

For Immediate Release

Friday, December 1, 2017

Names of Paris Veterans who made the Ultimate Sacrifice to be Added to the Paris Cenotaph

County of Brant, ON - The Paris Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29 is partnering with the County of Brant to add the names of Paris Veterans who were killed in World War I and II to the Paris Cenotaph. The community's help is needed to gather information.

The project was proposed as far back as the early 1990s by surviving Veterans who served in the Great War, but had never gained the needed support until recently. The Cenotaph grounds are owned by the County of Brant and, with Council's blessing, the project can now move forward.

President of the Paris Legion, Andy Moran and members of the Executive are all pleased with the proposed project. "It's just the right time with the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I and the 150th Anniversary of Confederation," Moran commented during a Great War Centenary Association meeting. The GWCA has 5 members; some who have volunteered for 10 years researching and cataloguing a large interactive online database to include the Veterans' names, stories and photos.

"Currently, we have two lists of Veterans names that will be added on the Paris Cenotaph," said Geoffrey Moyer, member of the GWCA. The lists include names of soldiers who were killed during the First World War between August 4, 1914 and August 31, 1921 and the Second World War, between September 3, 1939 and December 31, 1947. "However, when the names were originally gathered after the First World War, some of those killed in action were missed," explained Moyer. "There are many reasons why soldiers were missed. Many had come to work in Paris at Penman's or other local businesses when the war broke out, were enlisted and went overseas to fight in World War I. If they were killed in action or died of tuberculosis, many times their widow would return to their hometown to be closer to family, particularly if children were involved. When gathering the names of those who died, in the early 1920's, soldiers were missed because their loved ones had moved out of the area."

Some soldier's names were also spelled incorrectly so public input is needed. "We are looking for verification from family members that we have the correct spelling," added Moran. It is hoped that family members will also be able to provide photos of their loved ones who fought in both WWI and WWII.

A public meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 30, 2018 in the Council Chambers located at 7 Broadway Street West, Paris. The Open House is from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, followed by a presentation by Geoffrey Moyer at 7:00 pm and ending with a question and answer period.

Paris and area residents are encouraged to attend, bring photos and share stories of their family members who fought in the wars. Residents can also learn of sites they can visit to feel connected to the veterans who gave up their lives and made the ultimate sacrifice.

The Paris Legion is looking for donations towards the cost of adding the names to the Cenotaph. Moran said, "The County of Brant is offering administrative help to organize this project but we are looking to the community for funding. All donations are tax deductible and we are hoping this is something the community will embrace."

If you would like more information, please call Carol Moore, Development Services Clerk, County of Brant, at 519.442.6324 ext. 3013 or visit the County website www.brant.ca/veterans

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For More Information:

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