

Canadian Peacekeeper's Day was recognized at the Debert Military Museum on August 9th with a flag raising and guest speakers followed by a social time.

(Harrington Photos)



A large crowd turned out for this year's Peacekeeper's Day Service.



Silver Cross Mother Angela Reid laying the wreath in memory of all our Peacekeepers. Angela is the mother of Cpl Christopher Reid who was killed in Afghanistan.



MLA Karen Casey chats with Tom Reid, father of Cpl Christopher Reid who was killed in Afghanistan, and Gordon and Phyllis McCully following the Peacekeeper's Day service.



Andrew King shows a package of Camp Debert post cards he found at an antique store and is donating to the Debert Military Museum.



Sue Taylor, President of the Debert Military Museum, introduced the guest speakers.



Silver Cross Mother, Sandra Mellish, mother of WO Frank R. Mellish who was killed in Afghanistan, raises the Peacekeeping Flag as her husband Barry Mellish salutes.



A group photo of guest speakers and Peacekeepers present. Left to right: Tom Reid, Gordon McCully, Barry Mellish, Terry Farrell, Sandy Mellish, Ken Welton, William Thomas, Angela Reid, Al Young, Gerry Dykens, J. R. Flanagan, MP Scott Armstrong and MLA Karen Casey.

Peacekeeper's Address at Debert Military Museum

By Sue Taylor

(The following is text of the message delivered by Sue Taylor at Peacekeepers Day ceremonies held at the Debert Military Museum)

Welcome to our Peacekeepers ceremonies. I would like to take this time to especially thank our peacekeepers who were able to visit with us today as well as Sandy & Barry Mellish and Angela & Tom Reid who both lost sons in the war in Afghanistan. Also to our MLA for Colchester North the Honourable Karen Casey, Minister of Education along with our Member of Parliament Scott Armstrong. A big thank you to our Colour Party from the RCL Debert Branch 106.

Thank you all for joining us today as we celebrate Peacekeepers Day and the contribution that our peacekeepers have made around the world for peace. The United Nations declared that May 29th each year would mark the official International Peacekeepers Day. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the United Nations.

Since the first UN peacekeeping mission was established in 1948 until April 2015, 3358 military, police and civilian personnel have lost their lives in the service of peace as a result of acts of violence, accidents and disease.

Canada's role in the development of and participant in peacekeeping during the 20th century led to the establishment of Canada as a prominent world power. Canada's commitment to multilateralism has been closely related to peacekeeping efforts.

Canadian Nobel Peace Prize winner Lester B Pearson is considered to be the father of modern United Nations Peacekeeping. Prior to Canada's role in the Suez Canal Crisis, Canada was viewed by many as insignificant in issues of the world's traditional powers. Canada's successful role in the conflict gave Canada credibility and established it as a nation fighting for the common good of all the world's nations and not just their allies. Since 1995, however, Canadian direct participation in United Nations peacekeeping efforts has greatly declined. That number decreased largely because Canada began to direct its participation to UN-sanctioned military operations through NATO, rather than directly to the UN.

Today we in Nova Scotia recognize the 41st anniversary of the Syrian missile that shot down a plane carrying Peacekeepers. In that plane crash nine Canadian Peacekeepers died. That date was August 9th, 1974.

Because of the work of many people including Peacekeeper Dick Ross and former MLA for Colchester North Bill Langille we now celebrate Peacekeepers Day in the Province of NS each year on Aug 9th.

As we watch the unfolding of events around the world today, we realize that the role of the Peacekeeper will be called upon far into the future.

More than 125,000 Canadians have participated in over 34 United Nations and NATO peacekeeping missions throughout the world. Canada has provided more Peacekeepers than any other country.

In closing we must remember that the keeping of the peace does not come cheap and that the sacrifices of our peacekeepers must not be forgotten.

In honour of our Peacekeepers with us today and in memory of all the peacekeepers who have lost their lives to bring peace around the world we lay this wreath for them.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning "We will Remember Them".

PUBLIC NOTICE

AUGUST 26, 2015

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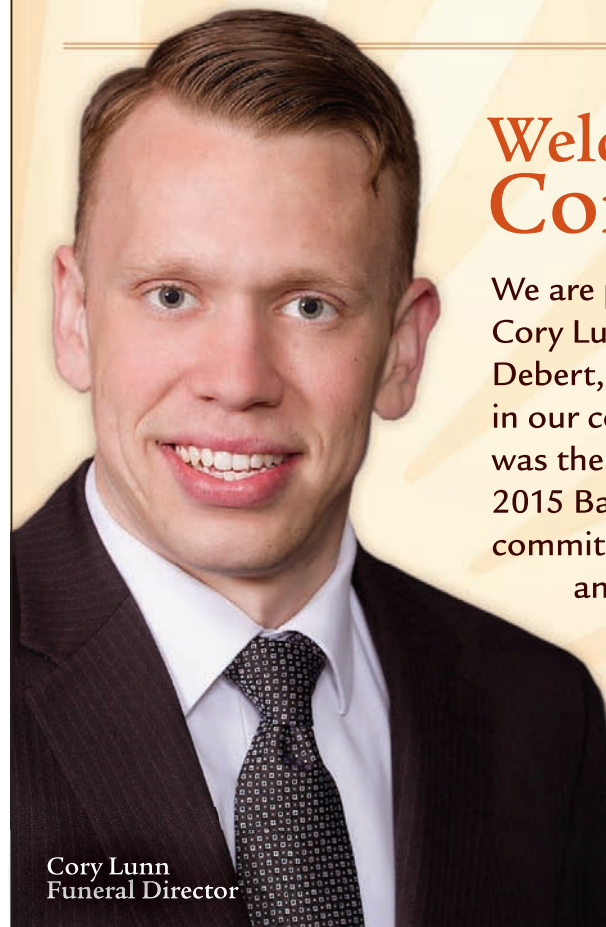
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