



PORTRAITS OF HONOUR  
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Sunday May 29, 2011  
Kitchener, ON

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## NEWS RELEASE

### **Governor General of Canada Officially Unveils Portraits of Honour Mural Honouring Canada's Fallen Heroes**

*Kitchener, ON* – In an emotional ceremony before thousands of military supporters, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada invited Portraits of Honour artist Dave Sopha to join him on stage to officially unveil Sopha's remarkable Portraits of Honour mural.

The mural, an oil painting on canvas, stretches 10 feet tall by 40 feet wide and features the portraits of each of the 156 brave soldiers, sailors and aircrew who have lost their lives while serving in Afghanistan.

The ceremony, which culminated Kitchener's weekend long "Celebrate Me Home" military tribute, was viewed by many of the families of our fallen soldiers. The families were invited to spend some private time viewing the mural alongside the Governor General and his wife Mrs. Sharon Johnston.

Many families had difficulty containing their emotions and in an especially gracious manner, Governor General Johnston took the time to seek out one family who couldn't bear to take the stage for a very private and special moment away from the mural.

For Myles Kennedy, father of Private Kevin Kennedy who died in 2007, the experience was a powerful one. "What it means for me and the families is first that Canadians truly do care and second, they'll never be forgotten," said Mr. Kennedy.

The mural is mounted into a special display trailer which will allow Kin Canada, one of Canada's foremost service clubs, to tour the mural across Canada. According to tour organizers, it will take until mid-December to complete its journey and their goal is to bring it to the hometown of each of the 156 Canadian troops who have made the ultimate sacrifice. They also hope to raise several million dollars to provide financial assistance to troops who return home physically or emotionally injured.

The first official stop on the Portraits of Honour National Tour will occur on Tuesday May 31, 2011 at CFB Trenton. It's the same day that Canada will welcome home its most recent fallen hero, Bombadier Karl Manning, in a repatriation ceremony. Sopha has already sketched out the portrait of Manning and he plans to start adding his portrait to the mural immediately following the ceremony.

"The mural won't be complete until our mission is over and our brave men and women return home," says Sopha.