

McConaghy Centre Cenotaph Monument Restoration

Program: Federal Commemorative Partnership Program

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 2016, Richmond Hill restored our War Memorial with the help of the Commemorative War Memorial Funding, part of the Commemorative Partnership Program at Veterans Affairs Canada.

Richmond Hill’s war memorial Cenotaph is a significant landmark in the old village core that reminds us of those who risked their lives to serve our country. Erected in 1923, the Cenotaph was originally built to honour those Richmond Hill men lost in the Great War. Located in front of the old Richmond Hill Public School at 10100 Yonge Street (now the McConaghy Centre), the Cenotaph is on Richmond Hill’s Inventory of Buildings of Architectural and Historical Importance for its architectural, contextual and historical significance.

More than 90 years of aging caused the Cenotaph to suffer wear and tear. After many years of being exposed to the elements, parts of the original stone became discoloured or fractured due to water damage and some of the inscriptions and carved items deteriorated. Additionally, the foundation below the steps and landing of the Cenotaph had shifted and been damaged by erosion causing the stones to shift and cracks to form.

The 2016 Cenotaph Restoration Project involved several elements. The crumbling stone and concrete foundation of the Cenotaph was carefully taken apart to ensure no damage was done to the monument. The original stone from the steps and landing were removed and cleaned, then used to repair other areas of the Cenotaph. A new foundation, steps and landing were installed, using new material that matched the existing old stone to maintain the historical authenticity of the monument. The restoration work also included repairing of cracks, conserving of the inscriptions, repointing of mortar joints and the application of a breathable coating to protect the Cenotaph from water damage in the future.

Project Highlights:

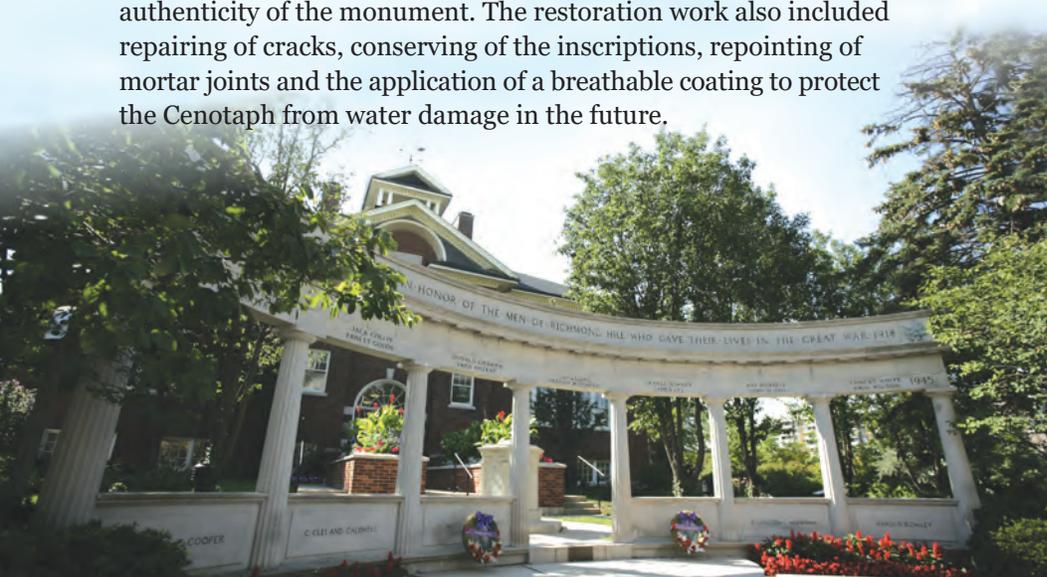
The Cenotaph restoration is a shared federal and municipal investment in preserving and honouring our Richmond Hill heritage.

Restoration work included:

- Stabilization of the monument foundation
- Installation of new steps and landing
- Repairing and cleaning of original stones
- Conservation of inscriptions



The Cenotaph Restoration Project helps to preserve a piece of our Town’s heritage and ensures that all those who have served and continue to serve on behalf of our country are honoured and remembered.



Richmond Hill, where people come together to build our community.

PROJECT FACTS



Type:	Historical Restoration
Project Budget:	\$150,000
Federal Commemorative Partnership Program Contribution:	\$25,000
Timing:	February to October 2016

PROJECT BENEFITS

Richmond Hill is helping to ensure that the Centotaph stands strong for future generations of residents to gather in remembrance of brave soldiers who contributed in war and peace to our democracy.

Honouring Richmond Hill's Past Residents

Nearly 90 soldiers from Richmond Hill went to war during World War I and another 150 men from the Town fought in WWII. The memorial continues to grow as time passes and more residents of Richmond Hill bravely risk their lives to protect Canadian values at home and abroad. In 1998, a plaque was added at the Centotaph to commemorate those who fought in the Korean War and other peacekeeping missions. Most recently, a Memorial Veteran Statue was commissioned to be built at the site of the Centotaph as a reminder of those who died on battlefields, the missing in action, the wounded and all those who have fought and sacrificed in service to our country.



The Centotaph contains a series of inscriptions that includes the names of soldiers who fought in the First and Second World Wars. Many of the family names of these soldiers will be familiar to Town residents as they are so much a part of our heritage they have been used to name streets and parks in our Town. The Town of Richmond Hill uses special road signs containing the poppy symbol for all streets named after veterans. There are currently seven streets in the Town with this special designation: Beresford, Atkinson, Dunlop, Hall, Hunt, Palmer, and Wright.



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The McConaghy Centre Centotaph Monument Restoration was carried out with the help of Community War Memorial Funding, part of the Commemorative Partnership Program at Veterans Affairs Canada.