

# NORMANDY NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 Issue 2

PUBLISHED BY THE  
Canadian Battle of Normandy Foundation

Autumn 2000

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL CHARLES H. BELZILE

As you will read elsewhere in this Newsletter, another successful Study Tour was conducted by the Foundation in May-June this year. Once again I was privileged to join our Bursary recipients during the last few days which they spent in Normandy. I cannot overstate the impressive dedication and enthusiasm of these young Canadians representing all parts of Canada. As in previous years, I have come back more than ever convinced of the value of our Bursary Program. You, our members, can be justly proud of what we have been able to accomplish in the past and remain confident that we will continue this educational endeavour with renewed energy. Organizing the study tours requires a lot of work and all of us should be very grateful for the fine job accomplished by this year's tour leaders, LCol David Patterson assisted by Dr. Serge Durlinger. David is the director of the Militia Command and Staff Course at Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College in Kingston and Serge is an historian at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. The last institution merits our thanks for detaching Serge for the period of the tour. I would also like to acknowledge the usual hard work of Terry Copp, a mem-

ber of our Board and professor of history at Wilfrid Laurier University, for his valuable role in helping make the 2000 Tour such a resounding success.

Speaking of gratitude, I wish to highlight the stalwart support provided by Le Mémorial in Caen, particularly Madame Corinne Fillette in the planning and the coordination of our yearly commemorative activities in early June each year. Although Corinne Fillette recently left her employment at Le Mémorial, she has agreed to continue assisting us as a member of our informal group, "Friends of the Foundation in France", a group started by Hamilton Southam when he spent a good part of the year living in France. They include some 15 persons, all members of our Foundation, who devote a lot of energy to enhance the role played by earlier generations of Canadians in the liberation of France. Corinne will be a most welcome addition to the group.

I am happy to report that the Canadian Government has granted us a modest millennium grant which will allow us to

continue the development of our Memorial Garden in Caen. The Foundation is planning to erect four additional steles which will record the units of the navy, army and air force which participated in the other Canadian campaigns of the Second World War. We also expect to operate a Canadian Information Centre at Le Mémorial from which our guide(s) will operate in peak season.

Finally, elsewhere in this Newsletter is a piece indicating the Foundation's support for a new initiative in the nation's capital. This endeavour, in line with our institutional objectives of remembrance and education, will seek to immortalize in statuary

form, valiant Canadians having performed great deeds in war on behalf of this nation.

May I be allowed to enjoy you all to continue your moral and financial support to the Foundation and to thank you for your continued help?

*Charles H. Belzile*

## MILLENNIUM PARTNERSHIP

In mid-May, the Foundation received a letter from the Honourable Herb Gray, Deputy Prime Minister, stating that the Millennium Bureau of Canada will contribute \$19,125 for our project to enhance the memorial Garden in Caen. The Project is in three parts: adding four steles to commemorate the contribution of Canadians to the campaigns of the Second World War in Italy, North-West Europe, the Atlantic, and the Pacific; replacing the gravel around the pool with slabs, which we hope will cure the problem of lime-



stone dissolving in the pool water and discolouring the granite slab in the pool; and paving the path from the terrace into the valley which runs between the two elements of the Garden.

In addition to receiving some funding from the Millennium Fund, Le Mémorial has very kindly agreed to help

fund both the paving of the path and the area surrounding the pool. The project will greatly enhance the general appeal of the site to Canadians by moving towards a complete single-location memorial to Canadian forces serving in all theatres in the Second World War. Our deadline is tight, since Millennium Partnership rules dictate that the Project must be complete and paid for before 31 March 2001.

Canadian War Museum - General Motors Court  
330 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0M8



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\* Normandy Vet / Vét de Normandie

Newsletter Editor and Co-ordinator - Dr Serge Durlflinger

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## LOST TRAILS

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, North Nova Scotia Highlanders Association

BGen G.E. Beament, Ottawa, Ontario

John Brinkman, Toronto, Ontario

John Calderwood, Burnaby, B.C.

Henrietta de Concillis, Brooklyn, New York

MGen John J. Dunn, CMM, CD, Verdun, Quebec

Hon. Duncan J. Jessiman, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Mary Anne MacArthur, Orangeville, Ontario

John Parker, Victoria, B.C.

LCol D.W. Rae, OC, CD, Victoria, B.C.

Gordon H. Saunders, Peterborough, Ontario

F. Stronach, Magma Intl

Major John M. Thom, MBE, Port Moody, B.C.

LCol Vincent O. Walsh, DSO, ED, Oakville, Ontario

## GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Douglas E. Cole, Vernon, B.C.

James H. Ford, Dorchester, Ontario

LCol John M. Kemp, DCM, Nanaimo, B.C.

Brian O'Regan, Ottawa, Ontario

Dr. Wilfrid Smith, Ottawa, Ontario

Norman Toseland, Red Deer, Alberta

F.K. Venables, Ottawa, Ontario



The 2000 Study Tour -  
Dave Patterson lecturing on the site of the first  
gas attack against Canadian troops at Ypres.

