

# Brighton's Old Cenotaph Decommission



## *Passing of the Torch*

### *The Evolution of Brighton's Monuments*

*Created by Comrade Dave Wyndham*



**LEGION**

Brighton Branch #100



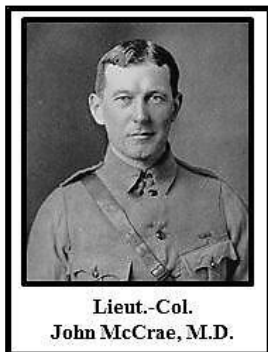
## Brighton Legion President



**Brian MacKenzie**



***In Flanders Fields . . .*** Is a famous poem that was written during the First World War by Canadian physician, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae. He was inspired to write it on May 3, 1915, after presiding over the funeral of friend and fellow soldier Alexis Helmer, who died in the Second Battle of Ypres. "In Flanders Fields" was first published on December 8, 1915 in the London based magazine *Punch*. The poem and poppy are prominent Remembrance Day symbols throughout the Commonwealth of Nations, particularly in Canada, where "In Flanders Fields" is one of the nation's best known literary works.



Lieut.-Col.  
John McCrae, M.D.

The red poppies that grew over the graves of fallen soldiers resulted in the Remembrance Poppies becoming one of the world's most recognized memorial symbols for soldiers who have died in conflict.

While Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae was serving Canada in Europe during the Great War, the ladies of Brighton were gathering field stones during the 1916 period to build a fieldstone monument to honour local troops for their extraordinary heroism and ultimate sacrifice they paid for Canada.

The old fieldstone cairn and the current Cenotaph have been Beacons of Honour in the Municipality of Brighton paying respect to our Veterans for almost 95 years. It is now time that we move forward with the construction of a new Cenotaph that will ensure that we honour all Veterans with dignity, and pass the Torch of Remembrance to future generations.

The Government of Canada is committed to preserving the memory of our nation's war dead and Veterans through proper care and conservation of Canada's cenotaphs and monuments. In partnership with community groups and local organizations, Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) is implementing this program.

The Brighton project to construct a New Cenotaph and include upgrades to Memorial Park was launched in 2011 and is a joint undertaking of the Municipality of Brighton and the Royal Canadian Legion Brighton Branch 100, with support from Veterans Affairs Canada. The existing cenotaph does not recognize veterans' service to Canada over the past half century. The new cenotaph will continue to honour all veterans and their ongoing role in Canadian history.

This **Passing of the Torch** souvenir booklet provides a brief History of Brighton's Monuments, includes a photo journey of the Decommissioning of the Old Cenotaph, and serves as an insight into the New Brighton Cenotaph.

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 100 – 25 Park Street, Brighton, On K0K1H0

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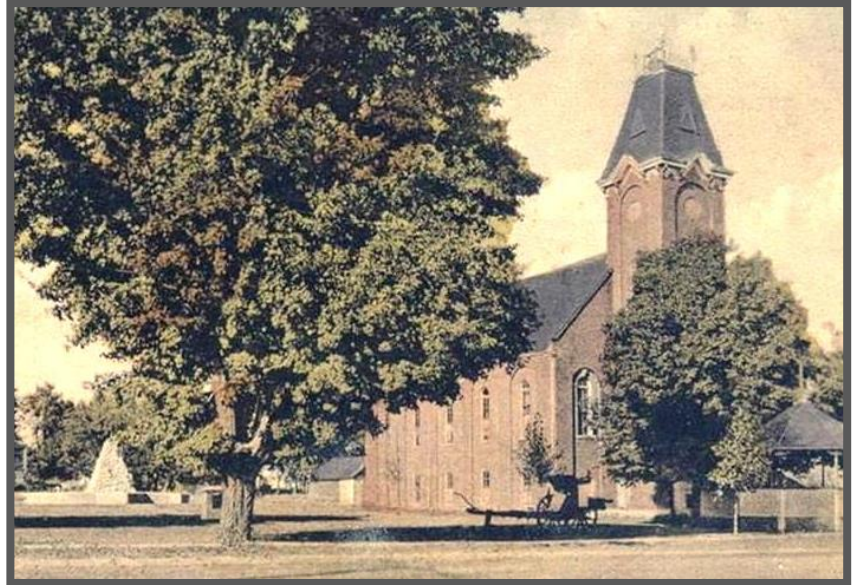
Website: <http://www.on.legion.ca/branches/getBr.asp?branch=100>



