

# A 1.18-km stretch of Highway of Heroes adopted in honour of Grafton's Major Michelle Mendes

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Major remembered Nov. 13

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GRAFTON -- Grafton's Major Michelle Mendes, who died in Afghanistan in 2009, now has a part of the Highway of Heroes in her name.

Maj. Mendes, 30, an intelligence officer, was found dead in her room at the Kandahar Airfield, on April 23, 2009. She was the 118th Canadian soldier - and first Northumberland born and raised - to die in the Middle East, since Canada became involved in the war in Afghanistan.

A sign now marks an 1.18-kilometre stretch of the Highway of Heroes at the Grafton exit in memory of Major Michelle Knight Mendes. The highway was adopted in her honour recently thanks to a fellow Canadian soldier.

Former Master Corporal Collin Fitzgerald wanted to find a way to honour Maj. Mendes close to Grafton where she grew up, said Kerri Tadeu who was friends with Mendes for 10 years. Maj. Mendes' parents Ron and Dianne Knight live in the Grafton area.

Fitzgerald was awarded the Medal of Military Valour for aiding wounded comrades in a burning vehicle under enemy fire in 2006. He has since suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. Tadeu and Fitzgerald developed a close brother-and-sister-type relationship after meeting, said Tadeu. Although he never met Mendes,

Fitzgerald feels a connection to her story. "Michelle and I didn't know each other. It's in Michelle death that my life was saved," Fitzgerald said. "Kerri was witness to my suffering and my commitment to end my suffering and she reached out and made a commitment to me to help me to help myself and move from pain to purpose."

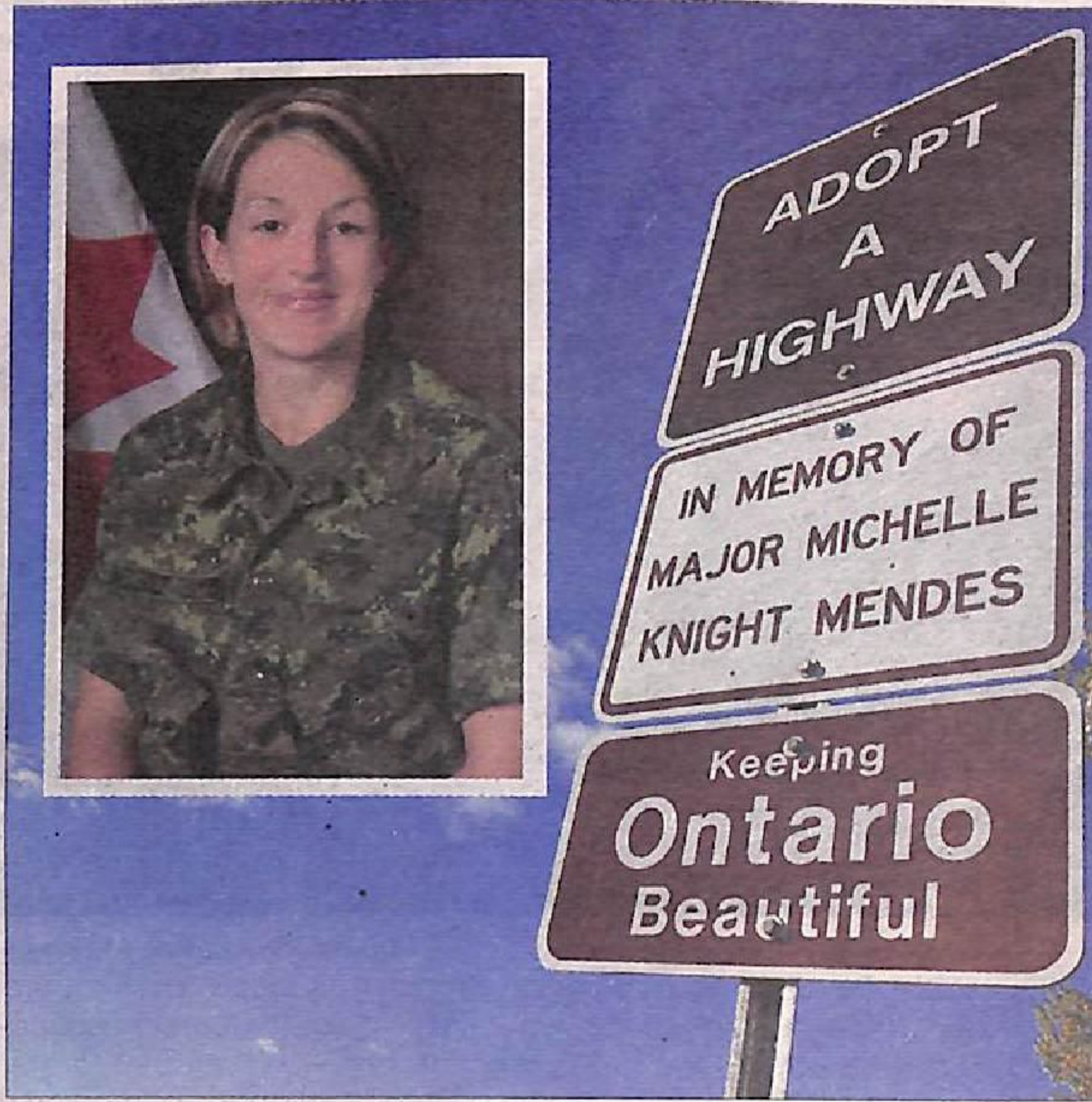
Fitzgerald heard through his friend Nick Kerr about the Adopt A Highway program and decided to pursue the honour for Mendes. The distance was chosen because she was the 118th Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan.

