



Numerous family members of Corporal Jimmy MacNeil travelled from Reserve Mines and Glace Bay, NS to attend a tree planting in his honour at the Bass River Veterans Memorial Garden. Cpl MacNeil was killed in Afghanistan on June 21st, 2010. The tree planting was held on Aug. 8th during the National Peacekeepers Day Ceremony. The MacNeil family proudly wore t-shirts with a picture of Jimmy and a Canadian flag. (Harrington Photo)



Colchester County Major Bob Taylor offered his thanks, support and prayers to those that continue to serve and those who have served Canada in the past. Major Taylor was speaking to those gathered at the Veterans Memorial Park for the National Peacekeepers Day Ceremony. (Harrington Photo)

The following soldiers, lost their lives in Afghanistan, but their families decided to have memorial trees planted closer to their homes.

Private Braun Scott Woodfield- Eastern Passage, NS.

Private Woodfield was killed in a LAV III rollover on the main highway between Camp Julien and Kandahar on Nov. 24th, 2005.

Sergeant Kirk Taylor- Yarmouth, NS.

Sergeant Taylor was killed when the vehicle he was riding in was struck by an IED in Kandahar City on Dec. 30th, 2009.

Captain Jefferson Clifford Frances- Halifax, NS.

Captain Frances was killed by a roadside bomb while riding in an RG-31 Nyala armoured vehicle. The attack occurred in Panjwai district on July 4th, 2007.

Private John Michael Roy Curwin- Mount Uniacke, NS.

Private Curwin was killed when his armoured vehicle was hit by the blast from another large roadside IED while on patrol in Arghandab district on Dec. 13th, 2008.

MEMORIAL CROSS

"Worn with dignity and pride"



Angela and Tom Reid display the Memorial Cross they each wear in honour of their son Corporal Christopher Reid, who was killed in Afghanistan on August 3rd, 2006.

By Linda Harrington

Angela Reid was the guest speaker at a service in honour of National Peacekeepers Day held at the Veterans Memorial Park in Bass River. She said it felt strange to be speaking at this service because "our sons were not involved in peace-keeping missions at the time of their deaths" but she was honoured to be paying respect to all Peacekeepers.

"My son Christopher said he was a peace enforcer," and she adds, "I hope as a nation we will continue to honour the memory of those who have served."

Angela Reid wore a beautiful cross on her left chest. It was a Memorial Cross in honour of her son Christopher who was killed in Afghanistan on August 3rd, 2006. "I wear this with dignity and respect," she says. "I hope people will recognize its significance." She says sometimes people just think it is a pretty brooch and do not understand what it represents.

Veterans Affairs Canada states the Memorial Cross, often known as the Silver Cross, is a Canadian medal awarded to the mother, widow, widower, or next of kin of any member of the Canadian Forces who loses his or her life in active service, including peacekeeping,

and other such international operations.

Angela's husband, Tom Reid wears a similar Memorial Cross on his left chest, as well as a second cross around his neck. This beautiful cross was presented by the Memorial Club, a group of teenage students in Yarmouth County, who have been presenting fathers with silver crosses since 2006.

Tom says the cross is made of sterling silver and 10kt gold and is given to fathers of fallen soldiers from Nova Scotia who died in Afghanistan. "At that time, mothers were the only ones receiving Memorial Crosses and the students felt it was important for fathers to be recognized, as well," says Tom as he proudly displays the commemorative cross with Christopher's name engraved on the back.

Angela Reid encourages people to acknowledge those who wear these memorial crosses when they happen to see them and she hopes all Canadians will honour our fallen soldiers.

"One way to honour our fallen is to become involved in the life of our country," she says. "You could become involved in politics, legions, attending meetings, etc.. There are many other ways you can help protect the values of how we stand as a nation."



MP Scott Armstrong (left) and MLA Karen Casey (right) are joined by Lieutenant-Colonel Shawn Hale following the National Peacekeepers Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Park. Lieutenant-Colonel Hale is the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion NS Highlanders (North) and he formerly taught school in the Bass River area. (Harrington Photo)



MLA Karen Casey poses with Master Corporal Jessome at the Veterans Memorial Park. Master Corporal Jessome is the daughter of Margaret and Barry Jessome of Bass River and is currently stationed in Petawawa, Ontario. (Harrington Photo)



Ten red maple trees were planted at Veterans Memorial Park in honour of Nova Scotian soldiers who have been killed during their tour of duty in Afghanistan. MLA Karen Casey is shown planting a tree in honour of Corporal Thomas Hamilton, of Upper Musquodoboit, who was killed just west of Kandahar City on Dec 13th, 2008. (Harrington Photo)

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For more information: 902-897-3180
recreation@colchester.ca