# A History of Brighton's Monuments



*The 1919 Fieldstone Cairn Monument to Honour the WWI Residents of Brighton who paid the Ultimate Sacrifice*



*In 1920 . . . The WWI Monument and Old Town Hall in Memorial Park*

## History of the Brighton Cenotaph

- 1916 Ladies of Brighton gathered fieldstones.
- 1919 Legion Branch 100 raised \$1,088.00. There was a private donation of two parcels of land that became Memorial Park. A simple fieldstone monument was constructed.
- 1923 The current shape was designed and built by Lt Millar of the Railway Troops.
- 1927 Sir Arthur Currie dedicated the cenotaph on September 18, 1927.  
Over the years, the monument underwent many iterations, including being "topped" with a lion's head fountain that depicted courage of the fallen.
- 1938 On Remembrance Day, the lion's head was replaced by a Torch Light symbolizing that the memory of those fallen would shine forever.
- 1948 A plaque was added with the names of those citizens of Brighton who fell in WWII.
- 1953 The Korean plaque was added.  
Sometime after 1980 the torch was taken down and a cross was installed.



## Remembrance Day 2011

*The Brighton Cenotaph has visibly remained almost the same for the last 85 Years since it was dedicated by Sir Arthur Currie on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1927*



# The Old Cenotaph Decommission Ceremony

The Old Cenotaph Decommission Ceremony, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012.

The theme of the Ceremony was the passing of the

***Torch of Remembrance from Generation to Generation.***

The torch symbolizes the freedom, justice and honour for which soldiers fought and died. The young Brighton 1 Can Para Corp 100 Army Cadets have pledged to hold the Torch high.

The cadets played a pivotal role in the Ceremony.



Ian Douglas, bgen (r)



Ian was instrumental in the creation and launch of the New Cenotaph Project



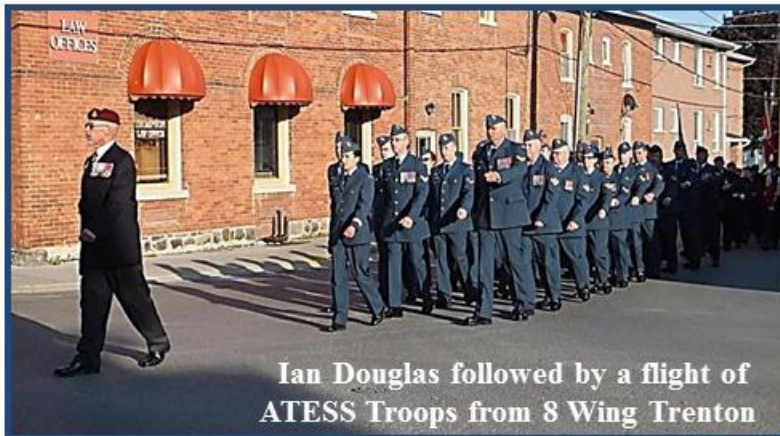
Brighton Legion Highlanders

*The Pipes and Drums  
at the head of the Parade from RCL Branch 100  
to Memorial Park for the  
Cenotaph Decommission Ceremony*

Cadet Honour Guard



1 Can Para Corp 100  
Brighton Army Cadet  
Cpl Lindsay Ann Peake



Ian Douglas followed by a flight of ATESS Troops from 8 Wing Trenton



Capt. Duane Bannerman leading the Brighton Army Cadets



*A tribute to all  
Royal Canadian  
Army Service  
Corps Veterans*

Brighton BR100 Legion Members  
Brian and Linda MacKenzie



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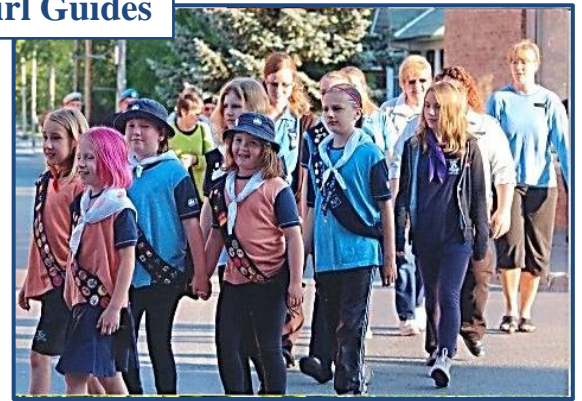
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**The Old Cenotaph Decommission Ceremony**





