

Dear Mayor McCorquindale, Village Councillors, Memorial Garden Committee Members, and the Entire Village of Longview:

Wow.

Thank you for putting on such an inspiring dedication on Saturday. It was a world class ceremony, orchestrated by a village of 300! I have been telling my friends all about the amazing thing Longview has done, and am encouraging them to visit. Everyone who was involved in creating this Memorial Garden and the Dedication Ceremony is to be commended.

The garden itself is so beautiful - the flowers, the murals, the lush grass. I am most anxious to bring my husband to see it, and have some time myself to properly take it all in, which I was unable to do during the dedication. I look forward to reading the plaques on the Memorial and the Cairn, and to see the statues which hopefully will have been delivered and installed by the time I am next in Longview.

The whole event was so impressive - the attendance of first responders, soldiers, veterans, school children and the citizens of Longview proved that the planning and execution were top-notch. The Library and Church ladies outdid themselves in the decorating of the hall - it looked lovely! - and the bountiful sandwiches and cookies they provided were delicious!

My flowers were magnificent, though I feel badly that you went to the trouble of getting them for me. I did not miss the amazing attention to detail on the bouquet and card - from the maple leaf sticker on the envelope, to the Longview pin that attached it to the bouquet, to the pretty pumpkin motif ribbon. I shall wear my Longview pin with pride. And if all this were not enough, I also have my little plaque with the ceremony dates in a place of honour in my study.

Longview, I salute you. You are the type of community that makes this beloved country of ours great.

Most Sincerely,

M. P. (Patricia) Murphy
Major
Aide-de-Camp