

Highway of Heroes Tribute gets the green treatment of trees

Quinte West -- Next time you drive along the 401 by the Glenn Miller Road exit, be sure to take notice of some newly planted trees.

They're the result of a community effort to beautify the Highway of Heroes stretch and pay tribute to men and women who've made the ultimate sacrifice for the county.

A large group gathered in the area on Saturday, May 21 to participate in the Highway of Heroes Living Tribute. The tribute is a large effort to plant 117,000 trees along Highway 401, spanning from CFB Trenton to Toronto.

That stretch was recently named the Highway of Heroes, as the bodies of Canadian soldiers killed in combat are often carried along that stretch, as they land at the air force base and are then taken to a post-mortem in Toronto. The plan is to plant one tree for every fallen Canadian soldier since Confederation.

About 80 people participated in the planting on May 21, including Northumberland-Quinte West MPP Lou Rinaldi, Quinte West councillor Duncan Armstrong and Lyle Vanclief, a former MP for the Quinte area and now the chair of the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, which is helping to grow the trees for this special project.

Several scouts and scout leaders, Canadian Forces members, veter-

ans and landscape professionals also contributed to the effort.

A total of 134 trees were planted. They included 10 and 15 gallon potted stock as well as wire basket trees. Eight different species were planted including red maple, burr oak, white spruce and accolade elm trees. They were planted along the northwest corner of the 401 and Glenn Miller Road intersection.

Vineland lead researcher, Darby McGrath, has been developing updated planting protocols for the Ministry of Transportation and municipalities to use for planting highway right-of-way trees to give the trees a much greater chance to survive and thrive in the busy 401 area.

The project also involves the Upper Canada chapter of Landscape Ontario. Companies attending with machinery and professional staff on the day included Gunn-Duncan Landscaping, Signature Landscape Concepts and Scott Wentworth Landscape Group (who were the primary designers of the planting plan).

Several nurseries were very supportive including Uxbridge Nurseries, Connon Nurseries, and Willowbrook Nurseries.

For more information on the Highway of Heroes tribute visit <http://hohtribute.ca/>



The Cleaton family planting some of the White Spruce trees. Family father Iain is a serving member of the Military at CFB Trenton. Submitted photo



Scouting members Nick Fry, left, and Guy Mandeville getting instructions about planting from one of the nursery staff. Submitted photo

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