



Left: Family members of the fallen came out to participate in the dedication

Top: The War Memorial in Lansdowne

Top Right: Inscription on one of the tablets

Right: Monument at the War Memorial in Lansdowne



WAR MEMORIAL DEDICATED in Celebration of 100th Anniversary of End of WWI

By Lorraine Payette

Ceremonies started at 11 a.m. on September 22 this year in front of the Thousand Islands Elementary School in Lansdowne. After months of exhaustive research, fundraising, and meticulous preparation, the Memorial Arch at the Veterans Garden in Lansdowne was ready for dedication. Joined by branches of the Royal Canadian Legion, Lansdowne United Church, and service clubs, the LTI Historical Society supported Legionnaire Janet Gaylord in her efforts to place a monument in the village and list the names of local people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

"We are marking the hundredth anniversary of the First World War this year," said Gaylord. "Our community is honouring our area women and men by this dedication of the placement in the arch at the entrance to the Veterans Garden at Thousand Islands Elementary School of four granite plaques bearing the names of thirty local men who lost their lives during the two World Wars and Afghanistan. In addition, commemorative stones will be set into the ground engraved with the names of more than 240 area men and women who enlisted in war.

"We reached out everywhere to make this as close to perfect as we could. Everyone was invited to honour those men who lost their lives in the cause of freedom and all area women and men who served in war."

Major General Steven Whelan was the featured speaker and guests were invited from Brockville Rifles as Honour Guard, Military from Ottawa, Trenton and Kingston. Military members who live in the area, many who have students going to the school where the memorial is, attended. Legion members from Zone G2 and District G (eastern Ontario) joined the local Fire Department, many family members of the fallen and veterans from London, Owen Sound, Barry, USA and the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. The youth choir sang, leading all in "O, Canada", with a flyover from a military and private plane, as well as a helicopter.

"The memorial honours the Fallen (30) and Veterans (approximately 240 WWI, WWII and Korea) of our community – Lansdowne – and the surrounding area that used to be 'Front of Leeds and Lansdowne,'" said Gaylord. "There never has been a memorial in our village. Our veterans and their families

are aging and passing on. It was with great honour that we started the memorial in 2006. We have more than 200 members of the public who come out to our November 11th ceremonies, as well as over 400 students each year."

The plaques with the names of the fallen were placed on the newly erected Arch and ground stones carrying the 240 veterans' names were on display this year as part of the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI.

"We invited family members of the fallen to be at the ceremony to unveil the plaques," said Gaylord. "Later, as an ongoing project, markers will be placed yearly with the names of recent veterans. We are asking for donations to cover the cost."

Gaylord has also begun a collection of the stories and photos of these honoured fallen and all veterans.

She is collaborating with Bill Beswetherick to produce a book which will share these stories and help keep these memories alive for generations to come. The information may also be found at

www.ltihistoricalsociety.org

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