



The Open Door

The Homes For Heroes Newsletter (March 2021)

ATCO Christmas Present for our Resident Veterans at 908 ATCO Village

ATCO kicked off the holiday season early at 908 ATCO Village in the community of Radisson, Calgary.

<https://youtu.be/l6yQ9lyYoog>



On November 22, 2020, with thousands of lights dancing to the carols, ATCO Village resident veterans stepped outside of their homes to witness a spectacular light celebration accompanied by Christmas music in their honour. ATCO's Chair & CEO, Nancy Southern, was onsite to thank veterans and to welcome 50 ATCO employees, executives, and their families, as they drove past with honks and hand painted signs to show their support of the vets and take in the lights.

“ATCO has a long tradition of working with the military, and we have a number of veterans employed across our organization. This holiday display is a special way to honour those who may have landed on difficult times, and to whom we owe a deep gratitude for their service in protecting our country,” said Nancy Southern, Chair & CEO, ATCO Ltd.



CEO, Chair and President ATCO, Nancy Southern and Ret'd Cpl and Village resident, Maria Derman hit the button to lift the spirits of Veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces who live at ATCO Village.



50 ATCO employees, executive and their families drive past the Village with horns honking and painted signs waving to thank our resident veterans for their service and to wish them a Merry Christmas.

As an extra holiday gift, ATCO matched \$100,000 in donations made to Homes For Heroes during the holiday season.

“Their team has been instrumental to the success and growth of our charity” says Dave Howard, President, Homes For Heroes Foundation. “This matching program and Christmas light display at the Calgary ATCO Veterans Village is a testament to their continued commitment to those who served our great country.”

Brigadier-General (Ret'd) Stephen Lacroix named as Honourary Chair of Homes For Heroes Foundation



BGen (Ret'd) Stephen Lacroix – seen here at the Grand Opening of 908 ATCO Village – our first Veterans' Village located in the community of Radisson, Calgary.

BGen (Ret'd) Stephen Lacroix has graciously accepted the position of Honourary Chair with Homes For Heroes Foundation. With over 35 years of service in the Canadian Armed Forces, **Stephen (Steve) Lacroix** is a proven strategic leader and brings a wealth of experience to our charity.

His military career has been evenly split between duty in the Canadian Army and strategic staff portfolios at National Defence Headquarters. His most recent role was as Commander of the 3rd Canadian Division/Joint Task Force-West where he had the privilege to lead and soldier with over 15,000 military and civilians in the four western provinces and two territories.

Stephen is fluently trilingual (English, French and Spanish) and is competent in Portuguese. He holds a Bachelor of Military Arts and Science, a Master of Defence Studies and a Master in Public Administration from the Royal Military College of Canada.

Following his retirement from the CAF, Stephen was appointed as the Managing Director of the Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA). He is currently seconded as the Executive Lead of a multi-disciplinary team of Alberta Public Service professionals, coordinating the delivery the COVID-19 vaccines to Albertans.

He is the Vice President of the Board of the Inter-American Defense Foundation, President

of the Trust of the 12^{ième} Régiment blindé du Canada Association, an Advisory Board Member of No Stone Left Alone, and a member of the Treble Victor Group. Steve is happily married to Ms. Isabelle Jean, a former Canadian Army logistician now serving in the Federal Public Service, and they are the proud parents of two lovely teenagers named Ophelia and Celeste. The family is thrilled at the prospect of growing roots in Alberta.

Ontario & Kingston Jointly Announce Support For Homes For Heroes

On November 10th, 2020 representatives of the Province of Ontario and the City of Kingston met to make a major announcement about a partnership with Homes For Heroes Foundation.

Steve Clark, the Brockville-area Conservative MPP and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, pledged \$200,000 for the Home For Heroes Foundation to contribute to building one of our Veterans' Villages in that City.



From left, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries Lisa McLeod; Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Steve Clark, who is also the Brockville-area Conservative MPP; Cameron Diggon, our director of Fund Development (center); Islands MPP Ian Arthur; and Kingston Mayor Bryan Paterson, at the announcement at the Memorial Wall adjacent to the Kingston Memorial Centre

The province is also dedicating one acre of land on the Kingston Provincial Campus as a site for the Village. The site, a beautiful, park-like property located on the Lake Ontario waterfront, has ample access to transportation and social service resources.

