



CANADIAN BATTLEFIELDS NEWSLETTER

Volume 12 Nr 2

PUBLISHED BY THE
Canadian Battlefields Foundation

Winter 2003

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - AUTUMN 2003

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL CHARLESH. BELZILE

Perhaps the best way for me to update our members is to pick up where I left off in the Spring 2003 Newsletter as most items of news follow directly from that.

The 2003 Bursary Tour took place as planned in Sicily and mainland Italy and was, by all accounts, as successful as the previous tours. Our thanks to LCol David Patterson and his helpers. The group was accompanied by Mr Mack Johnson, editor of Legion Magazine.



canadienne des Champs de Bataille”.

The process has been set in motion and the relevant documentation has been submitted to Industry Canada for ratification. As you can see by the new masthead, we have just received the additional letters patent and, as of 12 November we are using the new name. Our web site has also been adjusted to www.canadianbattlefieldsfoundation.ca.

For those of you who are members of the Legion, you will have noticed that the September/ October issue, primarily dedicated to the commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the landings in Sicily and mainland Italy, contains articles by Johnson and Dan Black about our Foundation’s activities. One deals with our Study Tour in Italy and the others describe our commemorative activities in Normandy, including the opening of the St-Lambert-sur-Dives site, overlooking the battle fields where the Battle of Normandy ended in late August 1944. Our thanks to Legion Magazine for such extensive and welcome publicity for our Foundation.

At the same meetings, the question of memberships fees was also discussed. You will remember that in the last issue we talked about operating money problems and the possibility of raising membership fees. At the same time some of your Directors and members felt that we should do away with memberships and just canvas for donations. This turns out to be a non-starter as we require members in order to constitute a legal entity.

In good Canadian fashion, the Board decided that we should have a compromise. So we will ask our

(continued p. 2)

Board of Directors and AGMs held on 16 October

You will notice the plural format on AGMs above. This refers to a Special AGM which had to be held with regards to our proposed name change. As discussed in the Spring 2003 issue of this Newsletter, we have felt for sometime that our name should be more reflective of our widespread activities. It was unanimously agreed that our name should be changed to “The Canadian Battlefields Foundation/ la Fondation

In this edition

<i>President’s Message</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Last Post.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Lost Tralis.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Request For Interviews.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Treasurer’s Report.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Commemorative Badge For Normandy Veterans.....</i>	<i>5</i>

supporters to give donations in the amount they are comfortable with, with membership being granted to those who donate \$40.00 or more. This will be put in place gradually as current memberships lapse.

The Foundation's Guide Programme

As in past years this was a very successful programme and was in operation for a longer period than in the past. Under the leadership of Celine Garbay, they have had a great season and have been able to assist countless veterans and other visitors to our Memorial Garden as well as to some of the local Canadian battlefields. They have written comprehensive reports and made recommendations which will be very useful for the continuation of this programme. Those reports will be accessible on our web site as well as in this newsletter, in abridged form. Our thanks to Veterans Affairs Canada for their assistance in financing this service

Members of the Board of Directors

At the regular AGM, four new members of the board were elected. They are MGen Clive Addy (Retired), Colonel of the Regiment, the Royal Canadian Dragoons, Mrs Corinne Plush (she has acted as our agent in France for several years and continues to do so), Michael Bechtold of Wilfrid Laurier University and Morgan Wright of the Canadian War Museum. All are experienced and dynamic individuals who will be great assets to the Board. The latter two are both 'graduates'

CANADIAN BATTLEFIELDS NEWSLETTER is published by Canadian Battlefields Foundation. Submissions on past and present issues of Canadian Battlefields Foundation and letters to the editor are encouraged. Forward to the attention of the editor below.

ATTENTION NEWSPAPER EDITORS

Permission is granted to reproduce, in whole or in part, articles from CANADIAN BATTLEFIELDS NEWSLETTER. A credit line is desired. For enquiries contact the editor, Captain Peter Forsberg (Retd) (613) 236 9903; (fax) (613) 236 8191; e-mail: pw.forsberg@rogers.com.

of our Bursary programme and work in the field of Military History. This selection is in line with our hope to bring more youth to the Board as well as, hopefully, fresh ideas. I am sure you will join me in making them feel welcome.

It is unfortunate that along with new faces, an organization such as ours must also bid farewell to some of its familiar faces. In the Last Post item of this Newsletter, there are always some members who have passed away.

I wish to highlight two former and original members of the Board. Major Elmo Thibault (listed also in the last issue) as well as more recently, Major Michel Gauvin were both veterans of Normandy, both well known diplomats following their war service and had both given us their support for a long time. I was honoured to be asked to say a few words, on behalf of the Foundation, at Major Gauvin's funeral service. Our condolences go to the bereaved families for their loss.