Girl Guides



**Astrida  
Jenkinson-Chalmers**  
**Sergeant-at-Arms  
and Youth Education Officer**  
**Royal Canadian Legion**  
**Brighton Branch 100**



**Brighton  
Army Cadet's**  
*Honour the Service  
of all Veteran's for  
the FREEDOM we  
all enjoy today.*

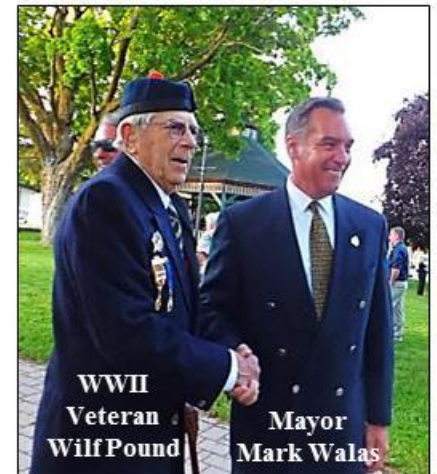
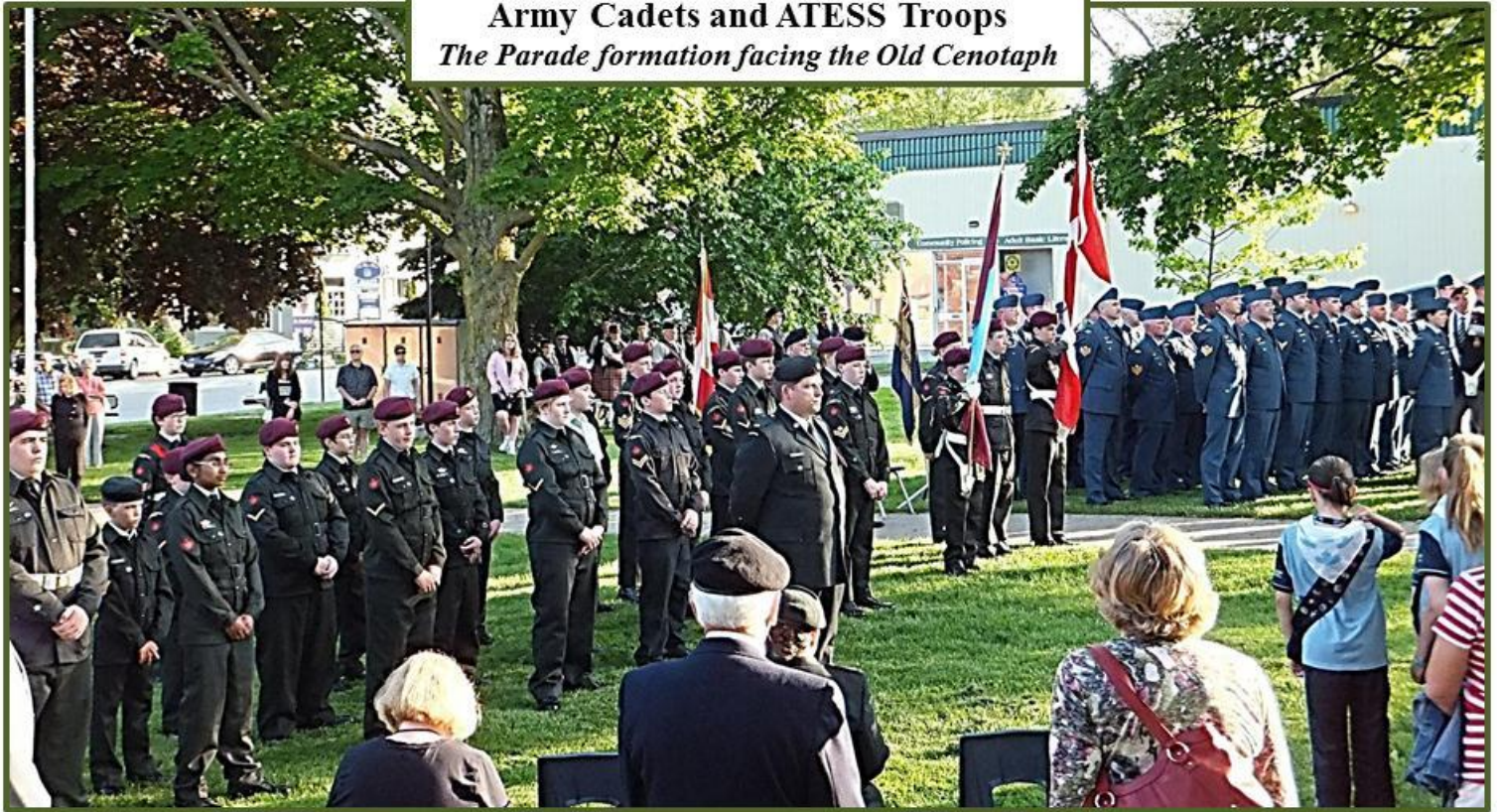
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**The Old Cenotaph Decommission Ceremony**



