



NEWS LOCAL

“Lost Villages” in Long Sault, Ontario - to be home to new National War Monument

Lois Ann Baker, Cornwall Standard-Freeholder

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A National War Monument to over 50,000 Canadians (at the time British North Americans) who fought in the American Civil War (1861-1865) will be constructed at the Lost Villages, in Long Sault, Ontario.

The Lost Villages (Long Sault, Ontario) will soon have the proud distinction of having a National War Monument.

The executive of the Lost Villages Historical Society, Ault Park and the Township of South Stormont, Ontario, announced they have entered into an agreement in principle with the Grays and Blues of Montreal, a mid-19th century living history re-enactment association, to provide in Ault Park appropriate land facilities and ongoing maintenance for the monument.

The monument will be dedicated to the memory of more than 50,000 Canadian (British North American) veterans who volunteered and fought during the American Civil War from 1861 to 1865. Although not a well known fact, the volunteers, mostly from Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland travelled to various northern or southern U.S. cities to enlist in the Federal, or Confederate, army or navy.

By the end of the war over 620,000 Americans on both sides, including several thousand Canadians, were killed. Most of these Canadian veterans have long since been forgotten.

Another little known fact is that 34 Canadians on the Federal side were awarded the U.S. Medal of Honour which is equivalent to Canada's Victoria Cross. In addition, four Canadian born officers were promoted to the rank of General. Today, almost 150 years later, no National Canadian War Monument exists to honour these 50,000 Canadian volunteer veterans.

"A National Monument dedicated to the memory of those Canadians who volunteered and fought in the American Civil War is long overdue," said Jim Brownell, president of the Lost Villages Historical Society, in a press release. "Thanks to the dedication of the Grays and Blues of Montreal and the American Civil War Historical Re-enactment Society, these Canadians will soon be memorialized at Ault Park. Historical research has proven that numerous veterans of this war were residents from the Lost Villages, and from many communities in Central and Eastern Ontario, as well as the province of Québec.

"The Lost Villages Museum site is an ideal location for this prestigious National Monument, and it has been a pleasure working with Rob McLachlan, and the other volunteers with the Grays and Blues of Montreal"

A majority of the contributions to the building of the monument, a price tag of around \$40,000, is intended to come from major and minor private organizations, as well as public donors, historical associations and many Canadians who "knowingly or unknowingly had ancestors who volunteered and fought in the American Civil War."

The monument will consist of a 14-ft. high black granite obelisk "Canadians in the U.S. Civil War Monument" and two two-by-eight-foot black granite side stones.

Leading up to the monument will be a small paved pedestrian walkway. The monument will be located at the Lost Villages facing County Road 2.

The anticipated timeframe for the dedication of the monument is July 1, 2017, marking the 150-year anniversary of Canadian Confederation.

"On behalf of the executive and members of GBM and the ACWHRS, I wish to thank both the Lost Villages Historical Society and the township of South Stormont, for their keenness, interest and support for this long overdue National Canadian Monument project," said Rob McLachlan, president of the Grays and Blues of Montreal. "In addition to commemorating our above mentioned ancestors, this monument will also pay tribute to hundreds of other historically known Canadians, who also served in this terrible war."

Outside Note - For more information on:

- a) The Lost Villages Historical Society, visit: www.lostvillages.ca
- b) The GBM Living History Group, visit: www.graysandbluesofmontreal.com
- c) The American Civil War Historical Re-enactment Society (ACWHRS), visit: www.acwhrs.com