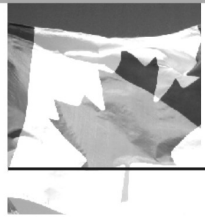


# Brian MASSE

M.P. Windsor West



WINDSOR WEST UPDATE

November 2012

**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)

## CONTACT US!

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Dear Friends,

As in the past, I am sending these special Remembrance Day stories to help our community honour our local heroes. This year we remember the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812. As well, I have highlighted the 95th Anniversary of the Battles of Passchendaele, 95th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge and the 70th Anniversary of the Dieppe Raid to ensure that each year we share new stories of importance with our community.

Further, there are several ways that we can ensure that we pay special tribute to these war 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, although short, provide us opportunity to think about the past, our heroes lost and returned, and those who serve today.

Another way to remember is to visit the numerous war 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.

Ultimately, I encourage everyone to participate in this year's Remembrance Day ceremony held at the cenotaph in City Hall Square at 11:00 a.m., on November 11, 2012. I hope to see you there.

On the back side of this newsletter you will find the story of one of our local veterans that pays tribute to their time in the Services. This story is just one sample of Veterans stories from our community. I am sending different veterans' stories to different neighbourhoods within my riding. If you are interested in seeing these other stories, please do not hesitate to contact my office or visit my website: [www.brianmasse.ca](http://www.brianmasse.ca)

*This November 11, 2012 at  
Windsor City Hall Square Cenotaph  
at 11:00 a.m.*

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# STORIES FROM OUR LOCAL HEROES

## Jeff Gravel (Afghanistan)

Sergeant Jeff Gravel is a retired Afghanistan war veteran who has served two tours of duty for Canada. He had enlisted at the age of 18 to help pay for college, and after basic training he was deployed in 2002. During his first deployment, Gravel was based in Kandahar, the Southern region of Afghanistan, where at the time, there had been very little direct combat. However, for his second tour, Gravel was stationed in the northeast capital of Afghanistan, Kabul. Unlike Kandahar, Kabul was under constant threat, and one of the most volatile places in the country, which made it both mentally and physically taxing. The constant threat of a Taliban suicide bomber or open fire was on always the mind of every soldier serving. Despite these harsh conditions, Canadian soldiers like Gravel overcame obstacles and set out a level of trust between themselves and Afghans. During his deployment Gravel made many friends on base and developed strong relationships which continue today.

Jeff Gravel has been featured on the CBC program Broken Heroes and is a member of the Canadian forces, currently working as a veterans' counselor at the Essex-Kent Scottish regiment. He also travels with the Windsor Historical Society to schools to speak with students about their experiences.



## Battle of Passchendaele and Vimy Ridge Battle - Two Battles of National Pride

In the fall of 1917 Canadian troops in Belgium fought in the Third battle of Ypres known as the battle of Passchendaele.

In Passchendaele Canadians went through a nightmare of three D - dirt, dust and death. When Passchendaele was captured on November 10, 1917, the Canadians proved their valour, by succeeding where others had not! Nonetheless the cost of the victory was 16,000 Canadian casualties.



On April 9, 1917 after unsuccessful endeavors of the British and French troops to capture Vimy Ridge, a long, heavily defended hill along the Western Front in northern France, it was Canada's turn to try. Having used an advancing line of precise shell fire, Canadian soldiers overran the enemy before many of them could leave their underground bunkers. Despite the importance of this victory, it notwithstanding came at a cost of approximately 11,000 of Canadian men being killed or wounded.

For More Information visit: [www.veterans.gc.ca](http://www.veterans.gc.ca)

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