

Debert Military Museum Unveils Camp Debert Monument on Saturday, August 19TH

(Harrington Photos)

By Linda Harrington

Several months ago The Debert Military Museum Board of Directors heard there was Federal funding available to support projects to help celebrate Canada's 150th birthday. After much discussion the Board of Directors decided it would be nice to have a monument in recognition to all those who served in Camp Debert.

Built in 1936-1940, Debert was a staging area for an estimated 300,000 soldiers being shipped overseas to fight for our freedom in World War II. The former CFS Debert was decommissioned and closed in 1996.

As part of Canada's celebrations, the Federal Government made funds available under the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program. This program provided 50% of the funding towards the \$8000 Camp Debert Monument project with the remainder of the funds coming from businesses, individuals and fundraising.

The project completion was awarded to Nelson's Monuments, of Amherst NS, who did



The Debert Military Museum Board Members and Summer Students. Left to right: Susan Taylor, Michael Taylor, Her Honour Mrs. Patsy LeBlanc, His Honour, The Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, ONS, QC Lt Gov NS, Bill Leeming, Robert Feeley, Irene Gratto, Gail Hines, Laurel Singer, Beth Murray.

a wonderful job on this project.

The Debert Military Museum held a Monument Unveiling Ceremony on Saturday, August 19th with His Honour, The Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, ONS, QC Lt Gov NS and Her Honour Mrs. Patsy LeBlanc graciously accepting an invitation to attend the Ceremony.

The Royal Canadian Legion Debert Branch 106 Colour Party lead invited guests to the platform.

Laurel Singer opened the Ceremony with the singing of our National Anthem. Guest

speakers included Her Worship Christine Blair, Mayor of Colchester County; Mr. Bill Casey, MP Cumberland Colchester; The Honourable Karen Casey, MLA Colchester North and His Honour, The Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, ONS, QC Lt Gov NS and Her Honour Mrs. Patsy LeBlanc.

Other distinguished guests in attendance were Mr. and Mrs. Tom Reid, whose son Christopher was killed in Afghanistan, Commanding Officer of the Nova Scotia Highlanders LCol Colin Todd and Malcolm Zinck, Honorary Regimental Sergeant Major for the Princess Louise Fusiliers, these two units both

served at Camp Debert during WWII. Members of the Debert Fire Brigade were also in attendance.

It was fitting that two World War II veterans from the Debert area Mr. Gordon McCully and Mr. Eddie Murphy were in the crowd for the unveiling of the monument.

Mr. Michael Taylor, President of the Museum spoke on how pleased he was with the Ceremonies how nice the monument turned out. He also spoke



Her Honour Mrs. Patsy LeBlanc chats with local student Andrew Totten.



Eddie Murphy (WWII Veteran) is greeted by Her Honour Mrs. Patsy LeBlanc as Bill Casey, MP Cumberland/Colchester looks on.



His Honour, The Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, ONS, QC Lt Gov NS shakes hands with Gordon McCully (WWII Veteran).



Tom & Angela Reid are greeted by His Honour, The Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, ONS, QC Lt Gov NS. Tom and Angela's son Cpl Christopher Reid C.D., M.I.D. was killed in action on Aug. 3, 2006 when his armoured vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb near Kandahar.



Lt Col Colin Todd is greeted by His Honour, The Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, ONS, QC Lt Gov NS as Aid de Camp Hurlbut and Dave MacPhee look on.

on behalf of the Board Members on how pleased and honoured they were that Their Honours, other dignitaries and all the community members who came out to share in this special day.

The beautiful new monument was unveiled by His Honour, The Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, ONS, QC Lt Gov NS, Mr. Bill Casey, MP Cumberland

Colchester and Michael Taylor, President of the Debert Military Museum.

His Honour, The Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, ONS, QC Lt Gov NS and Her Honour Mrs. Patsy LeBlanc spent some time following the Ceremony greeting those in attendance and had a tour of the museum.

Guests were invited into the Museum for light refreshments.



Tina Gratto and Kurt Gratto, of Masstown Pro Hardware who made a sizable donation to the Monument Fund, pose for a photo with Her Honour Mrs. Patsy LeBlanc and His Honour, The Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, ONS, QC Lt Gov NS.

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Michael Taylor President Debert Military Museum discusses details of how the monument was designed with His Honour, The Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, ONS, QC Lt Gov NS, and Bill Casey Member of Parliament Cumberland/Colchester.



His Honour, The Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, ONS, QC Lt Gov NS, Michael Taylor President Debert Military Museum and Bill Casey Member of Parliament Cumberland/Colchester unveil the new Monument.



The Debert Legion Colour Party (left to right)- Earl Harvey, Bill Wood, Dave Stewart, Dave MacPhee, Jim Adshade, Eugene Adshade, Robert Collins, Harold Barclay, and Ron Eastcott.



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