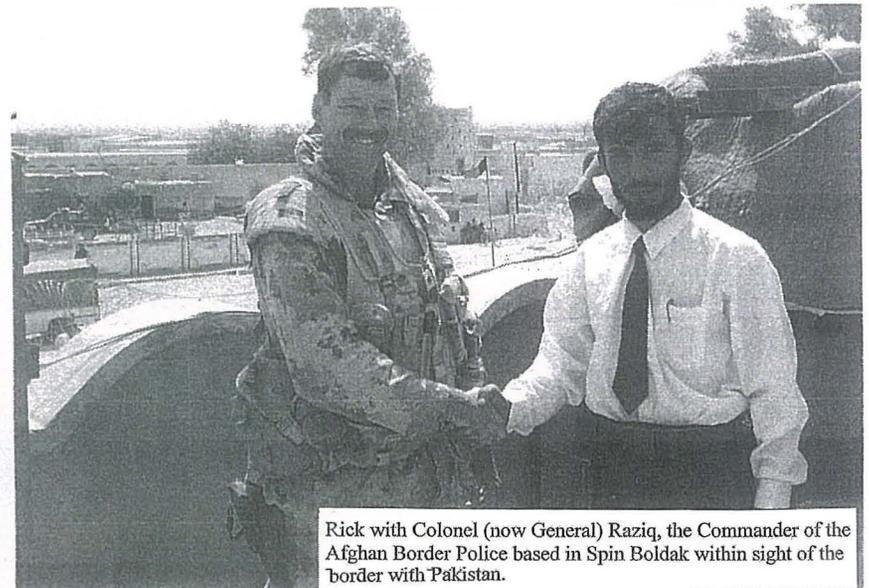
Afghanistan tour of LCol Rick Phillips, Jan – Sep 07

“After completion of my tenure as Chief of Staff of 31 CBG, here in London, I volunteered for a tour in Afghanistan. I completed my pre-deployment training in Petawawa and Kingston in the fall, and departed on 18 January 2007. Upon arrival a few days later, I was informed that my job had changed. I was to be the Liaison Officer (LO) for the Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan (CSTC-A) in Southern Region, a new position based in Kandahar. This was an American organization, and my role was to facilitate capability development of the Afghan National Police (ANP) and to coordinate the security meetings for the key leadership in Southern Region (ISAF, ANP, Afghan Army, UN, Afghan Border Police, Afghan Security Directorate, NGOs such as USAID, etc).

This was an interesting position that required that I visit key Afghan Police and Border Police locations in the provinces of Kandahar, Uruzgan and Hellmand, all in Southern Region. The CSTC-A programmes being delivered included weapons, ammunition, clothing, vehicles, communications and over 100 new buildings to police headquarters at the Regional, Provincial, and District level. One of my first tasks was to inspect the construction of the Regional Police Headquarters complex, and authorize the local contractor’s payment of about \$500K (US). A key challenge was to ensure that we weren’t providing buildings or other items to Police Districts that were not under ‘friendly’ control.

The security meetings progressed well in Southern Region, both Regionally and Provincially, becoming an important venue for all key players to discuss specific security concerns and plan operations, and for building relationships and trust. Having survived a summer of consistent 45 degree C temperatures for a few months, and over 50 road convoys and a half-dozen helicopter trips, it was time to come home in early September. I was pleased that my tour had involved interaction with the Afghan leadership of the Police, Border Police, Army, Security Directorate and the various US and NATO Headquarters commanders and staff, and that I had been able to get out of the Kandahar Airfield camp on a regular basis.”

Rick closes his piece with an interesting and personal touch. “By coincidence, I was in theatre for the entire tour of my daughter, a captain with the Artillery, who spent most of her time in Forward Operating Bases keeping the insurgents’ heads down with her troop of two M777 howitzers. We shared my birthday in Kandahar Airfield with a Tim Horton’s ice-cap and ice cream for dessert.”



Rick with Colonel (now General) Raziq, the Commander of the Afghan Border Police based in Spin Boldak within sight of the border with Pakistan.

## From Vimy 11 to Vimy 1

In November, 2008, then president Mal Kay, member Ron Patrick, and their wives joined a group of 30 other Ontarians on the "Maple Leaf Route" tour. Guided by Belgian born and raised Jacques Pauwel, now a Brantford travel agent, this group visited WW1 and WW11 Canadian battlefields and military cemeteries from Juno Beach to Arnhem and dozens of sites between.

Mal had been in touch through the previous summer with the director of the Vimy Ridge Memorial to arrange the group's visit and the presentation of a plaque from Vimy Branch 145, designed to rekindle the historic connection between the two Vimys. The French commemorate Remembrance Day on the Sunday before 11 November. In 2008, that was Sunday, 09 Nov., and that is the day the Kays, the Patricks et al arrived at Vimy.

On the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the armistice which ended the Great War, several hundred gathered on that clear, bright, but decidedly cool Sunday to take part in the ceremony. Dignitaries, both civil and military, as well as bands, came from France, Belgium, the UK, Canada, and the US. Scores of wreaths were laid, hymns sung (in a mix of languages), prayers incanted, and tributes paid.

Following a tour of the site, the Ontario group, in response to an invitation from the site director, attended a soiree/reception in the nearby town of Vimy. It was here, for many onlookers to see and hear, that Ron and Mal presented our plaque. It reads:

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, VIMY BRANCH 145**

**FOUNDED BY VIMY VETERANS**

**Presented November, 2008**

## BILL CORFIELD'S ADDRESS TO VIMY

At the Vimy dinner of 03 April, 2009, Bill Corfield was the "guest" speaker. This longtime Vimy member and respected local historian and author offered us a look at the branch's past and a challenge for its future. Here are his words from that 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting.

**"During 1927 and 1928, a group of energetic, progressive London survivors of the Great War became disillusioned with the veterans club they had joined. They did not protest nor argue nor destroy. These comrades quietly formed their own fraternal organization that they named after the Battle of Vimy Ridge, and it has survived for eighty years.**

**They wrote a simple set of guidelines: A. there would be two meetings a year, B. the meetings would take the form of a dinner on dates that would coincide as closely as possible with the Armistice and the Battle of Vimy Ridge, *And for eighty years there has been no change* C. The branch would never at any time seek to acquire a club room. *And for eighty years there has been no change.* D. It would be a good idea to have music or some form of entertainment at the dinners meetings. *And for eighty years this has been followed.* Vimy orchestra was born and has been one of the great morale building elements that have made this branch unique in all of Canada. The 1933 program records that 'for the first couple of meetings, the Vimy Orchestra was a string trio composed of Murray Dillon, Edgar Westby, and Ed Shuttleworth. The next dinner we recruited a super drummer, Gordon Thompson, and annually musicians were added'.**

The charter was issued in March 1929, and we should salute the fourteen founding members: Col Ibbotson Leonard, Lt Col E.G. Shannon, Lt Col Charles Grafton, Lt Col W.H. Kippen, Maj D.J.H. Ferguson Maj H.K. Ingram, Capt A.M. Dillon, Capt M.M. Dillon, Capt J.M. Watt, Capt D.B. Weldon, Capt. H. Dickin-son, Lieut M.P.A. Hare, Lieut Lloyd Chapman, and Lieut George Cogdon.

By the November 1933 dinner, the membership was exactly one hundred. The first wave of comrades enjoyed their boisterous reunions until the end of World War II when they were suddenly invaded by a gaggle of impudent young veterans who seemed to have no respect for anything. They were welcomed, it says in the history, but there were some reservations. There were some rumblings of dissent, not animosity by any means, but a resistance to change which occurred when this second wave of veterans flooded the dinners in the Hotel London and forced some of the old-timers to sit in the annex.

The 'old sweats' and the new arrivals rapidly assimilated into a vigorous Vimy Legion that really continued unchanged. However, the Canadian Legion was changing to admit relatives and others. There were those who worried that this branch's unique personality might change. So there was an understanding that only World War II and Korean veterans would be accepted. The year 1952 became the cut-off date. At some point, when I was a director, I was asked if I could figure out when membership would be so few that vibrant dinners were no longer possible. I figured that attendance of thirty must be a minimum and the branch then terminated with dignity.

I forget now which year I made this projection for termination, but I think it was about now. I counted the number of pre-'52 vets here tonight and arrived at 24. Fortunately, the Armageddon was avoided.

There were several influential members who wanted the base commander, the RCR commander, and so on, as members. After a lengthy discussion, I think it was Fred Vine who proposed that they simply add three words to the membership policy – "and by invitation". So post-1952 veterans and servicemen have been invited and they have joined, and we're sure glad they did. They have formed the third wave of enthusiasts that have given this branch new life.

Just as Howard Hayman became the first president from the second wave in 1950, Ed Quinn became the first president from the current one, in 2000.

Let us return to those early guidelines that the founders wrote. I omitted Clause E: that the executive would carry out all the business of the branch and would call upon any member to render assistance to any veteran in need or for any other cause in which the branch was interested. Vimy branch has fulfilled this veterans' service in many ways over the eight decades.

Colonel G.Eric Reid, the third Vimy president, established the Eric Reid Home that provided rooms and meals during the 1930's and '40's for veterans on small pensions. The branch put on Christmas dinners at the Hotel London during the Depression and few vets left without warm clothing if it was needed.

Doug Weldon, one of the founders and 1935 president, was the first chairman of the London Poppy Fund in '33 and also a leader in creating the local executive of the Corps of Commissionaires (London) that provided employment for vets.

Vimy Branch raised \$5000 to build a Reception Centre at the CNR Station in 1944 from which member George Foote and volunteers welcomed vets who were returning home. Jack Stevens and Vimy Branch founded the Boys Club in 1964 and sustained it over the years until now it is a great community facility as the Boys and Girls Club of London.

After the parade on Nov. 11, 1992, Vimy contingent swung left into City Hall and dedicated the portrait of longtime secretary, Jack Mahoney, VC. Among many celebrations during 1995 to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe, Vimy joined with the Military Institute to create the Wall of Remembrance in the Art Gallery, portraits of London's WW11 casualties. *(Writer's note: The mammoth and exciting parade of 08 May, 1995 resulted from 18 months of work by a committee which had at least five Vimy members. That group was chaired by Bruce Urquhart. Bob Newman was the parade commander, Mal Kay its Adjutant with Fred Vine taking the salute for the city. Other Vimy members were included in the procession and/or its planning.)*

This led in 1999 to the dedication of the second volume of the Book of Remembrance that Vimy financed when it was realized that dozens of war dead had been omitted from the first.

Over the years, Bob Mahar, 2001 president, was chairman of the committee that arranged the Remembrance Day parade and ceremony. He also needed City Hall for years to improve the deteriorating surroundings at the cenotaph. Bob was always front and centre at the decoration of the war graves and the remembrance services at Westminster and Parkwood Hospitals.

It would be fitting, as an eighty year project, if a third edition of *FRIENDS AND COMRADES* was presented to new members of the Third Wave so that these good deeds of the past would encourage them to continue Vimy's fine legacy. I suggest, also, that they may have a challenge not encountered previously – the need to maintain a steady program of education and recruitment to maintain membership.

And so tonight there are no warriors from the first wave. Bill Davis and David Sanderson were the last to attend in 1997, the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vimy Ridge. Those impudent youngsters from the second wave, now venerable gentlemen, please rest easy in your chairs because the vibrant youngsters of the third wave are going to leap to their feet, and to terminate this eightieth anniversary celebration, salute the founders and builders.

**OVER TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT!"**

## *To You We Pass the Torch.....*

It is sad but not unexpected that an eighty year old organization would see the deaths of many of its members. The last of Vimy's World War 1 vets died a dozen or more years ago, and time is catching up to others as well. The twelve month period from Oct. 2008 to Oct. 2009 took a particularly heavy toll with eleven of our members passing on. When this writer became Membership Chairman in 2003, Vimy had 136 members. By the time my tenure ended in 2007, we stood at 112, despite our having welcomed well over a dozen new members in that period. The drop in numbers matches the projections done by Bill Corfield some years ago and included in his 2009 address.

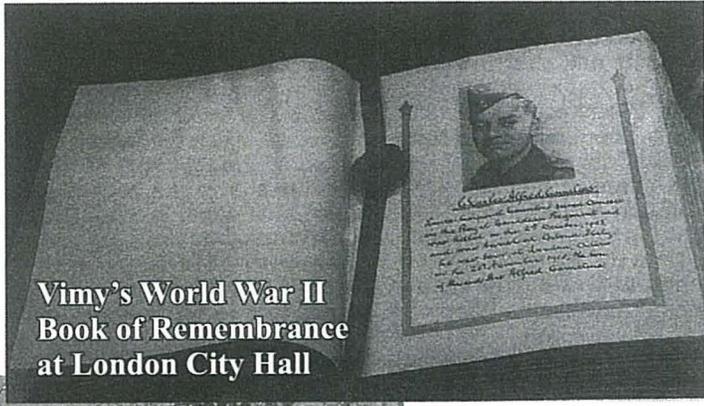
It was only in very recent years that the Dillon family association with Vimy came to an end. The early pages of this history note that M. Murray Dillon was the branch's first president (1929) and that A.M. Dillon (Arthur, as it turns out) was among the 14 founding members. A few hours of research have failed to establish a blood link between Murray and Arthur, but there is no speculation about Richard M. Dillon and Michael T. Dillon. These two longtime members, senior officers both in times of peace and of war and highly regarded in their civilian professions (engineering and medicine respectively) were the sons of Brigadier Murray. They both held memberships in Vimy branch for years, even when Dick moved to Toronto. Colonel Richard Dillon died in April, 2008 followed by his brother Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Dillon in August, 2009. The eighty year presence of the Dillons in Vimy branch concluded with those deaths.

## **New Rules of Governance**

After eighty years of operating – quite successfully, it should be added – under the six simple rules outlined earlier by Bill Corfield, the 2009 directors felt the time had come to add some meat to those bare bones. Questions were arising concerning issues such as appointment of officers, duties of various office holders, “recycling” of former officers, qualifications for Vimy membership, and others.

Comrades John McClure and Jim Driver, both past presidents of the branch, were tasked to develop a working paper that would allow the directors to put some updating in place. Jim and John presented their thorough and well considered draft proposals for discussion on 17 September '09. With only minor revisions suggested, these proposals were accepted and became Vimy policy. They are sufficiently flexible that they can be revised as required and, of significant importance, they do not alter or abandon any of the original six points which formed the Vimy constitution. They only serve to remove any possible ambiguity from those early policies.

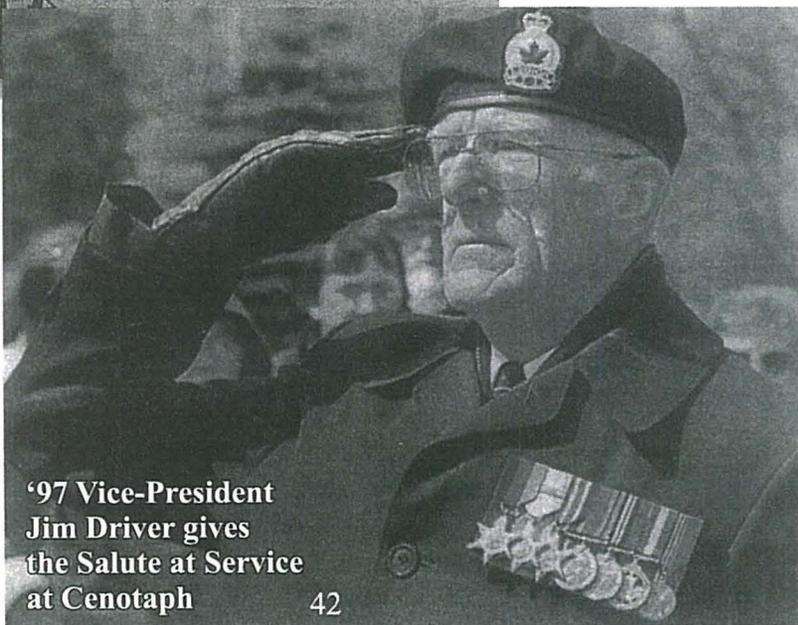
Perhaps the most timely proposal has to do with the addition of the following clause to the traditional list (and the more flexible RC Legion list) of those who qualify for Vimy membership: “An individual who has been invited by the Branch Executive to become a member because of his/her standing in the community or his/her service to the community.” Even casual reading of this clause will allow the reader to see that Vimy has turned a major corner here and has entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century. And definitely not kicking and screaming.



**Vimy's World War II  
Book of Remembrance  
at London City Hall**



**Vimy Members at  
Service Marking 80th  
Anniversary of Battle  
of Vimy Ridge (1997)**



**'97 Vice-President  
Jim Driver gives  
the Salute at Service  
at Cenotaph**

**Vimy Members & Friends  
at RCR 125th Anniversary**



**Phil Spencer**



**Jack Newbegin John Slade**



**Randy Warden**



**Jim "Scotty" Martin**

*Several photos courtesy of  
London Free Press,  
The Globe and Mail*



'95 President  
Ivor Williams



John McLure,  
87, thought of  
those who died.



Bob Doyon, 77,  
of Vimy branch,  
feels pride.

**Many Vimy Members attended  
London's 11 Nov. 2008 Parade  
90th Anniversary of  
"War to End All Wars"**



We present our Vimy Legion plaque  
to the Memorial site's director at a  
reception following the ceremony

... while Members Ron Patrick and Mal Kay attended in France



Richard "Dick" Dillon



*Charley Fox*  
February 26th, 1920  
October 18th, 2008

Two well known  
members to represent  
the many we've lost

*We Will Remember Them*

Charley Fox

*Members of Vimy Branch 145  
December, 2009*

ALAN K. ADLINGTON  
ALFRED ALDINGTON  
WILLIAM J. BAILEY  
PETER C. BARTLEY  
WALTER E. BELL  
THOMAS W. BIRD  
DONALD BONDY  
WILLIAM A. BOOK  
RONALD G. BOYCE  
D. W. C. BRENT  
THOMAS H. BURDETT  
HOWARD W. CAPES  
DONALD V. CARROLL  
J. ALLAN CONYERS  
JOHN W. COOK  
RAYMOND COOK  
WILLIAM E. CORFIELD  
RICHARD COWLING  
ROGER CRACKNELL  
STANLEY C. DAVIES  
LES DAVISON  
MICHAEL J. DEVINE  
STEVEN D. DEVINE  
JACK DOIDGE  
ROBERT R. DOYON  
JAMES DRIVER

JOHN DUNPHY  
ANTHONY E. ELMSLIE  
PHILIP S. FOULDS  
GEORGE M. FOX  
STEWART GEDDES  
IAN M. HALDANE  
STEVEN W. HALEY  
IAN C. HALEY  
DENIS M. HAMMOND  
THOMAS F. HAMMOND  
EDGAR R. HANCOX  
JACK HARRIS  
BRIAN N. HARRIS  
BRUCE A. HASTINGS  
GEORGE HINTON  
MIKE J. HOARE  
A. R. E. JAMESON  
MICHAEL I. JELLEY  
GEORGE E. JENKINS  
MALCOLM J. KAY  
RAYMOND E. KING  
ALLAN LADBROOKE  
GEORGE LAIDLAW  
ROY A. LANGDALE  
DOUGLAS LAUDER  
ERNEST W. LEE

WILLIAM J. MAGEE  
ROBERT H. MAHAR  
C. JACK MALONE  
GEORGE MARSHALL  
JAMES W. MARTIN  
BRIAN E. MAXWELL  
F.W. DOUG McANDLESS  
JOHN E. McCLURE  
ROBERT McDANIEL  
DONALD D. McGEACHY  
DONALD G. McLEAN  
STANLEY J. McPARLAND  
RICHARD G. MOORE  
J. G. MORDEN  
LLOYD C. MORRISON  
ARCHIE A. MUNRO  
HUGH NEILLY  
T. BARRY NELLIGAN  
JOHN A. NEWBEGIN  
SAMUEL F. NEWMAN  
PATRICK J. O'HAGAN  
ALAN D. PARR  
RONALD B. PATRICK  
EDWARD PETERS  
VICTOR C. PETROWSKI  
WILLIAM J. PETTIPAS  
RICHARD PHILLIPS  
WILLIAM R. POOLE  
EDWIN C. QUINN

JOHN RENNIE  
STEPHEN L. RICKETTS  
G. DALE ROBINSON  
KEITH B. RODEN  
VAUGHAN ROLLINS  
GEORGE W. SHORE  
W. JOHN SLADE  
PHILIP L. SPENCER  
KENNETH B. ST. CLAIR  
MICHAEL R. STEELE  
LLOYD F. STEVENS  
JOHN H. SUMNER  
KENNETH A. TANSWELL  
RICHARD THOMAS  
JAMES G. THOMPSON  
W. H. THOMSON  
CLIFFORD THORNTON  
MERLE R. TINGLEY  
RICHARD J. TONKIN  
MARK VAN DEN BOSSCHE  
RANDY WARDEN  
ROBERT A. WARING  
BERNARD T. WATTS  
DAVID B. WELDON  
DOUGLAS B. WELDON  
IVOR WILLIAMS  
J. RICHARD WILSON  
H. J. KENNETH WOOSTER  
ERNEST WOOTTON

# Our last WWI vet dies at 109

## Fitting farewell to come

IAN ELLIOT  
QMI Agency

KINGSTON — And then there were none.

Jack Babcock, who was born in Holleford north of Kingston in 1900 and who marched down Princess St. on his way to war, died Thursday night.

Canada's last surviving First World War veteran was 109.

The question now turns to how the country will — and should — remember him.

The federal department of Veterans Affairs has been in discussion with Babcock and his family for more than two years about the idea of giving him a state funeral. Parliament has already passed a motion authorizing such a service, normally only offered to former prime ministers and governors general.

It sits well with Jeremy Diamond of the Dominion Institute, whose Memory Project tries to keep alive stories of aging soldiers and which circulated a petition in favour of the state funeral that gathered nearly 100,000 names.

"The funeral would not be just for him, it would be in memory of all Great War veterans," Diamond said. If a state funeral is not on the table, Diamond would like to see the government observe a minute of silence or some other national gesture in recognition of what has been lost.

"It's our link to what many would consider our finest moment as a nation," said Diamond.

Babcock said several times that he does not want a funeral, let alone a state one.

"I haven't really thought about what will happen to our ashes after that."

While respecting the wishes of his family, there is unanimity that what the family wants for

OTTAWA — John (Jack) Babcock, Canada's last remaining veteran of the First World War, has died. He was 109.

Calling it "the end of an era," Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued a statement saying he was "deeply saddened" by Babcock's death, and extended his condolences on behalf of all Canadians.

"As a nation, we honour his service and mourn his passing," he said. "John Babcock was Canada's last living link to the Great War, which in so many ways marked our coming of age as a nation. In honouring his service and mourning his passing,

we honour the proud history of our country and pay tribute to all those who fought and died for Canada."

Babcock was born in 1900 in farmhouse in Holleford, Ont. — a small town north of Kingston — where he spent most of his childhood.



Babcock in 1920

He was only 15 when he enlisted and never saw active combat.

In 1916, he attempted to sail to England with the 146th Battalion, but was thwarted when the army discovered his true age.

