



# WEBNEWS

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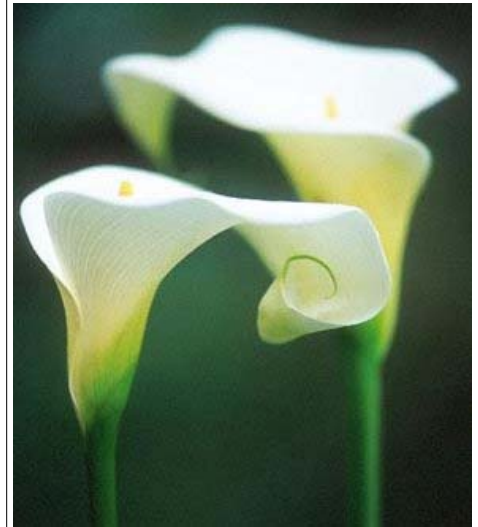
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Week Ending November 24, 2007

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## In Memoriam - HOWALD, Mary (née Padden) (1922-2007)



We are sorry to announce the death of Comrade Harold Howald's wife.

Mary passed away peacefully at the Fairview Mennonite Home on Saturday, November 17 in her 85th year. Beloved wife of Harold (Howie) Howald of Waterloo with whom she shared almost 60 years of marriage. Mary enjoyed many years as a Registered Nurse after graduating from St. Mary's nursing school in 1944. She is survived by her husband, Harold (Howie) Howald; her children, Judith (Robin) Green and Jane (Bill) Lee; her grandsons, Rob, Matt and Gord and her brother, Bob.

Predeceased by her brothers, Jack, Ted and Bill. The family would like to extend special thanks to lifelong family friend, Bernie Walsh and to the staff at Fairview Mennonite Home, as well as to the Community Care Access of Kitchener-Waterloo, especially Anna Weber and Elizabeth Pilarski. Private arrangements have been made for cremation and burial. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Henry

Walser Funeral Home , 507 Frederick St., Kitchener (519-749-8467). As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Alzheimer Society of Kitchener-Waterloo would be appreciated by the family (cards available at the funeral home). Visit [www.henrywalser.com](http://www.henrywalser.com) for Mary's memorial.

Monday, November 19, 2007  
 Vivian Peddle  
 Section: Births Deaths and Marriages

## We should remember Remembrance Day a little longer



How can we remember, when the world wants us to forget?

I was fortunate enough to participate in the Remembrance Day memorial service in downtown Kitchener last weekend with my husband and kids. The parade was fun, but even more important was realizing how many men and women had given their lives to make sure that Canada was a free country.

My kids were even calm and quiet during the moment of silence, a feat which is almost impossible most days. We joined the choir in singing O Canada, God Save the Queen and Amazing Grace. It was an incredible time together.

We thought of the fallen soldiers with gratitude and pride. The boys talked of how they wanted to be soldiers or police officers when they grew up, so they could get "the bad guys."

The quiet reflection and thankfulness ended almost immediately when we got home. The television was turned on and the kids were quickly asking for everything advertised. It's as if we all know that as soon as Remembrance Day ceremonies are over we can all start thinking that Christmas is coming.

Do we have to jump the gun so quickly?

All the commercials that aired Saturday were asking us to remember our war heroes. By yesterday afternoon we were being beaten over

the head to hurry up and buy stuff for people.

When I think of Remembrance Day, I think of the soldiers in battles past who were often far from their families at Christmas. Some of them never made it home.

This is not to say that I always agree with our government going to war, but I do pray for the soldiers to make it home alive, and hopefully be with their families soon.

It seems to me that we are encouraged to quickly put the memories of soldiers long gone aside so we can start going into debt for the holidays.

Listen, I am far from a Scrooge. I am the first person to start singing Christmas carols and watching White Christmas. My husband and I like to be Santa's helpers and to bring a smile to our kids.

Having said that, we seem to be a generation of people who actually believes that acquiring things will bring happiness.

Remembering the fallen soldiers of the past and thinking of those who are overseas now, I am incredibly grateful to be with my family. I am proud to be a Canadian and I hope I can help my kids to remember the real meaning of Christmas. It's not just what they might get, but what they can give.

I hope that as we are encouraged to think of others in the Christmas season, we will not forget the heroes who have died or those fighting overseas right now.

*Meghan French of Kitchener is an aspiring writer who has lived in several communities across Canada.*

Monday, November 19, 2007  
 Meghan French, For The Record  
 Section: Veterans

## Veterans Ombusman



Announced on April 3, 2007, the Veterans Ombudsman is an impartial, arms-length and independent officer with the responsibility to assist Veterans to pursue their concerns and advance their issues.

The Veterans Ombudsman will be effective and play an important role in raising the awareness of the needs and concerns of Veterans and will enhance the confidence of Veterans that their views are important.

The Ombudsman will uphold the Veterans Bill of Rights and will review individual and systemic issues arising from it.

On October 15, 2007, the Minister of Veterans Affairs announced the appointment of **COLONEL Patrick B. STOGRAN, MSC, CD** as the first Veterans Ombudsman, effective November 11, 2007

Colonel Stogran spent his teenage years in Richmond, B.C. before attending Royal Roads Military College in August 1976. Graduating from the Royal Military College of Canada in 1980 with a degree in Electrical Engineering, he was posted to the Third Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Victoria. During this time, he was employed as a Rifle Platoon Commander for two years, Mortar Platoon Commander for three years, and completed his tour as Operations Captain.

