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PHOTO BY PETER MCCUSKER

Corporal Graham Williams of the Lorne Scots Regiment takes a quiet moment during the dedication service at the unveiling of the Trafalgar Memorial in Oakville.

Oakville memorial pays tribute to Trafalgar Township veterans

BY BERNADETTE WARD

It's been a long time getting from there to here, but at long last the Trafalgar Memorial stands in testament to the soldiers and their families of Trafalgar Township.

"It's great that after so many years of planning and preparation, we've unveiled the memorial for the people of Oakville," said Jeff Knoll, Regional and Town Councillor, Ward 5.

The culmination of over four years of work was unveiled before more than 200 veterans, residents and politicians braving a frigid November 10 at Uptown Core's Memorial Park at Central Park Drive and Oak Park Boulevard in Oakville.

"It's the highlight of my time on council, being able to see this come to fruition," said Knoll.

Given that this was the Year of the Veteran, the timing was especially meaningful acknowledged Mayor Ann Mulvale.

"This memorial will be a lasting legacy for our Town. It is a special acknowledgement of Trafalgar Township residents who answered the call of duty to serve our country for the benefit of future generations so that we can live in peace today," said Mulvale.

The memorial, a tribute to the original Trafalgar Memorial Hall which was damaged by a transport truck in 1986 and subsequently declared surplus by the Town, has been laid in the footprint of the original hall. Materials from the hall including steel lettering, bricks and stone panels have also been reclaimed and now form a part of the memorial.

Michelle Knoll, the local historian who took on the huge task of identifying the more than 600 names for the Honour Roll by combing records from churches, schools, town and cemetery records and the 1901 census, was thrilled with the success of the project.

"I am so pleased. It went really well," she said.

Michelle Knoll also expressed satisfaction about the location of the memorial as the Munn family originally owned and then donated the land. A benediction was given by Reverend Meg Grieve, pastor at Munn's United Church.

"It's not just a memorial to those who served, but to the families who settled here as well," she said last year in November during the ground breaking

ceremony.


The event was attended by many local and provincial politicians including Ted Chudleigh, MPP Halton, Gary Carr, MP Halton Regional, Chair Joyce Savoline, Milton Mayor Gord Krantz and Kevin Flynn, MPP Oakville.

Flynn, who in a previous incarnation was an Oakville councillor, was clearly pleased about the memorial.

"The Town really deserves to be congratulated on this," said Flynn.

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