

Ministry of Government Services

Ontario government honours veterans with new memorial

TORONTO, Sept. 17 /CNW/ - The new Veterans' Memorial, built on the northwest quadrant of the grounds of the legislative assembly, commemorates the sacrifices and duties undertaken by Canada's men and women who have served, and continue to serve their country in times of war and peace. The memorial will be a legacy forever on the grounds of the Queen's Park legislature.

The memorial is a 30-metre (100-foot) long granite wall engraved with scenes from Canada's war history from Confederation to the present day. Poetic text contributions have been added from author Jane Urquhart on a bronze wall insert and documentary text by military historian Jack Granatstein includes a list of significant conflicts and peace support missions involving Canada's Canadian Forces. A memorial maple tree has been planted behind the wall in alignment with the midpoint bronze panel. Known for its bright red fall colour, the tree symbolizes the sacrifice of the soldiers and the annual falling of leaves represents human loss in past and continuing conflicts.

As well, the monument is oriented in an east-west direction, facing south, to allow views of the legislature to the north, as a backdrop to the memorial. The dimensions, materials and construction techniques used during its construction are as follows:

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The Wall

- Approximately 30 metres in two connecting sections and comprised of solid granite tablets etched with scenes from Canada's war history.
- Height at the centre of the wall is 2.6 metres (eight feet six inches)
- Ends of the wall have a minimum height of 2.2 metres (seven feet two inches)
- Height at the back of the wall is 1.1 metres (three feet seven inches) above the existing grade
- Polished granite coping runs along the top of the wall and extends along its full length
- Ends of the wall are finished with sheet bronze with text. Poetic text divides the imagery of war service with Cold War and peace support duties in the middle of the wall.
- One section of the wall has an eight per cent batter forward, while the other has an eight per cent batter backward
- Wall finish combines polished (shiny) and flamed (matte) surfaces. A bronze reveal runs the entire length of the front of the wall between the top granite pieces and the art panels
- Wall structure has a concrete core. Three cast-in-place concrete walkways three metres (nine feet eight inches) in width connect the memorial plaza to the adjacent existing surrounding pathways
- Bronze panel located at the intersecting point of the two wall sections forming a corner with Jane Urquhart text etched into metal

The Plaza

- Stone paved gathering area extends from the base of the wall and is triangular in shape

- Plaza width extends from a minimum of three metres (nine feet eight inches) to a maximum of 12 metres (39 feet) south from the base of the wall
- Paved in large-scale granite stones set on concrete
- Gently sloping to the wall with drains at the base of the wall
- Maple leaf pattern is sand blasted into selected areas of the granite paving.

The Bench

- Stone seating ledge along the south side of the plaza directly across from the memorial
- Granite bench is approximately 18 metres long (59 feet), 500 millimetres high (22 inches), and one metre deep (three feet two inches)
- Constructed of solid polished granite.

Documentary Panel/Dedication Plaque

- Located at the east end of the seat wall
- Approximately 2.4 metres (seven feet eight inches) wide x 0.75 metres (two feet four inches) high
- Solid granite with a polished finish
- Text panel explains the meaning behind the memorial and art components

The Lawn and Landscaping Features

- Front lawn slopes gently down to the south from the legislature under a canopy of trees
- Lawn on north side of memorial is level along the length of the wall parapet.
- Aligned with the bronze panel at the wall's midpoint, a red maple has been planted to symbolize the sacrifice of the soldiers
- Small planting beds soften the edge of the walkways and proposed wing walls.

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The Designing of a Veterans' Memorial

The Veterans' Memorial initiative was first announced in 2002 by the Ontario government and was to be located at the northwest corner of College Street and Queen's Park Circle. In June 2004, Premier Dalton McGuinty announced the government would instead construct a military veterans' memorial on the front lawn of Queen's Park - the place of highest honour. The decision to locate the monument on the front lawn was agreed upon by all three political parties and the Speaker of the legislature. It is the first time in 66 years that a structure has been placed on the Queen's Park grounds.

