



TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER, OTTAWA/SEAN KILPATRICK, THE CANADIAN PRESS

# WATERLOO REGION RECORD

Sunny  
High 8  
Details, F6



WEDNESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 11, 2009

SERVING KITCHENER, WATERLOO, CAMBRIDGE AND THE TOWNSHIPS

The Record.com

## Region's housing market ready to recover

By Chuck Howitt, Record staff

**KITCHENER** — Fuelled by the economic recovery, housing starts are expected to grow by 12 per cent in Waterloo Region next year, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. said Tuesday.

But if builders and developers are expecting a return to the good old days of rampant suburban housing development, they better think again, warned Erica McLerie, a senior market analyst with the housing agency.

Waterloo Region's official plan, the growing importance of a regional transit corridor and the aging baby boomer population will spark demand for higher-density housing and sustainable communities with a mix of services within easy reach, McLerie told a housing outlook conference organized by the agency.

Rather than being obstacles for the housing industry, these trends offer opportunities for builders willing to change with the times, she said.

"Aging baby boomers will be a force," she told the audience, which included builders.

In the next 10 years, the region's population is expected to grow by 63,000, she said. Of this total, 38,000 will be in the 55-74 age group.

This group will require a mix of housing types, ranging from single-detached homes and townhouses to condos and apartments, close to services such as shopping, transit and health care, McLerie noted.

► Starts continued on page A2

## INSIDE

Four families are left homeless after two fires in Kitchener  
**Local, B1**

Rangers' Fanelli doesn't remember crushing check  
**Sports, E1**

INDEX, A2	
LOCAL	B
BUSINESS	C
ARTS & LIFE	D
SPORTS	E
CLASSIFIED	F

95¢ PLUS  
GST=\$1.00  
HIGHER OUTSIDE  
THE REGION

# Portraits of Honour



ROBERT WILSON, RECORD STAFF

Cambridge artist Dave Sopha is painting Portraits of Honour, a memorial to Canada's fallen soldiers in Afghanistan.

This Cambridge artist is in the midst of an 'emotional mission.' He's painting the portraits of all of the Canadian soldiers who have died in Afghanistan. He hopes to complete his labour of love by next summer

By Jeff Outhit, Record staff

## Pictures capture stone sentinels

By Brent Davis, Record staff

*This is the last story in a short series looking at how some people observe — and preserve — Remembrance Day.*

They stand in virtually every Canadian community, a reminder of past sacrifice in bronze or stone.

Some are modest, others grandiose.

Some are sombre, others celebratory. All serve to

convey a simple message: Never Forget.

For the past three years, Waterloo's Glenn Paulley has been photographing cenotaphs in Canadian communities he visits for work or pleasure.

The timeless black and white images, shot on film, chronicle the many ways in which cities and towns have chosen to honour those who gave their lives in the First and Second

World Wars.

"In Canada, we have all of these tiny, tiny communities that have very limited resources, a very limited tax base . . . and despite all that, these communities still have cenotaphs," Paulley, 49, said.

"Someone still cares for it, someone still cuts the lawn every week," he said. "It's commendable."

► Photos continued on page A8



- Remembrance Day services today, A9
- The Record's view, A10
- Record community editorial board members write about war and peace, A11
- Cambridge man survives role of air gunner in Second World War to become a priest, D3
- See video interviews by clicking on the poppy at news.therecord.com
- See Thursday's Record for coverage of Remembrance Day

LUCKNOW CENOTAPH/GLENN PAULLEY, SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

**CAMBRIDGE** — They gave their lives for Canada. Artist Dave Sopha is honouring their sacrifice by doing what he does best.

He's painting portraits of all the Canadian soldiers who have died in Afghanistan.

"The sacrifices that these kids make, wow," he said. "It's very emotional for me."

Sopha calls his work *Portraits of Honour*. It's a mural 15 metres wide that will feature at least 133 faces, based on casualties to date. He's completed about 90 portraits.

Every face he adds to the canvas takes at least three days to perfect. The portraits, many featuring big smiles, are slightly larger than life. He paints them using photographs supplied by the military or by their families.

"We were absolutely overwhelmed," Carolyn Wilson said after seeing the portrait of her son, Mark Wilson. "His artwork is stupendous."

Trooper Wilson was killed by a roadside bomb in October 2006. He was 39 years old, the 40th Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan.

His mother travelled from her London home to see her son's portrait. She brought her grandson Ben, now 14. He was drawn right away to the face of his dead father.

"Our biggest fear would be that people would forget these fellows," Carolyn Wilson said. "Every time a project like this is taken on, it just reaffirms our faith in Canadians."

Sopha, 61, is a professional airbrush artist whose work has decorated buses, motorcycles, vans, walls and other spaces. In a career spanning decades, he has painted just about anything that can be painted. This is his first oil-on-canvas piece.

He was inspired after The Record published portraits of the first 100 war dead. "I just went 'Oh my God. That is what I want to do.'"

► Portraits continued on page A9