

MEMORIAL ENCLAVES VETERANS' PLACE at GORE PARK

**A Series of Enclaves That Allow
Reflection and Celebration of Service
to Country and Community**



CONCEPT

Looking west through the pedestrian pathway there are 9 two sided panels each bearing a meaningful word selected through the focus group process which involved several community and veterans groups. Each panel has a main image and title on a coloured patch. The blue patch is taken from the shoulder patch of 2rd Canadian Division as worn by the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry in the Second World War. The green patch is taken from the 4th Canadian Division in which the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders served.

Enclave Panel Design Elements. In designing the panels that will define Veterans' Place and surround the Cenotaph, a conscious effort was made to, where possible, maximize use of the following elements.

- Traditional war service (First and Second World Wars) that is anchored by the Cenotaph and the classic inscription on it.
- Modern operational and peacekeeping service (from Second World War – Korea to Afghanistan and including the “Cold War”).
- Elements that reflect the nature of Hamilton as a Garrison City and Industrial centre.
- Use of images that portray where possible units and people that reflect Hamilton and the surrounding communities in Southwestern Ontario
- The changing nature of the Canadian Forces.
- The changing nature of service, sacrifice and remembrance from the era of the traditional to that of the modern veteran and their families.
- The maple leaf in badges and Canadian flags wherever possible are highlighted in red on black and white/gray scale images throughout the enclave.

INDIVIDUAL PANEL DESIGNS

Panel 1 – VALOUR. The major image is “Over the Top” highlighting the nature of valour and sacrifice in the First World War. Other images reflect the different perspectives on valour including the creation of the Canadian

Victoria Cross, the nature of service with the Merchant Marine during the Second World War, and with the Infantry in Korea.

Panel 2 - FREEDOM. The main image in this panel shows a children's party conducted by Canadian soldiers for children in liberated Holland in 1945. Other images also highlight the nature of the liberation of the Netherlands in 1945 by 1st Canadian Army.

Panel 3 – DUTY. This panel reflects several interpretations of Duty and with it the nature of self and military discipline. The main image shows Canadian soldiers practicing urban operations drills for service in Afghanistan. Others reflect on the nature of duty during the Cold War and during the Second World War and with the Royal Canadian Navy.

Panel 4 – COMARADARIE. The bonds of comradeship are a major source of strength and courage in any conflict. The major image shows Cogwagee of the Six Nations, who left his career as a championship athlete to serve as a dispatch runner in the First World War and served as Pte Tom Longboat. Other images portray the concept through the faces of Hamiltonians in the Second World War and in Afghanistan.

Panel 5 – HONOUR. The main image is that of the original dedication of the Cenotaph in Gore Park and is designed to connect it to the "Veterans' Place" that now will frame it, and to tell the story of generations of Hamiltonians and their families through images that portray their pride, service and sacrifice.

Panel 6 – LOYALTY. In this case the major image portrays the traditional idea of loyalty to 'Crown and Country' in a modern image taken from the Royal Visit of 2002. Lincoln Alexander is also shown in one of the images connecting the community through the memory of one of our most loyal and well-respected citizens.

Panel 7 – HOPE. The main image shows a soldier in Afghanistan offering a hand of hope to a young Afghan. Other images portray Canadians bringing hope through UN humanitarian relief efforts in Haiti and during the liberation of Holland in the Second World War.

(Note. Panels 8 and 9 - The REMEMBRANCE AND SACRIFICE panels are the two which "shoulder" the cenotaph. Images for them, have been specially selected. The bottom border showing rows of Canadian war graves in Normandy runs across the bottom of both panels).

Panel 8 – REMEMBRANCE. The main panel shows a modern 'Act of Remembrance' in Afghanistan. Other elements show elements of Canadian Remembrance from Vimy, Dieppe and the area of Stalag Luft III where Canadians were killed as part of the "Great Escape" in March 1944. Also

portrayed are traditional poppies placed on the Tomb of the Unknown in Ottawa, an example of the changing nature of commemoration and Remembrance in Canada.

Panel 9 – SACRIFICE. The main image is a reminder of the nature of Canadian Sacrifice in the modern era where, unlike previous conflicts, the bodies of our fallen were brought home to Canada for burial beginning their journey with an in-theatre Ramp Ceremony. This image shows a Canadian soldier on his way home to Hamilton in November 2006. Other images include members of the RHLI in 1944 performing an act of remembrance at the graves of comrades killed at Dieppe. Also shown is a depiction of the outpouring of support by thousands of individual Canadians for 158 fallen who returned from Afghanistan to Canada along the Highway of Heroes. Other images show the CP telegrams used to notify families of the loss of a loved one during the Second World War.

Panel 10 – OVERSEAS. Images portray Canadians serving around the world from Korea to Afghanistan and also how wherever they go they take some parts of Canada, including Hockey, with them.

Panel 11 – VOLUNTEERS. For 100 years Hamiltonians have ‘stepped up’ and volunteered to serve their country and their community at home and around the world. The main image shows a group of the over 8000 sailors of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve(RCNVR) who departed from the Hamilton station for Halifax and service on Corvettes. Other images portray women volunteering for service with the Canadian Women’s Army Corps in the Second World War and with the RCAF.

Panel 12 – PRIDE. This is a panel where interpretation of the term can mean different things to different people – soldiers; families; citizens, etc. The main effort portrays it through the Royal Canadian Air Force. The oldest image shows the parading of the 91st Highlanders in front of the Prince of Wales during the Quebec Tercentenary in 1908.

Panel 13 – HUMANITY. The main image shows the operation of pediatric clinic by the Canadian Forces in Afghanistan. Other images portray it in the faces of soldiers, sailors and airmen and women of different eras.

Panel 14 – DEDICATION. The dedication of members of the Canadian Forces is portrayed through images of veterans of all eras. The main image shows a female sailor serving as a member of the Ship’s Boarding Party standing watch in South Asia. One image shows a Canadian soldier doing routine maintenance on NATO Cold War Exercise in Germany in 1980 while another shows a group of RHLI Dieppe Veterans at the opening of the Dieppe Monument in Hamilton keeping faith with absent friends after 72 years.

Panel 15 – HOMECOMING. Images of successive generations coming home from overseas. The main image is that of the last contingent returning from Afghanistan being met at Ottawa by the Governor General.

Panel 16 – LEAVING. The main image shows soldier leaving by train from Hamilton in 1939. Other images show Canadians boarding a CF C17 aircraft for Afghanistan.

Panel 17 – COMMUNITY. This panel shows the evolving nature of community support from Second World War tin drives by children in Hamilton in the main image.

Panel 18 – HOMEFRONT. This panel and its main image highlight the nature of support on the home front and of Hamilton as a wartime centre of defence industry. One image highlights the Hamilton Police Service Yellow Ribbon Campaign during the Afghanistan conflict which saw the Canadian Forces flag shown over Hamilton Police Headquarters until the last Canadian came home from Afghanistan. Also shown are a range of bond drive, recruiting and support activity posters ranging from the First World War to present.