When the war came to an end, he was in the Boys Brigade, still waiting to be old enough to fight.

"The names of those who were unfit were posted on the bulletin board, and since my name was not there, I found my pack and shipped out for Halifax where the 146th Battalion was to embark for England," Babcock once told QMI Agency.

But his company commander pulled him aside on the gangplank at Halifax, and his unit sailed without him.

Two weeks later, though, he was among 50 young men allowed to volunteer to go to



Canada's last surviving First World War veteran, John (Jack) Babcock, died Thursday at the age of 109.

QMI Agency files

Canada's last known First World War veteran John Babcock, left, sits next to his wife Dorothy after he was awarded the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation by then-Minister of Veterans Affairs, Greg Thompson, centre, in Spokane, Wash., in 2008. Babcock died Thursday at 109.

He returned home on Dec. 5, 1918, and was released from the army on New Year's Day, 1919.

Governor General Michaëlle Jean also offered her condolences to his Babcock's family.

"He always gave the best of himself," she said.

oured to be the Commander-in-Chief and Governor General to pay final tribute to Mr. Babcock."

"On behalf of all Canadians, we extend our deepest sympathies to his family and many friends who mourn his passing. May his accomplishments and his over-

In 1921, Babcock moved to the U.S. and again joined the army. In 1941, shortly after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Babcock again tried to enlist, but was turned down for being too old.

Instead, he built a career as

ried twice. He met his second wife, Dorothy, Dot for short, in the hospital where his first wife, Elsie, was being treated for the cancer that took her life.

Babcock was living in Spokane, Wash., with Dot when he died.

## ARY DINNER

adian Regimental  
a dinner on Wednes-  
ne Four Points Shera-  
its 125th anniversary

e.reeve@sunmedia.ca

DEC. 2008



Brig.-Gen. Phil  
Spencer, left, retired  
Maj.-Gen. Lewis  
Mackenzie and Claus  
Breede



Delaney, left, Randy Warden and Lynn Coates



Campbell, left, Squadron  
Newbegin and John Slade

## LAUDER, Douglas

as - Peacefully at his  
day January 31, 2010, Dr.  
k Lauder in his 93rd year.  
of the late Helen Lee  
979). Dear father of John  
eryl Lauder of Sidney B.C.,  
Bob) Lauder, Martin Lauder  
all of London and Peggy  
husband Rick Darwish of  
y 6 grandchildren and 3  
n. Dear brother of Elise  
o. Dear friend of Margaret  
and predeceased by 2  
and Allan, and 3 sisters,  
Jean. Dr. Lauder dedicated  
eopathic physician, working  
his 90th year. His healing  
patients worldwide. A  
will be held at LOGAN  
ME, 371 Dundas St.  
o and Colborne St.) on  
y 20, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.  
obert Foster officiating.  
held 1 hour prior to the  
n will follow at The One  
at 2:30 p.m. Friends who  
memorial donations to the  
line condolences can be  
loganfh.ca.



**HALDANE, Colonel Ian MacKenzie** - It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Colonel Ian MacKenzie Haldane in his 95th year. Ian passed away peacefully on February 16th, 2010 - at University Hospital in London - with his loving wife, Nell, and family members by his side. Beloved husband of Nell (Geleyne) for 54 Years; loving father of Elizabeth McLeod; Catherine Hendren and, son-in-law, Gordon; and Leslie Buck; loving grandfather and inspiration to Sean McLeod; Emily, Laura and Julia Hendren; Sophie, Emma and Charles Buck. Survived by his sister, Helen Kokovay, sisters-in-law Rhian Haldane and Jane Thompson, and fondly remembered by his extended family and friends, especially neighbours Shelly and Lucio Bergamin, Storm, Sam and Ben. Predeceased by sister Ella McCulloch, and by brothers James, Thomas, and Donald Haldane and Douglas Thompson. Ian lost his father, Thomas Haldane, before his third birthday. He conducted his life guided by the strong values he learned from his loving mother, Mrs. Maye D. Thompson, and grandmother, Mrs. Catherine McEwan Haldane, and spoke of them often. From humble beginnings, Ian achieved many successes in his life - with his own business, with his family and as a lifelong member of the London community. Ian served Canada as an officer during the Second World War (1942-1945) in England, North Africa, Italy, Belgium and Holland with the 8th New Brunswick Hussars (Princess Louise's). He later became the Lieutenant Colonel of the 8th Hussars and Honorary Colonel of the 22 Service Battalion in London, Ontario. Ian was one of the oldest living alumni of the University of Western Ontario, class of 1937, and was a member of the G. Edward Hall Society at Western. Ian embraced all of life's experiences to the fullest. He was a driving force taking so many of us along for the ride. His genuine interest in people and exceptional generosity resulted in many life-long friendships. He will be greatly missed. A memorial service will be held at Robinson Memorial United Church, 1061 Richmond Street, London, Ontario Saturday, March 6, 2010 (visitation at 2pm and service at 3pm). In lieu of flowers, donations in Ian's memory can be made to: Stephen Lewis Foundation (1 888 203 9990) or Epilepsy Canada (1 877-734 0873).

## Canadians' effort at Vimy worthy of Hollywood epic

Regarding the article, *Bringing Vimy to Canada* (March 13)

I can't say that I am enthusiastic about the idea of building a replica of the Vimy Memorial in Gatineau. My father fought at Vimy Ridge and the memorial there is a spectacular tribute to what has been described as the birth of a nation. I feel that the building of a replica would use money that could be better spent. Those who wish to see the memorial in person will do so. Those who can't afford to take such a trip will do it vicariously through some of the excellent imagery reproductions that exist. I can't believe anyone outside the immediate Ottawa area would go to much expense or effort to see a replica.

That being said, I certainly wouldn't oppose the idea of increasing Canadian awareness of the magnificent actions of our Canadian soldiers at Vimy.

How about an epic film to cover this event? If the British, Americans or Australians had accomplished this, there would have been a film made decades ago. The archives are replete with films about Iwo Jima, D-Day (with no mention of Canadians), Gallipoli, Pearl Harbour, Korea (again with no mention of Canadians), etc.

Surely it is well overdue, especially in the light of the fact that all who took part are dead. But what a tribute it would be, and how it would raise the awareness and pride in the youth of Canada, to have a Steven Spielberg/Tom Hanks production of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

When we have finished that one, then let's address the heroic actions of the members of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion who were among the first, if not the first, to set foot in Normandy the night of June 5-6, 1944, closely followed by another showing the landings of Canadians at Juno beach and the subsequent successes on D-Day itself.

That's where we should be putting our money and effort.

Col. (Ret.) R.L. Cowling  
London

LFP  
17 MAR '10

## Deaths

**LADBROOKE, Allen - P. Eng.** - passed away peacefully on Monday, March 22, 2010, in Victoria Hospital - LHSC. Born on August 25, 1920 in Bridgend, Wales, Allen is survived by his daughter Jane Lucas (Roy) and grandsons Mark and James in Canada, as well as many nieces and nephews, and his sister-in-law Beryl, in the UK. He was predeceased by his wife Betty, brothers John, Glynn and Mervin, sister-in-law Barbara and parents Ernest and Edith. As a youth he assisted his father with his milk delivery business in Wales, and after beginning his municipal engineering apprenticeship, Allen was conscripted in 1941 to the British Army and saw service overseas in Egypt, Palestine, Libya, Tunisia and Italy with the Eighth Army. Allen met his future wife Betty Loveluck in kindergarten. A friendship via correspondence blossomed during the war. Marriage followed in 1946 at which point Allen finished his training as an engineer. Allen immigrated to Canada in 1956 with Betty and Jane, beginning his career as a civil engineer for the province in Chatham. They moved to Peterborough where Allen was a municipal engineer for 11 years. From 1967 when he and Betty relocated to London, ON until 1973 he was the Manager of the Lake Huron-Lake Erie Water supply systems, the massive pipeline project which serves London and surrounding municipalities in southwestern Ontario, and the city of St. Thomas. In 1973 Allen became the Manager of Operations for all of Southwestern Ontario. He left the Ministry of Environment in 1980 and consulted privately until 1990. Throughout their lives, Allen and Betty travelled extensively, including Australia, Hong Kong, Alaska and many trips back home to Wales. Allen was an avid golfer and was an active member of the London Rotary club, Probus and the St. Anne's Anglican Church until his passing. Allen was a devoted grandfather visiting his grandsons regularly, first in Edmonton, and then Thunder Bay. A wonderful story teller and dispenser of advice, Allen will be missed by family, friends and neighbours for his wit and kindness. The family would like to recognize the very special support of his dear friend, Sharon Calvert and her family and the love and kindness shared by his friends Tara and Doug Gonder and Marion-Anne Gwalchmai. A funeral service will be held at St. Anne's Anglican Church, 1344 Commissioners Rd. on Saturday March 27 at 11 a.m. If desired, donations in lieu of flowers to Primates World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) c/o St. Anne's would be appreciated.

11000984

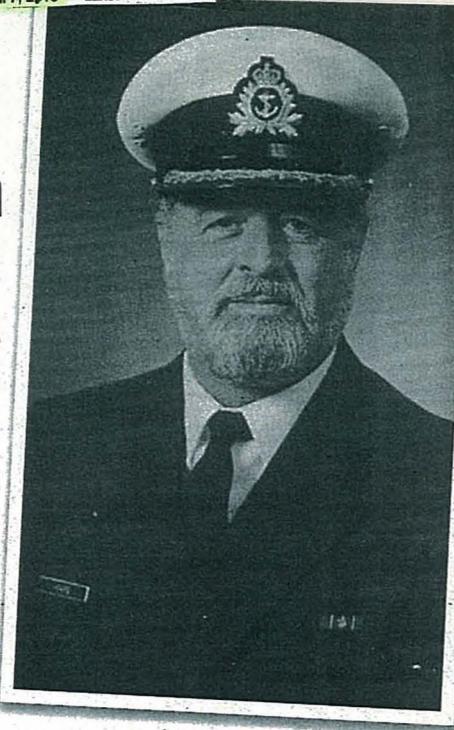
# Happy Birthday to the Canadian Navy

On May 4th, 1910, Canada's Navy was created by Sir Wilfrid Laurier's government with the passing of the Naval Service Act of Canada. This year, 2010, therefore marks the 100th anniversary of the Navy which will be recognized by festivities and ceremonies across the nation.

Initially known as the Naval Service of Canada, its early beginnings were closely tied to and modeled on the Royal Navy. It is said that Canada first gained a true sense of its own character, capacity and identity as a result of its national sacrifice and victory achieved at Vimy Ridge during the Great War. Her Navy certainly acquired that sense of purpose, capacity and identity in the long struggle of the Battle of the Atlantic, in the moments of the nation's most urgent peril during the Second World War.

Over 300 Canadian warships share their names with Canadian communities and naval representatives will be visiting those communities to commemorate and celebrate those ships and their sailors. Special events will occur across this nation in naval ships, in our 24 Naval Reserve Divisions and in communities with links to our Navy. Across the country there will be parades, special events, galas and events that will invite the public to be part of the Centennial celebration. This summer, our fleets in Halifax and Victoria will host Navies from around the world for International Fleet Reviews.

It is logical to assume that those who have served in Canada's Navy are most likely to be knowledgeable and enthused about 2010 marking its 100th year. However, as one of these individuals, I wanted to



ensure that my home community knew of this proud and historic event. HMCS Prevost is London's Naval Reserve Division and the closest naval entity to the Grand Bend area. A number of centennial events will take place in that location. To learn more about the Naval Centennial and associated events, you can access lots of interesting information at the following website: [www.navy.forces.gc.ca/centennial](http://www.navy.forces.gc.ca/centennial)

Remember to wish Canada's Navy a Happy Birthday on May 4th!

Lieutenant Commander (ret'd) Michael Hoare CD  
Grand Bend, ON

A Vimy DIRECTOR



**GRIGG, Charles (Chuck)** - Peacefully at Parkwood Hospital, on Tuesday, May 18th, 2010, Charles "Chuck" F. Grigg of London in his 90th year. Beloved husband of Marilyn E. (Rollins) Grigg. Loving father of Robert Grigg and his wife Denise of Calgary and Jayne Kennedy and her husband Michael of Hamilton. Also loved by his three grandchildren: Carly, Abbie (Colin) and Christopher (Nadine) and two great grandchildren: Ellie and Charlie. Dear brother of Marilyn A. Grigg of Mount Brydges, brother-in-law of Dorothy Grigg, and uncle to many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his brother Bill and sisters Dorothy Lucas and Joyce Grigg. The memorial service will be conducted at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd at Parkwood Hospital, 801 Commissioners Road East, on Friday, May 21, 2010 at 1:00p.m. with visitation one hour prior to the service. Private family interment of ashes at Mt. Brydges Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, those wishing to make a donation in memory of Chuck are asked to consider the Middlesex Kiwanis Club or Parkwood Hospital, Veteran's Care. **WESTVIEW FUNERAL CHAPEL**, (519) 641-1793 entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences accepted at [condolences@westviewfuneralchapel.com](mailto:condolences@westviewfuneralchapel.com)

**HANCOX, Edgar (Ed)** - Peacefully, University Hospital, on Thursday, June 2010, Ed Hancox of London in his year. Reunited with his beloved wife, Hancox (2007). Loving father of David, his wife Mary, and Diane Hancox. P and much loved grandad of Peter Michael. Ed will be remembered as the world's greatest Detroit Tigers' fan well as being a passionate principal of Saunders Sabres. Family and friends will receive on Sunday from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the **WESTVIEW FUNERAL CHAPEL**, Wonderland Road North, where memorial service will be conducted Monday, June 7, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. Rev. Brian McKay officiating. Cremation private interment at Woodland Cemetery. Donations in memory of Ed may be made to the Trust Fund at the Church of St. Ann Memorial, 55 Foxbar Road, London, 2A6. Online condolences may be sent [westview@execulink.com](mailto:westview@execulink.com)

# Gateway monument a tribute to veterans

JOE BELANGER  
The London Free Press

Bearing warm hearts in the face of bitterly cold winds, Londoners gave thanks to the city's war veterans with the unveiling of a new gateway monument for the parkway renamed in their honour.

The ceremony Friday on Veterans Memorial Parkway marked the 93rd anniversary of the start of the First World War battle at Vimy Ridge, a battle many historians say was a defining moment for Canada as a nation, an anniversary celebrated across the country by veterans and others.

Mayor Anne Marie DeCicco-Best, joined by several area MPs and MPPs, dedicated a new stone gateway monument just north of Hwy. 401 that identifies the former Airport Rd. as Veteran's Memorial Parkway.

"This collaborative landscaping project pays permanent tribute to the thousands of brave veterans who fought for our freedom so many years ago, as well as those who continue to do so today," the mayor said.

"In particular, the gateway monument reminds all Londoners and visitors that veterans are



London Mayor Anne Marie DeCicco-Best and Lt.-Col. James Martin speaking at the unveiling of the Veterans Memorial Parkway landscaping project Friday.

MORRIS LAMONT The London Free Press

the reason we enjoy the privilege of living in a free country."

The ceremony marked the start of a \$700,000 stimulus project — divided equally among the federal, provincial and civic governments — to landscape the parkway, which will add other

memorial elements and plantings, including about 20,000 trees, to improve the esthetics of the parkway and commemorate Canadian veterans.

Three busloads of veterans attended the ceremony, but were unable to leave the buses due to

the frigid wind and sleet.

But Lt.-Col. James (Scotty) Martin, master of ceremonies, thanked the politicians and their governments.

"Thank you, for a remarkable and beautiful gateway. All veterans thank you," said Martin, fill-

ing in for Royal Canadian Legion Zone Commander Art Scaddon, who was unable to attend.

Joe Preston, the Conservative MP for Elgin-Middlesex-London, represented the federal government, while the province was represented by Elgin-Middlesex-London MPP Steve Peters.

"We need to be proud of the work the men and women in our military do," Peters said. "Everything you've done has helped preserve our democracy and extend democracy to other nations."

"It's incumbent on us to remember and that is what this is all about today. We must always remember and never forget."

The ceremony was one of several held across Canada to commemorate the day in 1917 when Canadians stormed Vimy Ridge after allied forces were unable to budge the German army from the rise on French soil.

Vimy was the first time all four Canadian Expeditionary Force divisions joined in battle, elevating the four-day fight to a national symbol of achievement and sacrifice. It is considered by many to mark the birth of the nation independent of its British roots.

[joe.belanger@sunmedia.ca](mailto:joe.belanger@sunmedia.ca)

APRIL 2010



# FLYING OFFICER WILLIAM ("Willie", "Will", "Bill") CORFIELD IS 90!

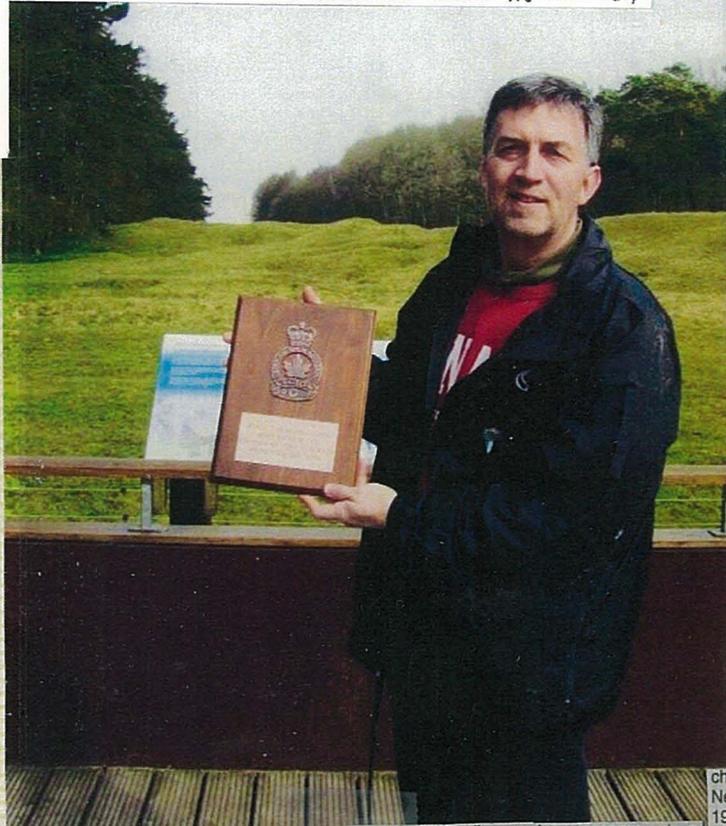
You are hereby invited to a  
SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY on  
SATURDAY 29 MAY 2010 at  
THE OFFICER'S MESS, WOLSEY  
BARRACKS, LONDON from 2pm-4pm.  
(cake-cutting 3pm, musical chairs 3:15pm,  
pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey 3:30pm,  
fly past and massed military bands 3:45pm)  
CASH BAR (great choice of draft beer)  
COFFEE, TEA, NIBBLES  
Plenty of Vehicular Parking  
NO STAIRS TO USE AT ALL!  
Directions: See p.

Tom has been married to his  
sweetheart Lillian for 67 years  
and is a veteran of World War II.

TOM HAMMOND  
TURNS 90  
ON MOTHER'S DAY  
MAY 9TH, 2010  
Born on Mother's Day  
May 9, 1920



VIMY MEMBER  
 MARK VANDEN BOSSCHE  
 AT VIMY RIDGE — APR 2010  
 (WITH OUR PLAQUE PRESENTED THERE IN NOV. '09)



Veterans Memorial Parkway

LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT  
 VETERANS MEMORIAL PARKWAY  
 LONDON, ONTARIO



November 5, 2010

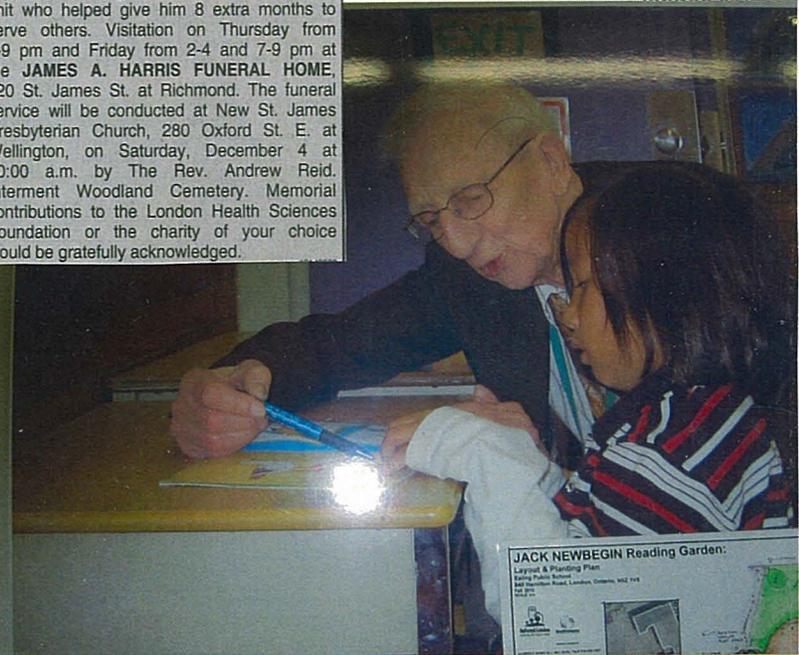


**NEWBEGIN, John A CD - Squadron Leader Royal Canadian Air Force**

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing, due to cancer, of John Arthur (Jack) Newbegin on November 27, 2010 at University Hospital in London, Ontario. He was pre-deceased by his father, John Henry (Jack), his mother, Eliza Coulson (Arkley), his sister Gwen (Thrower) and his wife Dorothy Jean (Bryan). He leaves behind his daughter, Barbara Newbegin, of Ottawa. Jack was born in 1917 in South Shields, England and immigrated with his family to Vancouver in 1927. When World War 2 began, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. He was later posted to a secret Radar Station to be Chief of Operations, where he remained until VJ Day. He then

worked as radio service manager at a company in Calgary. In 1948 he joined the permanent Air Force. Postings included NORAD (North American Aerospace Defence Command) Communications and Electronics Staff Officer and Deputy Director C&E Officer of Grand Forks Air Defence Sector in the United States. After 25 years of service, he retired in 1966 as Staff Communications Officer for Northern NORAD Headquarters at the underground complex in North Bay. Jack held the permanent military rank of Squadron Leader, and received many awards, including Certificates of Achievement for meritorious service from both NORAD in the United States and Northern NORAD in Canada. After retirement from the RCAF he worked at Northern Electric (Nortel) Research and Development Laboratories in London and retired from there in 1980. in charge of electronic component engineering and standards for the Apparatus Division. Since 1980 Jack was on the sponsoring committee with 614 Air Cadet Squadron, was with the Kiwanis Club of Middlesex, and was a director (including two years as president) of the Royal London Military Institute. He also spent over 10 years on the Planning Committee at the University of Western Ontario Senior Alumni and six years on the Board of Directors of London Goodwill Industries, the last year as vice

chairman. He was also an Elder Emeritus of New St. James Presbyterian Church. In 1993 he was awarded the Canada 125 Medal in celebration of the 125th Anniversary of Confederation. Through the Kiwanis Club of Middlesex, Jack served as a volunteer for 17 years at Ealing Public School in London, Ontario. In 2005 he was presented with the Thames Valley District School Boards' highest honour, the "Award of Distinction". He was well loved by the staff, the students and their families and was of great influence on the students. Jack's family and friends wish to express their appreciation to the nurses and doctors at University Hospital for their caring and support, including the staff of the dialysis unit who helped give him 8 extra months to serve others. Visitation on Thursday from 7-9 pm and Friday from 2-4 and 7-9 pm at the **JAMES A. HARRIS FUNERAL HOME**, 220 St. James St. at Richmond. The funeral service will be conducted at New St. James Presbyterian Church, 280 Oxford St. E. at Wellington, on Saturday, December 4 at 10:00 a.m. by The Rev. Andrew Reid. Interment Woodland Cemetery. Memorial contributions to the London Health Sciences Foundation or the charity of your choice would be gratefully acknowledged.