## Study Tour 2000

*Serge Durlflinger / Dave Patterson*

The Foundation's principal annual activity, a tour of selected Canadian First and Second World War European battlefields and commemorative sights by 12 Canadian university students, was a great success this year. Planned mainly by LCol David Patterson, and led by him and Dr. Serge Durlflinger, the group consisting of these two and their charges of six men and six women representing all regions of Canada, left Toronto on May 25 for London. The group visited the famed air and land warfare museum at Duxford, the RAF museum at Hendon and the Imperial War Museum. While there, the students concentrated on learning about Canada's enormous commitment to the air war in Europe.

Crossing under the Channel by train on May 29, the group picked up mini-vans in Lille and toured Canada's First World War battlefields at Ypres, Passchendaele, the Somme, Vimy, and Amiens. For the first time, a CBNF tour visited the grave of Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, author of "In Flanders Fields", in Wimereux, France. On June 1 the group travelled to Dieppe, carefully studying the site of the landings there as well as of those at Puys and Pourville. A sombre and reflective moment for all was the visit to the Dieppe war cemetery.

Two days later, the tour participants arrived at the Abbaye d'Ardenne in Normandy, site of the infamous murders of **Canadian prisoners of war by the 12<sup>th</sup> S.S. Panzer Division**. As with every study tour,

the group was quartered at the Abbaye for about a week and participated in the many ceremonies held on June 6 and 7 at a variety of locations including JUNO beach, in Caen, at the Foundation's Memorial Garden, and in the garden at the Abbaye. The students met many Canadian veterans and the encounters were frequently memorable for both young and old.

With an additional two days at Falaise to end the tour, the students followed in the footsteps of the Canadian Army in Normandy in the fateful summer of 1944, tracing its route from the beaches to St. Lambert-sur-Dives and the closing of the Falaise Gap. Along the way they visited important and often tragic Canadian battlefields at Authie, Buron, Carpiquet, Verrières Ridge,

Hill 140, and the sites of many other grueling battles fought during Operations Totalize and Tractable. Visiting the cemeteries at Beny-sur-mer and Bretteville-sur-Laize proved powerful emotional experiences for all members of the group.


Before returning to Canada on June 12, the Canadian Battle of Normandy Foundation 2000 Study Tour participants had gelled into an especially close-knit group of young Canadians obviously sharing an educational and formative journey of discovery. The bonds of comradeship which they developed were forged in the giant shadow cast by those of their countrymen who preceded them overseas over half a century previously. And not for a moment of our stay were these men's service and sacrifices forgotten. 🍁





*The 2000 Study Tour with the mayor of Bernières at Juno Beach on June 6.*


## The Valiant / Les Valeureux


The members of the Canadian Battle of Normandy Foundation will want to know that some of our members have joined forces with like-minded people in order to suggest a complement to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. A group comprised of our vice-president, Hamilton Southam, our president LGen Charles Belzile, Cliff Chadderton, Russell Mills, historians Jack Granatstein, Syd Wise and Alec Douglas, Duane Daly, Dominion Secretary of the Royal Canadian Legion, and Dr Serge Bernier, Director of History and Heritage at National Defence Headquarters, have proposed to the National Capital Commission that, in addition to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Confederation Square in Ottawa, seven Canadians who have served their country valiantly in war should be recognized with statues on the seven empty plinths now available in that location. The seven selected are called "The Valiant / Les Valeureux". The group has also agreed to consult with their organizations' members for further suggestions. The selection follows:


- 


*Thayendanega, also known as Joseph Brant, Mohawk War Chief and statesman*, born near what is now Akron, Ohio, ( and what was then Indian Territory under the domination of New France), fought valiantly in the Seven Years War and, during the American Revolutionary War, led a unit fighting for the Loyalist cause and was one of the first Canadians to assert the existence of a separate country north of the American border;
- 

*Charles Michel d'Irumberry de Salaberry, Lieutenant-Colonel, Canadian Voltigeurs*, born in Beauport, Quebec, who at Châteauguay in the War of 1812 defeated a far superior American invasion force thereby saving Lower Canada from occupation and possible annexation by the United States;
- 

*Laura Secord*, whose courage during the War of 1812 in bringing intelligence of enemy plans to the British forces at Beaver Dam symbolizes the immense contributions of Canadian women in war;
- 

*General Sir Arthur Currie, first Canadian commander of the Canadian Corps*, in the group's view the most impressive of Canadian general officers in either the First or Second World Wars;
- 

*Chief Petty Officer Max Bernays, CGM, RCNR*, born in Vancouver B.C., whose selfless and heroic devotion to duty in the action between HMCS *Assiniboine* and *U-210* in August 1942 represents the contribution of all naval and merchant seamen, especially in the Battle of the Atlantic;
- 

*Captain (later Brigadier-General) Paul Triquet, VC, Royal 22e Régiment*, born in Cabano, Quebec, whose courage at Casa Berardi, preceding the Battle of Ortona, Italy, in December 1943, represents the contribution of the Canadian Army to allied victory in the Second World War;
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*Warrant Officer Class 2 (promoted to Pilot Officer) Andrew Mynarski, VC*, born in Dauphin, Manitoba, whose valour in June 1944 in attempting, at the cost of his own life, to save that of another member of his crew represents the contribution of the Royal Canadian Air Force which, during the strategic bombing offensive, suffered the most severe casualties, proportionately, of all the Canadian armed forces during the Second World War.