In January of 1986, Colonel Stogran attended Division I of the Technical Staff Course at the Royal Military College of Sciences in Shrivenham, England. The following year, he joined the Light Armoured Vehicle Project Office in Ottawa where he participated in drafting the formal Statement of Requirement that led to the recent

acquisitions of the Coyote and LAV III. A tour with the Canadian Airborne Regiment was to follow, cut short by promotion to major and a subsequent posting to the First Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Calgary to be a Mechanized Company Commander. He served in this capacity for three years during which time his company participated in training in dismounted operations in Norway, urban warfare in the United States, and mountain operations in the Rockies. This was followed by a yearlong secondment to the United Nations as a Military Observer in Bosnia where, as the Team Leader in the enclave of Gorazde during the Serbian offensive of April 1994, he was Mentioned-in-Dispatch for courage under fire.

Upon returning to Canada in 1994, Colonel Stogran attended the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College. In July 1995, he was posted to the Australian Army Land Warfare Centre. As a formation-level tactics instructor, Colonel Stogran was the subject matter expert in manoeuvre warfare theory, mechanized operations, and non-combatant evacuation operations.

Promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel Stogran returned to Canada and took up a position with the Department of Applied Military Sciences at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ont. As a Directing Staff instructing military technologies and project management on the Land Force Technical Staff Program, Colonel Stogran was personally responsible for the preparation and delivery of all aspects of the Modern Weapons and Military Vehicles Courses. Colonel Stogran is licensed as a Professional Engineer in the province of Ontario.

Colonel Stogran assumed command of 3 PPCLI in September 2000. The Battalion became the Immediate Reaction Force (Land) in April 2001 and deployed to Afghanistan on Operation APOLLO/ENDURING FREEDOM in February 2002, marking the first time Canada has committed to ground combat operations since the Korean War. During the tour the Battalion launched the first combat air assault mission in the history of the Canadian Army and conducted

numerous defensive and offensive combat missions at section, platoon, company and battle group level.

After returning from Afghanistan, Colonel Stogran was posted to National Defence Headquarters with the Land Staff. He is currently the Associate Director General of Science and Technology Operations at Defence Research and Development Canada.

Much of Colonel Stogran's spare time is consumed by his passion for martial arts and related training, as he holds a second degree black belt in Karate with over thirty years of experience internationally. However, the source of his greatest enjoyment is quality time spent with his family.

**The Ombudsman's office should be fully operational by early in the new year. In the meantime, you can contact them at 1-877-330-4343 or write to them at P.O Box 18, Stn B, Ottawa ON K1P 6C3.**

Tuesday, November 20, 2007  
Veterans Affairs Canada  
Section: Veterans

**Kevin Klein had knee surgery.**



Kevin Klein had knee surgery at St. Mary's Hospital on Nov. 20th. He will be laid up for 4 weeks.

Tuesday, November 20, 2007  
Vivian Peddle, Sick and Visiting  
Section: Sick and Visiting

**Ron Cuthbert In Hospital**



Ron Cuthbert is in Victoria Hospital in London having surgery.

Please, no visitation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you Ron!

Get well soon!

Wednesday, November 21, 2007  
Vivian Peddle  
Section: Sick and Visiting

**Ottawa: Victory Medal to be purchased with donation from sailor's widow**



So far away from where he was buried at sea in 1966, Lieutenant John Leonard Young was dearly remembered on this brisk day, November 5, in the office of the Chief of the Maritime Staff, Vice-Admiral Drew Robertson.

Lt Young's widow, Elsie Gates, recently triggered a series of events that culminated in the presentation of a cheque for \$2 500 to be relayed to the Maritime Command Museum in Halifax on the behalf of the fallen officer.

Mrs. Gates had a collection of documents from her father, a First World War veteran, which she decided to present to the Canadian War Museum. The documents were more of an Army nature, and more suited to the Canadian War Museum than the Maritime Command Museum.

In exchange for her gesture, she received \$2 500, which she decided to donate, through VAdm Robertson, to the Maritime Command Museum for the acquisition of a Victory Medal. This medal was awarded to Albert Charles Mattison, an acting Bosun's Mate, for lifesaving at sea during the Halifax Explosion of December 6, 1917.

Through the tireless work of the Friends of Canadian War Museum, including Marie-Ann de Chastelain and Colonel (Ret) Gerry Holtzhauner, as well as Marilyn Gurney, director of

the Maritime Command Museum, this event was able to take place.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Gates, 91, was unable to attend the event for health reasons, and her daughter Pamela Abma, along with her son-in-law Hank Abma, were there to represent her.

"We are so very proud to be able to honour the memory of my father by helping to purchase and preserve a Victory Medal," Ms. Abma said.

VAdm Robertson was moved by the gesture, thanking the family and emphasizing the fact that the Halifax Explosion is still very much remembered in Nova Scotia, and to this day continues to highlight the need for maritime safety.

"The medal will make a great memento of the dedication and sacrifice of sailors from the Great Wars, and we can only hope that it will be an inspiration for our young sailors in today's Navy," said VAdm Robertson.

Once purchased, the Victory Medal will be placed on display at the Maritime Command Museum.

Capt Courtemanche is a PAO working with Maritime Staff PA

Friday, November 23, 2007  
Capt C.F. Courtemanche, The Maple Leaf  
Section: Veterans

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