Kingston Mayor Bryan Paterson called the announcement an exciting moment for the city of Kingston: “I cannot tell you how proud we are to be the first community in Ontario that will host a Home For Heroes project. I think it speaks to our proud military history here in

Kingston. We are facing a housing crunch in Kingston, and (it's important) to find those new ways to find affordable housing solutions for people in our city.”

Minister Clark also stated that “This project is a great example of what we can achieve together. Our veterans were there for us when we needed them and now it's time for us to be there for them.”

Welcome our Director of Social Services-Vince Aliberti



Homes For Heroes would like to welcome Vince Aliberti as its first Director of Social Services.

Vince will be responsible for supervising Village operations in our various Veterans' Villages as we expand across Canada, including Calgary and Edmonton. In this role he will develop relationships and liaise with leading social service providers in communities across Canada as well as recruit and supervise our on-site counsellors.

Vince has had the opportunity to work for small, medium, and large organizations across numerous industries throughout North America. His experience lies in corporate strategy, operational effectiveness, and community engagement. He has a passion for the non-profit arena as was evidenced when he was the Executive Director of a youth leadership organization, Empowering Minds. Over the years, Vince has gained a great deal of experience in the mental health arena and is currently an impact speaker on mental health issues with The United Way. He looks forward to bringing his corporate and non-profit experience to Homes For Heroes and the communities that the organization serves.

CP Rail's Spin 4 Vets Event an Amazing Success

It was the time of COVID-19, a time of lockdowns, shuttering of businesses, mask-wearing, hand washing and social distancing. Many said it was the worst of times; few if any would have said it could be the best of times. Holding a successful 4th Annual Spin4Vets event in the middle of a pandemic? They said it couldn't be done; they said nobody could do it – but CP Rail's Rory Thompson and his intrepid team of volunteer spinners weren't going to let that deter them – and CP Rail itself was right there with them, “covering their 6”.



On November 9th & 10th, seven CP teams participated in the 24-hour spin competition, riding a total of 5,382 kilometers, which is almost the equivalent distance from Vancouver to Saint John, New Brunswick. Rory's team CP's military veterans won the competition, covering 866.8 kilometers, a mere 7.7 kilometers more than the second-place team.

<https://vimeo.com/486602596>

Due to COVID restrictions, only CP employees were allowed to participate – so expectations were that the event would yield smaller results than in past years. But CP itself stood up and increased their matching donations to cover all contributions – not just those from CP employees.

This is the fourth year that CP has run this event. Thompson says it initially started because he had a desire to give back. “I transitioned from the military, and I was very lucky to have a seamless transition to a role at CP. However, I am very cognizant that through no fault of their own, some veterans don't have as much luck and ultimately end up on the streets, years after leaving the service,” he explained.

Rory says that CP fully intends to do this event again next year. “The intent is to do multiple locations across the country. So right now it will be Winnipeg, Toronto, Minneapolis and Calgary.”



"CP's support for the military and veterans is long-standing and steadfast," said CP President and CEO Keith Creel. "We consider it a privilege to support veterans and I am humbled to work with the Homes For Heroes Foundation in helping those who have sacrificed so much in serving us. Even with this modified event in the midst of a pandemic, we have raised important funds and awareness of the need to support homeless veterans who are struggling with the transition to civilian life. As a veteran myself, I am beyond proud of what the team accomplished with this year's Spin for a Veteran event."

Homes For Heroes can't thank Rory, and everyone at CP Rail, enough for all they have done for our Veterans-in-need.

Homes For Heroes' Radisson Veterans' Village Recognized by Alberta Professional Planners Institute



Homes For Heroes was awarded the Alberta Professional Planners Institute Award of Planning Excellence for the design of our Calgary village. Each year the Alberta Professional Planners Institute recognizes exemplary work within the planning profession. Awards acknowledge meritorious plans and projects, that significantly contribute to the livability of communities in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Bravo Zulu to Jacqueline, our Director of Planning, our amazing partners NAK Design Strategies, hunter tristan design and Aplin & Martin Consultants Ltd.

