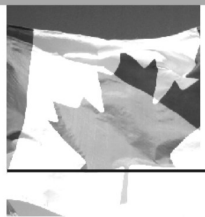


Brian MASSE

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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STORIES FROM OUR LOCAL HEROES

Thomas Simpson

Thomas Simpson grew up during the "Great Depression" and joined the Royal Canadian Navy in November 1942 leaving a young wife and infant daughter at home.

He trained in Esquimalt, British Columbia and Halifax, Nova Scotia before joining his first ship HMCS SHAWINIGAN. Upon suffering an injury he was sent to the Halifax Naval Hospital.

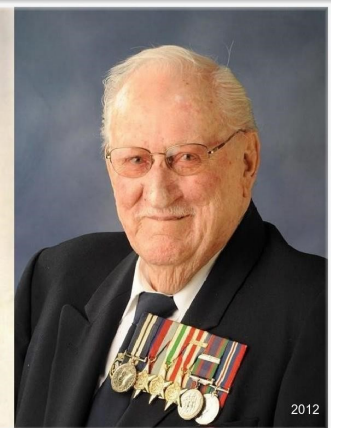
During this time the SHAWINIGAN went out on patrol never to return.

His second posting was on HMCS TORONTO where he perfected his trade as a radar operator. Later he was transferred to HMCS LA HULLOISE, a frigate, protecting, hunting and destroying enemy submarines.

Thomas Simpson served with great honour and distinction on the High Seas of the North Atlantic when hostilities during the Battle of the Atlantic and the Battle of the St. Lawrence were at their worst. He performed his duties with outstanding seamanship setting a new standard with a wholehearted devotion to duty worthy of the highest traditions of the Royal Navy and Royal Canadian Navy.

Thomas Simpson is one of only 114 Canadians to receive the Distinguished Service Medal during the Second World War. He is in fact one of only 116 in Canadian Military History to receive this honour.

Thomas Simpson is also holder of the Italy Star, France and Germany Star, the 1939-1945 Star, Battle of the Atlantic Medal and the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve Medal.



Thomas Joseph Simpson will be 91 years old on Nov. 6, 2012Happy Birthday Thomas

70th Anniversary—The Dieppe Raid



In 1942 the Allies did not have the resources to invade Europe, but they decided to launch a major raid on Dieppe, France. Unfortunately, Dieppe turned out to be a tragedy. In August 1942, British and Allied officers did not have yet the knowledge and combat experience to make a proper assessment of the risks of such an operation. The Dieppe fiasco demonstrated that it was imperative to improve

communications at all levels: on the battlefield, between the HQs of each unit, between air, naval and ground forces.

At Dieppe, 907 Canadians, including 56 officers, lost their lives in a battle that lasted for only nine hours. A total of 3,369 men were killed or wounded. At Dieppe, the Canadian Army lost more prisoners than in the whole eleven months of the later campaign in North-West Europe, or the twenty months during which Canadians fought in Italy.

The true meaning of the sacrifices made at Dieppe was made obvious two years after when on D-Day the Allies gained a foothold in Europe to free the continent from Nazi aggression. Canadian General H.D.G. Crerar says D-Day would have been a disaster were it not for the lessons of Dieppe.