**Army Cadets and ATESS Troops**  
*The Parade formation facing the Old Cenotaph*

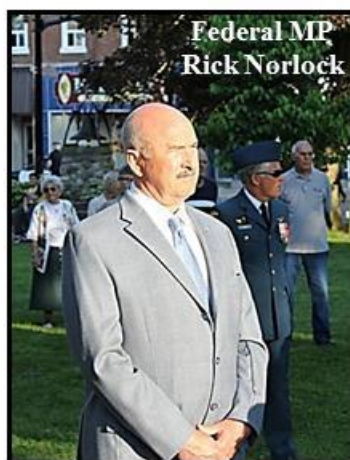


## **The Old Cenotaph Decommission Ceremony**





**Event MC – Greg Kobold,**  
Deputy District Commander  
Royal Canadian Legion, Ontario Command



**Federal MP  
Rick Norlock**



**Bugle Call  
THE LAST POST  
and REVEILLE**



**Event Host  
Mayor Mark Walas**



**Capt. Duane Bannerman**  
1st Can Para Army Cadets Corps 100



## The Old Cenotaph Decommission Ceremony

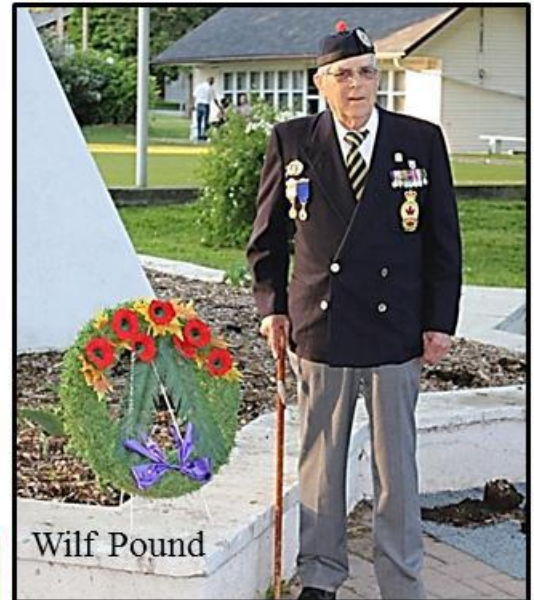




**WWII Veteran Wilf Pound Laid the "Wreath of Grace"**  
The last wreath to grace the old Cenotaph.  
Wilf was escorted by Army Cadet Private Thomas Graham.