**JACK NEWBEGIN Reading Garden:**  
 Layout & Planting Plan  
 Ealing Public School  
 240 Ealing Road, London, Ontario, N6C 7Y3

From camp trenches to blazing desert heat, Canadian soldiers have endured the harshest conditions in times of war with an evolving cache of weapons, equipment and transport.

Compared to their First World War predecessors, today's modern-day troops are set up with highly sophisticated gear, scientifically designed and specifically adapted to the field environment. Nearly a century ago, it was more "trial and error."

"Then, it was finding some way to attach a hundred pounds' worth of stuff to a human body and have him carry it up to the front," said William Rawling, a Department of National Defence military historian and author.

Footwear and food supplies have also undergone major changes to help keep soldiers moving in combat conditions. But even though a variety of vehicles such as helicopters, LAVs and heavy-lift transport planes are all kept busy in the Afghanistan theatre, troops still rely heavily on their boots to get where they're going.

The First World War was relatively static, moving at a walking pace with soldiers digging in behind a front line between bursts of offensive and defensive operations. In Afghanistan, the enemy lines are blurred.

"The battlefield is everywhere, so mobility is at a premium," Rawling said.

In current conditions as in past wars, fighting and going on patrol while carrying heavy packs of ammunition and gear is physically exhausting, which is why the army requires solid training and strong physical fitness.

Weapons are much more powerful today, yet the undefined enemy and rules of engagement have dramatically changed the style of warfare.

"In the First World War the enemy was clear; the enemy was from a particular arc to another arc, that's where his trenches were. That is where you would expect an attack to come from, and that's where you would expect to be attacking if you went on the offensive," Rawling said.

"Now, not only can the enemy be anywhere or anyone, even people who may not be your enemy might open

*In the First World War, life for soldiers in the trenches — which were often cold, muddy and rat-infested — was miserable. Soldiers faced the enemy across a narrow strip of land. This "no man's land" of mud, barbed wire and shell craters was swept by enemy machine gun fire, and menaced by artillery and snipers. Soldiers had to run across this area to launch an attack. The dead and injured who fell in No Man's Land often could not be recovered.*



### Recruiting

- Based on age, health, marital and financial status — not on skills or abilities
- Physical limitations (height, age, disability) often ignored



### Basic training

- 10 weeks or more, focused on teaching soldiers how to use their equipment and tactics



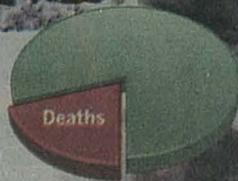
### Pay

- Approximately \$1.10 a day for a private in the infantry, higher for superior ranks



### Deaths

**Casualties were extreme**  
The average infantry battalion lost about 20% of those who served



### Paying the price

Soldiers enlisted	595,000
Served overseas	418,000
Killed in action	35,666
Died of wounds	12,420
Died of disease	5,405
Wounded	155,799
Prisoners of war	3,575
Presumed dead	4,671
Missing	425
Deaths in Canada	2,221
Total dead	60,383

### Deployment

Those who joined in 1914 and did not become casualties were serving in or still deployed with the Canadian Corps at the end of the war, with only a few exceptions.

# COMPARING OUR SOLDIERS

## Comparing our soldiers of the First World War to those of today

### Uniforms and gear

#### Wool uniform with a greatcoat in winter

- Boots often wore out in mud
- Steel helmet (weighing 2 lbs) gave protection from air burst shrapnel and shell fragments, not bullets



#### MacAdam Shield Shovel

- Could operate as a spade, an instrument to hide behind while shooting (3.5" x 2" sight-hole), and a shield from enemy fire
- Poor results: The shovel's blade was incapable of stopping the penetration of gunfire. Poor value as a digging tool as it contained a large sight-hole
- Heavy to carry (5 pounds, 4 oz). Scrapped in 1917.



### Weapons

#### Ross Rifle .303 Calibre

- Used in the early part of the war
- Had proven remarkably accurate in the pre-war period, but insufficiently robust for the trenches — it tended to jam
- Replaced by 1916 with the .303 British Lee-Enfield
- Could fire 20 rounds/min.



#### Automatic weapons

- Began the war with the Colt machine gun
- Not sufficiently reliable; not in use by other armies
- Switched to the Vickers, which used the same ammunition as the Lee-Enfield



#### Lewis automatic machine gun

- Weighs 28 lbs.
- Rate of fire: 500–600 rounds/min.
- Effective range: 880 yards
- Maximum range: 3,500 yards
- Feed system: 47- or 97-round drum magazine

### Grenades

- Hand-made in the early part of the war
- Could be thrown from a position of cover

#### Mills Bomb

- Designed by William Mills and manufactured in Birmingham, Eng.
- Weight: 765 grams
- Filled with Baratol
- Detonation mechanism: 7 seconds, later reduced to 4



- Mostly by foot
- For longer distances, soldiers were

### Equipment carried

**Total weight:** 64 lbs, 4 oz.

- Steel helmet
- Box Respirator
- Rifle
- 120 rounds S.A.A.
- Water bottle, filled
- Two days' rations
- Two flares
- One battle flag
- Four Mills Bombs
- Every fourth man carried a pick or shovel



### Disease

- **Trench foot:** Caused by wearing boots for extended periods in wet and cold trenches. Skin would swell and crack, soldiers faced losing toes and sometimes the whole foot
- **Trench mouth:** Caused essentially by germs transmitted in the food, poorly cleaned utensils or sharing of pipes or cigarettes
- **Body lice:** Linked to causing trench fever

### Food

- **On the front line:** "M and V" (meat and vegetable stew), Boeuf Bouilli
- **Out of the trenches:** Soldiers had access to "luxuries" such as eggs and chips
- Vegetables became more common as the war progressed; The Canadian Expeditionary Force began organizing its own vegetable patches behind the lines



## Present Day



### Recruiting

- Must be a Canadian Citizen, 18 years of age (16 with consent)
- Minimum Grade 10 education

### Application process

- Aptitude testing
- Medical examination
- Fitness evaluation test (aerobic fitness, physical endurance, muscle strength)
- Personal interview



### Basic Training

15 weeks, includes basic military skills, weapons handling, first aid, physical fitness training; troops bound for Afghanistan receive pre-deployment training specialized to their role in the field, such as mentoring skills, cultural awareness, situational combat and counter-IED training



### Pay (per month)

- Officer Cadet: \$1,487-\$1,581
- Captain: \$5,887-\$7,781
- Pilot, Captain: \$6,292-\$8,874
- Colonel: \$10,685-\$11,950

### Deployment

Average deployments are 6-10 months



Less than 1% of Canadian soldiers deployed in Afghanistan have been killed

Gloves  
Cold Wet  
Weather Gloves

Boots  
• Temperate combat boot  
• Wet weather boot  
• Resoled when needed

### (CADPAT™) uniform

- A computer-generated pattern using Near Infrared protection designed to conceal soldiers from enemies and night vision devices

### Two variations:

- Green, black and brown colours, used in North America and Europe
- Three brown variations, used in desert regions

### Night-vision goggles

- Image Intensifier Tube amplifies existing light, allowing users to function as in daylight conditions
- Infrared illumination diode can be activated in areas of total darkness

### Minelab Mine Detector

- Hand-held, weighs 3 kg
- Can detect mines at a depths up to 50cm

### Weapons

#### C7A1 assault rifle

- Rate of Fire: Cyclic, 700 to 940 rounds/min.
- Weight: Full — 3.9 kg
- Range: 400 m
- Optional attachments: Grenade launcher, laser pointer, Image Intensification Night Sight (Kite sight)

#### ERYX short range anti-armour weapon

- Can penetrate armour of all known tanks
- Also effective against fortified positions including bunkers and reinforced buildings
- Normally fired from a lightweight tripod but can be fired from the soldier.
- Penetration: ERA +900mm of armour
- Rate of fire: 5 rounds in 2 min.
- Range: 50-600m

### Badger Armoured Engineering Vehicle (AEV)

- Half tank, half tractor
- Capable of: dozing (270 m<sup>3</sup>/h), excavating (140 m<sup>3</sup>/h), craning, grappling, welding, cutting, winching, and towing
- Speed: 62 km/h

### Armament:

- C6 — 7.62-mm machine gun (coax)
- C6 — 7.62-mm machine gun (externa)
- 76-mm grenade launcher



Equipment carried  
Typical fighting load: 35 lbs

- Helmet, ballistic
- Pistol belt, suspenders, and first aid pouch
- Water canteen
- Small arms
- Bayonet, with scabbard
- Protective mask w/ decontamination kit
- Rifle, M16A2 with 30 rounds 5.56mm in magazine
- Magazines (6) with 180 rounds
- Grenades (4)

### Approach March Load: 22 lbs

- Rucksack
- Rations
- Canteen
- Toilet articles, towel
- Bag, waterproof
- E-tool with carrier
- Poncho, nylon
- Liner, poncho

Total combat load = 57 lbs

### Food

- Bases have organized food facilities (including a Tim Hortons)
- MREs (Meal, Ready-to-Eat): individual field rations for soldiers in the field; precooked, can be either heated or unheated. Some varieties: Veal cutlet with mushroom sauce, pork chow mein, beef bourguignon, meatloaf, omelettes, soups



**RENNIE, John** - At University Hospital on Thursday, **January 27, 2011**, John Rennie in his 88th year. Beloved husband of M. Isabel (Morley) Rennie. Dear father of Elizabeth Facey (Joseph) of St. Marys, Mary Ferguson (Tom Dampsy) of London and Jeanette Rennie (Doug McMurray). Stepfather of Dante Pocrnich (Erminie) of Waterloo. Loving grandfather of Sarah Facey (Ian Michael), Laura Facey (James Taylor), Martha Facey (Steve Hurrell), Allaina Skibinski (Mark), Ryan Pocrnich (Stacey Baker), Garrett Pocrnich (Sarah), Cady Pocrnich and Rhys Pocrnich (Leah). Great-grandfather of Hadley, Fergus and Burke. Also survived by family in Scotland and Australia. Predeceased by his first wife Betty (Congdon) Rennie (1974) and his stepson Stephen Morley Pocrnich (2003). John served in WW II with the R.A.F., Squadron 2856 and was a longtime member of the Wolseley Barracks Officers' Mess as well as the **Vimy Branch** of the Royal Canadian Legion. He was widely known and greatly respected for his expertise in the breeding of Ayrshire cattle. Visitors will be received on Sunday from 2:00 - 4:00 and 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the **O'NEIL FUNERAL HOME**, 350 William St. where the complete Funeral Service will be conducted in the Chapel on Monday at 11:00 a.m. Private Interment later in The Society of Friends Cemetery, Coldstream. Memorial donations may be made to a charity of one's choice. Online condolences at [www.oneilfuneralhome.ca](http://www.oneilfuneralhome.ca)

12193619

**MORRISON, Lloyd C (Mo) Major General (ret'd)** - At 10:30 pm on February 4th, in London ON, Mo "...slipped the surly bonds of the earth" on his last posting. Born at Deloraine, Manitoba, in 1924, he is survived by second wife Stella, son Don (Cathrine Hritzuk) of Yellowknife, daughters Jan (Ron Budgell), Prospect Bay, N.S. and Judy, Perth ON, stepdaughter Frances (Brian Richert), nine grandchildren, three great grandchildren and many loving nieces and nephews. Predeceased by first wife Bea (McDonald), parents Charlie and Vera, three brothers Ian (Mary), Jim (Olga) and Norman, and by four sisters Ruth (Frank Bawtenheimer), Marge (Jack Austin), Grace (Cliff Levenick) and Pat (Peter Olsen). Mo joined the RCAF on his eighteenth birthday, trained as a pilot and flew Lancaster Bombers with 100 Squadron, RAF, out of Lincolnshire, England until the end of the Second World War. Transferring to the RCAF reserve in 1945, he joined the Regular Force in 1948 and served for another 31 years as a pilot and information officer. His last position was Director General Information at National Defence Headquarters. After retirement he began writing and illustrating a newspaper column titled From the Back Pew on visits to churches of all denominations in the Ottawa Valley. A book followed, titled A Month of Sundays, which included Mo's pen and ink sketches of the 70 churches in it. A newsletter editor for more than 50 years, his last was the St. James Times from the parish of St. James Anglican Church in Perth, ON. He was managing director of, and frequent contributor to, Airforce magazine for several years.

Mo was a truly happy and optimistic man. In self-introductions he invariably described himself as a 'lucky guy' who had been born into the best of circumstances - a large happy family, in a small prairie town during the Great Depression in one of the hardest hit areas of Canada. His 'luck' continued when he was 'allowed' to fly all sorts of airplanes for the first sixteen years of his air force career then to work in the fascinating world of defence and government information. He worked with the most interesting people, in both government and the news media. He counted his first marriage, his three children, and his late-life second marriage as bonuses, and his modest success as a writer and painter more of the same. He recently summed it all up as a great journey. A celebration of Mo's life will be held at St. James, Westminster Anglican Church, 115 Askin St., London ON at 11:00 am, Wednesday, February 9th. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Mo's favourite charity, WaterCan <http://www.watercan.com>, or any charity of their choice.

12200720

### George Maurice Fox



**FOX, George Maurice - MM CD, Captain Retired** - In his 92nd year, peacefully at Parkwood Veterans Care on **April 1st, 2011**. Beloved husband of Anne who predeceased him in July 2008. George was a dedicated and devoted family man who is fondly remembered by his son Ron and wife Janice, of London. Cherished grandfather of Andrew (Danielle) of Brantford, and their children Griffen, Sophie and Ainsley, and Shannon and her children Alexis and Addison. George was a member of the Royal Canadian Regiment, retiring in 1974. George proudly served Canada in WW II, the Italian Campaign with the Saskatoon Light Infantry. George re-enlisted after the

war with the Royal Canadian Regiment and again answered the call in Korea. George was a life member of the RCR Association, The SLI Association, the Royal Canadian Legion, RCMI and the Korean Veterans Association. The family extend a sincere thank you to the dedicated staff of Parkwood Veterans Care, 4B West, for the exemplary care and compassion afforded to our father, grandfather and great grandfather. Visitation will be held on Monday from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. and on Tuesday from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the **WESTVIEW FUNERAL CHAPEL**, 709 Wonderland Road North, London, where the funeral service will be conducted on Tuesday, April 5th, 2011 at 3 p.m. Donations in George's memory to the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario would be appreciated. Online condolences may be sent through [www.westviewfuneralchapel.com](http://www.westviewfuneralchapel.com) 9987260

### OTHER VIMY DEATHS - 2010

While unfortunately the obituary notices of the following members were somehow not collected, their dates of death are as shown.

Barry Nelligan - 10 July, 2010  
 George Marshall - 04 Aug., 2010  
 Michael Jelley - 10 Oct., 2010  
 Clifford Thornton - 2010

# SOHO. Stay ... or go?

## MARK WOODWARD

While not himself a Vimy member, Mark is well known to countless of our members as the bright, cheery, and always accommodating Steward and Mess Manager at Wolseley Barracks Officers' Mess, a favourite watering hole for Vimy Branch members.



Mark Woodward says the community is safe. The person he replaced as community leader disagrees. They debate the issue on PAGE A3.

DEREK RU

Mark Woodward took over as head of the SoHo Community Association in London after its former leader moved over concern for the safety of her children.

LFP 08 FEB'11

### IT'S SAFE

JONATHAN SHER

The London Free Press

To those who claim only gritty neighbourhoods such as SoHo have problems with drug addicts and dealers, Mark Woodward says this: "Your cocaine drives around in a BMW."

Born in SoHo 50 years ago, Woodward has spent most of his life there, including the past two decades. In the last year he's become the leader of the neighbourhood community group, taking the reins after Marie Claire Bylik left.

He knows some in the community complain about feeling unsafe and tell stories about drug dealers running amok and break-ins being rampant.

But he doesn't buy it.

"It doesn't happen nearly as often as hysterical people would lead you to believe," he said. "It's not any more dangerous than any place in London."

Woodward says he's taking the community group in a different direction than Bylik, who stressed the artistic potential of the neighbourhood and helped organize events that celebrated local artists.

"She was trying to turn it into Wortley Village," he said.

Residents in SoHo shouldn't try to turn it into something it's not and instead embrace its working class roots; Woodward even prefers the traditional name for the neighbourhood, St. David's Ward.

He also acknowledges that not all his neighbours are as fearless as he feels as a virtual lifelong resident who is bigger than most of the people he passes on the street.

Woodward is used to being around people who put on a brave face; he's general manager of the officers' mess at Wolseley Barracks.

**It's not any more dangerous than any place in London.**

Mark Woodward

"I understand short haircuts and following orders," he said.

He's also focused his leadership of the community on practical exercises such as crime prevention walks.

While he and Bylik have different perceptions, strategies and goals, they share some critical views in common:

■ Residents have taken tangible steps to improve the neighbourhood.

■ City hall planners have made a giant contribution to the community, impressing residents with their commitment.

■ The area already has too many social services whose vulnerable clients draw predatory people.

■ Any progress made might crumble if a methadone clinic is allowed to open on Bathurst St.

"I've been absolutely astounded by how much (city hall planners) have done," Woodward said. "The city has gone beyond the pale."

The city has something at

stake, too: It will inherit riverfront property when the South Street Hospital finally is gone and politicians have big hopes.

City planners will meet with residents Feb. 16 at Wellington Street United Church to present the near-completed community plan.

The meeting also will be the first chance for residents to ask about the proposed methadone clinic, but with the city facing a legal challenge over a moratorium for such clinics, planners may not be able to say much.



# Retirement home charity brunch to be monthly event

Melania Daniel  
Londoner

It started out as occasional tremors and went on for some time before **Bill Magee** finally learned what was going wrong with his body. The 93-year-old resident of the Royalton Retirement Residence was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease about five years ago.

Magee, and his wife, Betty, moved into the Royalton last year. On Sunday the Magee's children, accompanied by their spouses, joined their parents for a fundraising brunch in support of Parkinson's disease. The morning feast, which ran from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., was organized by the management of the Royalton.

It took Magee considerable effort to make an appearance at the fundraiser, but he was happy for something that raised awareness of Parkinson's disease.

"It's difficult for me to be here, because crowds bother me," said Magee, who struggled to verbalize his thoughts. "My brain doesn't connect with my tongue sometimes when I'm talking to people."

That's a symptom typical of Parkinson's disease, said Magee's daughter, Rhonda Manore, whom Magee described as his "right arm." Magee has little control of his right hand, and is able to eat using only his left one.

"With Parkinson's, he does not have the dexterity or the strength to eat, so his food has to be cut into very tiny pieces," said Manore. "My parents love it here, because the staff is very proactive. They cut up his food before they serve him."

Having Magee as a resident prompted the Royalton to dedicate the fundraiser to Parkinson's disease. Sunday's event marked the launch of a series of charity brunches which Royalton management hope to host on the last Sunday of each month, in support of various causes. Funds from the first three will go to the London chapter of the Parkinson's Society.

"That way we can give a more significant donation to them," said Shirley Carr, general manager at the Royalton.

The retirement residence, located at 609 Wharnccliffe Rd. S., had its grand opening in June 2010, but occupants of the 146-suite facility started moving in from April of that year. Twenty of these joined with about 60 other guests for Sun-



Melania Daniel Special to Londoner

**Bill Magee, right, who suffers from Parkinson's disease, enjoys brunch with his family. The event, a fundraiser for Parkinson's disease, was organized by the Royalton Retirement Residence.**

“

**That way we can give a more significant donation to them**

— Shirley Carr

day's kick-off of the monthly meals.

"We've been thinking of having charity brunches for a while, and this is our first," said Lori Sirove, marketing manager for the Royalton. "It's an idea that has been long in planning."

According to Sirove, there is no extra cost to the persons who live at the Royalton for the brunch. For visitors, adult tickets cost \$15, while seniors and children under 12 pay \$12. Sunday's brunch menu, which included French toast, butter-milk pancakes, eggs Benedict, steak and eggs, was free for children under two.

12-1499 Byron Baseline Rd.,  
London, Ont. N6K 4T4

malibk@sympatico.ca  
519-472-4894

22 Feb., 2011

Dear Dr. Wooster,

I am a past president of Legion Branch 145 (Vimy Branch) and currently the branch's archivist. Last Friday, I received a package of Vimy historical material from your father via Jim Driver, another Vimy member. The only address Jim had for your parents is yours, so I am sending my thank you note to your dad through you.

I am aware of your dad's failing eyesight, and so I am asking you or another family member if you would be good enough to deliver my note to Ken and to read it to him. You will see from my words that your dad and I have been on each other's radar, one way or another, for a very long time. Over the years I have gained much respect for him, and I applaud his continuing contributions to Vimy. The fact that at 84 he had much more hair than I had at 34 is not enough to erode my admiration for the man, but it has been the source of much two way banter since I joined Vimy nearly 20 years ago.

I hope my letter finds your parents well just as I hope they enjoy my note's mix of lighthearted chatter and sincere appreciation for Ken's most recent gift to the branch. We all miss his winning smile and positive outlook and look forward to a day when we will see him again. I am enclosing my e-mail address and phone number in the hope that you might keep us abreast of your father's activities. Any news would be most welcome including your parents' address if, in fact, they are not living in your home.

May I offer my thanks to you for serving as the middle man in this exchange. Your assistance is much appreciated.

Sincerely and with best regards,

Malcolm Kay

TELEPHONE MESSAGE TÉLÉPHONIQUE		
TO A	KEN WOOSTER	DATE
FROM DE	DR DOUGLAS WOOSTER.	TIME HRE.
OF DE	46 VAN DUSEN BLVD.	
PHONE NO. NO. TEL.	TORONTO, ONT.	#
<input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE CALL RAPPELER	<input type="checkbox"/> RETURNED CALL RETOUR D'APPEL	<input type="checkbox"/> WILL CALL AGAIN RAPPELLERA
MESSAGE		
M82 3E7.		
KEN'S SON		

mailed  
1/23/11

Malcolm Kay,  
12-1499 Byron Baseline Rd.  
London, Ont. N6K 4T4  
22 Feb. 2010

Hello Comrade Ken,

Just a brief note from a Vimy friend - and the worst Chemistry student in South Collegiate's history - to say hello and merci bien for the package of items I recently received from you via Jim Driver.

