

Brian MASSE

M.P. Windsor West



WINDSOR WEST UPDATE

November 2008

Dear Friends,

Veterans' Week, November 5 to 11, is a time for all Canadians to honour the selfless dedication of those who have served in times of war, military conflict and peace. We also honour those who continue to serve our country around the world. These men and women are upholding a noble Canadian tradition by taking an active role in bringing stability and peace to parts of the world that have seen turmoil and upheaval.

During Veterans' Week 2008, Canadians from coast to coast to coast will show pride and gratitude for our Veterans as events and activities take place across the country in their honour.

All Canadians, especially youth, are urged to take an active role in remembrance. There are many ways to get involved. Talk to a Veteran. Visit our cenotaph. Read a book on our Veterans' great sacrifices and achievements or attend the Remembrance Day ceremony. When Canadians participate in commemorative events, we take up the torch of remembrance. As a result, we can rest assured that future generations will continue to commemorate those who helped shape Canada as a nation.

Yours truly,

Brian Masse, MP
(Windsor West)



Above: War Memorial at City Hall Square in Windsor.



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Please come out and join our local
veterans at Windsor City Hall Square
Cenotaph this coming
November 11, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

LEST WE FORGET.

Celebrate. Honour. Remember. Thank. Teach.

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REMEMBERING OUR LOCAL HEROES

VERNA M. (IRISH) KAVANAUGH

Canadian Women's Army Corps.—Driver W—1405

Ms. Kavanaugh enlisted in the C.W.A.C. in 1942 at 21 years of age after watching a Precision Drill Squad of C.W.A.C.s, she signed up immediately that day.

POSTINGS

1st London, ON in civvies waiting for uniforms, etc.
2nd Kitchener, ON for basic training – also (D & M) Driver & Mechanics course
3rd Kemptville, ON as a driver
4th Brockville, ON as Hut Corporal
5th Kingston, ON – Artillery Park, as a driver
6th Kitchener, ON, for medical shots overseas
7th Aldershot, England, as a driver
8th Farnborough, England, as an ambulance driver, ferrying wounded personnel from planes, ships, and trains returning from Europe to hospitals in England. This was a very rewarding job for Ms. Kavanaugh as she had lost a young brother, 19 years of age in a battle in Germany.

Ms. Kavanaugh cared for Peanut Peewee, the canine mascot at the C.W.A.C. Centre in Kemptville, ON. The girls would take care of him, and as they moved onto further duties elsewhere, Peewee stayed on and was taken care of by the next group, with one girl responsible for him. He was a faithful friend to all.

Ms. Kavanaugh returned to Canada in 1946 and discharged the same year, “older and much wiser”.



Women in the Air

In the Second World War, Canadian women were not allowed to become pilots in the Royal Canadian Air Force. However, many Canadian women did fly as part of the Royal Air Force during WWII as part of the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA).

The ATA's motto, *Aetheris Avidi, Eager for the Air*, aptly describes this legion of trailblazers who were willing to leave the safety and security of their homes and countries to volunteer to help the RAF and its allies achieve victory over the skies of Europe.

The ATA was established in 1939 to transport mail and supplies for the British military, however, it soon expanded to include transporting warplanes, over 300,000 in all. All together, 1,300 men and 166 women served with the ATA, including a handful of Canadians.

Pauline Gower (pictured left) set up the first all-female air taxi service. By the start of WWII she was an acclaimed aviator and flying instructor and was invited to set up the women's section of the ATA.

