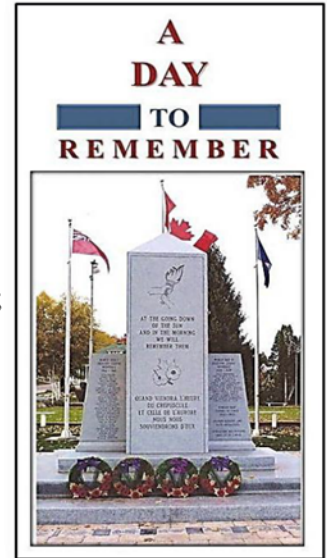


## Brighton, Ontario

### The War and Peace Keeping Memorial – ‘The Cenotaph Journey’

It was November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 when 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Ian Douglas and Legion members Ken Birch and Dave Wyndham were preparing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Candlelight Vigil to be held that evening, when the trio observed the sad state of the old Cenotaph. Ian, Ken and Dave discussed the condition of the Cenotaph, observing that the monument had not been updated since the Korean War. Ian said something must be done to honour Brighton Veterans with greater dignity.

In the spring of 2011, the three amigos proceeded to develop a plan. Dave produced a Cenotaph design and the concept for two memorial walkways by replacing the existing walkway with a Walkway of Remembrance and construct a Promenade of Valour to circle the proposed new Cenotaph; Ken identified a great fund raising idea of placing engraved granite pavers in the walkways and proposed the concept of three stately flagpoles; and, Ian suggested applying for a Veterans Affairs Canada grant through the Community War Memorial Program for project funding. A compressive Business Plan was developed and then Ian proposed to Mayor Mark Walas that the Legion and Municipality partner to either restore or replace the existing Cenotaph. Mayor Walas immediately agreed, arranging for two Council members to join Ian, Dave and Ken. The Brighton Cenotaph and Memorial Park Committee was formally established as an official Advisory Committee of Council.



The first Committee meeting took place on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Also sitting on the Committee as a non-voting member was Jim Millar, Director of Parks and Recreations. The initial meetings focused on the pros and cons associated with the existing monument. Then on May 25<sup>th</sup>, Dave Wyndham presented his proposed cenotaph design, the committee voted to approve his design to replace the old Cenotaph, upgrade the Memorial Park walkways and replace the flagpole.

During the summer of 2011, the Legion members of the Committee prepared a Project Business Plan that was submitted to Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC). VAC confirmed that the project was eligible for a grant of up to \$50,000. VAC congratulated the Brighton Legion on submitting the most comprehensive business plan that they had received thus far, stating that the Brighton Legion business plan format would be used henceforth as model for future Cenotaph grant requests.

The project was formally presented by Ian to the Brighton Municipal Council on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The Council approved matching funds to the VAC grant up to a limit of \$50,000. Council Resolution No. 2011-425 was subsequently passed, approving the Cenotaph design and Phase 1 activities that were based on the Project Business Plan that also included a long term plan for the development of the Park, including the addition of the new Veteran's Way. During the 2011 fall period, Dave prepared comprehensive Statement of Work (SOW) documents for the cenotaph design, new walkways, flagpoles and engraved granite paving stones; and, he also prepared a Project Information Brochure that was inserted in the 2012 Municipal Tax Bill mailing. The SOW's enabled the municipal staff to prepare Request for Quotation (RFQ) documents for all aspects of the Memorial Park project. Legion member Barbara Graham joined the team to manage the engraved granite paving stone project.

In early 2012, Campbell Monument of Belleville was awarded the cenotaph contract. The walkway & flagpole contract was awarded to Hollandale Nurseries. A very moving Decommission Ceremony for the old cenotaph and Ground Breaking Ceremony for the new cenotaph was held on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The old Cenotaph was dismantled in early June and the new Cenotaph was installed the week of August 20<sup>th</sup>. This was followed by the installation of the walkways and flagpoles in early September, with Cenotaph lighting installed in mid-October.

The cenotaph was dedicated by a serving Army NCO and Afghanistan war veteran on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Sergeant Stephen Drinkwater, a young third generation volunteer clearly represented serving soldiers and all who passed along the Highway of Heroes during the Afghanistan War. The Dedication Ceremony theme for the new War and Peace Keeping Monument was 'The Passing of the Torch of Remembrance' to succeeding generations. Having a young Afghanistan veteran dedicate the cenotaph was indicative of the ceremony theme. Four wreaths were placed to grace the new Cenotaph by the Honourable Minister Gordon O'Connor, Minister of State, to honour the fallen on behalf of all Canadians; Kelvin Warren, Legion District Commander, representing the Royal Canadian Legion; Astrida Jenkinson-Chalmers, President of Branch 100 Ladies Auxiliary, honouring the role of families in war and peace; and, a Senior Brighton Army Cadet, representing Canada's youth. This Phase 1 project was completed on schedule and within Budget, with almost \$8,000 in surplus funds sitting in the Municipal Park Project account as of July 1, 2014.

In terms of Memorial Park's subsequent phase(s) as outlined in the September 2011 Business Plan, the Legion Team presented a proposal to Brighton's Council on August 13, 2012 for Phase 2. The Legion recommendation was that in keeping with the spirit of Memorial Park to preserve the memory of Brighton Citizens, construct a Proctor Memorial Wall honouring the Founding Fathers of the Municipality of Brighton. The proposal would also include the redeployment of the old cenotaph artefacts. Council did not respond to the Legion proposal.

During the 2013 period, the Legion team continued to proactively develop a plan to redeploy the old Cenotaph artefacts to Memorial Park and on June 16, 2014 the Legion Team presented to Brighton Council a proposal to return the WWI Battle Honour Plaques back to Memorial Park.

The proposal is for a monument that will be a solid grey granite square pyramid design. The monument style will have design synergy with the old cenotaph and complement the new cenotaph with simplicity in design. Once the monument design was finalized, Dave designed a proposal for a Veterans Plaza with the monument as a focal point. His proposal included shrubs & landscaping; an antique style street clock; and accent pavers in the plaza that could be replaced by engraved granite pavers in the future. Ken suggested that the plaza include four stone/concrete style benches. Then in September 2014, Dave provided CAO Frost with an updated Phase 2 Business Plan and a completed application for a Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) funding grant. In the Fall of 2014, VAC approved a grant not to exceed \$25,000. Phase 2 construction should occur in the Summer 2015 period.

. . . . *Dave Wyndham, March 2015*