

Canadian Battlefields Foundation Spring Newsletter 2008



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear CBF supporters:

Chers membres de la fondation:

C'est avec grande peine que je vous

rappelle le décès récent de notre Patron d'honneur, le très honorable Antonio Lamer, ancien juge en chef de la Cour Suprême du Canada. Il a servi avec fierté notre fondation et il m'a aussi souvent fourni un encouragement sincère et un rappel de l'importance nationale de notre mandat. Qu'il repose-t- en paix!

I am most pleased to advise you that his successor, the Right Honourable Madam Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin, P.C. has accepted to be our new Honourary Patron. Her knowledge and respect for past and present members of our Canadian Forces is well known, as is her constant support for the civic education of our next generations. This makes her a wonderful patron and role model for all. I wish also to advise you of her particular enthusiasm for our mission and the way it is carried out. Welcome Madam Chief Justice!

Our upcoming 2008 tour calendar is loaded indeed. Les voyages d'étude débutent tôt cette année. Celui de la fondation, avec 12 stagiaires choisis parmi des candidats provenant de 12 universités et collèges, aura lieu du 15 au 30 mai et visitera la Somme et Ypres, commémorant le 90e anniversaire de ces combats sanglants de la « Grande Guerre». Aussi étudieront-ils les combats de l'Escaut de la deuxième guerre mondiale.

The accredited study tour for the Université de Montréal and Wilfrid Laurier University

will follow, and its members will attend the Foundation's 7 June Normandy ceremonies.

The English speaking Historica Tour for 12 high school teachers, sponsored by Veterans' Affairs Canada as well as our Foundation, will take place from July 8 to 19. Le voyage Historica francophone pour 12 professeurs du secondaire aura lieu, lui, au mois d'août.

Dr. Lee Windsor, one of our Alumni, will also conduct another joint Canada-US Sicily study tour with the Cantigny Foundation for 6 students from each country, recognizing the mutual support of the 1st Canadian Division and the 1st US Division in Italy in 1943-44.

Par notre soutien direct et par le biais de partenariats, nous offriront ainsi à 50 jeunes canadiens l'occasion d'apprendre et de sentir

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l'effort et le sacrifice consentis par ce jeune Canada et les jeunes de leur âge à l'époque.

J'aurai encore une fois l'honneur cette année de présider les cérémonies en France du 7 juin et je souhaite à tous ceux et celles qui auront le privilège de participer à ces programmes une merveilleuse expérience et un bon voyage.

We have, with the help of Veterans Affairs Canada, also donated 13,000 copies to primary schools across Canada, in English and French, of our What We Remember book by Lesley Anne Airth for children from kindergarten to grade 4. We have received many heart-warming thanks from recipients for the uniquely appropriate format for teaching this topic to this particular age group.

We thus continue well on our way as the Olympic Team of Canadian historians and teachers of military history.

This will be my last letter as your President. I am most pleased to welcome Professor Terry Copp as my successor designate who will take charge at our next Board meeting at the end of June. He is the most deserving and dedicated director of the Foundation.

Il me fait énormément plaisir de vous annoncer mon successeur, le professeur Terry Copp, qui prendra la relève fin juin. Par son initiative et son dévouement à la fondation depuis ses débuts, il a déjà grandement témoigné de son mérite et de ses qualifications sans pareilles.

We also welcome four new directors, Mr. Justice Stanley Kershman of Ottawa, ON, Lieutenant General (ret'd) Michel Maisonneuve of Hamilton, ON and Saint Jean QC, Col(ret'd) Wayne Shiplo of Burlington ON, and Mr. Donald Cranston of Toronto, ON.

Je remercie tous ceux et celles qui m'ont si bien

soutenu pendant ces trois ans. Je ne quitte pas, je passe le flambeau de la présidence.

