



LAST POST FUND  
FONDS DU SOUVENIR

A Quarterly Newsletter from the Last Post Fund

# THE BUGLER

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www.lastpostfund.ca



## IMPORTANT REORGANIZATION

### A New National Service Centre



Jaime MacKinnon

A major reduction of its administrative budget has forced the Last Post Fund to downsize its personnel and to close a number of offices.

To keep ensuring an effective delivery of the Veterans Affairs Canada Funeral and Burial Program, the LPF is implementing a National Service Centre, effective 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2012. Ms. **Jaime MacKinnon**, Client Service Manager, will oversee the work of 10 counsellors located in the remaining offices of Surrey, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax.

The Centre will use a global phone system enabling a first-time caller to speak to the first available counsellor, who will then be responsible for handling the application to the end.

**To contact the Last Post Fund National Service Centre: 1 800-465-7113.**

## IN MEMORY OF OUR VETERANS

The four main targets of the Last Post Fund's campaign are:

- Provisions for the funeral and burial of Veterans non eligible for the federal government's Funeral and Burial Program;
- Provisions for the identification of Veterans' unmarked graves (between 20,000 and 30,000 throughout Canada);
- Provisions to sustain the development of the National Field of Honour;
- Provisions to support the organization of commemorative ceremonies.

## THE LAST POST FUND'S THREE MAJOR PRIORITIES

### Getting more benefits for Canadian Veterans

Although the LPF is going through a major reorganization of its structure and operations, its three major priorities regarding the delivery of the Funeral and Burial Program have been reaffirmed by Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) **Evelyn Kelly**, our Past National President, when she met with Minister Steven Blaney earlier this year.

#### Maximum allowance payable to a funeral home

Having remained at \$3,600 since November 2001, the allowance fails to keep pace with the rising costs of funeral services. Both the RCMP and National Defence have raised their maximum allowance to \$14,320. We believe that Canadian Veterans deserve an equal level of assistance.

#### Estate exemption for the Veteran's survivors or dependants

In 1995, this exemption was cut in half, down from \$24,030 to \$12,015. That amount is lower than the poverty level, according to Statistics Canada. For hundreds of Veterans, this creates an additional burden on their families. Consequently, we are asking that the estate exemption be restored to its level of 1995, with a cost of living allowance.

#### Funeral and burial benefits for Canadian Forces Veterans

These benefits are not available to Canadian Forces members who have served after the Korean War, unless they receive a disability pension from Veterans Affairs. Since the beginning of 2012, the Last Post Fund has had to use donation monies to provide a dignified funeral and burial for six financially challenged Veterans. Therefore, we ask that eligibility requirements be extended to include all members of the Canadian Forces who are in financial need.

The Last Post Fund thanks the Royal Canadian Legion, ANAVETS and other Veterans organizations for their help in advocating these important issues.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donation of [Canada Company](#), a charitable, non-partisan organization that serves to build the bridge between business and community leaders and the Canadian Military.

We are also indebted to the *Canadian Business Journal* and **Brent Lang** for an insightful [story](#) on the LPF campaign.

Lastly, our gratitude goes to **James Dean** of [MONEY@](#) for posting a press release in their Website as a gift-in-kind. It was then picked up by [PR Web](#), [PR Newswire](#) and [Marketwire](#).

Our mission: to ensure that no eligible Veteran is deprived of a dignified funeral and burial for lack of financial resources.

Our chief mandate: to deliver the Funeral and Burial Program on behalf of Veterans Affairs Canada.

## A BELL OF REMEMBRANCE

### Gift to the National Field of Honour



Ashley Clarkson

In 1882, shipbuilders Sunderland of England affixed a solid bronze bell to their newly built Coban steamship, intended for the Black Diamond Steamship Company (BDSC) of Montreal.

The ship was used primarily for cargo before it sank near Montreal in 1928. BDSC then recovered the bell and donated it to the Last Post Fund in 1937 when construction of the Gate of Remembrance was underway. Its solemn tune was heard for fallen soldiers passing through the Gate, signifying their entrance into their final resting place.



When a stained-glass window was installed in the Gate of Remembrance – a gift from the Royal Canadian Legion – the bell was taken down and stored away.

Then one day, **Ashley Clarkson**, a Concordia University history student and part-time worker at the National Field of Honour, removed the bell from its storage place. “When I found it, recalls Ashley, it was covered by about three layers of thick silver paint that we had removed by professionals. The green and black patina underneath the layers of paint revealed the bell’s age and historical significance.”

Ashley then called on her grandfather, Norman Mungham, a Veteran of the Korean War, who, together with his wife Bernice and daughters Karen and Janet, provided funds to clean the bell and build an exhibit in order to give it a public exposure. Ms. Clarkson’s deserves our praise for her initiative and the Mungham family, our gratitude for their funding and support which made this exhibit possible for the benefit of future generations.

## QUEEN ELIZABETH II DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDALS

### Four LPF members honored



Four Last Post Fund members were awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for their meritorious deeds on behalf of Canadian Veterans.

Left to right: Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret’d) **Evelyn Kelly**, Past National President, was honored for her contribution to the community and for raising the awareness of the Funeral and Burial Program; Colonel (Ret’d) **Yves Martin**, Vice-President of the National Field of Honour, for his engagement of 20 years as Aide-de-Camp for four successive Québec Lieutenant-Governors; Rear-Admiral (Ret’d) **Barry Keeler**, for his outstanding service to his community and his tireless efforts to assist Veterans and their families through his volunteer work with the Royal Canadian Naval Benevolent Fund and the Last Post Fund in Nova Scotia; and Commander (Ret’d) **Don Urich** (no photo available) from the Nova Scotia Branch, for his extensive volunteer service at the Nova Scotia Naval Officers Association and the CFB Halifax Officers Mess.

Our sincere congratulations to these four recipients for a well-deserved recognition!

## A FEW STATISTICS ON OUR PROGRAMS

- In fiscal year 2011-12, the Last Post Fund handled 10,836 applications for funeral and burial grants, of which 1,326 were approved (compared to 1,525 last year).
- Total payment for these 1,326 approved applications is \$6,306,331.
- The Last Post Fund paid for the installation of 236 grave markers through its Unmarked Grave Program. Average cost per marker: \$1,146.
- Since 1996, \$2,050,227 of public funds and approximately \$215,100 in LPF donation funds were spent to support our Unmarked Grave Program.
- In 2011-2012, the Last Post Fund received \$29,457 in charity donations from private organizations and the general public of all provinces. In Québec, donated funds are allocated to the National Field of Honour.
- Donation funds are used exclusively to support activities that complement the Funeral and Burial Program. For example, donation monies totaling \$37,257 have been spent to mark Veterans’ graves through the LPF Unmarked Grave Program.