Charles H. Belzile

LOST TRAILS

If anyone can give us a current address for any of the following persons, we would be grateful.

Mlle. Marie-Noel Duhaime (Kingston ON)
 LCol J.A. English (Newport RI USA)
 Mrs. Marjorie Kemp (Nanaimo BC)
 MGen M. Scott Eichel (Victoria BC)
 Lt. Col. Jack Fawcett CD (Ottawa ON)
 LGen G. Allan MacKenzie (Winnipeg MB)
 BGen D.J.F. Mackay (Gibson's BC)
 Old Boys – Lake Superior Regiment (Motor)
 Association (Thunder Bay ON)
 Mr. Keith Spicer (Paris, France)

LAST POST

We regret to announce the passing of the following members of the Foundation:

BGen F. A. Clift, DSO, ED, CD (Goderich ON)
 Mr. Alexander Koppers (Langley BC)
 Mr. Martin B. McCumber, MMM. CD (Calgary AB)
 Maj. Michel Gauvin, CVO, OC, DSO, Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur (Ottawa ON)
 Capt Fred S. Westwood (Winnipeg MB)

We have received the following request and ask the our readers render assistance if at all possible:

“I am doing research for a book I am writing about D-Day. This is for the 60th Anniversary in 2004. I would like to interview veterans that were there that day, as I welcome anyone from any branch of service.

I have contacted men all over Europe, Canada, and the U.S. for my book; but I want more.

Please e-mail me or contact me by post, and I will get into contact with you ASAP.

Josh Hoerth Schu_Mine@hotmail.com

2018 N. Jay

Aberdeen, SD 57401

U.S.A.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Thanks to all our members who have given me cheques in advance for 2004 donations. If you are not sure of your status, look at the bottom of your mailing label and you will see the last year for which you have made a donation. I regret to say that there are still too many members who donate only once every few years, which makes our financial situation difficult at times.

Our costs keep going up and up, though membership dues have not increased since I became treasurer in 1999. We welcome donations of ANY amount, but only donations of \$40 or more will convey the benefits of membership in the Foundation.

PLEASE NOTE THAT, ON 12 NOVEMBER 03, OUR NAME CHANGED TO THE “ C A N A D I A N B A T T L E F I E L D S FOUNDATION” TO BETTER REFLECT THE WORK WE DO OUTSIDE NORMANDY AND IN RELATION TO OTHER WARS OF THE 20TH

CENTURY. IN FUTURE, PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHEQUES PAYABLE TO “ C A N A D I A N B A T T L E F I E L D S FOUNDATION”.

Over the years, a few members have asked me whether they could donate via their VISA cards. We have not had such a facility, as we felt that it was more trouble (and expense) than it was worth, but now we are re-examining the costs and benefits. I would be interested in hearing YOUR views on the matter. Please feel free to send me an email at info@hnsc.ca and I will report back to you in the next newsletter.

Other members have asked me about making major donations to the Foundation, especially where they hold securities. The information that follows is something I have adapted, with permission, from a recent letter I received from the Salvation Army. The SA has forgotten more about fundraising

than most of us ever learn.

Wills

Bequests are outright gifts where a person names the Canadian Battlefields Foundation as beneficiary in his/her Will. The majority of planned gifts are made by bequests and costs the donor nothing during his/her lifetime.

A bequest will provide a tax credit on the final tax return. Depending on individual circumstances, a charitable bequest may be a way of diverting tax dollars to a charity without significantly impacting the donor's ability to provide for family and friends.

A bequest can take many forms: a certain sum of money, a piece of property or a percentage of whatever remains after expenses or other bequests are made.

(continued p. 4)

Annuities

A gift annuity plan involves an investment and a gift. This gift plan provides you with an income for life, while providing for a gift to the work of the Canadian Battlefields Foundation. Your gift provides you with a fixed income for life, at a rate usually above GIC rates and up to 10%. Only part of this income is taxable, and for older individuals it is tax-free. Donors get a tax receipt for a large part of the amount paid. The minimum age is 60.

RRSPs

Direct Beneficiary Designation Avoids Probate Tax

You can gift your RRSPs and RRIFs to the Canadian Battlefields Foundation in two ways. You can make CBF the designated beneficiary of your plan. You can also donate your plan proceeds to CBF through your Will. In both cases, your executor enters the Plan value in your final tax return, and in both cases CBF issues an offsetting tax deductible receipt to shelter the estate from taxes.