Army  
Cadet  
Escort



Wilf Pound



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**The Old Cenotaph Decommission Ceremony**





WWII  
Veterans

**ATESS Troops from 8 Wing Trenton**



**Branch 100  
WWII Veterans**  
Harry Earle & Wilf Pound







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***We Honour  
all those who have  
served and continue to  
serve Canada***

**Brighton BR100 Legion Members  
Dave and Lois Wyndham**

**The Old Cenotaph Decommission Ceremony**





*The Brighton Legion Highlanders  
Pipe and Drum Band*



*Ian Douglas presents the Old Cenotaph's  
1927 Dedication Plaque to a Brighton Army Cadet  
Molly Hope Wiedenborner*



*This solemn ceremony symbolizes passing of the  
'Torch of Remembrance' from Generation to Generation*



*'The Wreath of Grace'*

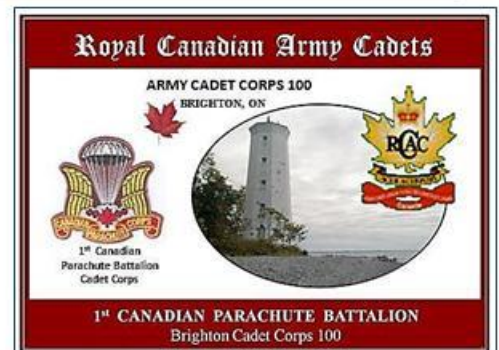


The Brighton Army Cadets are embracing the  
**Torch of Remembrance**  
being passed from one generation  
to the next to honour the  
Extraordinary Heroism  
and the Ultimate Sacrifice of the  
Vimy Ridge Troops.

**We Will Remember Them**



An Army Cadet followed by two Girl Guides  
with a Pipe & Drum escort, take the old  
1927 Dedication Plaque  
back to RCL Brighton Branch 100



## The Old Cenotaph Decommission Ceremony



# The New Cenotaph Ground Breaking Ceremony



RCL BR100 Brighton Federal MP  
President Mayor Rick Norlock  
Brian Mackenzie Mark Walas

*It is now time that we move forward  
with the construction of a new Cenotaph  
that will contribute to ensure  
that we all continue to  
Honour Veterans with dignity,  
and pass the  
Torch of Remembrance  
to future generations.*



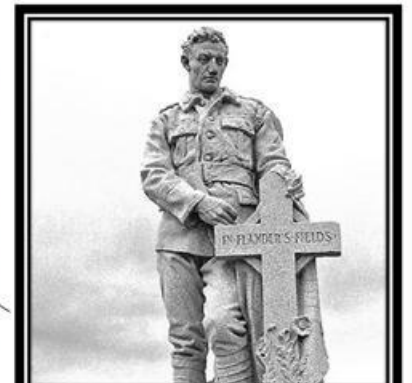
*The Last Salute*

## Brighton's New Cenotaph

*Passing the  
'Torch of Remembrance'  
Generation to Generation*



*In  
Flanders  
Fields*



**BRIGHTON VETERANS  
ARE GRATEFUL FOR  
THE SUPPORT OF**

*Veterans Affairs Canada  
Anciens Combattants Canada*

**FOR PROVIDING A  
FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT FUNDING**

**The New Cenotaph Ground Breaking Ceremony**





**South  
Exposure**



**Campbell  
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'Honouring Veterans  
with Dignity'

## ***A Stately New Monument for Brighton's Memorial Park***

*The New Cenotaph main column  
and the two wings will be  
constructed of*

*Vermont Barre Grey granite  
with a matte like finish  
known as Steeled Barre.*

*The three base steps will  
be made of grey Stanstead Granite.*



**North  
Exposure**

## ***A New Beginning: - by The Immortal Resilience (Poem modified by Dave Wyndham)***

*A new beginning awaits us just beyond the rising sun's horizon.*

*It will bring light once again and our hearts will brighten.*

*The dark that we once lived in and made our soldiers suffer, then die.*

*We wept and pleaded for the war to stop, all we could do then was try.*

*Now let us all pray for a difference . . . that there will be no more wars.*

*The new Cenotaph will be our way to continue to Honour the past with Dignity.*

*Passing of the Torch of Remembrance to the younger generation,  
coupled with a stately new monument will contribute to ensure that*

*We will always remember them . . . Lest We Forget!*



## **Brighton Veterans are Grateful for the Donation received from**

**Dan Weiss, Willow Publishing Production Manager  
for printing this Cenotaph Decommission Booklet**



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