The Veterans' Memorial Advisory Committee, established in May 2004, was created to undertake this initiative. Co-chaired by Major-General Richard Rohmer (Ret.) and Minister of Government Services Gerry Phillips, the 17-member advisory committee comprises active military personnel and veterans who also hold executive membership on various organizations including the Juno Beach Association, and The Royal Canadian Legion and the Archivist of Ontario. The committee agreed that a fair and equitable competition would result in the best design possible and took steps to ensure the integrity of the process was upheld at all times. One of Canada's leading art consultants, Karen Mills of Mills & Mills Consulting Services Inc., was selected to provide expertise to the project.

In June 2005, a final design was selected by the advisory committee, which then recommended it to the legislature for all party approval, which was given. Advice and support throughout that process were provided by the Speaker

and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, as well as the Sergeant-At-Arms.

The advisory committee chose a well-known Canadian war artist and a prominent landscape architectural firm to design the memorial. The team of Allan Harding MacKay and Phillips Farevaag Smalberg was selected following a nationwide competition held by the Veterans' Memorial Advisory Committee. The design team oversaw the development of the memorial and implemented landscaping as set out in the approved design plan. Canadian historian Jack Granatstein provided expertise to the advisory committee in the selection of images regarding the representations of wartime and peacekeeping activities, and renowned Canadian author Jane Urquhart contributed poetic text for inclusion in the memorial design.

The construction of the wall, and surrounding landscaping, began in December 2005 and was completed in August 2006.

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Backgrounder

VETERANS' MEMORIAL INTERESTING FACTS & FIGURES

The Bronze

- All bronze is Canadian and is finished using 320 grit random orbital sanding. A light application of liver of sulphur created the antique patina.
- Four text panels were cut to specifications out of four by eight sheets of commercial bronze plate. Commercial bronze is an alloy composed of approximately 90 per cent copper, 0.05 per cent lead, 0.05 per cent iron and 10 per cent zinc.
The centre panel stands approximately three metres tall by one metre wide (nine feet tall by 3.5 feet wide).
- The two end panels are approximately 1.8 m (six feet) wide (east wall) and 2.0 m (seven feet) wide (west wall).
- The dedication plaque/documentary text panel is 1.6 m by 0.5 m (5.25 feet by 16.5 inches).
- The bronze panels are supported by two inch by two inch stainless steel square tubing that is mounted on the inside of each panel. These tubes anchor the bronze to the concrete core.
- The written text element on each of the bronze panel surfaces was done by a deep acid etching process.
- The total weight of the bronze components (including the internal steel frames) is estimated to be 2,300 kilograms (5,000 pounds).

The granite

- The art walls are made from granite that was quarried in St. Nazaire, Quebec.
- The etching for the walls was done in Barre, Vermont, using a laser etching machine. This technology allows a computer controlled laser beam to scan the granite on an X-Y pattern at a lower power level. Etching stuns the surface of the granite, changing the polished black to a white.
- It took approximately eight hours to etch each wall panel.
- The total weight of all the granite used for the wall, seat wall and

paving stones was 145,965 kilograms. That is the weight of approximately 38 minivans.

- The floor of the site is composed of 544 granite paver stones.
- It took approximately 25 hours to sand blast the maple leaves which appear on some of the paver stones. The pavers sit on small pedestals to allow drainage onto a concrete base underneath. Approximately 5,000 pedestals support the pavers.

The concrete

- It took approximately 600 hours to build the wall and all project components.
- A total of 144 cubic metres of concrete was used for this entire project. The breakdown of concrete is as follows:
 - 81 cubic metres for the art wall;
 - 15 cubic metres for the end walls;
 - 19 cubic metres for the seat wall foundations;
 - 29 cubic metres for the footings.
- Due to the small site, all concrete needed to be pumped rather than trucked onto the site.
- High quality C-1 concrete with a 35 mega pascal strength was used. This is double the strength of a normal foundation wall.
- Five times the normal number of reinforcing bars were used in this project. More than 3,500 pieces of rebar were buried in the cement.
- Approximately 40 tandem truckloads of excavated material were removed from the site to prepare the groundwork for new construction
- The surrounding lawn was compacted for more than 20 hours using one tonne force.
- The concrete was designed to include a self-contained infiltration drainage system with no outlet to city storm sewers.