Say Hello to our Kingston Fundraising Team!

Following the announcement by the Province of Ontario and the City of Kingston about their support for a Homes For Heroes Veterans' Village in that City, a powerful and enthusiastic team of volunteers have come together to lead and coordinate our efforts in that community.

Col (Ret'd) Mark Hutchings, MSM, CD-Chair

Mark is President of Action Enterprises Inc., a Canadian, owned and operated company with partners in the USA and UK that has sold over 3.5 million Flameless Ration Heaters and nearly 1 million self-heating Action Meals, the preferred field ration for emergency workers across Canada.



A graduate of the Royal Military College of Canada, Mark served in the Canadian Armed Forces for 20 years, starting as a Troop Leader in the Royal Canadian Dragoons. His duty tours included Cyprus, Somalia and West Germany.

Mark was also recently awarded the Légion of Honour (the highest distinction of the French Republic) from the French Republic for his leadership of the Hill 70 Memorial, a monument in Loos-en-Gohelle, France to the memory of the Canadian Corps and its victory at Hill 70 under the command of LtGen Sir Arthur Currie. He was also recently awarded the Meritorious Service Award for his leadership role in the project



Spike Hazelton, OMM, MSM, CD

Spike is currently the CEO of Capua Consultants and specializes in providing leadership, mentorship and development training and advice. Spike's 37 years of service in the Canadian Armed Forces included Base Commander CFB Kingston, Chief of Staff and Acting Commander, 1st Canadian Division and Attaché Italy, Greece, Albania, Croatia, Slovenia and Malta.

Warren Everett

Warren Everett has been engaged in community activities for more than two decades following 30 years of Military

service. From 1997 to 1999 he was the deputy governmental United Way representative, successfully, canvassing federal and provincial offices.



Warren served as a member of the Board of the Kingston Historical Society from 1998 to the present, serving as President from 1999 to 2001 and again as President from 2019 to 2020. From 2003 to present Warren serves as Treasurer of St. George's Anglican Cathedral, Kingston. Since 2013 he has been a contributing Director on the Hill 70 Memorial Project, serving initially as Chief Financial Officer and in addition, since 2018 as Chief of Staff. He recently joined the nascent Home for Heroes Project initiative in Kingston.



Robert G.H Baxter - Principal, Baxter & Assoc.

Rob served in development roles at McGill, Queen's, and York Universities before being appointed the Executive Vice-President and COO of the Royal Military College of Canada Foundation. For over a decade since then, he has headed a national consulting firm based in Kingston, Ontario that specializes in strategic planning for major fundraising initiatives and the reorganization of private foundations.

Rob has received the Corps Sergeant Major's Medallion from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; the Honorary Colonel's Award from both the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) and the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment; a Distinguished Service Citation from the Canadian Council for Advancement of Education; and is a recipient of the Scarlet Key Award from McGill University. Most recently, Rob was a member of The Hill 70 Project Team that was responsible for financing and constructing a new Canadian War Memorial in Northern France as well as the distribution of special educational and media awareness programs that were launched to promote it.

To our donors and supporters;

As you will read, Homes For Heroes is receiving some very impressive, and much welcomed, financial support and endorsement from all three levels of government, from corporations, from notable leaders and from you, our donors and supporters. It touches us deeply to see so many who care so much about our Veterans, and are willing to step forward to help. We, and the residents at our Veterans' Villages, can't thank you enough.

But if we are going to maintain this momentum, and reach our goal of ending homelessness among Canada's Veterans, we still need your help. Please consider making a donation, today, at <https://homesforheroesfoundation.ca/donate/>. The cause is worthy and the need is urgent – please donate now to help our Veterans-in-need!

Get Social

Homes For Heroes is on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Please follow us and share with your networks.



www.h4hf.ca

On behalf of the Homes For Heroes team we hope you remain healthy and well.

Sincerely,

David Howard

President

dave@h4hf.ca



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Thank you for supporting the Homes for Heroes project. As a supporter, you will receive occasional news, updates, and other ways to get involved with the foundation.

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