I sincerely thank Veterans' Affairs Canada, Wilfrid Laurier University, l'Université de Montréal, Historica, nos partenaires outre-mer, and such supportive organizations as the Royal Canadian Legion for their generous and continuing support to the CBF. Without them and so many other caring contributors, organizations, dedicated teachers and volunteers, we could not achieve such remarkable results.

The Foundation continues to need your help. We need 20 thousand Euros to conduct major repairs to our Canadian Memorial Garden in Normandy over the next two years and funds to support the increasing expenses of our tours. Please consider us when giving.

Merci à tous!

Clive Addy, **President**

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2008 CBF Battlefield Study Tours

From its modest beginning fourteen years ago, initiating an annual two-week battle study tour for university students, the Canadian Battlefields Foundation has expanded its focus. This year, in partnership with like-minded associations such as Veterans Affairs, Historica and Wilfred Laurier University (WLU), the CBF is sponsoring no less than five tours to fifty Canadian university students and high school teachers to explore Europe's battlefields of the 21st Century. This brings our total to some 300 alumni, many of whom are disseminating a new sense of pride of Canada in classrooms and boardrooms across the nation.

The Graduate Student Tour (Sicily and Italy)

Sponsored by the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies (LCMSDS), the Gregg Centre at the University of New Brunswick and the CBF in association with the Cantigny 1st U.S. Division Foundation.

Historian/Director: Dr. Lee Windsor. 1-11 May

CBF Annual University Students' Study Tour:

France (WWI), Belgium and Netherlands (Battle of the Scheldt and liberation of Antwerp; and Germany (Battle to the Rhine)

Historian/Leaders: Dr. Geoffrey Hayes, Col David Patterson. 15-29 May

WLU / U de Montreal Student Tour: Vimy, Dieppe and Normandy Campaign

Historian/Leaders: Terry Copp, Desmond Morton, Alex Carette, Michel Fortmann.

24 May - 8 June 08

High School Teachers' Tour: (English language)

Historian/Leaders: Terry Copp, Lee Windsor and Blake Seward. 8-18 July

Sponsors: Historica, Veterans Affairs Canada, LCMSDS and CBF

High School Teachers' Tour (French language) (Dates TBC):

Historian/Leaders: David Patterson, Stephane Roussel, Alex Carrette. 6-16 August

Sponsors: Historica, LCMSDS and CBF.

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Saluting our Alumni



Mike Bechthold

“In 1995 I was fortunate to be a part of the very first Canadian Battle of Normandy Foundation Study Tour. That tour, led by Terry Copp and Serge

Durflinger, was an amazing experience. I was absolutely thrilled to be chosen for it, but little did I know that the tour would open a window that continues to expand my understanding of Canadian military history.

I can't begin to count the number of ways that tour has impacted my life, but a few examples may suffice to explain.

Academic: I now teach history at Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo and all my lectures on the First and Second World Wars benefit from the fact that I have had the opportunity to walk the Canadian battlefields. One tangible aspect of this is the TEWT (Tactical Exercise Without Troops) that I often run for my students. This is based on the model developed by Terry Copp, and obviously works best when actually conducted in Normandy. But having been there, I can share my observations and photos with the students to give them as good an appreciation for the terrain as possible without actually being there. I have also put my battlefield touring experience to very good use in the material I have published. A first-hand knowledge of the ground is absolute critical and will also make for better history.

Professional: The experience I gained on that first tour has allowed me to go back to Europe to lead my own battlefield tours. Since 1999 I have introduced over 16 groups to the battlefields of France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. These

groups have come from a wide cross section of Canadian society - undergraduate students, high school history teachers, military officers and the general public. I am often asked if I get tired or bored of going back to the same places time after time. My standard answer is “no.” Without exception, I visit some place for the first time, learn something new or meet somebody interesting each time I go. Plus, there is the joy of taking new groups to these places that are so important in Canadian history, and sharing in their journey of discovery.

