

THE MEMORY PROJECT

AN INITIATIVE OF THE DOMINION INSTITUTE



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Newsletter

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Memory Project	1
Veteran Appreciation Days renewed for this summer	2
Memory Project Digital Archive	2
Launch of new Ontario Veterans Community Archive	2
Memory Project Photo Gallery	3
Passchendaele Great War letters competition	3



Prime Minister attends Memory Project event in Saint John

This past holiday season, Prime Minister Harper joined veterans, Canadian Forces personnel and more than 100 young people at Forest Hills School in Saint John, NB. Veteran Frank Rusling shared his unique experiences in the Royal Navy during the Second World War, and specifically how he spent his Christmas while at sea. Richard Cornell, an Army veteran from the Second World War shared his story of being hailed a hero following the liberation of a French town in 1945. The event also featured a message of holiday greetings from Canadian Forces soldiers stationed in Khandahar, Afghanistan.

"The reason we live in a free, democratic and peaceful country today is because of the courage and sacrifices of all those who have served in the Canadian Forces," said Prime

Minister Harper. "The Memory Project helps ensure that Canada's proud history is passed along from those who have lived it to the next generation of Canadians who will defend it."

"In just a few years, The Memory Project has become a national institution that engages more than 175,000 students each year with the unique stories of our veterans' service and sacrifice," said Marc Chalifoux, Executive Director of the Dominion Institute. "We are thrilled that the Prime Minister was able to meet with the students and veterans and hope it will inspire young people to better appreciate the contribution veterans have made to Canada."

Visit the Memory Project website to see some photos of the event (www.thememoryproject.com)

“ Oh, there I go saying things that ought not be said. I have heard so much about the soldiers and the war. I have heard that Japanese men are not being treated as equals in the training camps. I hope this is not true and I hope you have not had any such behaviour at your camp. You must tell me because I have a secret I must reveal to you. Mother does not know this, but I hope to volunteer as a nurse and join our troops overseas. I fear this will be impossible because I am Japanese.”

AN EXCERPT FROM SHOBHA MEHTA'S FIRST PLACE SUBMISSION TO THE GREAT WAR LETTERS CONTEST

PROGRAM SPONSORS



1-866-701-1867

Veteran Appreciation Days renewed for this summer.



The Memory Project is excited to be travelling across Ontario

once again. We will be coordinating eight new Veteran Appreciation Day events, thanks to a renewed partnership with the Province of Ontario. These events will provide Ontarians with a unique opportunity to honour and commemorate the service and sacrifice of our Second World War, Korean War, Peacekeeping and Canadian Forces veterans outside of

Remembrance week. At each event, veterans, community members, students and educators will be invited to join public officials and Dominion Institute staff at the local cenotaph for a ceremony at which Veteran Appreciation Day will be proclaimed. Following the ceremony, veterans will attend a reception and training session to be held at a community centre or Legion hall. These events will provide veterans and community members with an opportunity to meet and speak with each other as well as learn about The Memory Project.

As part of the 2009 initiative, a special

Veteran Appreciation Day Toolkit will be created and distributed to more than 500 municipalities across Ontario to share best practices and encourage communities to hold similar events in 2010.

We plan to visit the following towns and regions:

- **Ottawa**
- **Quinte West**
- **Collingwood**
- **Hamilton**
- **North Bay**
- **Windsor**
- **London**
- **Guelph**

Memory Project Digital Archive – Winnipeg Connections

Thanks to the generous support of Winnipeg Foundation, The Memory Project is proud to unveil more than 20 new profiles for the Digital Archive. This past March, we travelled to Winnipeg to digitize photos, letters and other memorabilia that will be added to our online archive in celebration of the 65th anniversary

of the D-Day campaign. The initiative turned up some incredible photos and artefacts. Mr. Harold Prior submitted a picture, taken in 1944, of French civilians fleeing their homes just miles from Juno Beach. Mr. Michael Sullen brought us a piece of an incendiary device that had lodged itself into the wing of the Lancaster he flew.

We are also very pleased to include a number of Manitoba's aboriginal veterans through the contribution of Mr. Bill Shead. Many of the Digital Archive participants were arranged through a special partnership with Deer Lodge Long Term Care Centre in Winnipeg. We here at the Memory Project thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to speak with veterans about their memorabilia, and only wished we had more time to discuss the incredible images, documents and artefacts we encountered.

Launch of new Ontario Veteran Community Archive

The Dominion Institute is happy to announce a new initiative that is generously sponsored by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The Ontario Veteran Community Archive will engage thousands of community members over the next two years, including educators, students, museum professionals, libraries, Legion branches, and veterans associations. The program will encourage groups and individuals to compile the important stories of veterans from their community in order to create a unique online resource for all Ontarians.

