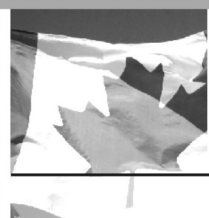


# Brian MASSE

M.P. Windsor West



WINDSOR WEST UPDATE

November 2007

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Dear Friends,

Veterans' Week, November 5 to 11, is a time for all Canadians to honour the selfless dedication of those who have served in times of war, military conflict and peace. We also honour those who continue to serve our country in Afghanistan and other areas of conflict. These men and women are upholding a noble Canadian tradition by taking an active role in bringing stability and peace to parts of the world that have seen turmoil and upheaval.

During Veterans' Week 2007, Canadians from coast to coast will show pride and gratitude for our Veterans as events and activities take place across the country in their honour.

All Canadians, especially youth, are urged to take an active role in remembrance. There are many ways to get involved. Talk to a Veteran. Visit our cenotaph. Read a book on our Veterans' great sacrifices and achievements. Or, attend the Remembrance Day ceremony. When Canadians participate in commemorative events, we take up the torch of remembrance. As a result, we can rest assured that future generations will continue to commemorate those who helped shape Canada as a nation.

To the left you will see a poem titled "Let It Never Be Forgotten", a reflection about our Veterans and Canada's commitment to the world. It is written by local poet Kevin Harvey from his new book **So Far....** His book includes additional poems about our heroes' actions, and other interesting topics. Email Kevin if you have comments on his poem or want to obtain a copy of his book ([kvh@sympatico.ca](mailto:kvh@sympatico.ca)). Thank you Kevin for sharing your poem with all of us.

Yours truly,

Brian Masse, MP (Windsor West)



War Memorial at  
City Hall Square in Windsor

## Let It Never Be Forgotten

and the Canadians came to answer the call leaving the homeland unthreatened and safe undeniably courageous a strength bestowed with unshakable pride through two world wars and conflicts since liberating for others dreams of freedom unfaltering in conviction let it never be forgotten such sacrifices of blood and spirit

Kevin V. Harvey  
Windsor

Celebrate. Honour. Remember. Thank. Teach.

**This November 11, 2007 at Windsor City**

**Hall Square Cenotaph at 11:00a.m.**

**LEST WE FORGET**

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# STORIES FROM OUR LOCAL HEROES

## L. Hildur (Freddie) Meyer

Having two brothers in the Army and a sister & brother in the Air Force, Freddie enlisted in the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service (WRCNS) in October 1942.

Canada's Admiralty was slow to see the importance of bringing women into the RCN. However, by the end of the Second World War, there were more than 6000 regular personnel and officers in the WRCNS.

Freddie was one of a group of 33 women from Manitoba who left Winnipeg on December 16, 1942 for basic training in Galt (now Cambridge). Basic training consisted of learning how to march, salute and other tasks to prepare the women for the "real world".

Freddie was drafted to the Toronto Holwood House, where the ladies helped clean, organize and transform the old mansion to have it ready for the new group of W.R.E.N.S. Freddie was also stationed at the H.M.C.S. Cornwallis, Kings and eventually Statacona, Halifax where she celebrated VE Day.

Freddie recalls when the war was finally proclaimed over, by Sir Winston Churchill on May 7, 1945 after fierce efforts by the allied forces, the women in her unit were confined to their barracks because the celebrations had escalated.

After coming to Windsor to visit her sister, she took a job as a telephone operator at the H.M.C.S Hunter for six months. Freddie was discharged April 1, 1946, but liked Windsor and decided to reside and start a family.

Freddie married Jim Meyer in July 1949. Jim was a Captain in the Windsor Fire Department who retired after serving 20 years. Freddie and Jim celebrated their 55th Wedding Anniversary in 2004 one year before Jim passed away. Together they had 4 children, 7 grandchildren, and 2 great grand children.



WRCNS telegraphers.

Freddie returned to Halifax in 1992 for her 50th Reunion where she reminisced and met many of her friends from her days spent in the Navy.

## Canada's Last Known First World War Veteran

In 2007, Canada lost two of its three living Veterans from World War I. Private Lloyd Clemett passed away on February 22, 2007 at 107 yrs. Gunner Dwight Wilson died on May 9, 2007 at age 106.

**A/Lance Corporal John Babcock becomes Canada's last known First World War Veteran who celebrated his 107th birthday July 23, 2007.**

