

Cobequid Branch #72 Royal Canadian Legion 2010 Grave Decoration

The following is a listing of identified veterans who are buried in the cemeteries in the area serviced by Royal Canadian Legion Branch 72, Great Village. Over 500 veteran's graves are decorated each year by legion members and community volunteers. Following is a listing of veterans in each of the cemeteries as supplied by Cobequid Branch # 72.

Readers are encouraged to check the following listings. If anyone knows of a veteran buried in any of the cemeteries, who is not listed, please contact a legion member. If anyone contacts the Shoreline Journal at: maurice@theshorelinejournal.com, we will pass along the information to the appropriate branch.



Bill Wood kneels to pay respect and place a vinyl cross at the grave of Ronald Boyd in the Crowe's Mills cemetery at the Belmont Crossroads. Five veterans are buried in the cemetery.

Lower Five Islands

Cochrane, Jack	Meekins, Amos
Davis, Harold	Meekins, Amos (Jr)
Eagles, Charles	Meekins, Gerald
Eagles, Harold	Meekins, Hebert E.
Field, Earl	Meekins, James
Fulmore, John Wesley	O'Toon, August
Gilroy, Elsie	Shaffer, Robert
Lewis, Cecil	Shea, William
Lewis, Royal, Sr	Taylor, Harold (KIA)
Lewis, Seldon	Taylor, William
Lewis, Walter H.	Webb, John
Lewis, Walter O.	White, Cy
Lockhart, Basil	White, Gregory
MacLean, Daniel	Wood, Jaminson



Five Islands (Baptist)

Allan, Russell	Phinney, James
Aylward, Thomas (Bert)	Webb, Logan
Brown, Lester	Yorke, Walter
Davis, Austin	

Mahon Cemetery, Great Village

Adams, Albert	Layton, Raleigh
Adams, Ira	Lewis, Bernice
Alexander, Angus L.	Lobb, J. Melville
Alexander, Lloyd	MacAloney, James
Anderson, Roland	MacAloney, James Edward
Archibald, Everett	MacAloney, Victor
Archibald, Fulton	MacDonald, Gordon
Archibald, William	MacDorman, Allison
Barnes, Firman	MacLachlan, Harland
Betts, Ralph	MacNeill, Laurie
Blaikie, Andrew C.	MacPhail, Eileen M (Lewis)
Blaikie, John	MacRae, Lewis
Blaikie, Joseph	Mahon, Wendell
Bowers, Wallace	Mattinson, Lawson
Boyd, Lea W.	McCabe, Harry
Brown, Lloyd	Millen, Verne B.
Brown, Thomas	Mooring, A. Jack R.
Chisholm, Donald	Murray Fred
Chisholm, Fred	Murray, Keith
Chisholm, Harold	Nelson, Harry
Chisholm, John	Nelson, Lyall (Bud)
Chisholm, Judson L.	Nelson, Wilfred
Chisholm, Walter	Pascoe, Philip
Congdon, Donald	Patriquin, Clyde
Congdon, Robert	Pattison, Ralph Langille
Cook, Douglas (US)	Peppard, Arthur
Cream, Clyde	Peppard, Earl
Currie, George	Peppard, Frank
Currie, James	Peppard, Frederick H.
Currie, Lloyd	Picot, John J.
Currie, Russell	Pratt, Samuel
Currie, Walter	Richard, George Edward
Dickson, Mackenzie	Rouse, Donald
Dodsworth, William (1)	Rushton, Charles
Dodsworth, William (2)	Rushton, Delbert
Doyle, Percy	Rushton, Ralph F.
Frankin, John T.	Rushton, Ted
Fulmore, Angus	Russell, Roy
Geddes, Firman S.	Shelby, Floyd
Geddes, Lloyd	Simpson, Trueman
Gordon, Vayle	Simpson, Wesley
Green, Arthur W.	Slack, Elias
Green, Roland	Smith, Gordon
Hall, Arthur D.	Smith, Joseph E.
Hill, Donald F.	Smith, Minar
Hill, Kenneth A.	Spencer, Lester
Howe, Gordon	Spencer, Minor
Hudson, Joe	Spencer, Willard
Kaulbach, Ralph (Floyd)	Steinke, Earle
Kent, William D.	Vance, Joe
Kreger, Oscar	Wasson, Stanley
Lane, Keith A.	Weatherbee, Lorne
Layton, Paul C.	Williams, Vernon



Earl Harvey member RCL Branch 106 placing a vinyl cross at the Lower Onslow Cemetery.



Earl Harvey, Branch 106 member kneels at the granite sign of the Belmont Cemetery, which contains three veteran's graves.



Bill Wood another of Branch 106 members who annual decorate veteran's graves assisted at Belmont Cemetery.

