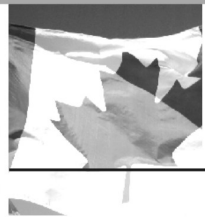


Brian MASSE

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

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

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Ralph Mayville

(World War II)

Ralph Mayville was born in Amherstburg, Ontario and was the son of a first World War veteran. When the war began, Ralph and his friend joined up in 1940 at age 17. He joined the Essex Scottish Regiment and was eventually sent to London Ontario where he ended up in the Royal Canadian Regiment.

Ralph went on to various camps for training and eventually found himself in Italy preparing to fight

against the enemy. While all this was transpiring an elite joint American/Canadian commando unit was formed in 1942 at Helena, Montana. It was to be known as the First Special Service Force (FSSF). After a short training session to familiarize the new reinforcements with the American equipment and tactics, Ralph was enroute to the Anzio beachhead. Ralph spent 99 days straight in combat on the front line. Since FSSF members would sneak up and assassinate without being seen, it earned a deadly nickname, "The Devils Brigade." The Brigade were masters of psychological warfare placing stickers on the bodies of dead Germans that read "the worst is yet to come".

After Anzio, the Force prepared to assault the German-held French islands to open the way for the main assault on the Southern coast of France. Ralph participated in one of the island assaults which included climbing sheer cliffs quietly so as not to arouse the enemy. In France, the Force climbed and attacked many mountains along

the front inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

Ralph is now 90 and has been recently honoured by dozens of citizens and businesses in the area who donated funds allowing him to meet comrades in Washington D.C. this September while attending the 67th reunion the First Special Service Force.

