

Brian MASSE

M.P. Windsor West



WINDSOR WEST UPDATE

November 2016

BRIAN MASSE—YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA



“Without freedom there can be no ensuring peace and without peace no enduring freedom.”

~King George VI at the dedication of the National War Memorial (Ottawa, May 21, 1939)

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Dear Friends,

Please find these special Remembrance Day stories to help our community honour our local heroes and remember our veterans.

Further, there are several ways that we can ensure that we pay special tribute to these heroes with, for instance, wearing a poppy which has been a clear symbol of commemoration since the immediate aftermath of the WWI. Reflection in silence for two minutes is also a common way of remembering on November 11th of every year. These minutes, provide us opportunity to think about family, our local heroes lost and returned, and those who serve today. Another way to remember is to visit the numerous memorials that have been erected in the city, country and worldwide that are in many instances the only memory that we have of many soldiers.

I would like to send a special thank you to all war veterans of Windsor. Please take the time to thank our veterans, and remember them and our lost heroes not only on Remembrance Day, but every day.

If you are able, I encourage everyone to attend this year's Remembrance Day ceremony held at the cenotaph in City Hall Square at 11:00 a.m., on November 11, 2016. All are welcome to come and see a very moving ceremony that shows our commitment to Windsor, Ontario and Canada. I hope to see you there.

This November 11, 2016

Windsor City Hall Square Cenotaph

at 11:00 a.m.

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STORIES FROM OUR LOCAL HEROES

Larry Costello

Larry joined the Royal Canadian Navy in Montreal when he was 16 years old at the HMCS Montreal. Within six months he was sent to Halifax and served on the HMCS Annapolis which was a 4-stacker. After one and a half years, he was drafted to the HMCS Runnymede, a convoy escort from Newfoundland to Londonderry; his squadron was G5 and known as the “barber pole squadron” because of the barber pole painted on the funnel. The odd time it was used on striking force—searching for submarines. He served on this ship till the end of the war.

Larry then signed on for the Pacific War, but ended up in a Montreal military hospital for a month after being attacked by some Montreal “zoot-suiters” while on leave. Upon leaving the hospital, Larry worked on train patrol between Montreal and Halifax. In January 1946 he received his discharge but rejoined the navy in 1948 serving on numerous ships, aircraft carriers, mine sweepers, frigates, and PT boats (air, sea, and rescue) at HMCS Shearwater, Nova Scotia. He retired from the Navy on 22 November 1963.



Larry at VE Day Celebrations in Windsor

Larry Meets The Queen

Veterans of the Battle of the Atlantic—May 1993

Excerpts by Lieut. (N) Charles Brown

Liverpool, England - - Larry Costello of Windsor, Ont., knew it was going to be the trip of a lifetime when he flew with 60 other veterans to the Battle of the Atlantic commemorative events in Liverpool, England, last week. But he didn't bargain on a chat with Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Costello and other members of the party were being honoured at a town hall reception in Bootle, near Liverpool. The Queen and Prince Philip were there to meet the veterans.

“The Prince came over first,” said Costello. “He asked me about my Centennial Medal, which he didn't immediately recognize. Then the Queen came over and said she was so touched that so many had come so far for the (Battle of the Atlantic) commemoration.” Costello added that the Queen charmed him completely. The meeting became a highlight of what was already a week of intense emotional highs.

At yet another reception for the vets, Costello went over the dizzying array of events and parties that had been laid on for them with his old shipmate, Clancy Payment from Montreal. They had sailed the Newfoundland-Londonderry run for years, escorting convoys to and fro. The Battle of the Atlantic celebrations had brought them together again after 50 years — one of hundreds of reunions here between old friends and foes alike.

How do you sum it all up in one week of superlatives? Pretty well everyone was choked up. Larry Costello from Windsor admitted that he was a bit skeptical before he arrived. And now that he'd done everything and met the Queen? “It was a really beautiful moment in my life,” he said.

“Those were the best years of my life.”

Larry Costello speaking about his years at HMCS Shearwater, Nova Scotia.

Larry Costello is currently the keeper of the War Memorial Cenotaph located at City Hall Square.