



LAST POST FUND  
FONDS DU SOUVENIR

A Quarterly Newsletter from the Last Post Fund

# THE BUGLER

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## REMEMBRANCE DAY at the National Field of Honour



As part of Veterans' Week 2014, a commemorative ceremony will be held on Tuesday November 11, at

11 a.m., at the Last Post Fund National Field of Honour in Pointe-Claire, QC.

Under the patronage of the Veterans Ombudsman, Chief Warrant Officer **Guy Parent** (Ret'd), the ceremony will focus on the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War.

Among Veterans buried in the National Field of Honour, 1,085 fought in the bloody conflict that claimed the lives of nearly 61,000 Canadians.

## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED To identify unmarked graves

According to Veterans Affairs Canada, there are between 3,000 and 4,000 unidentified Veterans graves across the country. We appeal to all to find and identify the graves of Veterans buried anonymously. Therefore, we invite you to visit your local cemetery and ask the staff to examine the register of anonymous burials. It could be Veterans whose grave bears no tombstone. Once informed of the situation, the Last Post Fund will see that a military marker is promptly installed on these Veterans' graves and their memory and sacrifices permanently honoured.

## SIR GENERAL ARTHUR CURRIE (1875-1933) Celebrated WWI Figure was LPF's fifth National President

A militia officer and a teacher, **Arthur Currie** had never commanded anything larger than a regiment at the outbreak of war in 1914. He received a brigade command in the First Contingent and proved himself a capable organizer and training facilitator. During the Second Battle of Ypres in April 1915, Currie's brigade played a pivotal role in holding the Allied position. He rose to command the 1st Canadian Division in September 1915 and led it effectively for the next two years. He was knighted in 1917.



Currie was not a charismatic leader and had no easy way with his soldiers. But his understanding of the importance of pre-battle preparation and the limited "set-piece" attack to "bite and hold" enemy positions derived from sincere concern over the needless sacrifice of lives in futile frontal assaults. He studied carefully the lessons of recent fighting and sought to implement them in the forces under his command.

### A Brilliant Corps Commander

After the Canadians had successfully stormed Vimy Ridge in April 1917, Currie was appointed to head the Canadian Corps. The first and only Canadian soldier to occupy the post, Currie proved an excellent corps commander. His willingness to demand more guns or preparation time prior to major assaults saved Allied lives and enhanced the prospects for success. Under Currie's leadership, the Canadians cemented their reputation as an elite assault formation, with an unbroken string of major victories in 1917-1918 that included Hill 70, Passchendaele, Amiens, Arras, and the Canal du Nord. He is widely considered to have been among the finest generals of the war.

Source : [Canadian War Museum](#)

### Post-War Sir Arthur Currie

He served as principal of McGill University from 1920 until his death in 1933. Though he had no post-secondary education, he became an exceptional administrator. The leadership skills, mastery of complex situations and attention to detail that he had shown on the battlefield proved valuable for McGill University and for the Last Post Fund which he served as fifth National President from 1924 to 1932.

## THE CALIFORNIA PROJECT

### Marking Canadian Graves



In 2010, a Service Officer from the Royal Canadian Legion in the Los Angeles area contacted Veterans Affairs Canada and the Last Post Fund, indicating that within Inglewood Park Cemetery in Inglewood, CA, there were approximately 200 unmarked Canadian and British Veterans Graves dating back to as early as 1923.

The section where these Veterans lie was first administered by the British Consulate as a number of these graves were of British Veterans who had moved to California where they had passed away.

Through the years many Canadian Veterans who had immigrated to California after the First World War were also buried in the Inglewood Park Cemetery. At some point, the Royal Canadian Legion started to oversee the section.

The Canadian Government, through the Last Post Fund, has undertaken to research each of the 200 Veterans and find their service documentation. A military marker will be installed on graves of Canadian Veterans to commemorate their service to the nation.

## PORTRAIT OF A MILITARY FAMILY

### Five members of the Howlett family under the flag



Private **Thomas Howlett** was a Korean Veteran who enrolled in the Royal Canadian Regiment. After his return, he later married Agnes Harding and the couple was blessed with seven children. When Thomas passed away in 1997 at age 64, the Last Post Fund helped with his funeral and burial, and had a military headstone mark his grave at the Newfoundland Field of Honour in the St. John's Mount Pleasant Cemetery.



Danny Howlett and his family

Thomas' son, Master Corporal **Danny Howlett**, served with the Canadian Forces as a Weapons Technician. He was stationed in Gagetown, New Brunswick while his wife, Sargeant **Nancy (Pender) Howlett** served from Oromocto. Only nine days after Thomas' death, tragedy hit. Danny, Nancy and their two small children, Erin and Gregory, were killed in a car accident when returning home to Oromocto after attending Thomas' funeral in St. John's.

This sad event did not deter Thomas' other children from serving:

Sargeant **Andrew Howlett**, a Medical Technician, is still active with the Canadian Forces and Lieutenant (Navy) Judy Howlett Portes has been a Naval Reservist, training Sea Cadets from 1983 until her retirement in 1992. Both she and Andrew's wife Cynthia serve on the Board of Directors of the Military Family Resource Centre in St. John's.



A well-deserved honour was bestowed upon **Agnes Harding** in 2012 when she received the Memorial Cross (also called Silver Cross) awarded to widows of soldiers who served under the Canadian flag, whether in faraway lands or at home.

On November 11, let us remember our Veterans and honour their memory. Lest we forget.