

THE MEMORY PROJECT

AN INITIATIVE OF THE DOMINION INSTITUTE



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Newsletter

Memory Project Achievement Awards

This spring, the first National Memory Project Achievement Awards were presented to a teacher and veteran in BC, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia.

Ontario's veteran winner was Mr. George Burrows, a trumpeter in the Air Force during the Second World War. Mr. Burrows (or Potsy as he likes to be called) made 30 visits to schools in his area in the last year, visiting more than 4000 young people. The educator honouree was Mr. Scott Masters, a history teacher at Crestwood Preparatory College in Toronto. In the 2005/2006 school year, he hosted 9 veteran speakers, who shared their experiences with his students. These awards were presented by Ontario's Minister of Education the Honourable Kathleen Wynne at a ceremony at Crestwood Preparatory College.

In Quebec our award winners were Mr. Alex Hall and Mr. George Mann. The pair visit schools as a team and in the 2005/2006 school year spoke to more than 1000 students. The winner of the educator's award was Mr. Rocco Speranza, the Community Involvement, Spiritual, and Guidance Animator for the English Montreal School Board. Most recently, his students at John Paul I Junior High School unveiled a student-made replica of the St. Julien Memorial in France, honouring those brave Canadian soldiers who died during the first

gas attacks of the First World War.

The British Columbia recipients include Mr. Charles Goodman who served in the Second World War, the Korean War and on Peacekeeping missions in the Middle East. In addition, an Achievement Award was given to Ms. Natalie Robinson who teaches at Cedar Hill Middle School. This winter, her students took part in the Memory Project Conference in Victoria.

The Manitoba honourees include Mr. James Clarke, who not only travels to many schools every year, but also organizes a number of other veteran speakers in Portage-la-Prairie. Mr. Larry Smith, a teacher who works closely with Mr. Clarke has participated in the Memory Project for many years and always invites a number of veterans to speak to his students.

In Nova Scotia, we recognized the contribution of Mr. Leonard Whiffen, who visits multiple schools every year. Dr. Paul Bennett the Headmaster and grade 10 History Teacher at Halifax Grammar School was also acknowledged for inviting numerous veteran speakers to share their stories with his students. These award winners are great supporters of the Memory Project and understand the importance and significance of presenting the 'living history' experience.

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"These stories are more than just black and white photo's in a dusty old book – every picture tells the story of a soldier, sailor or airman (some of whom never came back home to their family, friends and loved ones) – we owe it to them, to breathe some life back into the history they made."

- CAPT. MARC BOSSI, CANADIAN FORCES, SPEAKING ON HIS PRESENTATION TO YOUNG PEOPLE.



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National Conference Series a huge success

In the last six months the Memory Project has completed three very successful conferences in Victoria, Edmonton and Winnipeg. Each conference brought together more than 100 Second World War, Korean War and Peacekeeping veterans, as well as Canadian Forces personnel, students and cadets. We've also been lucky to have an impressive list of keynote speakers. In Victoria, Rod Mickleburgh, senior writer at the Globe and Mail, discussed his experiences

gathering veteran's memories for the book, "Rare Courage: Veterans of the Second World War Remembered". Master Corporal Paul Franklin, Canadian Forces gave a very stirring address in Edmonton about his recent experiences in Afghanistan and the changes in his life since losing both legs in a suicide bombing in Kandahar. The Memory Project Conference in Winnipeg was very happy to welcome the Honourable John Harvard, Lt. Governor of Manitoba

to speak on the role of Manitoba's veterans in the province's history. The final conference will take place in Quebec during Remembrance week. The conferences have been an effective way to gather different generations of veterans, along with currently serving Canadian Forces personnel and young people. We would like to thank all of the Memory Project speakers who were in attendance. The conferences would not have been such a success without your participation!

Advisory Committee

The Memory Project would like to thank the Advisory Committee for their contributions. The Advisory Committee meets throughout the year to discuss the future direction of the Memory Project and ways of engaging more teachers, community groups, veterans and Canadian Forces personnel in the program. This group includes Second World War veterans and Memory Project speakers Mr. Leonard Levy and Mr. George MacDonell. Representing the Canadian Forces is Master Corporal Dan Matthews and Lieutenant Colonel Susan Beharriel from Canadian Forces College. We are also very happy to hear the advice of historians - Dr. Jack Granatstein and Dr. Ted Barris as well as educator Ms. Pam Calvert. Speaking with this group will help us to be prepared for the busy fall season.