The website will allow veterans and their family members to upload photographs, audio and/or video clips and other memorabilia

from their time in the service. If you are interested in participating in this new Ontario Veterans Community Archive please contact the Memory Project toll free at 1-866-701-1867 or by email at memory@dominion.ca. We would be happy to assist you in getting these items together and to answer any questions you may have regarding the digital requirements of your collection.

In order to best share your story of service, we are looking for the following items:

- Electronic versions of medals, photographs, letters, Service documents, etc,
- Digital Audio clips
- Digital Video clips

It is our hope that the archive will include veteran stories and artifacts from the First and Second World War, Korean War, Peacekeeping and Cold War service, as well as more recent conflicts such as Afghanistan. We will also be encouraging students to 'Adopt a Veteran' in their community and assist them in contributing to the archive, or uploading the story of a local veteran who has passed away. The Ontario Veteran Community Archive will create a lasting legacy and allow public access to the incredible experiences of service men and women in the Province of Ontario.

Visit www.ontarioveteranarchive.ca for further details.

PHOTO GALLERY

1. Personnel from 17 Wing Winnipeg explore Second World War memorabilia at the Memory Project Digitization Workshop.
2. The Honourable Greg Thompson, Minister of Veterans Affairs with Mr. Jim McGuffin of the Air Crew Association and Mr. Sid Gladstone, Memory Project volunteer and member of Royal Canadian Legion General Wingate Branch 256.
3. Peacekeeping veterans at Memory Project Luncheon in Ottawa.
4. Korean War veteran Capt. Mort Lightstone and students from Centennial Senior Public School at Veteran Appreciation Day in Brampton.
5. Three generations of servicewomen at the Memory Project luncheon in Toronto. From left to right - Sub-Lieutenant Jennifer Fidler, Second World War veteran Margaret Haliburton, Lieutenant Colonel (ret) Susan Beharriell.
6. Passchendaele writer-director Paul Gross and the Dominion Institute team with a selection of the 3000 letters submitted to the Great War Letters Contest.



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Passchendaele Great War letters competition

This past fall, The Dominion Institute and the makers of the new movie, Passchendaele, invited young Canadians between the ages of 14-18 to imagine what it was like to serve in the First World War and pen a letter as if it were written during the conflict. Letters were judged by a jury of well known Canadians including, actors Paul Gross and R.H. Thompson, The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, historians Christopher Moore,

Margaret Conrad and Charlotte Gray, Canada's last remaining First World War Veteran, Mr. John Babcock and Paul Franklin, an Afghanistan veteran and activist who works to further amputee care through the charity, simply called, Franklin.

Fifteen year old Shobha Mehta from Holy Trinity School in Unionville, Ontario won the first prize and was awarded a tour of the

Passchendaele battlefields in Belgium courtesy of New Wave Travel and Butterfield & Robinson. Our office was inundated with entries; we expected 300 entries and received well over 3000! We were truly inspired by the interest and creativity of Canada's young people and hope to make the Great War Letters competition an annual event.

Visit www.dominion.ca/passchendaele to read all the winning entries.

Thank you to our Partners

Veterans Affairs Canada and Canadian Heritage recently announced it will fund the Memory Project until 2011 that will help the Institute plan more than 2,000 veteran classroom visits. A special focus will be made to encourage the 'next generation' of veterans to participate.

Canadian Heritage will also sponsor the creation of a special Korean War Edukit that will showcase Canada's involvement in the Korean War complete with replication of newspapers articles of the day, veteran testimonials and learning tools for educators.

Province of Ontario has announced that

it will sponsor Veteran Appreciation Days 2.0 which will include eight community events and the creation of a special Toolkit.

Ontario Trillium Foundation are sponsors of the Ontario Veteran Community Archive, a project the will encourage communities to upload the stories and collections of their local veterans. The project's website, www.ontarioveteranarchive, will be launched on July 1.

Winnipeg Foundation's sponsorship allowed the Institute to record the stories and digitize the collections of more than 20 Manitoba veterans. Please visit the Digital Archive to browse the collection.

Stay Involved

You, the veterans and CF personnel who participate in The Memory Project, are making a difference to the lives of young people across the country. On behalf of all the staff at The Memory Project, we thank you for sharing your experiences in your community. We frequently hear back from teachers, students and community groups and know how much it means to them!

Please contact us at 1-866-701-1867 or memory@dominion.ca to tell us about your school and community group visits.



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