I'm sure you are aware that after I completed my tour as Vimy president, I volunteered (even some old soldiers apparently never learn) to become the charter, sole, and underpaid creator and managing director of the Vimy Branch archives. All the time I thought I was volunteering to accept some of those small fish that we often see on pizzas (I was no hell in Zoology either). I'm stashing everything away into scrapbook format and had completed Volume 1 (1980's to 2010) thinking that nothing older was still around. Wrong again! What number comes before 1? Did I mention my Math skills?

The material you sent along breaks down neatly into Vimy orchestra/band documents and to more general Vimy historical docs including old letters, old dinner programmes and menus, and Vimy newsletters of a type I had never seen before. The orchestra lists, starting back to when Hector was a lance-corporal (even before your dad's day as director), make it clear that many of London's finest musicians have been part of the group over the years. South Collegiate contributed several players, among them Russ Maguire, you, Gord Cooper, three Chapmans, Bob Livingston and others, I have no doubt. Several members of The London Symphony - Martin Boundy himself, no less - and players from Raymond Neal's old London Promenade Orchestra are there too. All in all, a hall of fame of London area music makers. Having all this to add to the Vimy collection is "Pennies from Heaven".

The less specific material goes back to 1949 and is in abundance from the '50's and '60's. I roared with laughter when I read of many of the stunts these fellows played on each other and had the audacity to commit to print. The old boys were a highly irreverent but fun loving bunch. They also had enough financial and political swat to finesse their way out of various scrapes with officialdom. In fact, there was so much money in that group I wonder just what the hell a couple of old teachers like thee and me are doing there. Anyway, it's all delightful stuff, much of it significantly enhanced by Ting's saucy cartoons. It's a gold mine of history that you've turned over to us, Ken, and I thank you most sincerely, on behalf of all Vimy members, for making it available to us. I'm going to share it first with Bill Corfield, who even as branch historian, I'm guessing has not seen much of this material. Then I'll try to set it all up in a way that will allow all members to view it but in such a way as to protect it from sticky fingers and spilled beer. I'm also going to suggest to the directors that a little historical snippet be included in each of the semi-annual programmes.

It has become clear to me that, like all teachers, you've been an awful pack rat over the years. First it was the four South Oracles from the 1930's and now this more recent bonanza. Well, your ingrained habit is now our good fortune. (I think I can see your good lady nodding her agreement from here.)

I'd best shut up now or your head will swell to the point of requiring upping your hat size. I hope this missive finds you and yours well and comfortable in your new digs in the centre of the universe - Toronto. We look forward to seeing you at a meeting here in the boonies some day soon.

Cheers, Mal

■ **OBITUARY:** Award-winning former Free Press photographer Ernie Lee, who died Friday at 89, had a gift for being at the right place, camera ready

# Lee self-taught master of his craft



**KELLY PEDRO**  
The London Free Press

Thomas. He later flew prisoners of war to the Nuremberg trials.

Photographer Ernie Lee loved chasing stories and fires as much as he did documenting every detail of his children's lives.

Already married, Lee wanted to stay in London after the war and the then amateur photographer brought his portfolio to the newspaper and was eventually hired for \$25 a week.

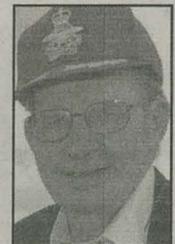
The legendary former *Free Press* photographer died Friday. He was 89.

So began the career for the "old-fashioned" photographer who loved to chase fires and hunt down the story.

With acute reflexes and quick speed, Lee deftly captured indelible images — most notably a

"I remember going to a fire one night on King Street," said relative and colleague Sam McLeod. "I got there and Ernie had gone halfway up the (fire truck) ladder. Once the cops found him, they were telling him to get ... down."

photo of CN's first high-speed train striking a truck, on its maiden run for the press from Toronto to Montreal in 1968. Lee, who rarely drank alcohol, took the photo from the observation bubble while other media were in the bar car. The picture earned him a National Newspaper Award.



Ernie Lee

Ian remembers being in the car with his father, about to pull into their driveway, when a call crackled over the fire scanner about a house fire nearby.

"He loved his job. He loved the excitement," said his son, Ian. Born in Winnipeg, Lee wanted to be a pilot and moved to Southwestern Ontario to join the air force. He eventually trained as a pilot near the end of the war.

"He nearly pushed me out of the car and sped one block to the place. He has a picture of this house exploding, the house was literally off the ground, and you could see a chair and a lamp inside," Ian said.

Ian Lee said his father was "itching" to go overseas to fight for his country, but instead trained other pilots in St.

Lee had amazing reflexes, said friend and former colleague, Ed Heal, noting in those days there were no photography courses.

He won several awards for his work, including a Masters of Photographic Arts. Lee was the first photojournalist given the award by the Professional Pho-



Free Press file

**London Free Press** photographer Ernie Lee was on the inaugural run of CNR's Turbotrain between Toronto and Montreal on Dec. 10, 1968, when the train crashed into a transport truck near Kingston. While photographers from other news outlets were being wined and dined by CN's public relations team, Lee was up in the observation dome at the right time to capture flying debris.

toographers of Canada.

Known as a lightning-fast driver, many reporters opted out of travelling to assignments with Lee, who was nicknamed "Mustang" not only for the types of planes he flew during the war, but because he also "drove like he was flying," said Jim Cress-

man, *Free Press* sports reporter and copy editor. Cressman recalls an assignment, when the pair had to drive from Clarke Road to Saunders high schools.

"I swear it only took us ten minutes to get there. I was scared out of my wits," said Cressman.

A proud father, Lee docu-

mented his children's lives, said Heal. When his first wife died, Lee raised his three children alone before remarrying, Margaret, 41 years ago. Lee leaves behind, Margaret, and children, Ian, David and Peggy.

[kelly.pedro@sunmedia.ca](mailto:kelly.pedro@sunmedia.ca)

**LEE, Ernest William** - Peacefully at Parkwood Hospital, London on Friday, March 18, 2011, Ernest W. (Ernie) Lee of London in his 90th year. Beloved husband of Margaret (Ferguson) Lee and the late Margaret (Needham) Lee (1957). Dear father of Ian Lee of London, David Lee of Victoria, BC and Peggy McKenna and her husband Joe of East Lawrencetown, NS. Also loved by his grandchildren Ryan and Ian McKenna of East Lawrencetown, NS. Dear brother of Joy Stone of Winnipeg, MB. Predeceased by his sister Pat Williams. Mr. Lee served overseas as a pilot with #435 RCAF Squadron. He had a lifetime career as a press photographer at the London Free Press. Friends will be received by the family on Monday, March 21, 2011 from 2-4 and 7-9pm at the **A. MILLARD GEORGE FUNERAL HOME**, 60 Ridout Street South, London. The funeral service will be conducted at the Salvation Army, London Citadel, 555 Springbank Drive, London on Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 11:00am. Private family interment in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, London. As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to the Salvation Army, 371 King Street, London ON or the charity of your choice. A Masonic Service under the auspices of King Solomon's Lodge No. 378 A.F. & A.M. will be conducted at the funeral home on Monday evening at 6:30pm.

■ 696 COMMISSIONERS RD. W.: Only two families have lived in this home in almost 100 years

# If these walls could talk

For nearly a century, only two families ever called 696 Commissioners Rd. W. home.

The red-brick London home with white siding saw the birth of three children and the rise of three businesses.

Now, the land on which it stands will give birth to a condo development after the house is torn down this week.

Ross Shuttleworth and his two sisters were born in the house his father, Edgar, built himself.

The condo development, he said, is a good fit for the neighbourhood.

Wrapped in history, a mixture of aging trees and two short fieldstone pillars at the end of the driveway, the house was built by Shuttleworth's father, Edgar, who finished it in 1919.

"My Dad put a lot of sweat equity into it," said Shuttleworth, who notes his father wasn't a builder but was "young and strong."

## SHARE YOUR NEWS TIPS

Got a news story, photos or video? Send them to us at

lfpress.com/yourcoop or, by smartphone, to yourcoop@lfpress.com



LFP 19 APR. '11

Kelly Pedro

## YOUR SCOOP

The elder Shuttleworth, who served in the First World War, bought 15 acres of land with a loan from the Soldier Settlement Act on what was then called Brick St. (later renamed Commissioners Rd. W. when it was paved in 1958).

"I remember playing in the middle of Commissioners Road because there wasn't any traffic in those days. We all went to the old, old Brick Street public school," said Shuttleworth, adding the original building didn't have running water, until his father and a group of men lobbied to get indoor plumbing.

Part of the Shuttleworth land, which stretched to what is now Village Green Ave., grew into a nursery later known as Little Tree Farm, said Shuttleworth.

In the summer, the expansive

front lawns were used by First World War veterans — bused in from the old Westminster hospital — for picnics and parties.

As the Second World War broke out, Edgar Shuttleworth began manufacturing a new pith helmet for soldiers and eventually converted the shrub house into a factory, where about 25 people made 250,000 of the helmets for the Canadian army.

Shuttleworth Truck Mufflers also began in the house and later moved to White Oak Rd.

Ross Shuttleworth and his four brothers and sisters grew up in the house and the family owned the property until 1972, when their parents died. They sold it to another family, who owned it until a few months ago.

Last week, with permission from the developer, Shuttleworth went inside for one last peek.

The attic was still lined with tongue and groove cedar and the smell brought back memories.

When the house comes down this week, Shuttleworth won't be sad. The house, he said, has seen better days. "A house is an appliance, it wears out," he said.

kelly.pedro@sunmedia.ca

twitter.com/KellyatLFP

**Captain E.H. Shuttleworth was the president of Vimy Branch in 1944, '45**



MIKE HENSEN The London Free Press

Left, picture of the Shuttleworth home taken in the 1920s on Commissioners Rd. which was then Brick St. Above, is a current photo of the Shuttleworth home on Commissioners Rd. W. On Monday Ross Shuttleworth, who grew up in the home, showed these pictures, and the house as it is today. The home is to be torn down this week to make way for a condominium but Shuttleworth has no regrets.

**Vimy Springs Diner**  
*Friday*  
*8 April 2011*



**Mocha Temple Auditorium**  
**468 Colborne St. London**  
*1800 hrs Reception*  
*1845 hrs Dinner*

## Vimy Branch 145 Officers and Executive 2009

*President: Maj J.A. Conyers*

*Vice President LCol R.G. Moore*

*Honorary Vice Presidents;*

*Lt Cmdr W.R. Poole, Col E.C. Quinn, S/L I. Williams*

*Past President: Maj G.D. Robinson*

*Treasurer: Maj R.R. Doyon, Secretary: Mr W.J. Slade*

*Membership: LCol B.N. Harris*

*Director of Music: Mr G. Laidlaw*

*Chaplains: The Ven. Archdeacon J N Doidge*

*Rev. F. Mantz*

### Directors

*F/L D. Bondy, F/L S.W.H. Haley, LCol I.C. Haley,  
LCdr M.J. Hoare, LCol R. Phillips, Capt S.L. Ricketts,  
LCdr K.B. Roden, Maj M..R Steele, Mr R. Warden*



The dinner tariff for members and guests \$35.00

A cheque at the door payable to  
"Vimy Branch 145 RCL"  
would be appreciated



# Programme



**The President, Maj JA Conyers in Command**

**The Vimy Band, G. Laidlaw conducting**

**1800 hrs**

***Reception***

**1845 hrs**

***March in of Head Table***

**O Canada,**

**We Remember**

**Toast to the Queen**

**Grace**

**Introduction of the Head Table**

**Dinner**

**Speaker**

**Introduction of guests**

**Introduction of new members**

**Raffle Draw**

**(proceeds to support Parkwood Veterans Care)**

## Vimy Branch 145 Past Presidents

1929-30 \*M.M. Dillon, 1931\*Capt J.G. Gillanders, 1932 \*Col G.E. Reid,  
1933 \*Lt Col H.K. Ingram, 1934 \*Maj L.E. Mills, 1935 \*Lt Col D.B.Weldon,  
1936 \*Maj D.J.H. Ferguson, 1937 \*Capt R..I. Watt, 1938 \*Capt C.H. Ivey,  
1939-40 \*G.F. Kingsmill Esq, 1941 \*J.H. Stevens Esq.  
1942 \*Maj L..T. Hayman, 1943 \*Capt J.R. Carling,  
1944-5\*Capt E.H. Shuttleworth, 1946 \*Brig R.H. Beatie,  
1947 \*Capt G.W. Foote, 1948 \*S/L H.F. Davison, 1949 \*Col G.W. Little,  
1950 \*Lt Col H.I. Hayman, 1951 \*Lt J.B. Nash, 1952 \*S/L J.E. Jennings ,  
1953 \*Maj D.J. Urquhart, 1954 \*Capt J. Jeffery, 1955 Lt G.W.H. Bartram  
1956 W/C G.M. Burns, 1957 \*Lt Cmdr F.N.D. Carmichael,  
1958 \*Capt H.W. Hockin, 1959 \*Lt Col R.M. Dillon,  
1960 Lt Cmdr W.R. Poole, 1961 \*Lt Col G.E. Humphries,  
1962 \*Capt N. McBeth, 1963 \*Capt C.C. Ross, 1964 \*Capt A.M. LeBel  
1965 \*Lt Col W.R. Buchner, 1966 \*Maj J.O. Howitt, 1967 \*Maj J.W. Nolan,  
1968 Lt W.E. Bell, 1969 \*Capt B.I. Baldwin, 1970 \*Maj J.B. Stratton,  
1971 \*Lt W.J. Robinson, 1972 \*W/C G.A. MacDougall,  
1973 \*Capt W.J. Roadhouse, 1974 \*Lt Col I.S. Lauchland,  
1975 \*Maj K.B. Keefe, 1976 Lt D.D.C. McGeachy,  
1977 \*Lt Col J.P.C. Macpherson, 1978 \*Maj J.P. Cook, 1979 \*F/O J.N. Given  
1980 Lt Col J. Harris, 1981 Maj R.S. Macnab, 1982 \*F/L G.E. Wilson,  
1983 \*Maj W.F. Stott, 1984 WO J. Stevens, 1985 \*B Gen A.R. McIntosh,  
1986 \*Surg/Lt W.W. Wilkins, 1987\* S/L Nelligan, 1988 \*W.G. Reid Esq.  
1989 \*Lt Col S Lerner, 1990 L Cmdr W.J. Magee, 1991 \*B Gen W.P. Doohan,  
1992 \*Maj B.A. Urquhart, 1993\* P/O B.K. West, 1994 \*L Col F. Vine,  
1995 S/L I. Williams, 1996\* Lt Col D.J. Bonner, 1997 Lt H.K. Wooster,  
1998 CPO J. Driver, 1999\* S/L C. Grigg,, 2000 Col E.C. Quinn,  
2001 Capt R Mahar, 2002 L Col J McClure, 2003 F/L A.A. Munro,  
2004 Les Davison Esq, 2005 Maj K.A. Tanswell, 2006 \*F/O RW Reid,  
2006 \* Maj RA Wilson, 2007 S/L J Malone, 2008 LCol M.J. Kay.  
2009 Maj RR Doyon 2010 Maj GD Robinson

\*deceased

# Sharing pieces of our history carved at Vimy

CHIP MARTIN

The London Free Press

On the battleground at Vimy Ridge in France, Canadian soldiers made their mark by routing the Germans during the First World War.

Less well-known are the marks they left under the battleground as soldiers hid out in a cave before the historic April 1917 battle — their names and battalion crests etched in the soft chalk.

London visual artist Zenon Andrusyszyn wants to change that and share their handiwork with Canada.

"We've had a lot of good response," Andrusyszyn said Monday as he and other members of a group he leads prepare to leave

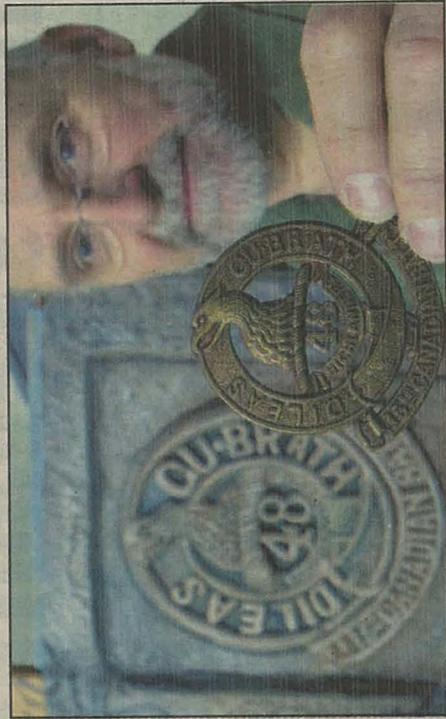
Friday for the Vimy Ridge area.

Canadigm, the Canadian Historical Documentation and Imaging Group headed by Andrusyszyn, plans to document and replicate the nearly 100 etchings found there.

The images will be displayed across Canada in anticipation of the centennial of the battle historians say forged a nation.

At Vimy Ridge, Andrusyszyn and five helpers — all covering their own costs — will spend two weeks doing "wall mapping" to document the creations of soldiers awaiting the pivotal battle, the first time all four divisions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force fought together.

see VIMY | Page A7



MIKE HENSEN The London Free Press

London's Zenon Andrusyszyn shows a 48th Highlanders badge and a replica of a carving etched into the chalk walls of a tunnel system beneath France's Vimy Ridge by a First World War Canadian soldier.

## The Battle of Vimy Ridge

**When:** April 9-12, 1917, near Arras, France, following a lengthy stand-off that began when the Germans occupied the strategic ridge in October 1914.

**What:** A victory for the Canadian Expeditionary Force, which for the first time saw all four Canadian divisions fight together.

**Casualties:** 3,598 Canadians killed with 7,004 wounded; unknown German losses, but 4,000 taken prisoner of war.

**Significance:** Historians say it was a battle that helped forge a nation, drawing respect for the fighting ability of Canadians who in the First World War had previously served under British command.

## ■ VIMY

# Virtual tour of cave in works

FROM PAGE A1

Next year they will return with scanning devices, high-resolution cameras and lasers that will help them replicate the images in the irregularly shaped cave 11 metres underground. It was discovered three or four years ago under a farm near the town of Arras by the Durand Group, a non-profit group of British military historians.

A documentary film about the Durand Group's discovery of the cave that housed Canadian troops caught Andrusyszyn's attention.

"I'd love to take this back home," he recalled a Canadian soldier shown on that program lamenting. The etchings themselves are deteriorating after 95 years and far too fragile to move.

But an idea was born for Andrusyszyn, 59, a visual artist whose interest in the wars was sparked by the experiences of his Ukrainian family during the Second World War.

**“I was always interested in learning about the war from the time I was a kid.”**

Zenon Andrusyszyn

"I was always interested in learning about the war from the time I was a kid."

Plans call for an exhibition to be mounted with duplicates fashioned in hard material to allow a "hands-on" experience for visitors and a "virtual" cave tour created for computer viewing.

Andrusyszyn is completing the paperwork to have Canadigm become a non-profit operation so donations can be solicited to make his dream come true and ease the burden on his pocket and those of his associates.

Board members of Canadigm include members of the history and anthropology departments at the University of Western Ontario.

Andrusyszyn said the cave he has visited was likely carved by area villagers, who dug out the soft stone for use in buildings, then stored equipment and other items in them.

He suspects the Germans and other troops also used caves to hide troops.

The civilian caves are separate from the network of tunnels the Germans, British, French and Canadians used at Vimy Ridge.

Andrusyszyn has made a model of the badge of the 48th Highlanders, as fashioned by Pte. Robert McKee of London, to demonstrate the sort of images found in the cave.

About 10 of the etchings in the cave are actually carved, a couple are drawn and more than 80 are names of soldiers inscribed by themselves or in memory of fallen soldiers.

# Dr. Michael Hoare named to Erie-St. Clair LHIN board

Dr. Michael Hoare has been appointed a director of the Erie-St. Clair Local Health Integrated Network (LHIN) by Order-in-Council of the Public Appointments Secretariat of the Province of Ontario. The Erie St. Clair LHIN is one of 14 LHINs across the province that plan, integrate and fund local health services including the Grand Bend Area Community Health Centre.

"I am honoured to be appointed to the LHIN board and look forward to the contributions which I can make to good governance and, ultimately, to the excellence of health services in the region," says Dr. Hoare.

A director of the Grand Bend Area Community Health Centre (GBACHC) for the past six years, Dr. Hoare served as its Chair from 2007 to 2010. "Michael has been a great

asset to the Centre," says Dr. Glenn Bartlett, Executive Director of the GBACHC. "His appointment to the LHIN board is very deserving, and I know he will continue to make a significant contribution to local health care."

Dr. Hoare resides in Grand Bend with his wife Marianne. He has led a diversified career in health and human services within the military, post-secondary education, human resources, and consulting. Dr. Hoare has been employed as a professor, counsellor, and clinical co-ordinator, retiring as the



Dr. Michael Hoare

Dean, Health Sciences and Human Services at Fanshawe College.

Members of the LHIN board are selected using a merit-based process, in which skills and abilities are matched to the needs of the board. Directors must combine relevant expertise, experience, and leadership skills with an understanding of local health issues, needs and priorities.

The Erie St. Clair LHIN and its Board of Directors are responsible for approximately one billion dollars of health care services delivered in the regions of Chatham-Kent, Sarnia-Lambton and Windsor-Essex.

For further information contact Dr. Michael Hoare at 519-238-5862 or Dr. Glenn Bartlett at 519-282-2495.



