



LAST POST FUND
FONDS DU SOUVENIR

A Quarterly Newsletter from the Last Post Fund

THE BUGLER

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BURIAL MIX-UPS at Arlington National Cemetery

A story published in *Time* magazine revealed a massive case of mistaken identities at the Washington military cemetery, a resting place for some 330,000 people. An investigation confirmed that serious burial mix-ups occurred, stating that “the Army had effectively lost control of its sacred ground.” A few examples: unidentified remains repeatedly found while digging in what were supposed to be empty graves; two separate and unrelated service members interred in the same grave; a service member buried in two places; etc.

A worker guessed that “one time out of 10,” a headstone sits above the wrong grave. Each burial error at Arlington might represent several related burial mistakes. Part of the problem stems from the fact that, while other cemeteries long ago computerized their records, Arlington still works on paper.

For full story, click [here](#).

At the LPF National Field of Honour

LCol (Ret'd) **Daniel Redburn**, newly appointed Last Post Fund Regional Director for Québec and Director of the National Field of Honour, confirms that such a bungled situation could not happen at our cemetery. “Interments being sequential, he said, it is easy to keep track of *who* is buried *where*, especially since our burials have been computerized since 1990. Every week, Arlington conducts around 180 burials that are recorded on paper, whereas we do an average of six burials every week and each one is computerized.”

(For LCol Daniel Redburn's biography, click [here](#).)

THE LAST POST FUND NATIONAL FIELD OF HONOUR Its origins



Consecration Day on 21 September 1930 — Review of the Guard of Honour

Beginning in 1910, the vast majority of LPF burials in Québec took place in the plots the Fund had purchased in Mount Royal's two cemeteries. But these were nearly filled in the late 1920s. The LPF Québec Board of Directors then decided to purchase land to provide the organization with its own cemetery, a choice mainly motivated by rising burial costs on Mount Royal. The ideal location was found in Pointe-Claire about 22 km west of downtown Montreal.

In 1929, the Fund purchased for \$8,000 six acres of land adjacent to the Lakeview Cemetery. The land was located on a gentle hill, with distant views of Lake St. Louis and the surrounding countryside. This pastoral location would become a distinct, independent military cemetery owned and managed by the Last Post Fund, which gained far greater autonomy in its funerary arrangements. A bank loan was secured and repaid with a generous grant from the Québec Government. The ground was surveyed, graded, seeded and planted; lawns, trees, shrubs and flowers were arranged; and roads and paths were laid out. In September 1930, the consecration ceremony and official opening took place before a large gathering. It was a colourful and very formal affair, with invited dignitaries wearing uniforms or morning coats and top hats. A local newspaper wrote that “it is undoubtedly one of the Empire's most beautiful cemeteries.”

The Last Post Fund National Field of Honour was the first exclusively military cemetery in Canada since the closing of the old Papineau cemetery in 1869, following the withdrawal of the British garrison from Montreal.

More than 20,000 Veterans and their close relatives now rest in the Field of Honour, designated as a National Historic Site by the Government of Canada in 2009, the centennial year of the Last Post Fund.

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.

SPECIAL DECORATION FOR LPF NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Photo: Nancy Rowe

In July, Last Post Fund National President, LCol (ret'd) **Evelyn Kelly**, was among 19 Ontario citizens who were decorated with the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation.

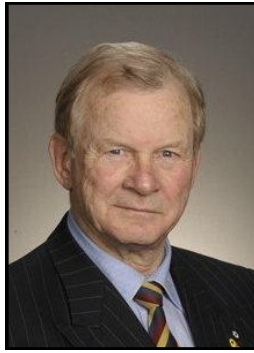
This honour bestowed upon these individuals by the Honourable **Steven Blaney**, Minister of Veterans Affairs, recognized their “exemplary contribution to the care and well-being of Veterans and their remembrance of the sacrifices and achievements of our Veterans.”

“After serving, many of Canada’s Veterans have continued to provide outstanding service to their country, their communities and their fellow Veterans,” said Minister Blaney. “They have truly been nation builders and have earned our undying respect and gratitude. It is equally gratifying to see other Canadians volunteer their time and efforts to give back to our Veterans.”

The Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation includes a bar, as well as a lapel pin for civilian wear and a certificate.

For full biography of LCol Evelyn Kelly, click [here](#).

MAJOR GENERAL LEWIS MACKENZIE TO CHAIR LAST POST FUND’S NATIONAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN



The Last Post Fund, a century-old organization devoted to Veterans, will soon launch its first annual fundraising campaign, to be chaired by retired **Major General Lewis MacKenzie**.

Born in Truro, Nova Scotia, General MacKenzie enlisted with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and was commissioned in 1960. During his Canadian army career, General MacKenzie served nine years in West Germany with NATO forces and had nine peacekeeping tours of duty with the United Nations in six different mission areas—the Gaza Strip, Cyprus, Vietnam, Egypt, Central America and the former Yugoslavia. Between peacekeeping missions he served as an instructor at the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College and as director of army training at St. Hubert, QC. A complete biography of General MacKenzie can be found on [Wikipedia](#).

This fundraising endeavour has become necessary in light of the need for the Last Post Fund to increase the scope of its services to Veterans and their families. The target for this first campaign is \$1,000,000. Details will be announced during a press conference in the Fall of 2011. However, donations are welcome and can be made directly online by clicking [here](#).

A Fundraising Steering Committee has been formed, chaired by Lieutenant General (Ret'd) **Lou Cuppens**. Members include Navy Captain (Ret'd) **Peter Langlais**, Colonel (Ret'd) **Pierre Richard**, Commodore (Ret'd) **Jean-Claude Michaud**, and LPF Communications Advisor **Éliane Francœur**.

ANAVETS, LONGTIME PARTNER OF THE LAST POST FUND



One of the founding members of the Last Post Fund in April 1909 was Mr. W.W. Marsh of “The Army and Navy Veterans Association”. Formed in 1840 in Montreal and incorporated in 1917, it is the oldest Canadian veterans’ organization with 69 units and more than 15,000

members. Its original members were those who remained in Canada when British and French colonial regiments returned home after their tours of duty to protect the colonies. These men banded together to fraternize and exchange information on service benefits available to them.

Following the War of 1812 sailors from the British Navy—which patrolled the Great Lakes and the eastern seaboard—who remained here joined the Association, whose title was changed to “The Army and Navy Veterans in Canada”. The Association also included volunteers who answered the call of the Canadian Government for active service during the Fenian Raids of 1860, 1870 and 1871, the Red River Expedition of 1870, and the North-West Rebellion of 1885.

During and following World War II, members of the Air Force were welcomed as members and in 1946, the Association’s official title became “The Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada” (ANAVETS). **Neil McKinnon** is currently Dominion President and Chairman of the Board, while **Lorne McCartney** is the Dominion Secretary-Treasurer.

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