



Air Force Association of Canada (Ontario Group)

Royal Canadian Air Force 441 (Huronia) Wing



Memorial wall coming to Peacekeepers' Park

Unveiling takes place Aug. 9

Published Wednesday, July 27, 2011 - Simcoe.com
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ANGUS - Soon Peacekeepers' Park in Angus will be home to a new monument.

A memorial wall will officially be unveiled at the park this coming Peacekeepers' Day on Aug. 9.

"The wall will have a roll of honour with the 274 names of those killed from 1951 to the present," said Fern Taillefer, vice-president of the Huronia chapter of the Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping. "These will include the four civilians killed, but we know that more names will unfortunately have to be added in future."

According to Angus resident Irwin Collier, it will bolster the memorial site by giving it a more personal touch. He said it will also partner well with the peacekeepers' monument that was erected at the park three years ago.

"It's beautiful, I'm so enthused, you have no idea," said Collier, a longtime member and past president of the Angus Legion. Collier played a pivotal role in the founding of Peacekeepers' Park in 2004, the same year Peacekeepers' Day was officially recognized.

The day is in honour of those who sacrificed their lives while serving in peacekeeping roles, as well as for current and former service personnel.

It recognizes members of the Canadian Forces, the RCMP and other civilian personnel who have served in NATO missions or in other capacities.

Two of the names on the wall share a strong connection with the community. Acting Master Warrant Officer Cyril Korejwo and Cpl. Bruce Stringer, both from Angus, along with seven other Canadians were killed Aug. 9, 1974 after a plane they were aboard flying over Syria was shot down. To date, it's considered the largest single-day loss of Canadian lives during a peacekeeping mission. Peacekeepers' Day was inaugurated on the 30th anniversary of the tragedy.

"Paying tribute to their sacrifices is important and come Aug. 9 this will enhance our ability to do that, and we will continually do so year after year," Collier said.

For the Aug. 9 event, a flag raising will be held at 9 a.m. at Base Borden's north gate on Mill Street. A procession will then make its way north to Peacekeepers' Park. By 11 a.m. the official ceremony will begin, starting with a prayer session. The new memorial wall will be unveiled at this time.

A Barrie sign company, Curbex, is co-ordinating the project and estimates the total cost to create and install the memorial to be \$40,000.

Collier admitted if it weren't for generosity from businesses and the community the park would never have come to fruition. The parkland at the memorial site was donated by the township, and Collier said it will be important for others to think likewise in order to keep the memorial's legacy alive, especially when more names have to be added to the wall.

"It's a very, very expensive venture and we will be looking for future fundraising," he said.

To make a donation, please use the following contacts: In Angus/Borden, call Scott Mullen at 705-424-5818; In Barrie call Fern Taillefer at 705-727-1746 or 416-393-2082; in Bradford call Mike Comeau at 905-775-0616.

