

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)

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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.

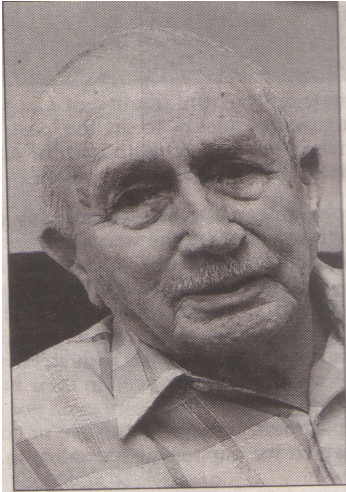
On the back side of this newsletter you will find the story of one of our local veterans that pays tribute to their time in the Services. This story is just one sample of Veterans stories from our community. I am sending different veterans' stories to different neighbourhoods within my riding. If you 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



90th: Leslie Smith was born Sept. 4, 1922, in Grimsby, England. He has six children, 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He is celebrating his 90th birthday with family.

Leslie Smith

(R.A.S.C., WWII)

Born September 4th 1922 was enlisted into Service of the R.A.S.C. September 4th, 1940 on his 18th birthday. He served in Scotland, India, and Burma with the 928th T.T. Coy. R.A.S.C.



(928th Tank Transportation Company) He was a Sergeant in rank and stayed in India for 6 months after the war ended for Police action, returning home at Christmas. After the war he was a Police Officer in Leeds England and immigrated to Canada 5 years later. He worked for Avro Aero then as a Firefighter for the Pearson Airport until he was promoted to Chief and transferred to Windsor Airport where he stayed until retirement in 1983. During that time he was also Assistant Airport Manager and Disaster Coordinator for Essex County.

Smith Remembers...

"WW2 was a devastating time of my life. I was shipped off at 18 years of age and saw many horrors one of which was watching an air raid at an airport in England, where our women's core was totally gunned down and we were left to clean up the remains from the tarmac. It is a time in my life I really do not wish to remember."

DID YOU KNOW?

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Ottawa contains the remains of an unidentified Canadian soldier from the First World War. Laurel leaves are engraved on top of the tomb. Laurel branches are also found on the Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France. Today, laurel leaves are also considered to be a symbol of peace.