Kerr, Fitzgerald and Tadeu plan to remember Mendes on Nov. 13 at 11 a.m. at the Lyle Street exit of Hwy. 401. They welcome the public to join them. They also plan to clean both sides of the Highway on that day.

Mendes was an accomplished soldier. She was earning a master's degree in conflict analysis and resolution at Ottawa's Carleton University in 2003. Her first tour in Afghanistan was also cut short. She was deployed as an intelligence officer in August 2006 ahead of Operation Medusa, a full-scale clash with the Taliban in Kandahar's Panjwahi district. Military officials said she was injured in an incident they would not disclose and was treated at Landstuhl military hospital in Germany before returning home.

For more information on the initiative visit the Facebook page: Adopt A Highway In Memory of Major Michelle Knight Mendes.

-- With files from the Toronto Star



Submitted photo, Department of National Defence photo (inset) GRAFTON -- A sign is now posted on Hwy. 401 in Memory of Major Michelle Knight Mendes (inset). The 1.18 kilometre stretch of the Highway of Heroes was adopted in her honour.

# Family members remembered for service

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Joan Diminie of Cobourg shares photos of several family members who served our country.

Another relative, Private George Berton Pearson served with the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles. He was killed on Vimy Ridge in April 1917.



Sergeant William Frederick Diminie Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment WWII - 1939-1945



Private Albert John Thomas Deviney Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force WWI - 1916-1918



Private William Harold Beatty Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force WWI - 1916-1918



Lieutenant Douglas Johnstone Coulter Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force, WWII Enlisted in the Cobourg Heavy Battery



Master Warrant Officer Ray Franklin Price Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps, 1949-1974, serving Egypt, Germany, Yukon, New Brunswick, Quebec, 26 COD Cobourg

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KNIGHT, M. "Jean" - Peacefully at home in Brighton on Saturday, November 5, 2015, age 88 years. Jean Knight, daughter of the late William Ferguson and the late Lena (Stevenson). Beloved wife of the late James Henry Knight. Loving mother of Roger Knight and his wife Diane and Ron Knight and his wife Dianne. Predeceased by her daughter Wendy Knight. Sister of the late Audrey, Willa, Ola, Grace, Stella, Bruce, Wilfred, Delbert, Bob, Clayton and Ken. Sadly missed by her grandchildren, Sarah, David, Melissa, Andrew, Heather, Amber, her ten great grandchildren, and her many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by granddaughter Michelle. A private Graveside Service will be held at a later date. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society, or Trinity St. Andrews United Church, Brighton, would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements in care of the Brighton Funeral Home (613-475-2121). The Family would like to thank all health care professionals who have assisted in the care of our mother.  
www.rushnalfamilyservices.com.