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VETERANS MEMORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Biographies of the members of the Ontario government's Veterans Memorial Advisory Committee are outlined below.

Major-General Richard Rohmer (Ret.), OC, CMM, DFC, O.Ont, K StJ, CD, OfL, QC, Committee Co-Chair

Major-General Rohmer has had several long and distinguished careers. He is a practicing lawyer and Queen's Counsel. He is also a best-selling author. MGen Rohmer is arguably Canada's most decorated citizen. In August 1990, he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada and is also a Commander of the Order of Military Merit, a member of the Order of Ontario, a Knight of the Order of St. John, an Officer of the Order of Leopold (Belgium), and a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour (France). He holds the Jubilee Centennial, Confederation and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medals, the Canada Defence Medal, and other Second World War medals and decorations. MGen Rohmer served with the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1942 to 1945 as a fighter reconnaissance pilot and took part in D-Day, the Battle of Normandy and the Battle for the

Liberation of Holland. Post-war, he served in the Canadian Reserve Force as a fighter jet squadron commander, commander of the Air Reserve Group and as Chief of Reserves of the Canadian Armed Forces (1978-1981). He has served on the board of directors of several Canadian corporations. MGen Rohmer chaired the Advisory Committee to the Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada responsible for the organization and execution of the ceremonies marking the 60th Anniversary of D-Day (June 6, 2004) with emphasis on Juno Beach in Normandy. He is Chancellor Emeritus of the University of Windsor. In addition, MGen Rohmer is Honorary Chief Superintendent of the Ontario Provincial Police, Honorary Chief of the Toronto Emergency Medical Services, the Patron of Toronto St. John Ambulance, and Honorary Commanding Officer of the 707 Major-General Richard Rohmer Air Cadet Squadron of Etobicoke.

The Honourable Gerry Phillips, MPP, Committee Co-Chair

Mr. Phillips was appointed Minister of Government Services by Premier Dalton McGuinty in June 2005. Phillips first entered provincial politics in 1987, when he was elected to represent Scarborough-Agincourt in the Ontario legislature. Phillips was re-elected in 2003 and was appointed by Premier McGuinty to serve as the Chair of Management Board Committee of Cabinet. After graduating with an honours bachelor of commerce from the University of Western Ontario's School of Business, Phillips worked for Procter & Gamble. In 1970, he joined the consulting firm of Canadian Marketing Associates and became president in 1977. He later founded two spin-off companies. By 1987, he was chair of all three companies, employing 300 people. Phillips served as a school trustee for 11 years and during this period was chair of the Metropolitan Toronto School Board and the Scarborough Board of Education. He was also chair of the board of governors for Scarborough General Hospital and is a past president of the Bridlewood Community Association. Phillips coached in the Agincourt Lions Club Minor Hockey League for more than 25 years.

Captain Samuel W. Billich, CD, JP

Captain Billich, who has served as a Justice of the Peace in Toronto since 1998, has a long and distinguished record of military service. In 1979, he started his military career as a Private with the Canadian Forces Reserve, Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment. He has served in Northern Ireland, Germany and Great Britain, and was posted to The Queen's York Rangers in 1992. Billich was promoted to Captain in May 2000. Billich is the recipient of numerous awards and medals, including The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, the Venerable Order of St. John, the Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus, the Order of Merit - St Lazarus and the Canadian Forces' Decoration.

Lieutenant Colonel Julian Chapman, CD

Lieutenant Colonel Chapman is the past Commanding Officer of the Toronto Scottish Regiment (Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother's Own) and currently the Assistant Chief of Staff at 32 Canadian Brigade Group. He joined the regiment in 1980 as a Private and was commissioned in 1982. Throughout his military career, Chapman has trained soldiers, junior and senior officers at Canadian Forces Base Borden, Gaagetown, Halifax, Kingston and Toronto. In 2000, Chapman led a contingent of over 100 soldiers, veterans, and Pipes and Drums to unveil a monument to the Second Canadian Division in Normandy, France and a plaque to the Regiment in Dieppe. In civilian life, Chapman is an executive coach and corporate leadership trainer with Forrest and Company, a business performance consulting firm specializing in corporate leadership development.