The advantages in using the beneficiary designation route are that the gift is payable much faster, and the gift goes direct to CBF, avoiding the Probate Tax on the estate.

Property

Gifts of property can be used to provide you with a significant tax receipt, and in the case of larger properties can be used to provide you with a new or increased source

of income. A property can be used to source a Charitable Gift Annuity. In the past, the treatment of Capital Gains Tax was a deterrent to gifting appreciated property. Tax rules now provide the opportunity to gift appreciated property, and avoid some or all of the gains tax. If the gifted property is given to fund an annuity, then a low-income appreciated property can actually provide a higher income through being gifted to the Canadian Battlefields Foundation.

Insurance Policies

Gifts of life insurance can be made by naming the Canadian Battlefields Foundation as beneficiary and/or owner of a life insurance policy. Whether CBF is named as a beneficiary or as an owner of the policy will determine the tax implications of the gift.

The life insurance policy can be a fully paid policy, a partially paid policy or a new policy. When a donor names the Canadian Battlefields Foundation as owner of a life insurance policy, the ownership is irrevocable. For this reason, the tax benefits to the donor are immediate, so premiums paid to the policy by the donor are receipted yearly.

If a donor transfers ownership of an existing, fully-paid life insurance policy to CBF, the donor will receive a tax receipt for the cash surrender amount of the policy.

If the donor transfers ownership of a partially paid life insurance policy and the donor continues to pay the premiums, he/she will be issued a tax receipt for each of the

subsequent premiums he/she pays. A donor can purchase a policy and name the Canadian Battlefields Foundation as the owner and beneficiary. The donor will receive a tax receipt for the annual premiums.

Securities

There is a special tax advantage when donating stocks (listed securities) directly to the Canadian Battlefields Foundation. In 2000, the federal tax rate changed to reduce the capital gains inclusion rate to 50%. When securities are donated to the CBF, only 25% of the capital gain is included in taxable income. (So if it were to be sold instead and then donated, 50% of the capital gain would be taxable!)

The CBF can provide a charitable receipt for the full 100% of the fair market value - so there are double benefits for the donor! Several members of the Foundation have already taken advantage of this option.

As you can see, there are a number of options, but each takes careful consideration and planning. I have two pieces of advice:

First, NEVER convert any asset to cash and then donate the cash to the Foundation. You are almost always further ahead to transfer the asset to us DIRECTLY.

Second, ALWAYS consult your lawyer and/or accountant before making a decision, to see what is best for you. Yes, we always appreciate your donations but we would never want you – or your family - to get hurt in the process!

Harry Needham

COMMEMORATIVE “BADGE” (MEDAL) FOR BATTLE OF NORMANDY VETERANS

The Conseil Régional de Basse-Normandie is striking a commemorative badge to be awarded to veterans of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. Each will be individually numbered and inscribed with the veteran's name.

To receive such a badge, you MUST:

1. have participated in the D-Day landings and/or the Battle of Normandy between 5 June 1944 and 24 August 1944. (no minimum length of service seems to be required)
2. participate in one or other of the medal presentation ceremonies to be held in Normandy from 4 June throughout the summer of 2004. The Conseil would prefer to present medals to individuals at the ceremony closest to where their units fought.
3. register to participate as far in advance as possible.

Information can be found at: www.normandiememoire.com . Click on the Canadian/British/US flag to go to the English version of the site, where you can find a good deal of information about the summer's activities, maps, accommodation, etc. Clicking on the “veterans section” at the top right of the page gives you the list of badge presentation ceremonies and an online registration form.

IMPORTANT: THE PAGE STATES THAT YOU MUST REGISTER BY EMAIL, so we suggest you get someone with Internet access to help you. It MAY be possible to register by mail; if you want to try this approach, write to “Normandie Mémoire 60ième Anniversaire, Abbaye aux Dames, Place Reine Mathilde, BP 70067, 14007 Caen Cedex 1, France. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU REGISTER BY EMAIL; IT WILL BE MUCH, MUCH FASTER, CHEAPER AND LESS FRUSTRATING! Indeed, you may find that you can ONLY register by email!

ACCOMMODATION IN NORMANDY IS BEING BOOKED VERY RAPIDLY. If you are planning to go, make your reservations NOW.



Plaque of the Régiment de Maisonneuve, unveiled 8 June, 2003



Colonel Jacques Ostiguy at the unveiling, 8 June 2003, of the plaque of the Régiment de Maisonneuve



CANADIAN BATTLEFIELDS NEWSLETTER
Canadian Battlefields Newsletter

c/o Canadian War Museum
General Motors Court
330 Sussex Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0M8
CANADA