

# Plaque to hang at Remembrance Park

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Shel Lawr, a Second World War veteran and Branch 120 Legion member, was asked to take the plaque from the Legion, to the maintenance garage at the cemetery for storage. He was met by a Town of Halton Hills employee, and they leaned the plaque against the wall, and it was eventually slid behind some other items.

And there it sat— for 20 years.

Fast forwarding to last month, Lawr read a story in *The Independent & Free Press* about a group of Grade 11 Georgetown District High School students working on a project to have the two bronze plaques at the high school, with 22 names of students and a teacher who died, established in a more prominent location in the school, to give those who had died a more fitting remembrance.

Immediately, Lawr remembered the long-lost Provincial Paper plaque, tucked away at the Greenwood Cemetery building.

"I remembered it like it was yesterday," said Lawr. "I recall it was quite a size, and I sure remember it was heavy as hell to move. I carried it to the building myself, then a Town employee gave me a hand moving it inside."

Inquiries were made to Warren Harris, Manager of Parks and Open Spaces with the Town of Halton Hills, asking him to track it down. Harris immediately sent a staff member over to investigate the whereabouts of the long-lost plaque.

Just as Lawr had described it, the plaque was still leaning behind a cupboard, pretty much in the same place that it had been placed 20 years before.

With the discovery of the plaque, the next question was "What do we do with it?"

The idea was rehashed about placing it in Greenwood— its original destination— but after Lawr read the plaque closely, he noted that it said "the men of Provincial Paper Limited who gave their lives..."

"Once I realized that the inscription read 'gave their lives' I knew it had to be placed in the Remembrance Park," said Lawr. "That's the proper place, where we all go to remember our war dead."

Lawr then contacted Martin Boomsma and Tom Schenk, who oversee any changes or additions to Remembrance Park, located at the corner of Charles St. and James St.

After Boomsma and Schenk met with Lawr at the Greenwood Cemetery building to take a look at the plaque, they both agreed it should be placed at Remembrance Park

"It is the proper place for it," said Schenk. "It will find a home at Remembrance Park, where we all honour those who died in the wars. We aren't sure where it will be placed just yet, but we will decide that soon."

After two decades, the heavy bronze plaque will once again return to its original purpose, reminding those who pass by and read the names, that 18 hard-working mill workers gave their lives in the pursuit of freedoms that we all enjoy today.

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