Major Robert J. Fenn, CD

Major Robert Fenn served as a senior officer of the Canadian Forces, Air Force Reserves from 1977 to 1991. During that period he served with 400 and 411 Squadron and Air Reserve Group Headquarters in various positions including

Flight Officer, Operations Officer, Training Officer and Flight Commander. A recipient of the Canada Defence medal, he also served with the Supplementary Ready Reserve from 1992 to 1994. A member of the Law Society of Upper Canada, Fenn acts as a Special Lecturer to various federal government ministries as well as the Air Transport Association of Canada, on the legal implications of aircraft accidents or incidents and airlaw. He currently practices civil litigation, specializing in aviation litigation.

Major John R. Fisher, CD, AdeC, UE

Major Fisher represents the interests of The Grey and Simcoe Foresters Regiment and the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, in his role on the committee. Deputy Commanding Officer of The Grey and Simcoe Foresters in Barrie and Owen Sound, Fisher is also an Aide de Camp to the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. In 1999, Fisher retired as a Justice of the Peace with the Ontario Court of Justice (Criminal) at Barrie to return to full-time military service. In 2000, he served with the NATO peacekeeping mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina, stationed at Sarajevo and Banja Luka. Fisher continues a fine family tradition of service in the military. His ancestors fought on the Plains of Abraham in 1759, the Attack on Quebec in 1775, the American Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the First and Second World Wars. Fisher is currently on staff with the Joint Warfare Studies Division of the Canadian Forces College in Toronto.

Honorary Colonel Dr. Doris E. Guyatt, CD

Dr. Guyatt has served with the Canadian Forces Reserve for 17 years and as a military Aide de Camp to five Lieutenant Governors of Ontario, over a period of 27 years. Dr. Guyatt is past President of the Canadian Intelligence and Security Association and the Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. She is currently Director of the Atlantic Council of Canada, Director of the Royal Canadian Military Institute, Member of the College of Electors of the University of Toronto, Honorary Colonel of 25 (Toronto) Field Ambulance, and a consultant with D.E. Guyatt Development Services.

Carl L. Hayes

Carl L. Hayes is currently the Vice President East/Director Ontario South of the Canadian Merchant Navy Veterans Association. Mr. Hayes began his service as a member of the deck crew at the age of 15 years. He was elevated to ordinary seaman and served on a tanker carrying gasoline on the east coast and great lakes. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Hayes was signed on through the Vancouver manning pool to sail from the west coast to join the United Kingdom North Atlantic convoys. Mr. Hayes also sailed the Pacific areas of war. Mr. Hayes received the Atlantic Star, Pacific Star, 1939/45 Star, the Volunteer Medal, Overseas medal, as well as the medal and pin of the United Kingdom Merchant Navy. He last served as a boatswain from 1943 to 1946. Following his career in the merchant navy, Mr. Hayes began a career in the transportation industry.

Chief Warrant Officer Scott F. Patterson, CD

Chief Warrant Officer Scott Patterson is the Regimental Sergeant Major of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. Patterson has been a member of the Canadian Forces Reserve since 1978, travelling to seven of Canada's provinces and two of its territories during that time. Son of a WWII veteran, Lieutenant Colonel Ivan Patterson, Patterson participated with Canadian veterans at the 50th anniversary commemoration ceremonies on the beaches of Normandy. Employed by the City of Toronto for the past 17 years, Patterson now works with the Toronto Emergency Medical Services.

Lieutenant Colonel Walter J. Perchal, CD

Lieutenant Colonel Perchal is currently the Commanding Officer of the Royal Regiment of Canada, the successor Regiment of the Toronto Regiment and the Royal Grenadiers. The history of this Regiment predates Confederation. During this career, Perchal has been the recipient of numerous awards and distinctions, including The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, the Norman Bethune Award for Outstanding Contributions to College Life and the Calumet College Master's Commendation. He was a Fellow of Norman Bethune College and is a Fellow of Calumet College at York University. He is a mentor for "Taking IT Global", a Director of the Atlantic Council of Canada, is a faculty advisor to the York Lions Hockey Team, and is actively involved in community life.