## The Point 67 Memorial

The Toronto Scottish Regiment and the Village of St. Martin de Fontenoy have erected a magnificent memorial at Point 67, overlooking Verrières Ridge in Normandy. This is an extremely important site in Canada's military history and, through the efforts of Terry Copp and LCol David Patterson, our Foundation has been closely identified with this project. The description of events on the commemorative plaque was written by Terry and credited to the Foundation. The Point 67 Memorial is easily visible from the Caen-May-sur-Orne highway and will attract thousands of visitors annually. There is an observation point and ample parking space. This memorial is dedicated to all Canadians who fought there and is one of which all Canadians can be proud. 🍁

## Note From the Treasurer

Since the SITREP to members was mailed in mid-September, the Foundation has received over 125 membership renewals and donations – a welcome and enthusiastic response. In terms of renewals, we are now at about 75% of our "paper strength" for the year. There is still a way to go, so I urge any members not having renewed this calendar year to do so by mailing in the renewal notice found in this newsletter. Many thanks for your continued support!

*Harry Needham*


## Barney Danson Receives Vimy Award

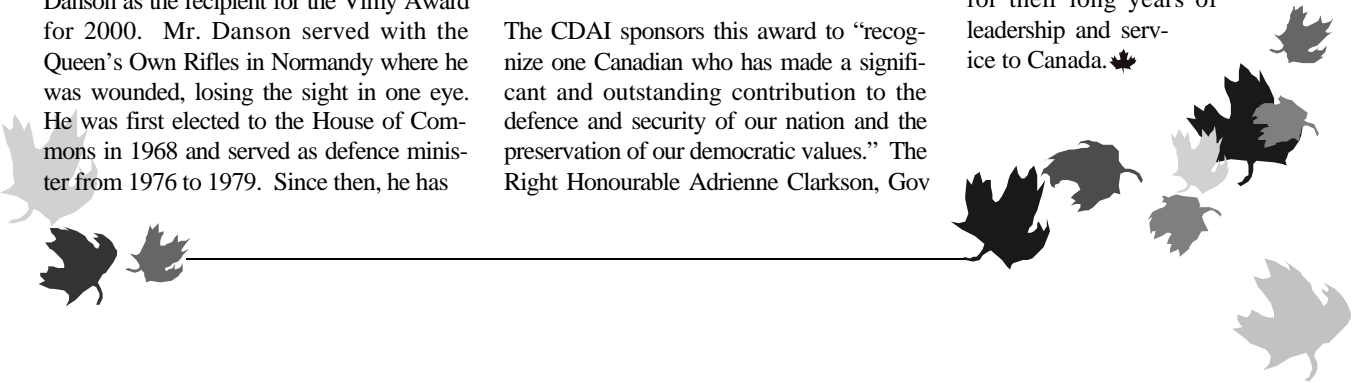
*Serge Durflinger*

**F**or the second year in a row, a member of the board of directors of the Canadian Battle of Normandy Foundation has been honoured with the prestigious Vimy Award. The Conference of Defence Associations Institute (CDAI) announced in August that it had selected the Honourable Barnett J. Danson as the recipient for the Vimy Award for 2000. Mr. Danson served with the Queen's Own Rifles in Normandy where he was wounded, losing the sight in one eye. He was first elected to the House of Commons in 1968 and served as defence minister from 1976 to 1979. Since then, he has

devoted himself to many patriotic and veterans' causes, until recently being Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Canadian War Museum. He was instrumental in obtaining a commitment from Ottawa last spring to fund a new Canadian War Museum.


The CDAI sponsors this award to "recognize one Canadian who has made a significant and outstanding contribution to the defence and security of our nation and the preservation of our democratic values." The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Gov

ernor General of Canada, will present the award to Mr. Danson in November. Last year's recipient was LGen Charles H. Belzile, the current president of our Foundation. Congratulations to both these men for being recognized so appropriately for their long years of leadership and service to Canada. 



**? Please use this form, or a facsimile, when you forward your cheque for your dues and/or donation.**

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Membership: Renewal <b>G</b> New <b>G</b>		(day)    (month)    (year)	Date: _____												
Newsletter: English <b>G</b> French <b>G</b>															
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New Members: Military service (if any); honours, awards, etc. _____															
I direct that this donation is to be capitalized by the Foundation for a period of not less than ten (10) years in order to establish a sound base for the bursary program.															
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*The Ardenne Abbey*

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