Veterans and students at Victory Ball

About 20 veterans in the Ottawa area were treated to a unique event at St. Pius X High School. To commemorate the anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, students dressed in 1940s attire and enjoyed music, dancing, baked goods, and automobiles from the era of the Second World War. As their teacher Jennifer Goldsmith explained, "The veterans will be our guests. We would like to share our gratitude and let our students have an opportunity to interact with them and

give thanks." Memory Project speaker Doug Meredith commented on the Victory Ball's success, "These people, especially Ms. Goldsmith, put on a great event. Lots of fun for students and vets too. Good cookies, cake and other calorie-laden goodies, dancing and lots of hoop-la. The costumes were good, many of them loaned by the Canadian War Museum." The Memory Project would like to recognise this creative and innovative approach to Remembrance and the promotion of Canadian History. Well done!

Memory Project Story Competition Winners

The Memory Project would like to congratulate the winners of this year's story competition. Students were asked to write a short essay describing their thoughts and reflections on a veteran visit to their school. The winners received a \$100 cash prize and had their stories published on the Memory Project website. The winners include:

Emma Burtch from Merivale High School in Ottawa, Ontario, who wrote on her visit from Mr. Burt Harper. Hilary Casey, who was inspired to enter the competition after Mr. Leonard Rubinstein made a visit to her class at Crestwood Preparatory College in North York, Ontario. Jessica Wilson, a student from St. John's Kilmarnock School in Breslau, Ontario entered a story on her class's visit

from Mr. Jack Dolson. And finally, Mitchel Cavallarin from Kwayhquitlum Middle school in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia, who submitted an essay on his visit from Mr. Frank Whitford. Coincidentally, all four of these veteran speakers served in the Army during the Second World War.

An excerpt from Mitchel Cavallarin's winning essay provides an example of the sentiment expressed in these essays, "Mr. Frank Whitford changed my thoughts on war drastically. I knew there were bombings and shootings but the stories he enlightened me with were amazing. He made it seem to me like I was actually there, side by side, with the Canadian troops."

"Mr. Dolson's experiences are humbling. To think (of) how many people have died to protect Canada. His roles, battles and horrific experiences are a part of history that he has brought to life at St. John's Kilmarnock School."

Jessica Wilson, a grade ten student and Story Competition winner from Guelph, Ontario.

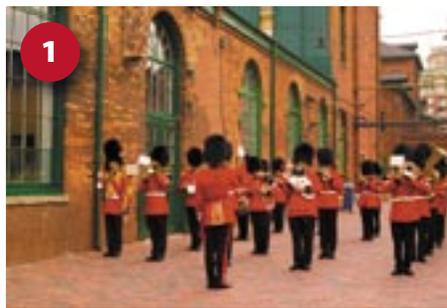
"Sam makes history come alive for our students and never fails to leave a lasting impression. We are ever so grateful for what he did for us during the war and what he continues to do for young people today."

Usha James, History Teacher at Emily Carr Secondary School Speaking on the contribution of Memory Project Speaker Sam Garnet.



PHOTO GALLERY

1. Royal Regiment Band of Canada performed at a special event celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Dominion Institute.
2. Students and a representative from CFB Esquimalt at the Memory Project Conference in Victoria.
3. Veterans, Canadian Forces personnel and students gather at the Fairmont Empress Hotel in Victoria for the Memory Project Conference.
4. Cadets and Veterans gather in Winnipeg at the Memory Project Conference.
5. Ontario's Minister of Education the Honourable Kathleen Wynne presented Memory Project Achievement Awards to educator Scott Masters and veteran speaker George Burrows. Also in attendance, Hilary Casey, winner of the Memory Project student essay competition.



Thank you to our Partners

The Dominion Institute would like to acknowledge the generous partners of The Memory Project for their important contributions.

VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA is the sponsor of our Memory Project Conferences, which will take place across the country from 2005-08 and is designed to engage more Canadian Forces and Peacekeeping veterans into the program. The final conference is scheduled for Remembrance Week in Quebec.

LABATT BREWERIES OF CANADA recently announced it has renewed its funding of The Memory Project which will be dedicated to engaging Ontario MPPs by inviting them into classrooms during Remembrance Week. In total 25 MPPs attended these events in front of more than 5000 students in 2006.

THE W. GARFIELD WESTON FOUNDATION has sponsored a veteran classroom event to take place during Remembrance Week 2007. Please stay tuned for details.

WINTER 2007 UPCOMING EVENTS

Memory Project Conference (November 2007)

Ontario MPP Outreach (Remembrance Week 2007)

Weston Foundation school event (Remembrance Week 2007)

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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