Ann Plunkett-O'Brian

Ann Plunkett-O'Brian was a telegrapher with the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service who monitored Japanese Morse code signals off the west coast. She has been involved with the Art Gallery of Ontario for 50 years, including serving on the Board of Directors. She has also served with the Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto for 40 years, and is a supporter of the National Ballet School.

Gillian Reddyhoff, Curator, Archives of Ontario

The Curator of the Government of Ontario Art Collection (administered by Archives of Ontario), Gillian Reddyhoff, who was awarded The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002, holds an Honours BA and an MA in art history from the University of Toronto. She has served as Curator at the City of Toronto Archives, Market Gallery, where she was responsible for curating numerous exhibitions featuring the City's archival and fine art collections. She has also taught courses in art history at the Nova Scotia College of Art & Design.

Commander Chris Ross, CD, HMCS York

Commander Ross began his naval military career with the Naval Reserves at HMCS Scotian in 1986 through the Summer Youth Employment Program. He held progressive positions including Junior Seaman, Leading Seaman, and Naval Control of Shipping Officer. After earning his commission and successfully qualifying as an NCS officer, Ross reclassified to Maritime Surface/Sub-Surface while also earning his Bridge Watchkeeping Certificate in 1993. In 1997, Ross was appointed the first Executive Officer of HMCS Goose Bay, after which he assumed command of HMCS Shawinigan. He returned to HMCS Goose Bay and has been involved in various training and operational missions to the Caribbean, Europe and Canada's Arctic. Ross assumed command of HMCS York in 2004.

Lieutenant Colonel I.C.R. Sargeant, CD

Lieutenant Colonel Ian Sargeant enrolled as a reservist in the 48th Highlanders of Canada in 1981 and was commissioned as a Second-Lieutenant in 1987. He served the regiment in a variety of capacities prior to taking over command from 2002 to 2005. During 2004, he also commanded the domestic Response Unit of 32 Canadian Brigade Group. Sargeant was awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration in 1995 and The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002. Now retired from the militia, Sargeant is currently employed as the technology relationship manager for the BMO Nesbitt Burns Privacy Client Division.

Captain Kevin P. Sheedy, CD

Captain Sheedy, Adjutant with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, joined the Princess of Wales Own Regiment as an Infantry Private in 1984 while attending Queen's University in Kingston. He was commissioned after completing officer training under the Reserve Entry Scheme in 1985 and transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in 1989 as an Infantry Lieutenant. In addition to

regimental duties, he has trained with regular and reserve forces in Australia and Canada's Arctic. In civilian life, Sheedy is a commercial mortgage lender with First National Financial Corporation.

Martin Venman

After leaving the Royal Canadian Navy in December 1945, Martin Venman joined the Royal Canadian Legion and has been actively involved in the veterans community over the past 60 years. He has held many offices at the Baron Byng Branch No.1 Royal Canadian Legion and has also served as District Commander in the Greater Toronto Area, Provincial Command Poppy Chairman and Provincial Honours & Awards Chairman. Currently, Venman serves on the Tri-Hospital Committee, the District Hospital Committee, the Sunnybrook Veterans Comfort Fund and assists veterans at home and in-hospital settings.

Garth Webb, MSC

A veteran of the D-Day landings and of the Battle of Normandy, Garth Webb is the driving force behind the creation of the Juno Beach Centre, an interactive education museum located on the Normandy coast of France. Webb is also a holder of the Meritorious Service Cross. The Centre, which officially opened on June 6, 2003, is a legacy of Webb's dedication and commitment. It preserves the memory of the accomplishments and sacrifices of Canadian soldiers, sailors and airmen on a critical day in the history of the world, and honours Canada's contribution to the Allied victory in World War II.

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