**MAHAR, Capt. R.H. (Bob)** - At Parkwood Hospital on Thursday, September 29th, 2011, Capt. R.H. "Bob" Mahar of London in his 93rd year. Husband of the late Sally Mahar (1999). Loving dad of Bob (Ann) of Fort Benning, GA, Don (Carol Anne) of Ottawa, Dave of London, Ralph (Sonja) of Ottawa, the late Mary Lynn (1945) and the late Lynda (2003). Dear brother of Vince (Babe) and Ray (Dora), all of Charlottetown. Predeceased by his brothers, Lorne, Reg, Howard and Freeman. Loving grandpa to Cathie, Mike, Scott, Chelsea and Tim and great-grandpa to Lexy, George, Ashlyn, Austin, Kyle, Gibson and Elle. Bob was a life-long infantryman, a veteran of WWII, a Rifle Company Commander (Charles Company) in 1 RCR in Korea 1952-53, spent 13 months in Vietnam 1962-63 and was the Director of Social Services with the City of London 1970-83. He was our Hero. Visitation will be held on Monday from 2:00-4:00 and 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the **WESTVIEW FUNERAL CHAPEL**, 709 Wonderland Road North, London, where the funeral service will be conducted on Tuesday, October 4th, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. Interment, St. Peter's Cemetery. Those wishing to make a donation in memory of Robert are asked to consider the St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation for Veteran's Care and Comfort Fund. We wish also to express our heartfelt thanks to the medical team of Parkwood Hospital, 4B West for the outstanding care provided for our father for almost three years. Online condolences available at [www.westviewfuneralchapel.com](http://www.westviewfuneralchapel.com)

## Deaths



**BURDETT, Thomas** - Peacefully at Parkwood Hospital, London. Lt-Col Thomas Burdett, MC,CD, (Ret'd), on Saturday, October 1, 2011, Thomas Burdett in his 97th year. Beloved husband of Maudie (Woodrow) Burdett for almost 74 years. Loving father of Carolyn Mazuryk and her husband Mike of Melbourne, Sandra Herring and her husband John of London. Also loved by his grandchildren Catherine, Jennifer and John Jr. Predeceased by his brother Albert and his sisters Daisy and Louise. He was a career soldier. Tom served with distinction in WWII being decorated for gallantry during the Italian campaign. He was a Life Member of the RCR Association where he received the Milton Greg VC Award. He was also a Life Member of Hutton House and Life Governor of the Corps of Commissionaires (Great Lakes). He was a long time active volunteer in the Church of St. Andrew Memorial, Unitarian Service Committee, London Psychiatric Hospital, Parkwood Hospital, Canadian Mental Health Association, Canadian National Institute for the Blind and Over 55. He was a Member of Vimy Legion Branch No. 145, Masonic Lodge Kerr No. 230 A.F. & A.M., Barrie Lodge of Perfection. Friends will be received by the family on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 from 2-4 pm and 7-9 pm with an RCR Association Memorial Service being held at 6:30 pm at the **A. MILLARD GEORGE FUNERAL HOME**, 60 Ridout Street South, London. The funeral service will be conducted at the Church of St. Andrew Memorial on Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at 11am with Reverend Marty Levesque officiating. Private Family Interment in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, London. As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to the Church of St. Andrew Memorial (Memorial Fund), 55 Foxbar Road, London, Ontario N6C 2A6. The RCR Museum, Wolseley Barracks, 701 Oxford Street East, London, Ontario N5Y 4T7 or to the charity of your choice. Online condolences accepted at [www.amgfh.com](http://www.amgfh.com)

Pro Patria

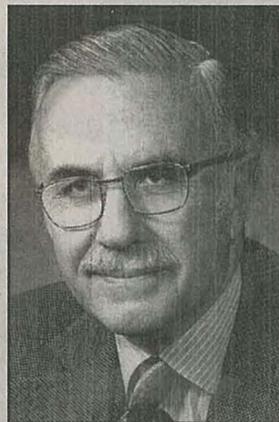
*In Loving Memory of*



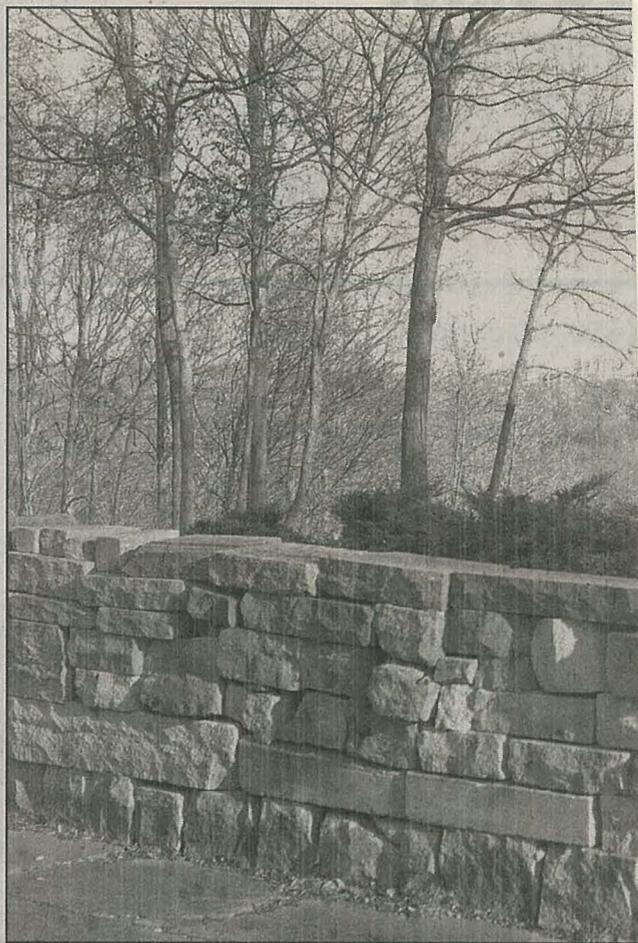
*Thomas Burdett*  
1915~2011

# The house that Joe built

The family home of Joe Jeffery, former chairperson of London Life, is for sale, listed at almost \$1.3 million. Reporter Joe Belanger and photographer Mike Hensen take you inside for a rare look at the home of a true blue-blood London family.



JOE JEFFERY



The Jeffery home, on three hectares of land high on the west bank of the Thames River north of the Oxford St. bridge, is accessed via a private road through the RiverBend golf community and overlooks the London Hunt and Country Club on the opposite bank, and most of the city.

Living quarters are above a three-car garage.

CAPT. (N) JOE JEFFERY  
VIMY PRESIDENT 1954

**T**ake a look from the outside and the home's exterior might easily be dismissed as a modest, middle-class home, somewhat dated in design, unimpressive from its mansard-style roof on down to its foundation.



**L.F. PRESS**

**NOV. 2011**

**Joe Belanger**

But walk through the front doors to tour what was once home to one of London's true blue-blood families — the Jefferys — and you quickly realize this abode says more about the man who was Joe Jeffery, the family man, than about the lofty position he held in corporate Canada.

Jeffery was chairperson of the board of what was then the country's largest insurance company, London Life, and headed a bevy of significant business interests, including a law firm.

He was grandson and namesake of the company's founder and was known in business circles across the country and around the globe.

Yet, instead of adjectives such as palatial or ostentatious, the place where he made his life is best described as an immense family home, with many extras.

It's not until you glance out the windows that line the rear of the two-storey home that you begin to understand and appreciate why it carries a price tag of \$1.295 million.

The view overlooking the city from a perch high above the London Hunt Club golf course is nothing short of spectacular.

"For most Londoners, if you weren't invited here, you probably didn't know this house existed," said George Georgopoulos, senior realtor with ReMax International Advantage Realty, who has the listing.

"Whoever the lucky bidder is will get a fine residence, carriage house, Olympic-size pool, four-car garage, unique view of the city... in a most private setting that compares to the Muskokas."

This is the first time the property and home, built in 1964, has been on the market.

But forget taking a drive-by or attending an open house.

The home is contained within the gated RiverBend Golf Community just north of Oxford St. W., where access is controlled by a gatehouse and guard. The only people getting past the guard must be "financially qualified buyers" who book an appointment with Georgopoulos.

The Kains Rd. house sits on a three-hectare lot surrounded by forest on what is zoned environmentally significant land, which means the neighbourhood won't expand anytime soon.

Yes, it's a family home with a few peculiar features:

- A shooting range.
- A photography darkroom and adjoining "chemical" room for young budding chemists.
- A "bat cave" where Jeffery parked his car and tinkered with woodworking and radio communications equipment. Using a custom-built intercom system in this hideaway, he could contact his wife, Nora, any of his five children, or his two-person staff.
- A bank of radios on three floor-to-ceiling shelves where Jeffery could enjoy his hobby as a short-wave radio operator.
- A "utilitarian" kitchen equipped with two stoves and two fridges with a small eating area for staff and a window to pass through the food to a 4.5-by-nine-metre dining room that could comfortably seat 22.
- A two-bedroom apartment above the separate three-car garage.
- A six- by six-metre master bedroom with fireplace, ensuite bath and walk-in closet area with four closets.

There are five other bedrooms, each with its own sink, including one for guests that had its own fireplace and ensuite bathroom.

Interior walls are made of white oak panelling and knotty pine with crown moulding of plaster while the floors are a sturdy dark oak, with slate at the foyer where a grand stairway delivers you to the second floor.

There also is a slate patio out back, with a view of the city equipped with a wood-fired grill built into the wall of the house.

Although in need of redecorating, the house was maintained by a full-time maintenance person until the matriarch of the family, Jeffery's widow, Nora, moved out after her 90th birthday last September.

"Dad found this property on a fox-hunting expedition and just fell in love with the property," explained son, John, 58, a London lawyer who manages the family estate. He's one of Jeffery's five children. Jeffery died in 1999.

His father bought the land, originally 10 hectares, from London Life's top salesperson, Colin Brown, then went to work designing the home, consulting his family along the way.

Jeffery was into target shooting, so a shooting range was walled off in the basement where most of the remaining space was dedicated to play areas for the children.

"He was trying to build a dream house for the whole family," recalled John Jeffery.

"I was into photography and chemistry so he built the photography lab and a room where I could do my experiments. He wanted to build a home we could all sink our teeth into."

[joe.belanger@sunmedia.ca](mailto:joe.belanger@sunmedia.ca)  
[twitter.com/JoeBatLFP](https://twitter.com/JoeBatLFP)



**MORE:** Tour the eclectic Jeffery home at [lfp.com/video](http://lfp.com/video)

## BY THE NUMBERS

- 0.5** — Length of driveway in kilometres
- 4** — Garage bays for cars
- 6** — Bedrooms, bathrooms and fireplaces
- 3** — Hectares of land
- 22** — Rooms in main house
- 4.5 by 9** — Dining room, in metres
- 9 by 15** — Living room, in metres
- 5,000** — Square feet of living space, plus another 2,500 in lower level
- 1,200** — Square feet of living space above the carriage house, which has a fireplace and seven rooms

Photos by **MIKE HENSEN** The London Free Press

The basement rec room features a large mural evoking family stories.



The foyer is floored with slate, still in perfect condition.





**SLADE, William John** - peacefully, surrounded by his family at Victoria Hospital in London, Ontario on **Friday, December 23, 2011**, after a courageous battle with cancer. Beloved husband and soul-mate to his wife Ingeborg for thirty-seven years, devoted and proud father of his sons, Christopher and David, and dear brother of Arthur Slade and Doris Gale. John was born on November 17, 1936 in Newbury, England. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1955 to 1960 and immigrated to Canada shortly thereafter, where he enjoyed a successful career as a trusted insurance and financial advisor. A lover of nature, John was a keen camper and outdoorsman, and explored many of Ontario's parks including Killbear, French River, Algonquin and Killarney. For twenty years, family trips to Pukaskwa National Park were the highlight of each summer.

John was also an avid gardener, spending countless hours meticulously tending to his lawn and garden (and often those of his neighbours too). He will be remembered for his boundless energy, whether shovelling snow halfway up the street to beat the snowplough or climbing trees to trim high branches, to the grave concern of all who saw him. John loved flying, and used to fly his Cessna "XQN" from Buttonville Airport to his cottage on Four Mile Lake in the Kawarthas, to Tobermory, and to many other Ontario destinations. Once in London, John became actively involved with the Royal London Military Institute where he served as Secretary for over fifteen years, and will be fondly remembered for his spirit and unique sense of humour. John was also an Associate Member of the Wolseley Barracks Officers' Mess, **Secretary Emeritus of Vimy Branch 145, Royal Canadian Legion**, and Past Secretary of the Sponsoring Committee of Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron 614. John will be dearly missed by his family and friends. He was a man of uncommon kindness and generosity, a true gentleman. A service in celebration of John's life will be conducted at St. John the Divine Anglican Church in Arva on Tuesday, January 3rd at 11:00 a.m. A Legion memorial service will begin the ceremony. Reception to follow in the parish hall. Cremation with private interment in St. John's Cemetery, Arva. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the London Health Sciences Foundation or the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated. We gratefully acknowledge the outstanding and compassionate care John received from his physicians, in particular Dr. Cyrus Hsia, Dr. Ian Chin-Yee and Dr. Shiraz Malik and from all the nurses who cared for him at Victoria Hospital. ([www.HarrisFuneralHome.ca](http://www.HarrisFuneralHome.ca))

12479573



**STEVENS, Lloyd Francis** - on Saturday, May 19th, 2012 at University Hospital, London, in his 89th year. Leaves behind his loving wife Eileen (Trollope). Predeceased by his beloved wife of 53 years Margaret (Flynn). Devoted father of Heather, Terry and Sharon. Grandfather "Poppa" will be sadly missed by his grandchildren Kristine, David, Kathryn and Steven. His adorable great-grandchildren Matthew, Nathan and Logan. Survived by his siblings Verna, Bill and Shirley. In 1943 Lloyd served in the 15th Field Regiment until 1946 and was in Holland for the liberation and in September of 1987 joined the "22 (London) Service Battalion" and became the Honorary Colonel. In 1954 Lloyd began his career at Clarkson and Gordan and then moved to work under Richard Ivey Sr. with the Allpak Products as well as serving on board of Prenor Trust. Lloyds passion for his family and his service to his community will be sadly missed by all. Donations of sympathy can be directed to the Research Division for Organ Transplant at University Hospital in London, Ontario. Celebration of his life will be held at the Wolseley Barracks Officers Mess, Building 92, 701 Oxford St., London, on Friday, June 1st, 2012 from 3-6 p.m. A Memorial Service will be held at 4:00 p.m. **LONDON CREMATION SERVICE**, 519-672-0459 entrusted with arrangements.

12586549

## Deaths

**BERDAY, Richard (Dick)** - passed away peacefully with family by his side on Tuesday, **January 24th, 2012** at University Hospital, London in his 84th year. Beloved husband of Helen (Fay) Berday. Dear father of Ellen, Jim and Arlene (Bill). Grandfather of Jacqueline, Kristin and Nicole. Brother of Fred (Barb) and the late Marion Sperrino. Also survived by loving nieces and nephews. Dick spent the majority of his life in Geraldton, Ontario, where he operated several retail businesses with his brother and sister, until he switched to real-estate and insurance, eventually retiring in 1997. Dick was a leader in his community as a lay preacher in the Anglican Church, President of the Rotary Club, President of the Ontario Insurance Brokers Association, Chief of the Volunteer Fire Brigade, President of the Greenstone Economic Development Association, a director for the Thunder Bay Housing Corporation, a member of the Canadian Militia, and a life member of the Masonic Order. Since moving to London in 2005, Dick has been active with Kiwanis and the Shriners Trumpet Band. A celebration of life, beginning with a Masonic Service, will be held on Sunday January 29th at 2:00pm at **FOREST LAWN MEMORIAL CHAPEL**, 1997 Dundas Street E. (at Wavell). Visitation will be 1 hour prior to service from 1:00-2:00pm. As expressions of sympathy, donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or a charity of your choice.

12499587

LLOYD STEVENS - 1922 OR 23 - 2012



I've been asked to tell you something of Lloyd's years in the Cdn Army - a hugely important part of his life.

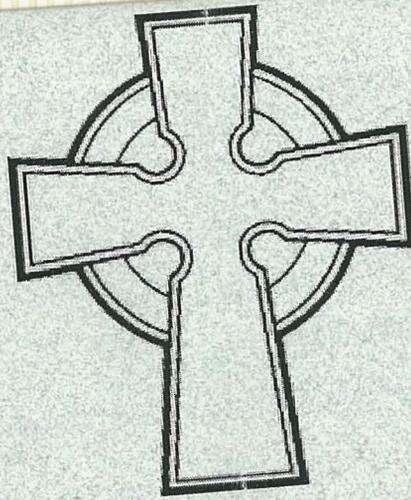
**WW II** Lloyd first enlisted in 1943 when he was barely out of his teens. He joined the 15th Fld Regt, RCA and trained as an artilleryman or gunner -aka **20 mile sniper**. After basic trg. in Canada, L's unit was off to the UK for advanced trg and preparation for DDay. His unit landed in Normandy and fought its way N. through France, Belgium and the Battle of the Schelde and into Holland. He was part of that great Cdn force that liberated Holland. He was there on 05 May 1945 when the German army in Holland surrendered to Gen Chas Foulkes. Like all Cdns, he was warmly welcomed back by the Netherlanders 50 years later for the massive festivities of that anniversary. He dutifully reported back to us all on that proud and joyous revisit in 1995.

WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN 2000.



**HALEY, Stephen William Harry** - Serenely, in his own good time and after a full life at Victoria Hospital, London on Friday, August 3, 2012 Stephen W.H. Haley in his 91st year. Born in Miri Sarawak Borneo, the son of Albert Haley of Marthville Ontario and Lucy Stonehouse of Hull England he was educated in Scotland and England. At the beginning of the Second World War he was commissioned as an officer in the Royal Air Force, completing his Spitfire training in time to participate in the Battle of Britain. After recovering from injuries sustained from an attempt by the Luftwaffe to make the "few" fewer he transferred to the RAF Regiment (Iraq Levies) serving in North Africa, the Near East and Mediterranean theatres. Following the war Stephen emigrated to Canada settling first in Toronto where he met and married his beloved Margaret (Fletcher) and then in London where he had a career in automobile sales and as a representative for many years of Corby-Wiser's Distillery. He was an active member of the London Little Theatre Company, The Baconian Society, The London Automobile Sport Club and the Sponsor's Committee 614 Forest City Squadron Royal Canadian Air Cadet Corps. He was also a Past Chairman of London's Fortnight Festival and a Director of the Vimy Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. His many stories, dry humour and love will be sadly missed by his sons Chris (Joanne), Ian (Nancy), and his grandsons Derek (Pamela), Drew (Sarah) and Fletcher. He will also be missed by his many friends for whom he was immensely grateful. Stephen would like to thank the London medical fraternity which allowed him to maintain an impressive social schedule to the end and the nursing staff of Victoria Hospital B9 who made his last days so pleasant. He would especially like to thank Dr. Julie Clarke for her years of care and kindness. A celebration of Stephen's life, details to be forthcoming will be held in the near future. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the London Regional Cancer Centre, 747 Baseline Road East, London Ontario N6C 2R6 would be appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to the **A. MILLARD GEORGE FUNERAL HOME**, London 519-433-5184. Online condolences, memories and photographs shared at [www.amgfh.com](http://www.amgfh.com)

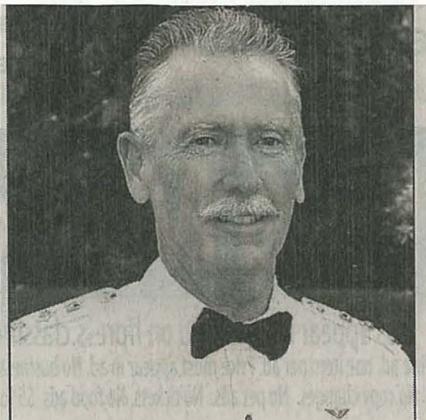
12643215



# STEPHEN WILLIAM HARRY HALEY

FEBRUARY 2, 1922 – AUGUST 3, 2012

**BRIAN WASN'T A VIMY MEMBER,  
BUT A LONGTIME FRIEND OF  
MANY WHO ARE.**



**SMITH, LCol (Ret'd) Brian Nelson, CD** - of London, Ontario passed away suddenly at his hunt camp in Parry Sound doing what he loved most on Wednesday, October 17, 2012 in his 70th year. An avid hunter & fisherman, Brian was a private contractor providing NGO security abroad in countries such as Rwanda, Bosnia, Kosovo, Cuba, Afghanistan, Iraq and Sudan.

Former Commanding Officer of the 4th Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment with over 25 years of Military Service and Proud Member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #125 (Delhi) and Wolseley Barracks Officers Mess. Beloved husband of Joan (Phillips) Wadleigh. Loving father of Annette Tilly (Marlon) of England, Brendan Smith (Jennifer) of London, Jessica Wadleigh of London, and Edward Wadleigh (Nicola) of Deep River. Cherished grandfather of Musa, Yasmin, Abby, Alfie, Cydney, Taylor, Baby Emma, Jack and Sam. Lovingly remembered by his mother Margaret Smith of Delhi and by his sisters, Karen Downey (Archer) of Tillsonburg and Pauline Wapshaw of Delhi. Also survived by several nieces & nephews. Predeceased by his father, Donald "Duck" Smith (2010), brother-in-law David Wapshaw (2012) and by his niece Melinda Wapshaw (1992). Friends may call at the **MURPHY FUNERAL HOME**, Delhi for visitation on Monday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. A Royal Canadian Legion Service will be held on Monday evening at 6:45 p.m. A Funeral Service will be held in the Chapel on Tuesday, October 23, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. with Rev. Wendy Mencil officiating. Interment in Delhi Cemetery. Donations to the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund or the Charity of your Choice will be gratefully appreciated by the family.

12688999

VIMY DINNER – 09 Nov. 2012



War Stories

## Vimy Branch 145 Past Presidents

1929-30 M.M. Dillon, 1931 Capt J.G. Gillanders, 1932 Col G.E. Reid,  
1933 Lt Col H.K. Ingram, 1934 Sgt/ Maj L..E. Mills, 1935 Lt Col D.B.Weldon,  
1936 Maj D.J.H. Ferguson, 1937 Capt R..I. Watt, 1938 CH Ivey  
1939-40 G.F. Kingsmill Esq, 1941 J.H. Stevens Esq.  
1942 Maj L..T. Hayman, 1943 Capt J.R.. Carling,  
1944-5 Capt E.H. Shuttleworth, 1946 Brig R.H. Beatie,  
1947 Capt G.W. Foote, 1948 S/L H.F. Davison, 1949 Col G.W. Little,  
1950 Lt Col H.I. Hayman, 1951 Lt J.B. Nash, 1952 S/L J.E. Jennings ,  
1953 Maj D.J. Urquhart, 1954 Capt J. Jeffery, 1955 Lt G.W.H. Bartram  
1956 W/C G.M. Burns, 1957 Lt Cmdr F.N.D. Carmichael,  
1958 Capt H.W. Hockin, 1959 Lt Col R.M. Dillon,  
1960 Lt Cmdr W.R.. Poole, 1961 Lt Col G.E. Humphries,  
1962 Capt N. McBeth, 1963 Capt C.C. Ross, 1964 Capt A.M. LeBel  
1965 Lt Col W.R.. Buchner, 1966 Maj J.O. Howitt, 1967 Maj J.W. Nolan,  
1968 Lt W.E. Bell, 1969 Capt B.I. Baldwin, 1970 Maj J.B. Stratton,  
1971 Lt W.J. Robinson, 1972 W/C G.A. MacDougall  
1973 Capt W.J. Roadhouse, 1974 Lt Col I.S. Lauchland  
1975 Maj K.B. Keefe, 1976 Lt D.D.C. McGeachy,  
1977 Lt Col J.P.C. Macpherson, 1978 Maj J.P. Cook, 1979 F/O J.N. Given  
1980 Lt Col J. Harris, 1981 Maj R.S. Macnab, 1982 F/L G.E. Wilson,  
1983 Maj W.F. Stott, 1984 WO J. Stevens, 1985 B Gen A.R. McIntosh,  
1986 Surg/Lt W.W. Wilkins, 1987 S/L Nellegan, 1988 W.G. Reid Esq.  
1989 Lt Col S Lerner, 1990 L Cmdr W.J. Magee, 1991 B Gen W.P. Doohan,  
1992 Maj B.A. Urquhart, 1993 P/O B.K. West, 1994 L Col F. Vine,  
1995 S/L I. Williams, 1996 Lt Col D.J. Bonner, 1997 Lt H.K. Wooster,  
1998 CPO J. Driver, 1999 S/L C. Grigg., 2000 Col E.C. Quinn,  
2001 Capt R. Mahar, 2002 L Col J McClure, 2003 F/L A.A. Munro,  
2004 Les Davison Esq, 2005 Maj K.A. Tanswell, 2006 F/O RW Reid,  
2006 Maj RA Wilson, 2007 S/L J Malone, 2008 LCol M.J. Kay,  
2009 Maj R.R. Doyon, 2010 Maj GD Robinson, 2011 Maj JA Conyers,

# Vimy Fall Dinner

## Friday

### 9 November

## 2012



**Mocha Temple Auditorium**  
**468 Colborne St. London**  
**1800 hrs Reception**  
**1845 hrs Dinner**



## Vimy Branch 145 Officers and Executive 2012

*President: LCol R.G. Moore*

*Vice President: F/L D. Bondy,*

*Honourary Vice Presidents;*

*Lt Cmdr W.R. Poole, Col E.C. Quinn, S/L I. Williams*

*Past President: Maj G.D Robinson*

*Secretary LCdr K.B. Roden*

*Treasurer: Maj R.R.Doyon, Membership: LCol B.N. Harris*

*Director of Music: Mr G. Laidlaw*

*Chaplain: Reverend Frank Mantz*

### Directors

*LCol W.H. Haley, LCdr M.J. Hoare, Mr J Lloyd ,*

*LCol R. Phillips, Capt S.L. Ricketts,*

*Maj M.R. Steel, Mr R.. Warden*

**\*\*\*\*\***

The 2013 membership dues, \$45.00  
and the dinner tariff, \$35.00  
will be collected at the door.

