



LAST POST FUND  
FONDS DU SOUVENIR

A Quarterly Newsletter from the Last Post Fund

# THE BUGLER

Vol. 5, No. 3 — July 2014

www.lastpostfund.ca



## MGEN EDWARD FITCH

A word from our National President

As the newly appointed National President of the Last Post Fund, I feel the weight of responsibility to lead our organization in the next leg of its 105-year history.



Two recent and fundamentally important improvements in Government policy have been made to the Funeral and Burial Program that we deliver on behalf of Veterans Affairs Canada:

- ◆ In 2013: Increase of the reimbursement rate for funeral services, from \$3,600 to \$7,376
- ◆ In 2014: Extension of eligibility for the Program to ALL Veterans

While there are still improvements to be made to the Program, our focus can shift away from fundraising and lobbying the Government. We now have the dual imperative to renew our own membership and reach out to the new class of Veterans who may need us. Our challenge is to communicate our message to a broader and dispersed audience.

I offer the Last Post fund my best effort in leadership and management of the LPF over the next two years.

Lest we Forget.

*The Last Post Fund is a very fine achievement, a living record of what one man of single-minded devotion to a grand objective can accomplish. – The Montreal Star, 2 July 1947 (following Arthur Hair's death)*

## MEMBERS OF THE 2014-15 GOVERNING COUNCIL

A group of men dedicated to the Last Post Fund's mission



### First row, left to right

Capt (N) **Peter Langlais** (R)\*, LPF Honorary President  
MGen **Edward S. Fitch** (R), National President  
HCol **Daniel F. O'Connor**, Past President  
RAdm **Barry Keeler** (R), Vice-President East  
LGen **Lou Cuppens** (R), Past Honorary Treasurer

### Second row

Sgt **John Bertram** (R), rep. LCol **Hans Brink** (R), President, Alberta  
LCol **Raymond Mikkola** (R), Honorary Legal Advisor  
Mr. **Jean-Pierre Goyer**, LPF Executive Director  
LCol **Al Gallop** (R), President, New-Brunswick/PEI  
Col **Charles Kepple** (R), President, Saskatchewan and Vice-President West  
BGen **Pierre Boucher** (R), President, Québec  
Capt **Ike Hall** (R), President, British Columbia and Honorary Treasurer  
LCol **Guy Rousseau** (R), President, National Field of Honour  
LCol **Chris Bodner** (R), President, Manitoba  
Mr. **André Lévesque**, Veterans Affairs Canada Representative  
Lt **Don Newell** (R), President, Newfoundland and Labrador  
Col **Doug Briscoe** (R), President, Ontario

### Absent

Mr. **Roderick Morrison**, President, Nova Scotia

\*Retired

Our mission: to ensure that no Veteran is ever deprived of a dignified funeral and burial for lack of financial resources at the time of his death.  
Our chief mandate: to deliver the Funeral and Burial Program on behalf of Veterans Affairs Canada.

## THE YEAR IN BRIEF

### A few statistics from 2013-2014

#### Funeral and Burial Program

The Last Post Fund approved 1,213 applications for grants (of which 107 for Allied Veterans), compared to 1,199 the previous year. Total payments reached \$7,173,928.

189 Modern-Day Veterans receiving a disability compensation qualified for funeral and burial assistance through means-testing in accordance with the *Veterans Burial Regulations*.

Veterans Affairs provided \$280,980 for the delivery of 293 markers through the Program.

#### Unmarked Grave Program

During the year, 154 markers were installed. Total cost for Veterans Affairs Canada: \$187,538. Three headstones were installed through the National Defence Marker Program, at a cost of \$4,756.

Since the inception of the Program in 1996, the graves of 3,682 Veterans have been identified and properly marked across the country. Total expenditure: \$2,622,281.

#### National Field of Honour

231 burials were conducted at the Field of Honour.

Since 1930, the year of its inauguration, 21,422 burials have taken place.

#### Donation Fund

Over the past two years, the Last Post Fund has assisted the families of 30 Modern-Day Veterans, expending nearly \$100,000 of its donation fund.

#### In Memoriam

LCol **W. Carl Doty**, a long-time serving member of the Nova Scotia Branch who passed away on 8 June. Our sincere condolences to his family and comrades.

## IN MEMORY OF TROOPER JAMES DALY

### At the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges cemetery in Montreal



Mr. Jean-Pierre Goyer and HCol Dan O'Connor unveiling the headstone in honour of Trooper James Daly. Photo: LPF

On Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, a military headstone was unveiled at the Montreal Notre-Dame-des-Neiges cemetery on Mount-Royal to honour the memory of Trooper **James Daly** (1855-1908), 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoon Guards (British Army). His death in extreme poverty led to the creation of the Last Post Fund in 1909 to ensure that no Veteran in need would ever be deprived of a dignified burial.



HCol Dan O'Connor and Col Denis Thébeau entering the National Field of Honour. Photo: Caporal Louis Brunet, 34 Canadian Brigade Group

On that sunny Sunday, hundreds of military, veterans, cadets and families were gathered at the National Field of Honour to pay tribute to the Canadian and Allied Veterans buried in this unique military cemetery. Colonel **Denis Thébeau**, Commander of the 35 Canadian Brigade Group, was Guest of Honour of the ceremony.



Left to right: Maj **Serge Gélinas**, Manager of the National Field of Honour; BGen **Pierre Boucher**, President of the LPF Québec Branch; HCol **Dan O'Connor**, Past National President; Lcol **Jacques Borne** and Ocdt Dr. **Robert Ouellette**, both members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Montreal Field Battery and of Canada Company.



Through a gift of \$1,600 from **Canada Company**, the National Field of Honour has purchased a salt spreader for winter works. It will also serve as a fertilizer spreader in the summer. Thank you Canada Company for making possible the purchase of this most useful piece of equipment!