

New commemorative monument pays tribute to Edmonton?s military community

Mayor Stephen Mandel, His Honour, Col.(Ret'd), the Honourable Donald Ethell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta along with members of Canadian Forces and their families officially unveiled the City of Edmonton's newest piece of public art in honour of Edmonton's military community.

The monument called *Memoryscape* is designed to celebrate the long and proud history between Edmonton's military and the community. At its root, the project is a collection of scenes and imagery which speaks to the themes of peacekeeping, aid, community and homecoming.

"This very moving and meaningful piece of public art will serve as a touching tribute to the unwavering commitment and sacrifice of our military and their families," said Mayor Stephen Mandel. "Our success as a city and as a nation is due in a large part to their loyalty and service."

Memoryscape, located on the corner of 99 Street and 103A Avenue at the northeast corner of City Hall, was initiated in 2010 in collaboration with members of the military and their families. Working with the Edmonton Ats Council, a shortlist of four artists was chosen for the jury process. Marc Boutin, Calgary-based architect and Principal at Marc Boutin Architectural Collaborative was the selected finalist.

Boutin, an internationally recognized architect, is known for designs that focus on the synthesis of art, architecture, urban design, landscape architecture and exhibition design. He has received numerous international and national awards including a 2006 Progressive Architecture Award from the American Institute of Architects and the 2002/2003 Prix de Rome in Architecture. Boutin also served on the jury for Edmonton's 2007 Urban Design Awards.

"It was an immense honour to be the selected artist for the *Memoryscape* project," said Boutin. "We designed the monument to be a unique narrative that describes the role of the solider as both stewards of aid and peacekeeping and as valued members of their community, while honouring their close connection to home."

The site, chosen because it represents an important juncture for both soldiers and their families in Edmonton, is located along the transportation route taken by troops as they embark upon and return home from service. It offers an opportunity to acknowledge the transition associated with duty and homecoming.

"Serving in the Canadian Forces requires determination and sacrifice on the part of the soliders and their families," said Colonel Derek Macaulay, Third Canadian Division Support Group. "It's wonderful to have this sense of duty commemorated through this project."

The cost to develop and build *Memoryscape* was \$300,000, which was allocated by City Council from proceeds of the sale of land to the Valour Place Society. Maintenance and upkeep of *Memoryscape* will be managed by the Edmonton Arts Council.

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