A CHEQUE payable to "Vimy Branch 145 RCL"  
for \$80.00 would be appreciated.



Those unable to attend should mail their membership dues to

**Vimy Branch No. 145 RCL**

**16-869 Whetherfield St.**

**London, On. N6H 0A2**

Your **membership card** will be mailed out on receipt.



## Programme



**The President, LCol R.G. Moore in Command**

**The Vimy Band, G. Laidlaw conducting**

**1800 hrs,**

**Reception**

**1845 hrs,**

**O Canada**

**We Remember**

**Toast to the Queen**

**Grace**

**Introduction of the Head Table**

**Dinner**

**Speaker**

**Introduction of guests**

**Introduction of new members**

**Election of Officers and Executive 2013**

**Raffle Draw**

**(Proceeds to support Parkwood Veterans Care)**



A Lady is Our Guest Speaker (a first ever?)





# Honouring our soldiers

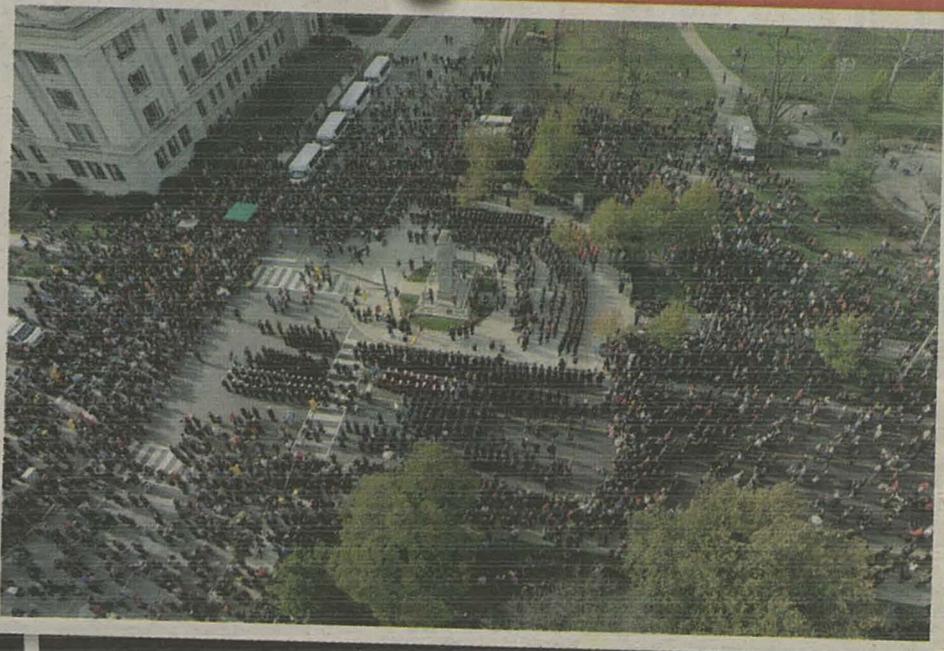
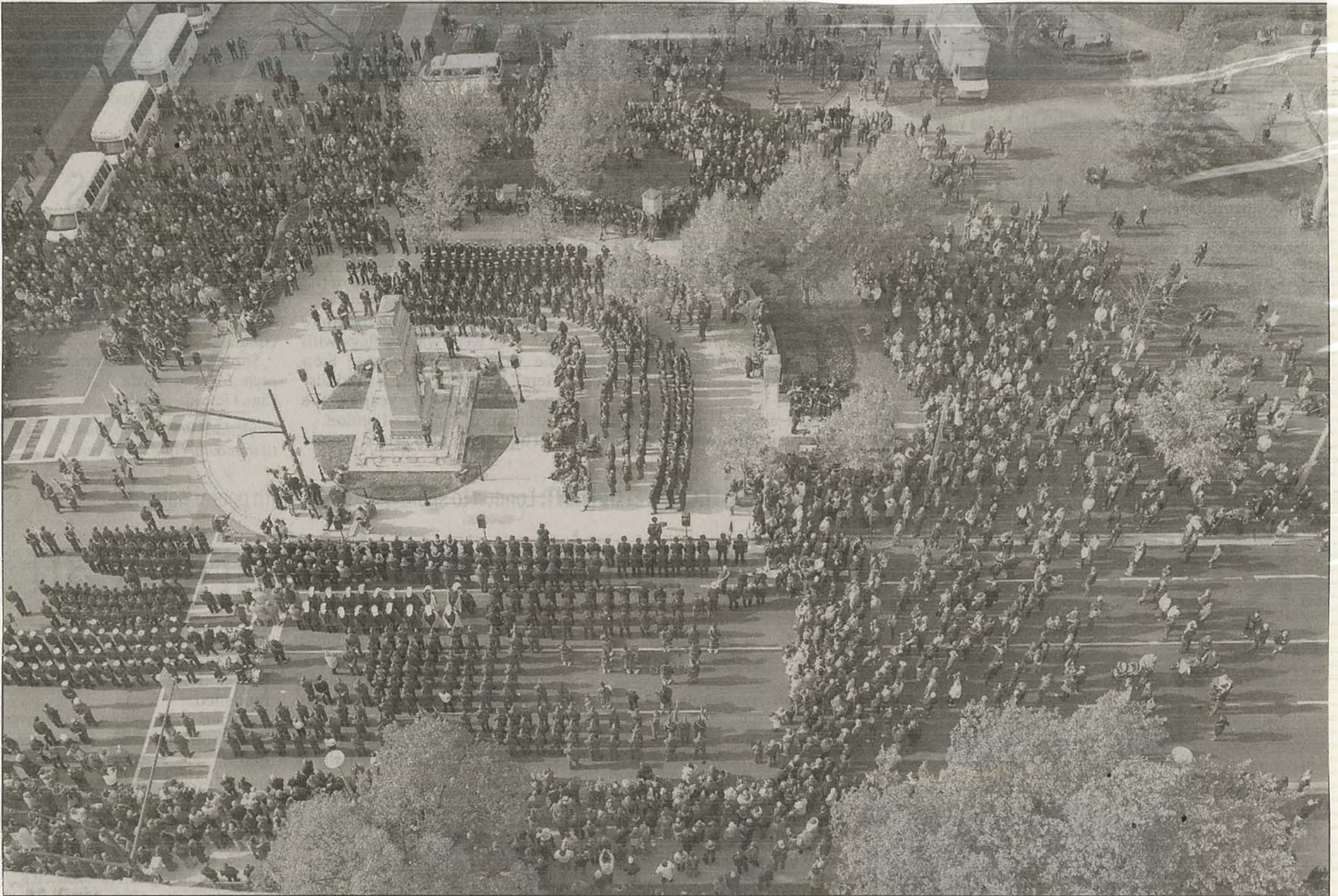


Photo by Don Martel. Special to the Londoner.

ABOVE Thousands paid tribute to those who gave their lives for our freedom. The Remembrance Day ceremony was held at the Cenotaph in Victoria Park.

Photo by Evelyn Symons. Special to the Londoner.

LEFT Craig Woodland plays the Last Post at the Cenotaph in Victoria Park last Sunday during the Remembrance Day ceremony.

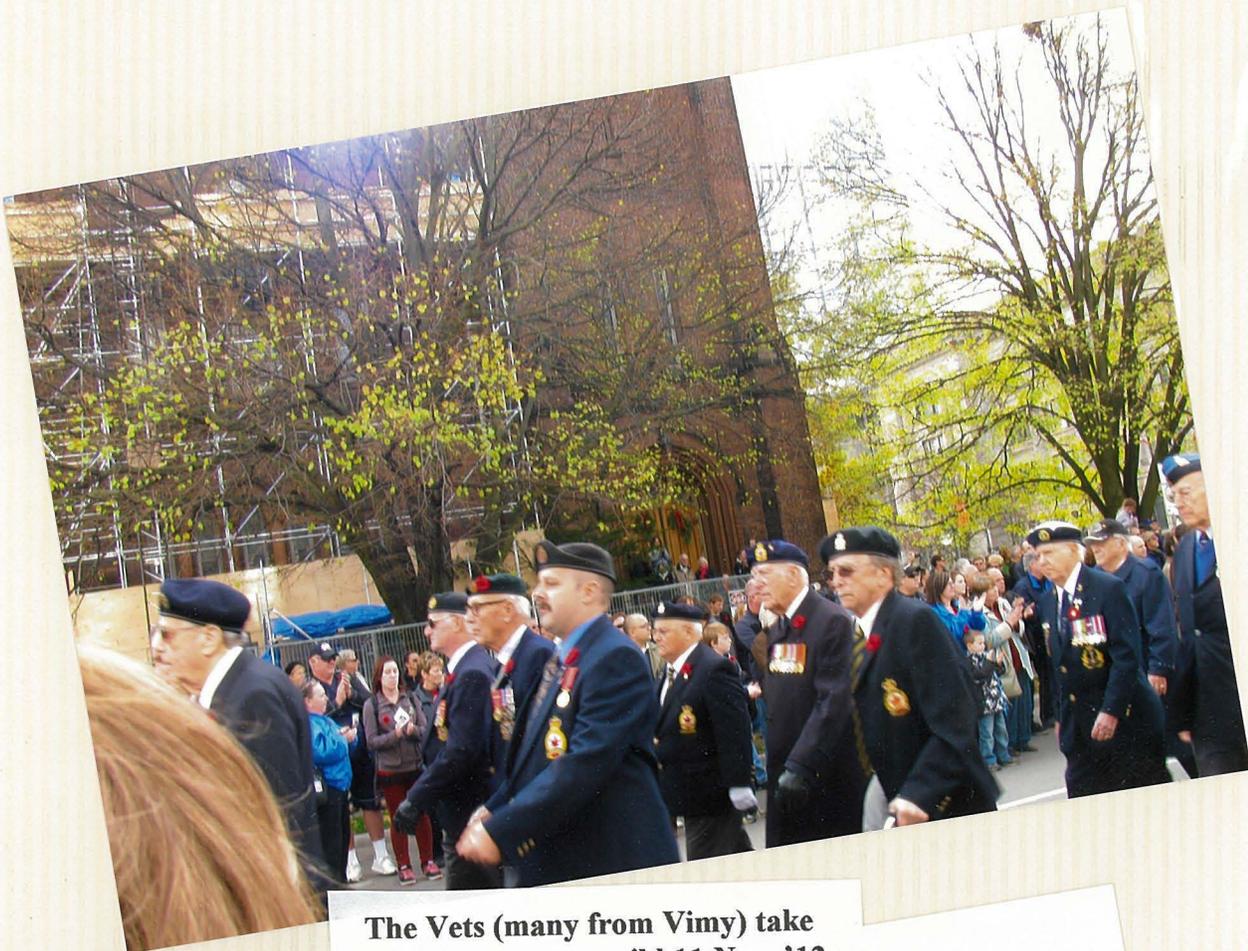


Photos by DEREK RUTTAN The London Free Press

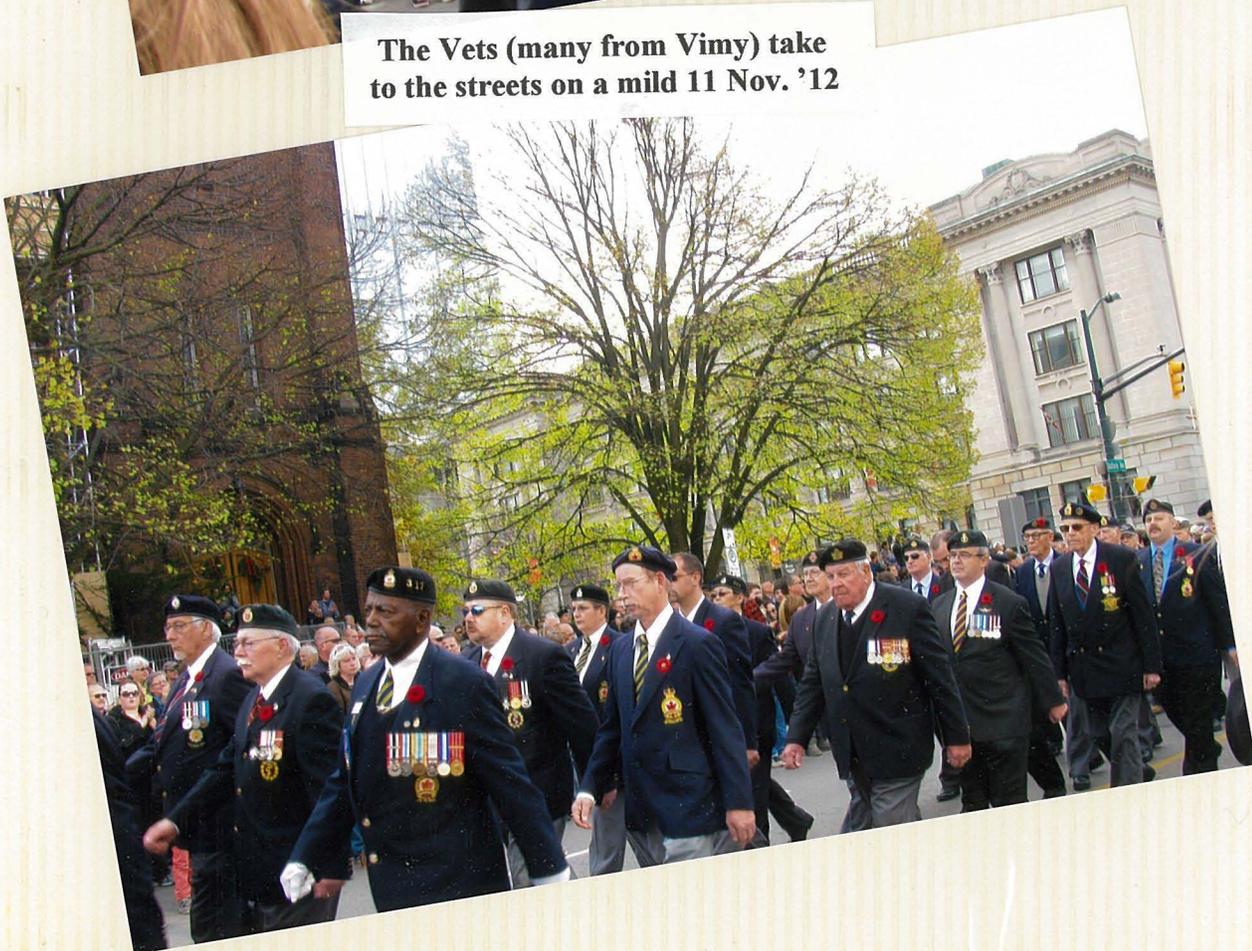
Thousands attended the Remembrance Day ceremony at the cenotaph at Victoria Park in downtown London on Sunday.

LFP - 12 NOV. '12

# Downtown London comes to a halt to honour fallen



**The Vets (many from Vimy) take to the streets on a mild 11 Nov. '12**



# Deaths



**CONYERS, Major J.A. (Ret.)** - Peacefully at Victoria Hospital on Tuesday, December 18th, 2012, Joseph "Al" Conyers of London at the age of 78. Beloved husband of Noreen. Loving father of Jamie Conyers and his wife Joan of London and Janet Thomson and her husband Jeff of Kitchener. Much loved grandpa to Christopher and Cynthia Thomson of Kitchener. Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held at **WESTVIEW FUNERAL CHAPEL**, 709 Wonderland Road North, London, on Friday, January 11, 2013 at 12:00 p.m. with visitation one hour prior. In lieu of flowers, donations to The RCR Museum Fund or the London Humane Society will be greatly appreciated. Online condolences may be made at [www.westviewfuneralchapel.com](http://www.westviewfuneralchapel.com)

12715700



VIMY PRESIDENT - 2004

**DAVISON, Leslie** - Peacefully, surrounded by family at Victoria Hospital, London, on Thursday, February 14, 2013, Leslie Davison of London at the age of 89. Beloved husband of Doris Davison for 66 years. Loving father of Kathy (Bill) Amezeder, Tony (Jane) Davison, Carole Davison (Harvey), Gordon (Maria-Lena) Davison and Ken (Jacquie) Davison. Also loved by his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A celebration of life will be conducted at **WESTVIEW FUNERAL CHAPEL**, 709 Wonderland Road North, London, on Monday, February 18, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. with visitation one hour prior. Cremation with a private family interment at Mount Pleasant Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Kiwanis of Middlesex. Online condolences may be made at [www.westviewfuneralchapel.com](http://www.westviewfuneralchapel.com)

**JAMESON, Aubrey "Bubs"** - Passed away peacefully at the Collingwood General & Marine Hospital April 26, 2013 in his 93 year. Beloved husband of the late Catharine "Kay" Jameson and the late Elizabeth "Betty" Jameson. Dear father of Jim Jameson (Peggy) of Tofino and Mary Stewart (Don) of Creemore, step-father of Joan Barr (Brian) of Orillia, Tom Oates (Mary-Ellen) of Woodstock, and Mary Fordham (Peter) of New Zealand. Fondly remembered by his grandchildren. As per Bub's wishes cremation has taken place and a Memorial service will be held in May in Creemore. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Lung Association or the Canadian War Museum would be appreciated. Friends may visit the on-line Book of Memories at [www.fawcettfuneralhomes.com](http://www.fawcettfuneralhomes.com)



**HAMMOND, Denis** - Peacefully at University Hospital on Tuesday, October 29, 2013 Denis Malcolm Redvers Hammond of Arva in his 91st year. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife Paddy, children Graylen, Melanie (Les) and Jill, grandchildren Jessica and Ross and their mother Barbara Andrew. Brother of Brenda and her husband Tony Gibbs in England. Former Squadron Leader to 27 Royal Canadian Air Cadets, Sponsoring Committee for 614 Forest City Royal Canadian Air Cadets. A memorial service will be conducted at St. John the Divine Anglican Church, Arva on Wednesday, November 6 at 2:00 p.m. If desired, memorial donations to 614 (Forest City) Royal Canadian Air Cadets [www.614aircadets.org](http://www.614aircadets.org) would be appreciated. [www.HarrisFuneralHome.ca](http://www.HarrisFuneralHome.ca)

## Célébrez la Journée de Vimy!

La Fondation Vimy est une organisation à but non lucratif qui a pour mission de commémorer l'héritage laissé par le Canada lors de la Première Guerre mondiale et symbolisé par la victoire héroïque de la Crête-de-Vimy en 1917, étape importante ayant fait entrer le Canada dans une ère nouvelle. Nous offrons un programme de bourse, au Canada et en France, aux étudiants canadiens des écoles secondaires afin de les sensibiliser et de les instruire sur ce premier et important apport de notre nation à la Première Guerre mondiale. Elle fournit également du matériel éducatif aux écoles, des médailles de pèlerinage aux visiteurs du Mémorial de Vimy en France et des épinglettes de Vimy à être portées par tous les Canadiens le Jour de la bataille de Vimy. La Fondation encourage aussi, de façon générale, une meilleure sensibilisation quant à l'importance de célébrer chaque année le Jour de la bataille de Vimy. Pour de plus amples informations sur la Fondation Vimy, veuillez visiter notre site web: [www.fondationvimy.ca](http://www.fondationvimy.ca).



THE VIMY FOUNDATION  
LA FONDATION VIMY

La médaille du pèlerinage de Vimy  
Vimy Pilgrimage Medal

## THE VIMY PIN

The Vimy Pin commemorates Canada's momentous victory at Vimy Ridge, April 9, 1917. The Pin displays the two iconic towers of the magnificent Vimy Memorial, accompanied by vertical colour bands representing the four Canadian Divisions (Red, 1st Div.; Dark Blue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Div.; Grey Blue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Div.; Green, 4<sup>th</sup> Div.) comprised of approximately 100,000 men, who fought for the first time as a united force at Vimy Ridge. The order of the ribbon's colours reflects the position of the four Canadian Divisions at Vimy. At 3,598 men killed, Vimy Ridge remains Canada's bloodiest day.

Visitors to Vimy Ridge can now acquire the Vimy Pin  
as did Vimy Br. member Gerry Treble



# Veterans' Association

## News Letter

### CHAPTER 2 AUTUMN 2013 EDITION

#### BETTER LATE THAN NEVER !



In 1944 Jim Driver was a young 17 year old seaman serving upon warship, H.M.S. Kent. The ship was based in Scapa Flow, in Northern Scotland, and was almost continually at sea, it escorted North Atlantic convoys bringing vital supplies to the United Kingdom, convoys to Murmansk in Russia, blockaded the German battleship "Tirpitz" which was holed up in a Norwegian fiord and many other assignments.

Many of these tasks, especially the Russian convoys, took place north of the Arctic Circle. It was very cold, hard and dangerous work, neither the ship or the crew were really equipped to deal with these conditions and the men wore every item of clothing that they possessed just to keep warm. Much time was spent just clearing ice from the guns and the superstructure, it was well known that if a vessel carried too much ice she could very likely capsize. The sailors were also aware that if they went into the sea that they had no more than four or five minutes to live, owing to the extremely low water temperatures. The convoys were under constant enemy attack by submarines, aircraft and surface vessels. The weather usually was bad with rough seas, ice flows and dense fog, in the winter time it was dark up twenty three hours a day.

