

# National Peacekeepers Day Recognized



Guest speaker MLA Karen Casey(left) and Museum President Sue Taylor (right) with former Peacekeepers (L-R),Tom McDonald (2 Tours in Egypt), Jack Sterling (3 Tours NATO, 1 Tour Korea), William A Young (2 Tours NATO-Germany, 2 tours Middle East-Egypt) and John K. MacDonald (2 Tours- Europe).

By Linda Harrington

August 9th is recognized as National Peacekeepers Day in Canada. On this date, in 1974, the greatest loss of Canadian lives on a peacekeeping mission occurred. Nine Canadians were shot down while serving with the United Nations Emergency Force in Egypt and Israel.

Past and present peacekeepers are honoured across Canada on August 9th. These honourable men and women include members of the Canada's Armed Forces, Canadian diplomats, the RCMP, provincial and municipal police forces and civilians. Over 125,000 Canadians have served in UN and NATO peacekeeping missions.

A special service was held at the Debert Military Museum. "We must remember that the keeping of the peace does not come cheap and that the sacrifices of our peacekeepers must not be forgotten," said Museum President Sue Taylor prior to a wreath laying by Comrades Tom McDonald and Walter Perrin.

Guest speaker MLA Karen Casey thanked all Peacekeepers on behalf of all members of the Legislative Assembly and noted their duties are often "more like peacemaking than peacekeeping in some situations. And our Canadians have stepped up to the plate, many Nova Scotians as well, to make sure that countries less fortunate than ours have an opportunity to come together and to start to rebuild".

Refreshments were served following the service. Many took the opportunity to look around the Peacekeepers' Room, dedicated in honour of the late Richard Ross. Mr. Ross, a former Peacekeeper, along with former MLA Bill Langille, showed great leadership and dedication in helping establish August 9th as Peacekeepers Day.



Comrades Jack Sterling and Tom McDonald salute during the playing of the "Last Post". Center is Fran Forman. Harrington Photo



Comrades Tom McDonald and Walter Perrin laid a wreath in honour of all Peacekeepers. Harrington Photo

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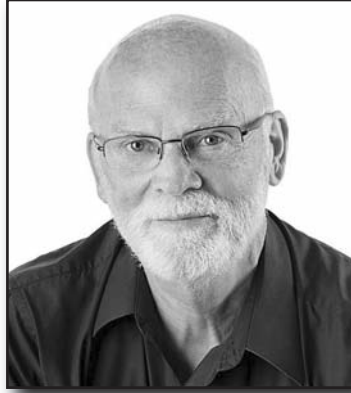


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## COLCHESTER NORTH

### Jim Wyatt, New Democratic Party Candidate



Editor's Note: Candidates for the Liberals, Progressive Conservative and NDP in Colchester North were sent the same questionnaire containing 13 questions. The following is the reply from Jim Wyatt, candidate for the New Democratic Party of Nova Scotia in Colchester North).

**What will you do to stop the out-migration of government services to Amherst?**

I know that government services and jobs in our community are extremely important, and in the last four years, the NDP has taken action to move many government services out from larger centres and into smaller communities, something that both Liberal and PC governments failed to do. As your MLA, I'll work to continue this trend and advocate for more jobs and services in our community.

**Are you willing to work with citizens in Colchester North to establish a suite of satellite offices in vacant space in Bass River?**

It's very important to me that my constituents have the best possible access to government services, so I would work with the community and with the government to explore whether it would be feasible to establish a satellite office in Bass River.

**If five departments were to occupy the satellite office one day per week, which departments do you feel would be best for the area?**

Economic and Rural Development and Tourism, Community Services, Fishing and Aquaculture, Labour and Advanced Education, and Agriculture.

**How do you propose to ensure internet service with the same broadband width as Truro or Amherst is available within Colchester North?**

We've made a lot of progress to deliver broadband across the province, but I know it's been very frustrating for people when the service isn't as quick as it could be. Although service here may not be as fast as it is in other places, there are some families who are still waiting for

service altogether. We're committed to making sure that Eastlink provides the broadband service outlined in the agreement they signed with the previous Conservative government.

**How long would it take to become reality?**

Eastlink is subject to penalties if they don't meet this agreement, and we'll work to ensure that Nova Scotia families get the access that Eastlink has agreed to provide.

**As we all know cell phone reception along Highway # 2 from Glenholme to Advocate is spotty at best. What promise can you make to ensure reception is equal to the consistent quality if one were driving between Amherst and Oxford?**

I know that the lack of reception is frustrating and I will commit to being a strong voice with the federal government for you on this issue.

**What are the two most important things you can do to help the citizens of Colchester North?**

Working to make our community stronger by creating jobs and strengthening our local economy. Invest in services for seniors, including making it easier for seniors to stay in their homes longer and ensuring that people have access to the care that they need.

**Recently smaller schools in rural area have been closed causing elementary students to be bused long distances. What is your approach to closing of small elementary schools and what can you do to curtail further closings?**

Working to improve our community is the most important thing we can do to stop the closures of rural elementary schools. When families are able to find good jobs and raise their families here, we can keep more of our schools open. That's why the NDP is committed to creating jobs for Nova Scotia families.

In the meantime, I would work with the school board and the Ministry of Education to discuss options for how we can keep our schools open to give our kids the best chance they have to succeed in our communities. Schools are at the heart of our community, and community schools have been an important focus for this government. We need to ensure that we're putting kids and learning first in every process. I'm looking forward to the report of the Fowler Commission on the school review process, which should be done next spring and should provide a way forward for community schools. The commission has been asked to look into using space

within schools as community spaces, or "hubs", which I think could go a long way to build value in our schools.

**If a school is closed should the costs of maintaining that facility remain with the school board until the building has new owners or the site is remediated?**

The NDP government heard from families, teachers and school boards that school review process was much too acrimonious and so we initiated a review. One of the things that the Fowler commission will look into is what to do with what to do with closed or vacant schools.

To assist in reducing costs and overheads should administration of repairs for electrical, mechanical, carpentry, plus landscaping and snow removal be the responsibility of the local school so local contractors can perform the work, rather than having board maintenance staff use valuable time and expense travelling to each school?

This is something that is up to the individual school boards and it's important to respect local decision-making in both health care and education, as local trustees and boards usually have more knowledge of what needs to happen in individual communities.

**How would you facilitate using under-utilized space in existing schools to provide additional education opportunities for adults?**

This is a fantastic idea and I would be proud to work as your MLA with a community group that was interested in partnering with the government to provide new educational opportunities for adults in Colchester.

**What do you perceive is the most critical situations facing Colchester North residents and how would you solve those problems?**

I feel that job creation is the most important issue for Colchester North, and I'm proud of the NDP record on this issue. Neither of the other parties are willing to stand up for jobs for Nova Scotians, while the NDP has continued to invest in good, long-term jobs.

**If voters decided to vote for the person rather than the party, why should voters cast their vote to support you?**

I have had a varied career as a farmer, a public servant, a military serviceman and a lawyer. Because of that background, I have an understanding of what life is like for a range of people in our community and I think it's important to have had all of those experiences so that I can represent the interest of my constituents in Colchester North.



MLA Karen Casey (right) joins Tom and Angela Reid in the Peacekeepers Room at the Debert Military Museum as they pause to look at photos of their son Corporal Christopher Reid, along with Warrant Officer Frank Mellish and Sergeant Darcy Scott Tedford. These three young men were killed while serving in Afghanistan in 2006. More than 275 Canadians have died in Peacekeeping efforts in Afghanistan and around the world in the post-war years. Harrington Photo

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