

Wall of Remembrance planned for Kingston

Posted Sep 30, 2010

BY STEPHEN PETRICK

EMC News - Military supporters are on a mission to build a one-of-a-kind war memorial in Kingston - one that would honour every Canadian soldier to ever die on the battlefield.

Dozens gathered at the Royal Canadian Legion 560 last Thursday for the launch of the National Wall of Remembrance Association.

Executives with the new group unveiled their plans to build a monument that would contain the names of about 117,000 Canadian war dead. That would include those who died in conflicts even earlier than the War of 1812 to those who've died in the present mission in Afghanistan.

"This will put Kingston on the map in a unique way," said Terrence Cottrell, a member of the group's advisory board.

Association Chairman Allan Jones said the project will likely cost \$4 million to \$5 million. The group hopes to have a shovel in the ground by Remembrance Day 2011. If it meets that goal, the memorial could be up by 2016, he said.

It's a tall order, but he said it's a realistic goal, considering the support the association has already received. The association already has 20 members, including Speaker of the House of Commons Peter Milliken and local philanthropist Britton Smith. Executives are already identifying corporate sponsors and Jones said some donations have already come in.

He said the bulk of fundraising will come from advertisers to a national magazine the association is publishing, called the Limestone Review.

Cottrell spoke confidently about the project, as if it's already a done deal.

"This will happen in Kingston," he said. "It will go forward."

Organizers said the memorial will not likely have all of the some-117,000 names physically etched on it, such a project would likely be too large to build. Right now the idea is to have a "virtual component" to it.

Cottrell said the association visions a monument in which the names of various wars are written on a panel. The visitor would then touch the panel and have the ability to search names electronically.

He also said there's a strong possibility that the monument will be located at Legion 560, a move he said would help the city in its mission to further develop the north end.

"If plans go right, negotiations come to fruition, that location might very well be here at Branch 560," he said.

In any event, Kingston is the right location for such a monument, Jones said.

"It's a military town. It's the home of CFB Kingston, RMC, HMCS Catarauqui, Fort Frontenac. It just makes sense."

He said there are several monuments across the country that honour Canadians who died in individual wars, but none like this one, in which all are honoured.

"It's important because we need to remember our fallen comrades," he said. "These are the people who made us free."

For more information on the campaign, visit www.worassociation.ca. Jones stressed that while the association is supported by many Legion 560 members, it is not an official Legion 560 project.



Stephen Petrick, Kingston EMC
Allan Jones, the chairman for the new National Wall of Remembrance Association, announces plans for a new war memorial in Kingston, during a ceremony at Legion 560 last Thursday.