Personal: The number of military historians in Canada is quite small and it is amazing the impact the CBF tour has had on this community. Off the top of my head I know that CBF alumni are teaching at Laurier, the University of Waterloo, St. Jerome's University, the University of New Brunswick, the University of Ottawa, Royal Military College, and the University of Calgary, and I am sure there are others. The number of contacts (and good friends) I have made through the CBF impacts my job on almost a daily basis. This network is extremely valuable and will only continue to grow as CBF alumni embark on their careers.”

Mike Bechthold

Communications Director, Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies
 Managing Editor, Canadian Military History
 Wilfrid Laurier University
 Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3C5, Canada

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2008 Annual University Tour Biographies:

The Leaders:

David Patterson

I am Militia artillery officer currently on staff at the Canadian Land Force Command and Staff College at Fort Frontenac in Kingston. Originally from Montreal, and a graduate of Concordia University, I now live on Wolfe Island near Kingston, Ontario. A veteran of over two dozen battlefield tours in the past ten years, I spent six months service overseas in 2007 as the commander of the 12 CF personnel supporting the African Union mission in Darfur, Sudan. I am bilingual with a little Italian thrown in for good measure and look forward to sharing a great trip together.

Geoff Hayes

I am a native of Waterloo, Ontario. I graduated from WLU before I completed a doctorate at UWO. I teach Canadian and Canadian military history at the University of Waterloo. Inspired in part by our visits to Vimy Ridge on various battlefield tours, Andrew Iarocci, Mike Bechthold and I just edited a collection of articles under the title, Vimy Ridge: A Canadian Reassessment (Waterloo: WLU Press, 2007). My current interests revolve around Canada's military leadership during the Second World War, a history of 120 Squadron, RAF (Coastal Command) and Canada's current deployments to Afghanistan.

The Students:

Kim Unruh

I was born in Kitchener, ON but grew up in Prince George, BC. I am currently an undergraduate at the University College of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford. I'm studying History, Political Science and Philosophy and I am in the process of taking every military history course UCFV offers. After graduation next year I hope to move on to grad school. Other than military history, my interests include electoral reform, football (Soccer), politics, and coffee. I love to travel and I love school so this trip is a perfect blend of the two.

Michael Swanberg

I am currently in my third year studying Canadian history (with a minor in Political Science) at the University of Calgary. Most of my studies thus far have centered around Canadian political history in the early twentieth century. More specifically, I am interested in the political dynamics surrounding the First World War, and how both domestic and international events influenced and shaped Canadian society. Once I graduate, I plan on pursuing either a Law degree, or a masters degree in history. In my spare time, I enjoy reading about current Canadian politics, singing in my Chamber choir and volunteering in my church.

Kara Edwards

I grew up in Saskatoon and am currently a master's student in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa. I plan to complete my major research paper on the politics of commemoration. I did my undergraduate degree in political science and

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Canadian studies at the University of Ottawa. History and travel have always been of great interest to me and I have been fortunate to have worked as a tour guide at Vimy Ridge and as an animator at the Canadian War Museum. I just finished reading *All Quiet on the Western Front* and highly recommend it.

Ian Haight

I was born in Elmira, Ontario, completed my undergrad at the University of Waterloo majoring in history. I recently defended my MA thesis, "Canadians Overseas: the Organization, Administration, and Logistics of Canadian Troop Convoys During the Second World War," at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, under Dr. Marc Milner. In September, I will be returning to UW to begin my PhD in Canadian military and environmental history under Dr. P.W. Lackenbauer (a CBF alumnus). I am looking forward to wrapping up my First and Second World War studies with this tour of the battlefields of Europe.

Mike Barrett

I was born in Edmonton, but grew up in Sault Ste. Marie, before moving to London. I completed my Honours BA in History with a minor in German at the University of Western Ontario and this year I'm working on my MA, focusing on Anglo-German relations in the latter quarter of the nineteenth century. Aside from history, I love hockey (Oilers and Leafs), European politics, camping, and fittingly, travelling in Europe.

