

PRESS RELEASE



Designation of the Last Post Fund National Field of Honour as National Historic Site

Pointe-Claire, 21 June 2009 – Inaugurated in 1930, the Last Post Fund National Field of Honour located in Pointe-Claire, Québec is now a National Historic Site as designated by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. This recognition was announced in the presence of the Honourable Pierre Claude Nolin, senator, representing the Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada.

The only cemetery in Canada entirely reserved for veterans, the National Field of Honour is owned by the Last Post Fund, a non-profit organization founded in Montreal 100 years ago. It now boasts nine branches across the country. Its mission: to ensure that no eligible Veteran is deprived of a dignified funeral, burial and headstone for lack of financial resources. The Last Post Fund is supported financially by Veterans Affairs Canada and by private donations.

“In this year of our centennial, I am proud to say that our organization has never deviated from the principles of dignity, compassion and respect which presided over its creation by Arthur H.D. Hair a hundred years ago,” said Lieutenant-General (ret) Lou Cuppens, National President of the Last Post Fund. “Today, we have the pleasure of welcoming his grandson, Arthur Hair III. We salute the vision of our founder who had the audacity to acquire those six acres of land decades ago and we feel privileged to pursue his work. Today, more than 20,000 veterans and their spouses rest in this majestic site.”

Presiding over the inauguration of the National Field of Honour in 1930 was the famous General Sir Arthur Currie, Canada's greatest military commander who led the Canadian Corps through impressive victories during the First World War. At the time, he was National President of the Last Post Fund.

The National Field of Honour is located some 22 km west of Montreal, on a hill overlooking Lake St. Louis and the surrounding countryside. It is the last resting place for thousands of men and women who through selfless efforts and sacrifices have helped maintain the peace and freedom this country so cherishes. As an integral part of the military and social history of Canada, this impressive cemetery is a vibrant testimony of our nation's evolution.

Among several monuments standing in the National Field of Honour is a 5-meter Cross of Sacrifice dedicated in 1934 to the memory of General Arthur Currie. At the entrance of the cemetery is an imposing Gate of Remembrance, inaugurated in 1937 by the Governor General, Lord Tweedsmuir. Through the serene uniform treatment of the graves, this military cemetery expresses the equality of soldiers in death: generals lying beside privates, Victoria Cross recipients beside those who achieved no battle acclaim, the well-to-do beside ex-servicemen who died penniless. All tombs are marked with a uniform headstone made of granite and are cared for perpetually.

In the beginning of this 21st century, the National Field of Honour eloquently signals the presence of the Last Post Fund within the military and veterans community.