Moose River

Cooke, Carl	Everest, Charles
Cooke, Donald	Philips, Igor
Durant, John	Roberts, Charles

Folly Village Cemetery, Glenholme

Adams, Gus	Oxley, Margaret Fletcher
Austin, John	Pash, Ernest
Barley, Edward	Reid, Gerald
Cameron, Bert	Reid, Perley
Copeland, Rupert	Reir, Christopher J. (CD)
Cucic, Miles	Rice, Glen
Ellis, Frank	Richard, Dorothy
Emery, David	Richard, Raphael
Fletcher, Gordon	Ross, Arthur (KIA)
Fraser, George	Ross, Richard
Fraser, John	Ross, William
Fraser, John R.	Rushton, Burton
Fraser, Mildred	Rushton, Cecil Avar
Gillis, Daniel	Rushton, Howard
Gillis, Leonard (KIA)	Ryan, James
Gray, John	Ryan, Merle
Jeffries, Gary	Simpson, Trueman
Jeffries, Wildred	Spencer, Harold (KIA)
Jennings, G. Ray	Spencer, Horace, (M.M.)
Jennings, Stephen	Taggart, Harold
Kaulbach, Garnet	Taylor, Gerald
MacLean, Harry	Taylor, Harold
MacLeod, Malcolm	Teed, Russell
MacNeil, Robert	Uquhart, Roland
MacNeill, Evan (KIA)	Vance, Richard
Maybee, Gordon	Ward, Charles
McCarthy, Clyde	Ward, George
McCulloch, Glendon	Williams, Billy (Robert)
McNeil, Walter	Wolfe, Ralph
Morrison, John	Wyllie, John
Morrison, Lloyd	Wyllie, Max
Murray, Hedley	Yorke, Cecil
Nolan, John	

Ron McBurnie – Compassionate and dedicated

By Maurice Rees

Decorating Veteran's graves has long been an annual project of many branches of the Royal Canadian Legion, but no area is as dedicated or as precise as the Great Village and Debert branches. Many RCL members, assisted by community groups and volunteers from the community, devote a lot of time and energy, but no one puts in as much time as Ron McBurnie, Five Islands.

During the past 20-25 years, Royal Canadian Legion branches have undergone a drastic change, membership is dwindling, as veterans get older and pass on, leaving fewer and fewer people to do the work. The younger generations have a totally different view on legion activities and purpose.

However, in West Colchester the Cobequid Branch # 72, Great Village and Debert's Branch #106 have been continuing to play an important role in the community. Branch #72 is a leader in the tradition of annually decorating over 500 veteran's graves at all cemeteries from Glenholme, Londonderry and along the Cobequid shore to Moose River.

Not to diminish the efforts of members and community volunteers, but Ron McBurnie is an inspiration to all. For over 20 years he has devoted hundreds of hours to maintaining crosses for veterans graves. Metal crosses have been the mainstay, but in the last

couple of years, McBurnie has switched to building crosses from vinyl, which over the longhaul will require less maintenance and provides a higher level of visual appeal over a number of years.

Following a visit to Kohler Windows, Debert, with Robert Webb, McBurnie realized vinyl had an appeal over the traditional metal crosses. Gathering up some scrap vinyl used to make windows, McBurnie set out to make approximately 100 crosses from two inch solid vinyl, attached a poppy to the front and added a clip to the back of the cross to hold a small Canadian Flag.

When he showed the crosses to fellow members at Branch # 72, Great Village they were elated, asking him, even at the age of 78, if he could make an additional 450. McBurnie's 2010 winter was spent in his workshop converting the strips of solid white vinyl into crosses for veteran's graves.

The new vinyl crosses have been so popular, that when another Remembrance Day rolls around, McBurnie anticipates there will be requests from many areas to provide more crosses. His dedication and concern for veterans started in the 1940's when he joined at the age of 17. In 1952 he was bound for the Korean war aboard an American troop carrier shipping out of Seattle spending almost a year in what is now North Korea. Four years later his tour of duty took him to Egypt for a 10 month stint arriving there aboard the HMCS Magnificent.

By the time he retired from the armed forces in 1961, McBurnie had received several medals: Good Conduct Medal, three Korean Medals, a United Nations Medal, as well as the United Nations Emergency Force Medal, all of which he proudly

wears each time he attends Legion or military events.

As the summer passes and another Remembrance Day ceremony approaches, McBurnie turns his attention to helping organizing the November 11th events held in the Five Islands fire hall. Rather than wait for people to get their poppy while out shopping, he heads out to adjacent communities selling poppies. Over the years he has logged thousands of kilometers, at his own expense to sell as many poppies as possible.

The veteran who dedicates a lot of time to making crosses and selling poppies does not stop there. Whenever there is a soldier killed in Afghanistan, he lowers the flags to half-mast for three days. Angela Reid, mother of Cpl. Christopher Johnathan Reid, who was killed by a roadside bomb August 3, 2006 is most appreciative of McBurnie's dedication and service.

Last November, she presented him with a seven foot "We Support You" banner, which he then asked every person attending the Remembrance Day service in Five Islands to sign. The banner was delivered to Sgt. Roland Duncan, son of Judy Roberts, Five Islands. Sgt. Duncan, who is serving in Afghanistan, displayed the banner in the mess-hall in time for Christmas Dinner. (Pictures showing the erected banner, were published in the Shoreline Journal this past winter).

McBurnie takes responsibility for decorating over 80 graves at three cemeteries in the Five Islands area, and recently was asked to add the Moose River cemetery to his list. He anticipates as more people and legion branches learn about his devotion to making vinyl crosses, he will get additional requests.



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