



News Release

The Dominion Institute and the Province of Ontario launch Veteran Appreciation Days

May 8, 2008 – Toronto – Today in front of the Barrie cenotaph, and in the presence of more than 100 veterans, students, educators, community members, and Barrie Mayor Dave Aspden, The Honourable Aileen Carroll, Ontario Minister Responsible for Seniors announced a special partnership with The Dominion Institute called **Veteran Appreciation Days**.

Through a partnership with the Province of Ontario, the Dominion Institute will organize 10 special events in communities across Ontario – including Cornwall, Elliot Lake, Waterloo, Dryden, Markham, Brampton, St. Catharines, Sarnia and Timmins – where veterans will join local youth and community members at local cenotaphs and Legion branches to honour the service and sacrifice of our heroes.

“Veterans Appreciation Day recognizes the important sacrifices made by veterans in Ontario and allows community members, especially young people, to show their appreciation outside of Remembrance week.” said Jeremy Diamond, The Dominion Institute’s Director of Programs. “It is fitting that today, the anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe, VE-Day, was chosen to honour the accomplishments and legacy of our military heroes.”

At each event, the city’s Mayor will proclaim the date Veteran Appreciation Day, and present a special certificate to a representative of the veteran community, such as a Royal Canadian Legion. A reception will follow the event where veterans will be trained to share their unique experiences with young people as part of the Dominion Institute’s national Memory Project.

Visit www.thememoryproject.com/vetappreciationdays for more information on future events.

The Memory Project is the Dominion Institute’s flagship program which connects veterans and students online and in classrooms across the country. The Memory Project Speakers’ Bureau includes more than 1,500 veteran volunteers who have reached 500,000 young people since 2001. Visit www.thememoryproject.com for more information and to arrange a veteran visit.

The Dominion Institute was founded in 1997 and has focused its efforts on conducting original research into Canadians' knowledge of the country's past and building innovative programs that broaden appreciation of the richness and complexity of the Canadian story. Visit www.dominion.ca for more information.

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