Jennifer Lazuk.

I am 22 years old. I was born in Ottawa, Ontario. I did my Undergraduate Degree at Carleton University, Majoring in History with a minor in Canadian Studies and Geography. I am currently in the Master's program at the University of

Western Ontario. My area of research interest is Canada and the First World War. I have studied various aspects of military discipline, trench culture, and Venereal Disease all within the CEF. My current research project, with Dr. Jonathan Vance, involves the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and is getting me even more excited for our Battlefield Tour!

Chelsea Clark

I was born in New Westminster, BC but grew up in Calgary, AB. I am currently a first year Master's student at the University of Calgary. My thesis aims to determine the degree to which veterans, having apparently re-adapted to civilian life in Calgary and Southern Alberta, manifested long-lasting symptoms of "shell shock" in their social and work lives. I am also interested in public history and museum work. Outside of school I enjoy playing sports, hiking in the Rockies and travelling.

Eric Boate

I'm 22 years old. I was born in London, Ontario. I'm currently completing my B.A. honours history, with a concentration in conflict studies and a minor in psychology from Acadia University, in Nova Scotia. My topic for my thesis thus far is examining the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy in the American military and its subsequent effects in the greater sphere of the 'culture wars of the 90s.' After graduating I plan on attaining my law degree, or my masters in history/public policy/public administration/international relations (still debating). Aside from history, I'm a natural extrovert, an avid hockey player (goalie), a 'decent' rugby player (winger), a guy yearning to get his pilot's license and an individual who is thoroughly excited about studying the battlefields of Europe.

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Monica White

I am a first year Master's student at the University of Calgary. My thesis research surrounds widowhood in nineteenth century America. More specifically I plan on analyzing the shift in public discourse from 1865, where widows were sympathetically perceived as representatives of wartime sacrifice to a more sceptical belief by 1882 that widows were potentially exploiting government assistance and flouting Victorian gender norms. Although my life has been pretty much consumed by the rigors of academia, I still try and find time to write, play the guitar and go hiking.

Angela Richardson

I am 21 years old. I was born and raised in Peterborough Ontario, where I attend Trent University. I am currently finishing my B.A. Honours History with a minor in English. After graduating I hope to pursue a Graduate Degree or attend Teachers' College. I really enjoy traveling, sports, and reading. In 2004 I went to Juno Beach to commemorate the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

Sabrina Fairchild

I was born in Hamilton, ON, but currently live in Ottawa, while attending the University of Ottawa. I'm half-finished my fourth year of my BA with a Major in History and a minor in English Literature. I've been extremely lucky to work for the Directorate of History and Heritage, DND, for three of four co-op work terms. Working there, I learned a lot about military history and Canada's role in the First and Second World War. I am really interested in twentieth century history in terms of major periods of social upheaval (such as the two World Wars) and how contemporary culture records those memories.

Katherine Watkins

I was born in Markham, ON., and raised in Waterloo. I completed by BA at the University of Waterloo as a history major, and am currently doing my Masters in Canadian history, again at U of W. I plan on pursuing my Ph.D. beginning in September 2008, if all goes as planned. My current research interests include Canadian veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, Canadian Aboriginal veterans, and local veterans' memorials. I have always wanted to travel to the Canadian battlefields of Europe and am so excited

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SPRING is the time to RENEW

Keep their Memory Alive ...

Commemorate the life of a fallen relative or friend buried in a European cemetery by sponsoring one of Canada's leading university students to walk his battlefield and learn firsthand of his sacrifices and contributions, on land, sea or air. Then, while at his actual gravesite, the student will share the history of this brave Canadian volunteer with his colleagues.

Thus documented, his story will live on in two ways. The sponsor will receive a bound copy of the presentation. The student will carry the memory throughout his/her academic career, sharing it with future students and peers.

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