



**LAST POST FUND**  
FONDS DU SOUVENIR

A Quarterly Newsletter from the Last Post Fund

# THE BUGLER

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[www.lastpostfund.ca](http://www.lastpostfund.ca)

## A NEW STRUCTURE

Four regions, four directors



The Last Post Fund has undergone a major restructure in the past year. The Fund's Canadian operations are now divided among four regions, each administered by a Regional Manager. Their primary mandate will remain the delivery of the Funeral and Burial Program on behalf of Veterans Affairs Canada.

Appearing on the photo, left to right, the Last Post Fund Regional Directors:

**Ken Usher** for the Western Region,  
**Jaime MacKinnon** for Ontario,  
**Marc Gauthier** for the Atlantic Region  
and **Guy Rousseau** for Québec.

However, the Last Post Fund maintains a footprint in eight provinces across the country in order to ensure the same quality of services to Canadian Veterans.

### To join our Provincial Offices:

Alberta: 1 888 495-3766  
British Columbia: 1 800 268-0248  
New Brunswick-PEI: 1 800 561-0505  
Newfoundland-Labrador: 1 888 579-4288  
Nova Scotia: 1 800 565-4777  
Ontario: 1 800 563-2508  
Québec: 1 800 866-5229  
Saskatchewan-Manitoba: 1 888 233-3073

## WE SHALL NEVER FORGET

A tradition of service and dedication



During this festive time of year, it seems appropriate to recall the beginnings of our organization, which originated more than 100 years ago from an act of respect, compassion and patriotism.

End of December 1908: a poor unconscious man is found huddled in a doorway and taken to the Montreal General Hospital by two policemen. Supposedly drunk, he is carted to a room to "sleep it off".

The head orderly, Arthur Hair (our photo), a British immigrant and Veteran of the South African War, happened to notice an envelope sticking out of the man's pocket. Opening it, he found a certificate of honourable discharge and good conduct issued by Britain's War Office to Trooper James Daly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoon Guards (the Queen's Bays). Daly had served the British Empire for 21 years and this piece of paper was his sole possession.

Trooper Daly was not drunk, but suffering from severe exposure and starvation. He died two days later, still unconscious, at age 53. His body being unclaimed, the remains would be removed for anatomical study and then to the city morgue for disposal, as was customary in those days.

Deeply shocked by the Empire's disregard for its Veterans, Hair raised money from friends and colleagues to give the soldier a decent and dignified burial. This encounter changed the course of his life. It would lead to the establishment of the Last Post Fund in April 1909, so that Daly's sad fate would never happen again and no Veteran would ever end up in a pauper's field.

The early work of the Last Post Fund was exclusively supported by private donations. In 1921, however, it was federally incorporated and began to receive regular government financial support. The organization then expanded its operations to cover the entire country.

Today as in its very beginnings, the mission of the Last Post Fund is to ensure that no eligible Veteran is deprived of a dignified funeral and burial for lack of financial resources. Its main mandate is to deliver the Funeral and Burial Program on behalf of Veterans Affairs Canada. To date, it has provided funeral services and, when necessary, a military marker to nearly 150,000 Canadian and Allied Veterans.

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## VET FINALLY HONOURED

### A well-deserved recognition



Yvette Deneault was only three years old when her daddy went off to fight during the First World War. Albert Blais was among the first

Canadian troops to sail off to England. When he returned home in 1919, he was a shell of the man he once was and tuberculosis finally killed him in 1927.

In the years leading up to his death, Blais wasn't well enough to work or even provide for his family. The heart-broken, dying man could only watch as his family lost their home and his wife buckled under stress and depression. She ended up in a mental hospital for several years.

When Yvette's father died, the family was penniless and the children were divided. Their father was buried in a common plot at Notre Dame cemetery in Vanier with hundreds of others.

In 2010, the family made an appeal to the Last Post Fund in Ontario and to Simon Dozois of Notre Dame Cemetery. All they wanted was a simple stone to be placed at the common plot, indicating that a First World War Veteran was buried there.

Dozois was prepared to do much better. He offered the family one of only two remaining plots in Notre Dame's street-front Hall of Honour. However, it could not be done this year. Yvette Deneault then asked if a simple foot stone could be placed on the family plot. "I'm nearly 90 and I don't know how long I'll be around," said Deneault. "I wanted to see it with my own eyes."

Her prayer was eventually answered. On Remembrance Day, the family gathered for a commemoration ceremony at the military marker installed for Veteran Albert Blais, through the Special Grave Marker Program of the Last Post Fund. Yvette's dream was finally fulfilled.

*(Excerpts from a story by Doug Hempstead published in the Ottawa Sun on 11 November 2010)*

## A DIGNIFIED FUNERAL FOR ONTARIO VETERAN

### Clinton Brown's remains found in a well



Last April, a human skeleton was found in a dormant well under a deck that a Dresden resident was renovating. Speculations went swirling to the effect that the remains could be those of Clinton Brown, a local man who disappeared in 1975. A bachelor, Mr. Brown was living in a trailer not far from the well where the bones were found.

When it was revealed that Brown was a Veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces, Chatham Police detective Jim Lynds contacted the Last Post Fund in Toronto, hoping to get some clues that might help identify the skeletal remains. Counsellor Darrell Marsh directed him to Library and Archives Canada whose military files often included Veterans dental records. Detective Lynds later confirmed that indeed they were able to identify Mr. Brown through his dental records.

### A Welcome Financial Assistance

The Last Post Fund then provided financial assistance to the family so that Veteran Clinton Brown would receive the dignified funeral to which he was entitled. Colonel (Ret) Jim Stokes, a member of the Last Post Fund Ontario Board of Directors, met with the family and arranged for the presence of five branches of the Royal Canadian Legion at the service. "It was a very moving ceremony, said Colonel Stokes. Also attending were members of the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment, civic representatives, members from the Police and Fire departments, and of course, many community folks, said Colonel Stokes. The family was very grateful and asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Last Post Fund in memory of their parent."

Mr. Brown is to be interred next year at the Dresden cemetery and a military headstone will be provided by the Last Post Fund through its Special Grave Marker Program.

Born in 1914, Mr. Brown enlisted as a private with the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment (headquartered in Belleville). Having served in Italy during WWII as a sniper, he was taken prisoner by the German army in 1943 and sent to a camp in northern Poland. He was finally discharged in 1945.

Incidentally, one of his comrades-in-arms was celebrated Canadian writer Farley Mowat.



*The Last Post Fund staff and board members extend their warm wishes for a very joyful Holiday Season. May the New Year be filled with endless peace, health and prosperity!*