

■ TRIBUTE: Hoselton sculptures support Branch 187 Poppy Fund

Maple leaves pay it forward

MANDY MARTIN

For Northumberland Today

COLBORNE — Red aluminum maple leaves are proving a poignant tribute that pay it forward.

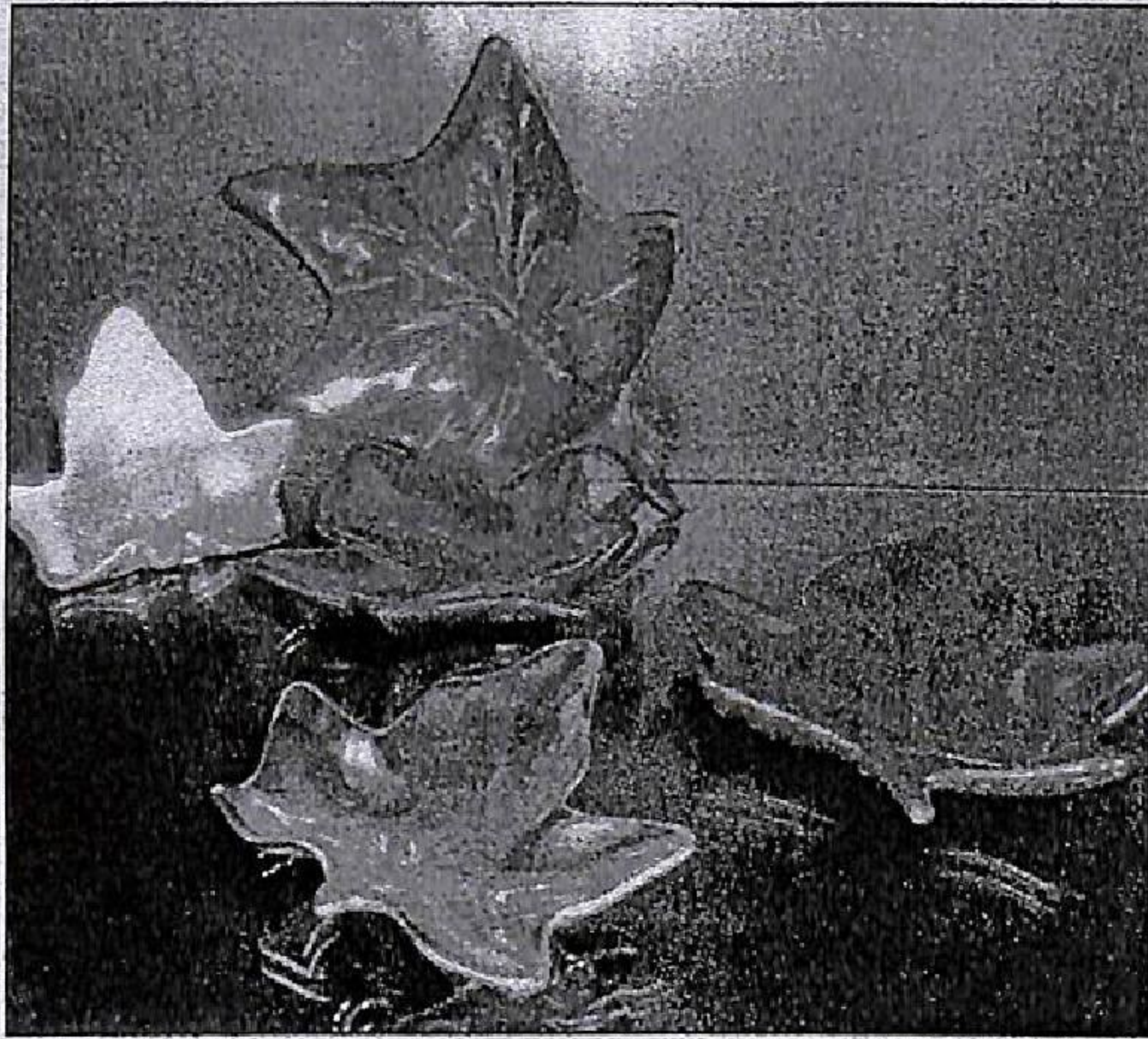
It was a rough week for Canada. Oct. 20, Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent was run down by a car in Quebec. Two days later, Corp. Nathan Cirillo was gunned down while standing guard at the National War Memorial in Ottawa.

The day Cirillo was to be carried down the Highway of Heroes, "I felt compelled to go out to the bridge," Jan Hoselton, CEO of Hoselton Studios in Colborne, recalls. "I just felt — united with Canada."

Learning the procession was significantly delayed, she returned to her office, wrestling with her thoughts, searching for something that would capture "the most Canadian thing. I came up with the basic red maple leaf and so I posted an image on Facebook. I put it up in honour of Cirillo and Vincent."

There was immediate response.

"People liked it. They said they wanted to purchase one! That was never my intention! I just put the image up because it represented the most Canadian thing to me that day. But



MANDY MARTIN PHOTO

Three red maple leaf Hoselton Studios designs commemorate Corp. Nathan Cirillo WO Patrice Vincent, the Canadian Forces personnel killed in October. For every red leaf sold, a donation is made to the Poppy Fund of the Colborne Legion.

people said it was beautiful and they wanted one. I struggled with that for two days."

Hoselton Studios produces world-famous aluminum sculptures.

"Then I realized we could make a donation if people purchased a red maple leaf," Hoselton says. "That would

look after the people asking for them and allow our staff to produce them and make a donation to the Colborne Legion Poppy Fund in their name so that I could sleep peacefully without profiting from someone's demise."

Hoselton approached Br. 187 of the Royal Canadian Legion



Jan Hoselton, left in red, and Team Hoselton have included the red maple leaf design commemorating Corp. Nathan Cirillo and WO Patrice Vincent at the two-day annual Hoselton Studios public open house in Colborne. For every red leaf sold, a donation is made to the Poppy Fund of the Colborne Legion.

in Colborne and was pleased the Poppy Fund supports veterans and has strict rules about how funds are used.

"At our annual open house, we always pick a charity of choice. This year, we asked if we could sponsor the Colborne Legion Poppy Fund. I know our team here is feeling good about

it," Hoselton says.

Three red maple leaf designs were produced: the largest, \$37, includes a \$10 donation; the \$30 leaf a \$5 donation; and the \$20 leaf a \$3 donation to the poppy fund.

Even before the Nov. 15 and 16 Hoselton Studios open house, 240 red maple leaf

designs had been sold, another 80 the first day of the open house.

While there were 10 left as of Nov. 15, Hoselton says orders will be taken up to Dec. 1, 2014. For more information, visit www.hoselton.com or e-mail jan@hoselton.com or phone 905-355-3933

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