

# SPECIAL TREE PLANTING CEREMONY HONOURS THE FALLEN

By Linda Harrington

Ten Red Maples trees were planted at the Veterans Memorial Park in Bass River during a National Peacekeepers Day Service on August 8<sup>th</sup>. The trees were planted to honour ten Nova Scotian soliders who have been killed in Afghanistan. Lieutenant-Colonel Shawn Hale, of the First Battalion Nova Scotia Highlanders (North), read the roll call for these soliders.

**Private Richard Green- Mill Cove, NS**

Richard was a Paratrooper with the 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. While on military exercises at Tarnak Farm on April 18th, 2002 he was killed with three other soldiers including Private Nathan Smith, when tragically an American F-16 dropped a 225kg bomb on their location. At his funeral in Hubbards the choir sang "I'll Fly Away" for the para-trooper. His Rev was heard to say, "Ricky loved the life he had chosen." Private Green was engaged to be married. He was 21.

**Private Nathan Smith- Porter's Lake, NS**

Nathan was a member of the 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry on military maneuvers at Tarnak Farm. On April 8th, 2002 he was killed with three other soldiers, including Private Richard Green, when tragically an American F-16 dropped a 225kg bomb on their location. Smitty, as he was affectionately called, played guitar in a band with some high school friends. He joined the military in 1998 and finished basic training at the top of his class. He was a four year veteran of the military and engaged to be married. He was 24.

**Corporal Paul Davis- Bridgewater, NS**

Paul was a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He was a gunner in a light armoured vehicle travelling west of Kandahar on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006. He was killed when the LAV collided with another vehicle and rolled over. Paul is remembered "as a valued and inspirational Canadian Soldier. His compassion and genuine regard for others was truly a breath of fresh air in a world full of hurt and cruelty." Paul was married and the father of two daughters. He was 28.

**Corporal Christopher Jonathan Reid- Truro, NS**

Corporal Reid was a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He was a passenger in a Light Armoured Vehicle on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006 as Canadian Soldiers were advancing on Taliban Insurgents. He was killed as the vehicle he was travelling in was struck by a roadside bomb. Christopher joined the reserves in 1989 and the regular forces in 1995. He loved hiking and camping with friends and loved life to the fullest. He was sadly predeceased by his sister Rachel in 2002 from complications of Diabetes. He was 34.

**Warrant Officer Frank Robert Mellish- Truro, NS**

Frank was a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment. He was participating in Operation Medusa in the fall of 2006 and he was one of four soldiers killed on Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006 during a fierce fighting with Taliban Insurgents in the Panjwai district west of Kandahar. Frank joined the service after high school and was on his seventh overseas deployment. He and his father served as peacekeepers together on the former Yugoslavia. Frank was married to Kendra and the father of two sons. He was 38.



Barry and Sandy Mellish (centre left) are joined by Frank and Caroline McNeil (right), at the tree planting in memory of their son Warrant Officer Frank Mellish, who was killed in Afghanistan on Sept. 3rd, 2006.

## VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK Bass River, Nova Scotia



A parade of participants in the National Peacekeepers Day makes their way to the Veterans Memorial Park in Bass River on August 8th. (Harrington Photo)

**Sergeant Darcy Tedford- Earltown, NS**

Darcy was a member of the Charles Company 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment. His unit was ambushed on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and Darcy was killed in a storm of gunfire, rocket propelled grenades and mortars. He was a fourteen year veteran of the military and loved to hunt and fish. Darcy was married to Charmaine. He was 32.

**Corporal Ronald Kevin Megeney- Stellarton, NS**

Kevin was a reservist of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the North Nova Scotia Highlanders and was assigned as a guard at the main gate into the Kandahar Base. He died on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007 from what has been called a negligent shooting on the base. The youngest of three siblings on a long line of relatives who served the military, Kevin went to Afghanistan to...in his words..."Turn things around, so the Afghan's can live like we do". He took pride in that. He was 25.

**Corporal Christopher Paul Stannix- Dartmouth, NS**

Paul was a reservist for the Princes Louise Fusiliers and he was conducting a convoy security operation near the border of Helmand and Kandahar province as part of Operation Achilles. On April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007, he was killed when the light armoured vehicle in which he was riding, hit a roadside bomb. Paul joined the forces shortly after 9-11 which he said was shaped his belief in military duty. Paul achieved the rank of Master Corporal and as such did not have to go to Afghanistan; he took a reduction in rank to be able to go. A friend said Paul believed in serving, and because he thought there was purpose in what he was doing, he wanted to go and be a part of it. Family says he believed in risking his life to improve living conditions for ordinary Afghans. I believe Paul said it best when he said, "I would like to think if I was in the same position there...somebody would be willing to step in and help me in exactly the same way". Paul had a fiancée Candice. He was 24.



Tom and Angela Reid plant a red maple tree at the Bass River Veterans Memorial Garden in honour of their son Corporal Christopher Reid. (Harrington Photo)

**Corporal Thomas James Hamilton- Upper Musquodoboit, NS**

Thomas was a member of the Golf Company, 2nd Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment and served as a member of the Force Protection Company of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team. While on security patrol in Arghandab district west of Kandahar City the light armoured vehicle in which he was riding was hit by the blast from a large roadside bomb. Thomas along with two other soldiers, including Private John Michael Roy Curwin of Mount Uniacke, NS were killed. The youngest of three brothers, Thomas is described by friends as an inspiration to serve. He was called to do two tours of duty in Afghanistan, but this third tour was voluntary. Thomas was the father of a five year old daughter. He was 26.

**Sergeant James Patrick MacNeil- Glace Bay, NS**

Sergeant MacNeil was a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Engineer Regiment, of the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion Royal Canadian Regiment. On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010, while on patrol in the Panjwaii district in southwest Kandahar, James exited his armoured vehicle and was killed by an improvised explosive device. On his 4<sup>th</sup> tour of duty in Afghanistan, James was recognized in his regiment as the epitome of excellence and professionalism. Jimmy, as he was known, loved his country, baseball, rugby and the Montreal Canadians. He was a proud caper and as such he was unable to say no to any social gathering...and was inevitably the life of the party. Jimmy was an outgoing and loving young man, who loved his military career and died doing something he believed in. The day before he died, Jimmy and girlfriend Laura became engaged. He was 28.



The United Nations Flag (centre) is proudly flown on National Peacekeepers Day, which is celebrated in Canada on August 9th. On this day in 1974, Canada suffered the greatest single loss of of lives while on a peacekeeping mission. Nine Canadians lost their lives while serving with the United Nations Emergency Force in Egypt and Israel. (Harrington Photo)



Members of the 1st Battalion of the Nova Scotia Highlanders (North) plant a red maple tree in honor of Corporal Kevin Megeney at the Bass River Veterans Memorial Garden on August 8th. (Harrington Photo)

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