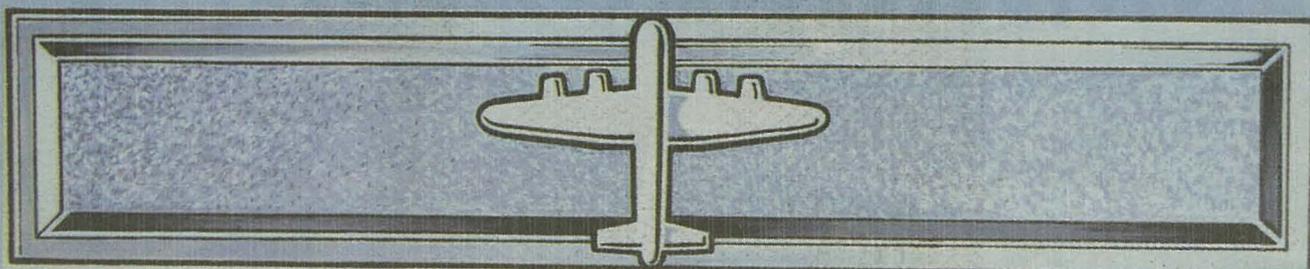
After the war, when service medals were awarded, Jim got his fair share, as he had served on a number of ships in several theatres of the conflict. However, no special medal was provided for those who had served North of the Arctic Circle and this was a bone of contention among arctic veterans. For years various ex-service groups lobbied the British Government for that arduous and dangerous service to be recognized, to no avail. In the mid 1980's the Russian Government issued a commemorative medal for arctic service and allied servicemen, who were entitled, were given permission to wear it.

Finally, in early 2013, British Prime Minister Cameron announced that an "Arctic Star" had been approved and World War II veterans, who were entitled, could make application for it. Unfortunately many, if not most, of the veterans had passed on, only those who had been quite young at the time would still be alive. In Jim's case, he applied for the decoration and has recently received it, sixty nine years since he actually earned it. !!! As the old saying goes "BETTER LATE THAN NEVER".

Amazing What Governments (ours ↓ and the UK's ↑) can do when they get A ROUND TUIT

## New Bar for Bomber Command Veterans

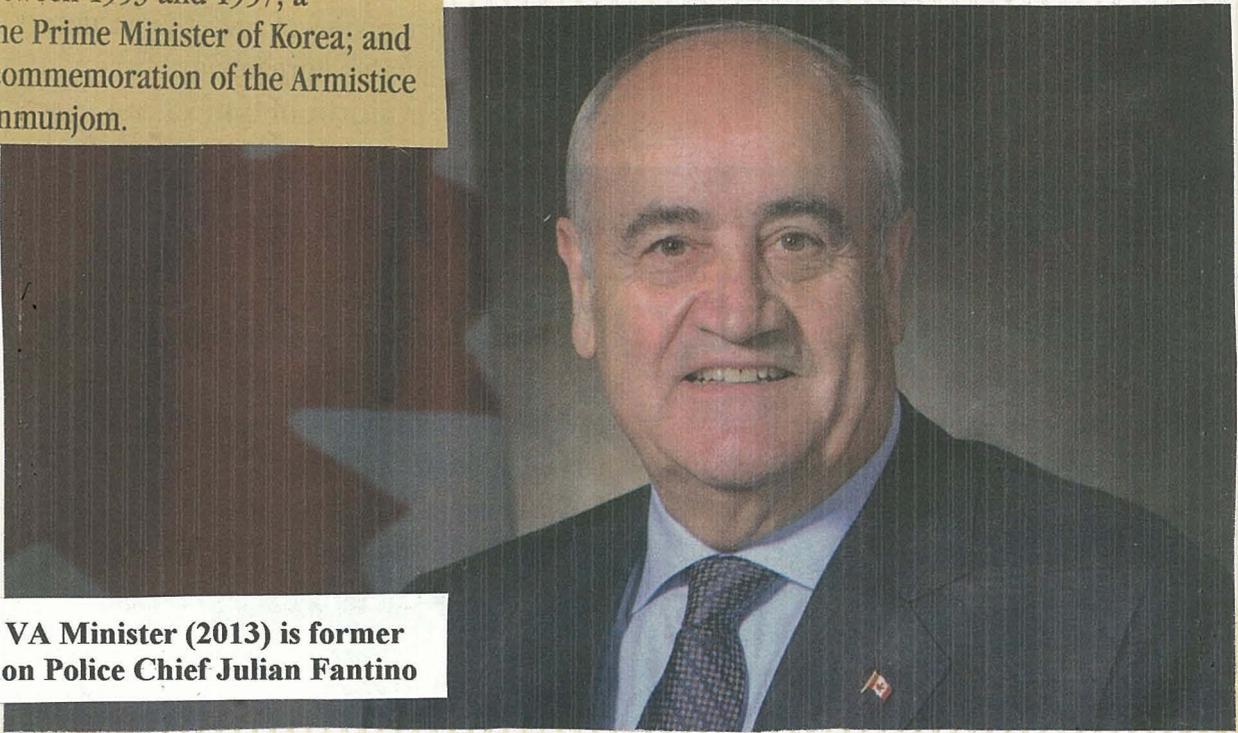
ANNOUNCED  
APRIL, 2013  
FOR R.C.A.F.  
VETS OF  
1939-'45



# July 25-30

In July, the Honourable Julian Fantino, (below) Minister of Veterans Affairs, was joined by Senator Yonah Martin as they led a delegation of Canadian Veterans on their return to the Republic of Korea to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. The delegation participated in a range of commemorative events organized by both Canada and the Republic of Korea.

Events included a wreath-laying and traditional ash ceremony at the Seoul National Cemetery; the unveiling of a new Canadian monument at Korea's War Memorial dedicated to the Canadian military personnel who fought during the Korean War and to those who served after the Armistice between 1953 and 1957; a reception hosted by the Prime Minister of Korea; and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of the Armistice agreement held in Panmunjom.



**New VA Minister (2013) is former London Police Chief Julian Fantino**

REMEMBRANCE  
WEEK 2013



MIKE HENSEN The London Free Press

Londoners Mary Cole, Mark Van Den Bossche and their son, Kyle, 9, place poppies at the memorial to the crew of the sunken frigate HMCS Valleyfield during Sunday's Battle of the Atlantic memorial ceremony at HMCS Prevost, London's naval reserve unit. In all, 1,300 poppies — each signifying a sailor lost in the fight to supply Britain by convoy during the Second World War — were placed during the event, on the eve of Remembrance Week Nov. 5 to 11.

VIMY DIRECTORS - 2013/14



Back (L-R) Keith Roden (Sect'y), Randy Warden (Membership), Bob Doyon\* (Treas), Rick Phillips, Phil Spencer, Mike Steele, Jim Driver\*, Bill Pettipas, Dick Moore\*

Front (L-R): Brian Harris, Doug McAndless, Don Bondy (Pres.), Jack Malone\*, Malcolm Kay\*  
Abs: Ian Haley, John Lloyd, John McClure\*, Steve Ricketts, Dale Robinson\*(\* Past President)

# Remembrance Day 2013



## Canada at War: Participation and Casualties

### South Africa War (1899-1902)

Approximately 7,000 Canadians served; almost 300 of them gave their lives. They are commemorated in the South African War / Nile Expedition Book of Remembrance.

### First World War (1914-1918)

Approximately 650,000 Canadians served, including members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, Canadians and Newfoundlanders who served with British forces (Newfoundland was a colony of Great Britain until 1949) and merchant mariners. Of this number, more than 68,000 gave their lives. They are commemorated in the First World War Book of Remembrance, the Merchant Navy Book of Remembrance and the Newfoundland Book of Remembrance.

### Second World War (1939-1945)

More than one million Canadians and Newfoundlanders served in Canada's Armed Forces, in Allied forces or in the merchant navy; over 47,000 of them gave their lives. They are commemorated in the Second World War Book of Remembrance, the Merchant Navy Book of Remembrance and the Newfoundland Book of Remembrance.

### Korean War (1950-1953)

26,791 Canadians served in the Canadian Army Special Force; 516 of them gave their lives. They are commemorated in the Korean War Book of Remembrance.

### In the Service of Canada (as of September 2012)

Approximately 1,800 Canadians are commemorated in the Seventh Book of Remembrance, In the Service of Canada. They gave their lives in service to their country, including peacekeeping and other foreign military operations, domestic operations and training, since October 1947, with the exception of those commemorated in the Korean War Book of Remembrance. The Seventh Book of Remembrance is unique because it is a living document that will be used to commemorate those who have given their lives "In the Service of Canada" for generations to come. The names of Canadian Forces personnel whose deaths were related to Afghanistan service are commemorated in this Book.

### Estimated Veteran Population as of March 2013

#### Second World War

91,400; their average age is 89.

#### Korean War

9,900; their average age is 81.

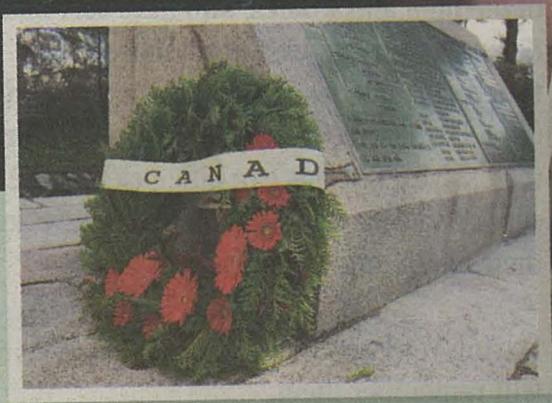
#### CF Veterans (Regular Forces and Primary Reserves)

594,300; their average age is 56.

## In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead.  
Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders Fields.  
Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders Fields.  
-John McCrae*

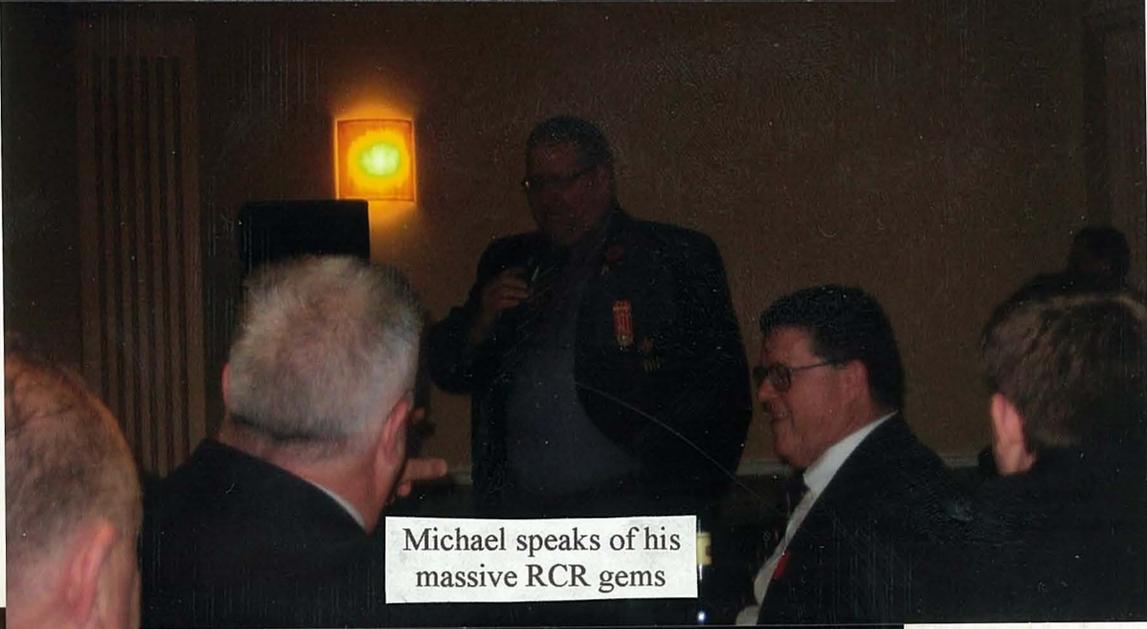




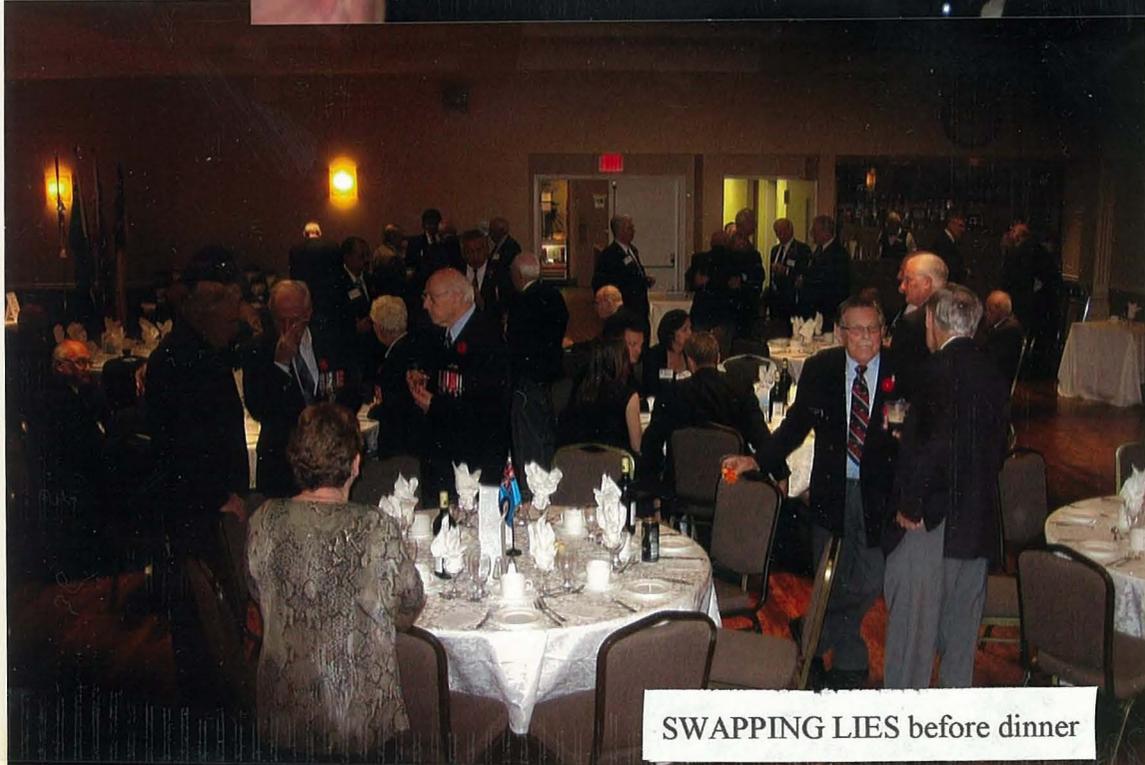
VIMY DINNER – 08 Nov. 2013



Some of Capt. Michael O'Leary's RCR Memorabilia Collection

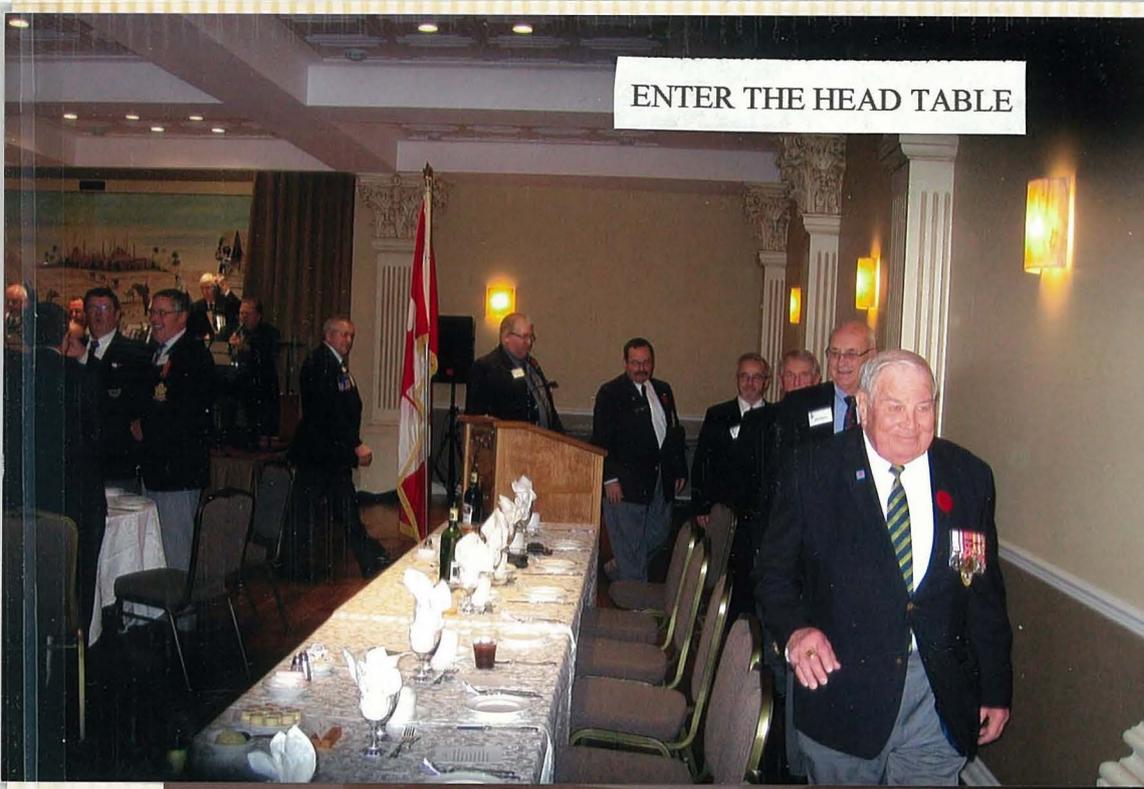


Michael speaks of his massive RCR gems



SWAPPING LIES before dinner

ENTER THE HEAD TABLE



More Tall Tales



AT ATTENTION for the Regimental Marches





Three former 22 Svc Bn members  
S. Devine, M. Devine, G. Sneddon



RCAF On Parade – Smart?? as Ever



The Vimy Band under George Laidlaw  
(Has George lost his place on the page?)

Longtime Vimy Band Bass Player  
Bob (Doc) Livingston is 90  
↓  
(He Ain't Alone)



Happy 90th Birthday!  
Bob Livingston  
November 26, 2013

Love, your family and friends at  
Riverside Retirement Residence



**It's Not Like Pulling Teeth to Get Some Comrades Out  
(Vimy Member Stan McParland is a retired dentist)**

Muriel Corbiere adjusts a blanket draped over her father, Stanley McParland, a bomber pilot during the Second World War, as he takes part in the Remembrance Day ceremony at Victoria Park in London. 12 Nov '13

CRAIG GLOVER The London Free Press



**MUNRO, Archibald (Archie) Angus -**  
 Passed away peacefully in Chatham, Ontario on December 23, 2013. Along with heavy hearts, he leaves behind many wonderful and happy memories for his family and friends. Archie was born in London, Ontario on September 2, 1924 to the late Archibald and Edith Munro. He was the beloved brother to the late Bob and Don Munro. Upon graduation from Sir Adam Beck Collegiate, Archie joined the R.C.A.F. and a year later was awarded the Navigator Wing. He was immediately posted to Britain and served with Bomber Command in the Royal Air Force. He served his country proudly in WW II, flying many missions over Germany and later dropping relief supplies to the starving citizens of the Netherlands. A lifelong brotherhood with his "Able Mabel" Lancaster air crew ensued for the rest of his life. After the war, Archie returned to London to marry his high school sweetheart, the late Barbara Morgan (1987). Together on Huron Street, they raised Bob (Heather) Munro residing in Golden B.C., Michael (Darlene) Munro living in Chatham, Ontario, and Susan (Steve) Birtch living in London, Ontario. Archie was the proud grandfather of Daniel (Kelly), Ian, Greg, and Alison Munro, along with Cristian and Nicola Birtch. Archie was predeceased by his in-laws, Fred and Helen Morgan, and by sisters and brothers-in-law, Robert Morgan, James and Mona Oppe, William and Margaret Kime, and June Munro. Also, he is remembered fondly by sister-in-law, Mae Munro. Uncle Arch will also be remembered by several nephews and nieces. In 1988, Archie wed Georgina Mills (deceased 2009). Throughout the years, Archie remained very active. He was Past President and Board of Director of London Family Services, Vice President of Ontario Automobile Association, Past President of Royal London Military Institute, Past President of Vimy Legion Branch 145, member of the local Auxiliary Air Force 420 Squadron, member of Wartime Pilots and Observers Association, member of the Air Force Association of Canada, and British Aircrew Association. Finally, Archie was always a proud sponsor and volunteer at 614 Forest City Squadron Royal Canadian Air Cadets. Cremation has taken place. In the spirit of his memory, family and friends will be welcomed at Wolseley Barracks Officers' Mess in London (701 Oxford Street East, Building #92) on Monday, January 13, 2014 between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. for a time of sharing and reminiscence. A short remembrance of Archie's life will be held at 4:00 p.m. Our family would like to express heartfelt thanks to the staff at Meadow Park, Chatham for their kind and caring ways. In memory of Archie, donations can be made to the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, Lancaster Restoration Project or The Royal Canadian Legion Branch of your choice. Online condolences can be accepted at [www.blenheimcommunityfuneralhome.com](http://www.blenheimcommunityfuneralhome.com)

*In Memory of  
 Archibald Angus Munro*

*Loved Husband of the late  
 Barbara Morgan (1987)  
 Georgina Mills (2009)*

*Born  
 September 2, 1924*

*Passed Away  
 December 23, 2013*

*Dear Father of  
 Bob & Heather Munro  
 Michael & Darlene Munro  
 Susan & Steve Birtch*

*Proud Grandfather of  
 Daniel & Kelly Munro, Ian Munro  
 Greg Munro, Alison Munro  
 Cristian Birtch, Nicola Birtch*



**2013 Ends Sadly for Vimy**

*"Oh I have slipped the surly  
 bonds of earth,  
 And danced the skies on  
 laughter-silvered wings;  
 Sunward I've climbed,  
 and joined the tumbling mirth  
 Of sun-split clouds-  
 and done a hundred things  
 You have not dreamed of"*



**WOOSTER, H. Kenneth** - Ken passed away on December 8, 2013 in Toronto, aged 92. The son of Harry and Sue Wooster, he was formerly of London. He leaves Beth, his loving wife of 70 years, sons Peter (Julia) and Douglas, grandchildren Elizabeth, Paul (Meghann) and Andrew (Melissa) and 4 great-grandchildren. He served with the Royal Canadian Regiment Artillery in WWII and continued in the naval reserve subsequently. He was a member and Past-President of the Vimy Branch of the Legion. As an educator, he worked for various boards of education and the Ontario Ministry of Education. He was a co-author of the standard school science textbook, *Methods of Science*. As a musician, he played and enjoyed classical, jazz and big band music for over 75 years and made recordings from the 78s to the digital age. He played at the inaugural season of the Stratford Festival. He was active in the Kiwanis Music Festival in London and provided the Best Brass Performer scholarship to encourage young musicians. Although he pursued a variety of hobbies, as well, his family was always his priority. With his gentle manner and interest in everyone, he was an inspiration. He will be dearly missed. A private family memorial will be held. Donations may be made to the CNIB at [www.cnib.ca/donate](http://www.cnib.ca/donate).

