



# Islanders Remember the Sacrifice

November 11

*we will never forget... We Will Remember Them*

## 3 Nov 2018 Mike Duffy on the Valkenburg's Borden-Carleton Cenotaph Research Project

Last Friday night was blustery and wet. Days of non-stop pelting rain turned fields to mud. It was the kind of wet soaking weather in which Canadians fought some of the bloodiest battles of the first world war.

War is hell. But war in trenches filled with water, mud and vermin is unimaginable to anyone who didn't live through it.

Those were my thoughts Friday evening as I drove through the torrents of rain from the Cavendish to the cozy warmth of South Shore United Church.

There, Pieter and Daria Valkenburg of Tryon were telling their neighbours about the Borden-Carleton Cenotaph Research Project, their personal tribute to the young men from this area who gave their lives in the Great War, WW2 and the conflicts since.

On Thursday November 1st, in The Senate of Canada, I was delighted to pay tribute to the Valkenburg's and their im-

portant work.

"The Borden-Carleton Cenotaph Research Project is a remarkable labour of love, respect and thanks. It was initiated by Daria and Pieter Valkenburg of North Tryon PEI.

When one visits the battlefields of North-West Europe, one cannot but be impressed by the way in which the people of those liberated countries remember the sacrifice made by our Canadian "boys" so far from home.

I can think of no one who has done more to remember the sacrifice of Islanders than Daria and Pieter Valkenburg.

In his professional career, Pieter Valkenburg was a Dutch diplomat who served in Canada. He and his wife Daria retired to the rolling hills of North Tryon, PEI.

They brought their energy and unbridled enthusiasm for the Canadians who liberated Holland, Pieter's home country, to the Borden-

Carleton branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

There is a lovely granite memorial outside the Borden Legion, on which are inscribed the names of 48 young Islanders who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Who were these young men? – And those on the memorial are all young men –

Who were they, from where did they come, before they gave their lives for people they had never met in a land far away?

The Valkenburgs set out to answer those questions. They call it the Borden-Carleton Cenotaph Research Project, and slowly, soldier by soldier, they have put together photographs, letters and historical notes - a touching tribute to the war dead.

As a separate project, the Valkenburgs are helping researchers in The Netherlands who are looking for photos and information on Canadian soldiers buried in The Netherlands.



### Cavendish Memorial

Dedicated to the memory of Canadians who died overseas in the service of their country and so preserved our heritage. They will never know the beauty of this place, see the season change, enjoy nature's chorus. All we enjoy, we owe to these men and women who lie buried in the earth of foreign lands and in the Seven Seas.

This memorial was erected by Parks Canada in memory of all Canadian war dead.

### New Glasgow Memorial

Those Who Served.

This memorial was erected by the families of the veterans of the First and Second World Wars and Korean War commemorated on the stone. It was constructed on land donated by the New Glasgow Cemetery Board and unveiled on 23 November 1995.

At a time when Legions in all parts of Canada are struggling, the Valkenburgs and the Legionnaires of Borden-Carleton deserve our

thanks for their work to keep-alive the memory of young Islanders who gave their lives in the defence of freedom. We are in their debt!

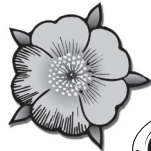
*Cavendish resident Mike Duffy represents PEI in The Senate of Canada.*



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