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Langley News: Sacrifices Honoured At Arboretum's Walk To Remember On November 11

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TOL. Remembrance Day is a time to reflect, to think about the sacrifices made in times of conflict, and to be thankful for the freedoms we enjoy.

This year, a new Remembrance Day ceremony will be offered at a unique memorial created to honour Canadian soldiers who lost their lives in Afghanistan. The event will be held on Sunday, November 11, 2 – 3pm, at the Walk to Remember, located in the Derek Doubleday Arboretum in the 21200 block of 56 Avenue.

“This is a very special place that was created because of two inspiring students who wanted to remember the dedicated soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice,” said Al Neufeld, Langley Township’s Parks Design and Development Manager. “It is fitting that a Remembrance Day ceremony will be held here and we encourage the public to come out to remember our veterans and honour all the Canadians who have given so much for our freedom.”

Michael and Elizabeth Pratt at the Walk to Remember, which will host its first Remembrance Day ceremony on November 11 at 2pm.

Featuring a tree-lined pathway, a commemorative structure, and viewing decks, the Walk to Remember was the vision of Langley sister and brother Elizabeth and Michael Pratt.

Elizabeth, who is in university, and Michael, who is in Grade 10, formed Langley Youth for the Fallen in 2011 to promote their dream of establishing the memorial grove. Through sponsorships and partnerships with the Township of Langley, Arboretum and Botanical Society of Langley, Rotary clubs, Veterans Affairs Canada, and other community groups, 158 trees are being planted along the Walk – one for every Canadian soldier lost in Afghanistan.



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So far, 130 trees have been sponsored, dozens of which will be planted on Remembrance Day. Sponsorships are still required for the 28 remaining trees, which are available for \$300. Community groups, organizations, businesses, and individuals who would like to help complete the Walk to Remember by sponsoring a tree can contact langleyyouthforthefallen@gmail.com.

The Walk to Remember Remembrance Day Ceremony will also feature the unveiling and dedication of the 16-foot commemorative structure that will list the names of the Canadian soldiers who fell in Afghanistan. A flag will be raised and a fly-past will be conducted by the Fraser Blues formation flying team.

The Band of the 15th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery will perform during the ceremony as a conclusion to their “With Glowing Hearts” concert series. During the week prior to Remembrance Day, the band has invited Michael and Elizabeth to speak at concerts in Maple Ridge and Richmond. The band hopes the partnership with Langley Youth for the Fallen will raise awareness about the unique project and memorial to our Canadian soldiers.

For more information contact Al Neufeld, Parks Design and Development Manager, at aneufeld@tol.ca or **604.533.6085**.