**2014 OPENS EQUALLY  
SADLY FOR VIMY**

**Of these four recently parted Vimy members, three were past presidents: Comrades Wooster ('97 & also our long-time orchestra leader); Munro (2003), & Robinson (2010)**

**Comrade Corfield was a former director and assistant to Norm McBeth in his writing of the 1983 history of Vimy Br. and author of the 2006 rewrite of *Friends and Comrades***

**CORFIELD, F/O William E. (Bill)** 93 1/2 - went for a doctor's appointment and never returned. Died 9 December 2013 at University Hospital, London after telling them he'd be dead in three hours on 25 November. Survived by sons Geoffrey and Paul, granddaughter Megan, two boxes of Shredded Wheat, four cans of creamed corn, and a silent computer. Predeceased by wife Margaret and daughter Leslie.

Born Redditch, UK. Famous at St. Catharines Collegiate Institute for riding his motorcycle through the hallways upon graduation. Held a flying licence before a driving licence. Never known to have played any sport (took up walking at 92). Loved flying and writing and became pilot instructor RCAF 1942-45, and flying reporter The London Free Press 1945-52. Director of Public Relations, Labatt Breweries 1957-65 ("Mr. Pilsener", "Take 5 for 50"). Established Corfield Associates; Public Relations Services 1965-99.

Tolerated socialists and academics (sometimes graciously). Once asked to thank the speaker at a Baconian Club banquet, stole the evening by thanking the speaker so well he left early. Belonger to and writer of many things. Last flew age 90. He may be gone for some time. Gathering at The Hermitage Club, Commissioners Road, Byron (across from park near Springbank Drive), Sunday 15 December 2-4 pm. *Serva Fidem.* -30-



**ROBINSON, Major (Retired) G. Dale**

- Passed away at his residence on Tuesday, January 7th, 2014 in his 79th year. Beloved husband and best friend for 47 years to Carole (Forrest) Robinson. Loving Dad of Dale and Lesley both of London. Dear brother of Nancy Williams of Lindsay, Jane Beamer of St. Catharines and Debbie Phillips (Ken) of Little Britain. Loving grandpa of Elisha and Aiden. Predeceased by his grandson Gabrielle Robinson (2004). The funeral service will be conducted at **WESTVIEW FUNERAL CHAPEL**, 709 Wonderland Road North, London, on Tuesday, January 14th, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. with visitation one hour prior. Rev. Frank Mantz officiating. Spring Interment, Lakeside South Valentia Cemetery, Lindsay. Those wishing to make a donation in memory of Dale are asked to consider the Royal Canadian Regiment Museum, Heart and Stroke Foundation or the Children's Health Foundation. Online condolences may be made at [www.westviewfuneralchapel.com](http://www.westviewfuneralchapel.com)

*In Loving Memory*



**Major (Ret.) G. Dale Robinson**

**Born**

*Lindsay, Ontario, February 1, 1935*

**Died**

*London, Ontario, January 7, 2014*

**Funeral Service**

*Westview Funeral Chapel  
709 Wonderland Road North, London  
Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.*

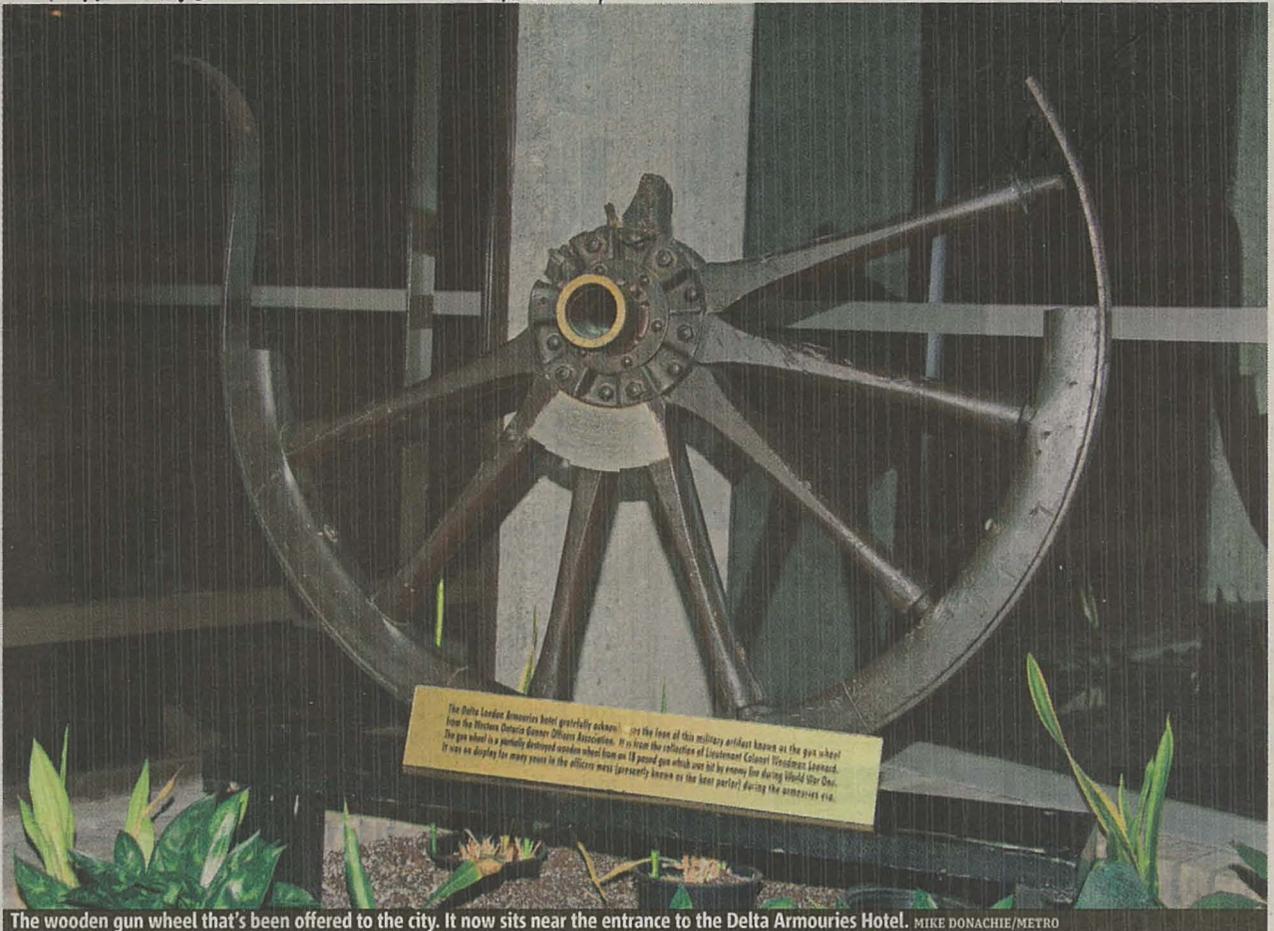
**Officiant**

*Rev. Frank Mantz*

**Spring Interment**

*Lakeside South Valentia Cemetery, Lindsay*

METRO - LONDON -- 27 JAN. '14



The Delta Armouries Hotel gratefully acknowledges the loan of this military artifact known as the gun wheel from the Western Ontario Gunner Officers Association. It is from the collection of Lieutenant Colonel Vivian James Lindsay. The gun wheel is a partially developed wooden wheel from an 18 pound gun which was hit by enemy fire during World War One. It was on display for many years in the officers mess (presently known as the beer parlour) during the armistice era.

The wooden gun wheel that's been offered to the city. It now sits near the entrance to the Delta Armouries Hotel. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

# Piece of history offered to the city

**First World War.**  
Wooden wheel part of Canadian gun carriage destroyed in battle

**MIKE DONACHIE**  
mike.donachie@metronews.ca

A historic artifact is being offered to the City of London by a group of former soldiers. In a letter to Mayor Joe

Fontana, the city has been informed that the Western Ontario Gunner Officers Association has been closed down. Its last meeting was held in October.

"It is our desire to retire with dignity," reads a letter to the mayor by retired major Robert R. Doyon.

But with the closure of the association comes the question of what to do with a wooden gun wheel that it owns.

The unusual item was

part of a Canadian field gun destroyed by enemy fire during the First World War. It was once owned by the Artillery Regiment but passed to the old soldiers' group in 1964 when the regiment disbanded.

Now on display at the Delta Armouries Hotel, where the gunner officers' association held its meetings, the wheel has been offered as a gift to the city.

"We now request the gun wheel be displayed with the

memorial plaque and Books of Remembrance on the main floor of London City Hall," writes Doyon.

The issue will be discussed at Monday's investment and economic prosperity committee meeting, but a decision is not expected.

Instead, city staff want councillors to agree to a review by experts, including the London Heritage Council Historic Artifacts Jury, which will report back to council with advice.

# Tingley a maestro at art of editorial cartoons

**DAN BROWN**  
The London Free Press

Named in honour of venerable *London Free Press* editorial cartoonist Merle Tingley, the first-ever Ting Comic and Graphic Arts Festival will be held April 22 to May 3 at the Arts Project. It will feature a display of Tingley's work, as well as art from the young artists who followed in his footsteps, among them top graphic novelist Seth.

But let's say you were too young to follow Ting in his heyday (he worked for this newspaper from 1948 to 1986): Where can you find examples of his gentle humour?

Sad to say, but Ting's collections are now out of print. What you'll have to do is scour used bookstores, such as City Lights on Richmond St. or the antique booths at Brydges Street Merchant Market.

Be on the lookout for such dog-eared titles as *25 Years in an Inkwell* (collecting work from 1948-1973), *Take Another Look 1967*, *Ting Cartoons 1970*, *Ting Cartoons 1977*, *Ting Cartoons Vol. 8 1978-1980* and *Ting Cartoons Vol. 9 1982*. I have heard there are as many as 20 anthologies in all.

Seth told festival organizer and artist/illustrator Diana

Tamblin that Ting came to speak to his Grade 1 class in Strathroy when he was a boy. That presentation had a huge impact on the budding artist, who realized there are people who actually support themselves by drawing. It was a light-bulb moment.

I never met Tingley — he's 92-years-old — but I religiously devoured his cartoons, being delighted to find his trademark character, Luke Worm, whom Tingley always hid away in some corner of that day's sketch.

My Poplar Hill Scout troop once visited the *Free Press* building on York St. and I clearly remember being allowed to

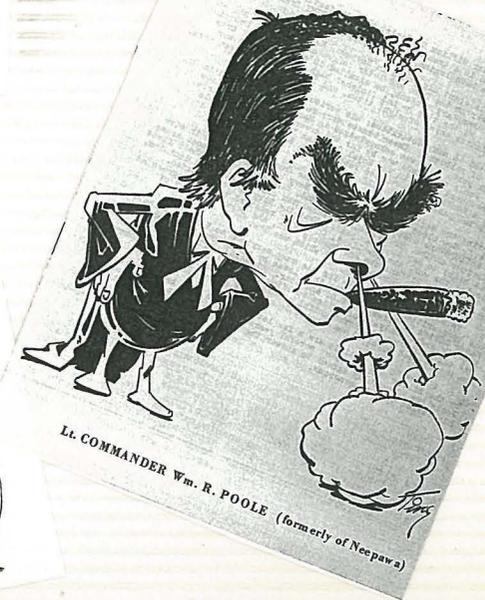
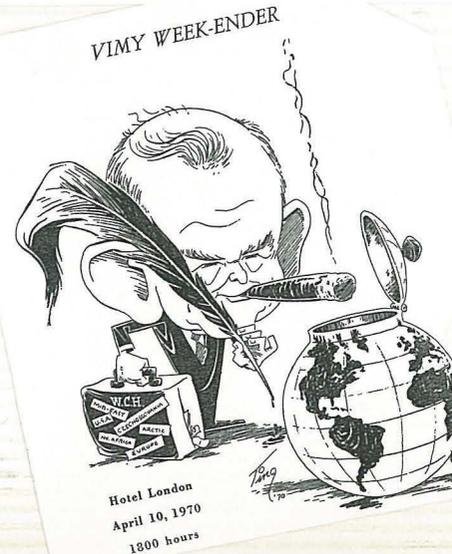
crowd around Tingley's drawing table, even though he didn't happen to be in his office. I was overjoyed seeing the image he had been working on when it appeared in the newspaper a few days later. It was a rare insight for a young boy who also fancied himself an artist.

Tingley is slated to make an appearance at Tamblin's two-week gathering in the spring. I can't wait to shake the hand of the man who gave so much inspiration to so many.

Dan Brown moderates London's monthly L.A. Mood graphic-novel book club.  
dan.brown@sunmedia.ca

**In addition to a long career as a cartoonist with the London Free Press – following his WW II job as cartoonist for The Maple Leaf, the Canadian army's wartime newspaper – Merle Tingley is a longtime member of Vimy. Here is a sample of the many cartoons "Ting" has drawn for our branch.**

LFP-28 FEB'14

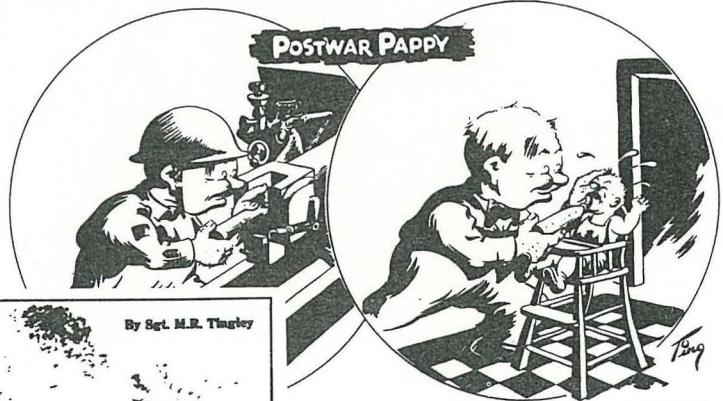


THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION  
**VIMY** BRANCH No. 145

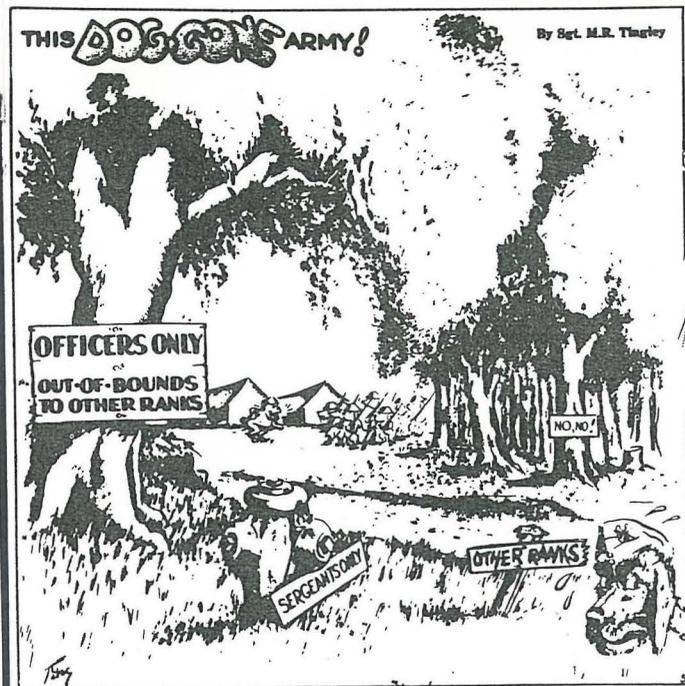
# SPRING ASSEMBLY!



...AND THAT'S THE PLATOON YOU'RE RELEASING FOR ACTIVE SERVICE!



By Sgt. M. R. TINGLEY



By Sgt. M.R. Tingley



SELF  
 "PORTRAIT"  
 1979

New  
 ARMIES  
 NEVER  
 DIE,  
 THEY  
 JUST  
 PHASE  
 AWAY

HOLIDAY INN - CITY CENTRE, 299 KING STREET  
 FRIDAY, APRIL 20th, 1979 1800 hours



Tingley ©

# Built in London

Among the military vehicles built by General Dynamics Land Systems and its predecessor in the city:

**1977:** 491 general purpose armoured vehicles, Canada.

**1982:** 1,041 light armoured vehicles (LAVs), U.S. Marine Corps.

**1989:** 199 Bisons for Canada.

**1992:** 257 light armoured ASLAV vehicles, for Australia.

**1993:** 203 Coyotes for Canada.

2,600 LAVs for the U.S. Army, to sell to other nations.

393 Piranhas for Switzerland.

**1997:** 651 LAV IIIs for Canada.

**2000:** 2,131 light armoured Stryker vehicles for U.S. Army, order eventually expanded to 4,500.

**2001:** 105 light armoured NZLAV vehicles, for New Zealand.

**2014:** Unknown number of new vehicles for Saudi Arabia.

Since production of the Stryker began, London has shot into the defence industry's big leagues.

A blockbuster deal to sell military vehicles to Saudi Arabia has bulked up London's muscle as a global arms merchant. It's a far cry from decades ago, when General Motors began building armoured vehicles here as a sideline. Randy Richmond sizes up what it means and the turning point that made London an industry big gun.



London's industry muscle goes back decades, when General Motors Diesel, later GM Defense, built armoured vehicles like the one shown at the left on a test track in 1985.



London-built U.S. Strykers leave Iraq in 2010 during the American withdrawal after the Iraq War.

A U.S. Stryker deployed in Afghanistan is silhouetted by lightning bolts during a storm in 2010 in the Kandahar region.



Bison light armoured vehicle built for Canadian military in 1990.



General Dynamics close combat vehicle with 30mm cannon.

A LAV III is showcased at General Dynamics Land Systems-Canada's Edmonton facility in 2012, during a federal contract announcement.

## The big picture Right man, right machine, right time

### From Page A1

None of that would have happened if what was then General Motors Defense hadn't taken the chance in 1999/2000 in bidding on a \$6-billion deal for the U.S. Army, as it switched focus from heavy tanks to more nimble firepower on wheels.

Winning that contract in 2000, then the largest industrial deal in the city's history, changed the company, modern warfare — and London. A year later, U.S.-based General Dynamics bought GM Defense, making London's Oxford St. factory part of a defence industry giant.



The General Dynamics Land Systems Canada plant on Oxford St. in London.

Londoners can thank a retired soldier-turned businessman who took a chance 12 years ago for the continued success of a military giant that just won a \$10-billion deal, creating 3,000 jobs, says a Western University economist.

"The fact that we've got this huge new contract in London . . . this is astounding, this is 42,000 person years of employment," Paul Beamish says. "People have put up statues of other people for much less than this."

"I think it's important that credit go where credit's due and that, to me, really lies at the feet of Bill Pettipas more than anyone."

Beamish is the chair of international management research at the Richard Ivey School of Business, and author or co-author of more than 50 books and 100 papers.

In 2003, he supervised a case management study for a textbook on the \$6-billion deal that GM Defense struck with the U.S. Army to build more than 2,000 Stryker armoured military vehicles three years earlier. That coveted contract was the first GM Defense in London had landed with the U.S. Army.

Planning and shepherding the bid was executive director Pettipas, a retired lieutenant-colonel with the Canadian Armed Forces known for his charisma, expertise and focus on protect-

ing soldiers' lives.

Pettipas faced a number of challenges and tough decisions during the bidding process, the case study, prepared by then-Ivey student Changwha Chung, outlines.

First, Pettipas had to decide whether GM Defense should go it alone or try a joint bid with a rival contractor, General Dynamics, which was putting in its own bid.

"Theoretically, you wouldn't often joint-venture with someone who's also going to try to go it alone," Beamish said.

Ultimately, Pettipas decided going alone would pit GM Defense against two major players, General Dynamics and United Defense, that had "significant political power . . . relative to all foreign competitors," the case study says.

Partly to avoid any negative Buy America sentiment, GM Defense went with a joint bid with General Dynamics.

Warfare was changing and after transportation problems in Iraq, Haiti and Bosnia, the U.S. Army wanted a vehicle that combined mobility, protection and firepower. The army provided a tight schedule for the bidding process.

"Pettipas had figured out their platform would be a perfect match with this transformational requirement of the U.S. Army. But he had to move really fast," Beamish said.

While working on the case study, "I was struck with . . . Bill Pettipas' background and suitability to be in this job," Beamish said. "This was a senior guy in the Canadian military for a long time, with a lot of credibility."

General Dynamics ended up buying GM Defense, with the London company now called General Dynamics Land Systems Canada.

"The Stryker turned out to be a really significant sweet spot for military needs and that, to me, was one of the things that really lies at the heart of the current contract," Beamish said. "At the end of the day, General Motors, this division Bill Pettipas headed up, they really did develop something that met a need for the military. Sales just took off."

# A gutsy risk 14 years ago, a \$13B jobs windfall today

The up to \$13-billion contract to sell armoured vehicles to Saudi Arabia has launched General Dynamics Land Systems Canada in London into the defence industry's big leagues, injecting hope and long-term jobs potential in a city clobbered by factory closings. It could make London synonymous with military across the globe.

**In addition to Bill Pettipas, several Vimy members have been and/or are still employed by GM/GD over the years, including two current Vimy directors. Most have worked in the design and engineering departments.**

## The deal maker

Londoner Bill Pettipas, who retired from GM Defense after 19 years in 2003, discusses the company's breakthrough \$6-billion U.S. Army deal in 2000. Active in retirement, Pettipas, among other things, is the honorary lt.-col. of the 4th Battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment.

**Q** *What was the impetus to try for that deal?*

The (U.S. Army) chief of staff at that time was General Eric Shinseki. There is an annual event called AUSA, which is the Association of United States Army. That particular year, Shinseki announced at lunch, which is attended by about 3,000 people, that he needed a new fleet of vehicles. It was not necessarily for tracked or wheeled vehicles.

We felt pretty sure that (wheeled) was the vehicle they wanted. He (the general) had personal experience in Bosnia and he felt that if they could just have moved faster, it would save more lives.

We strategized, did intelligence gathering and analysis: Where this business was going, where are we going to get the next customer?

**Q** *What did you have to weigh when you decided to bid for the contract?*

The schedule was the most

important thing. In order to meet the schedule, we really had to decide we had won and start ordering material, the steel in particular. We did that at risk, of course. We ordered it before the bid was decided. It was a fierce process.

It was a best-value contract, as opposed to low bid. We won it basically on the fact the life cycle costs were so low.

**Q** *Was this the end of the tracked vehicle in warfare?*

They make them still, but it certainly was a change. Warfare was changing. We weren't going onto the big fields and shooting it out. It was more to do survivability. Since then, I don't think the U.S. has bought any tracked vehicles. They may have bought some of what they already had, but I can't think of any more. They're not buying tanks.

**Q** *What was your biggest worry during the bidding process?*

We were worried about politics. We were out of Canada and this was a pretty big-ticket item. We had to find a (U.S.) partner. The phrase we used to say was, 'We have the product, you have the politics. Between us, we should win.' I had a boss, named Bill Happle, located in LeGrange, Ill. I phoned

him late one night and said, 'Look, I've just been notified that we won the program.' He said, 'My God, product won over politics, isn't that nice?'

**Q** *How big a turning point was this for the company?*

Oh, it was tremendous. We had been trying for 20 years to get a contract with the U.S. Army because the U.S. Army is so big, they buy so much and they have a lot of other allies that follow their lead.

When I left in May of that year, we were at about 1,500 to 1,600 in (GM Defense). They're at 2,300 today. Over those 10 years it grew significantly and they're all great jobs.



Bill Pettipas