



Community Celebrates Griesbach Statue Unveiling

Edmonton, October 2, 2004 – Canada Lands Company today unveiled a magnificent statue of Mrs. Janet Griesbach in a formal ceremony at their Edmonton development, the Village at Griesbach. Over 300 guests, including Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan and Senator Tommy Banks, attended the ceremony to honour the wife of Major General Griesbach for her important contribution to the families of Edmonton during WWI and to celebrate Edmonton's centennial.

“Janet Griesbach played an important role during the First World War,” said the Honourable Anne McLellan, Deputy Prime Minister of Canada. “Working overseas as a nurse, her strength, commitment and dedication brought great comfort and assistance to many families of her husband's regiment, the Loyal Edmonton Battalion. It is only fitting that today, as we honour military families, we unveil a statue of Janet Griesbach which will reside in the heart of the former CFB Griesbach, being developed by Canada Lands. As people live and work in the Village at Griesbach, they will be reminded of the important military and civic significance of their community.”

The event was opened by an impressive historical motorcade. This procession was followed by a program that covered the importance of military families and Major General Griesbach's contribution to Edmonton – both as a former mayor and local military hero. The statue unveiling ceremony was one part of the Griesbach Homecoming Weekend, which entailed a series of events at the former base, including a 50th celebration for the Major General Griesbach School.

The importance of military wives' support was a focus of the event. Barbara Booker, wife of Sergeant Booker with #1 Combat Engineer Regiment (1 CER), talked about her experience of keeping the home fires burning and the ongoing role of those who stay behind. “Our second child, Sarah, was born during the 2003 peace keeping mission in Kosovo,” said Booker. “Knowing that my husband was serving our country abroad and making a difference in the lives of so many, made my family's sacrifice worthwhile.”

“Major General Griesbach played an important role in Edmonton's history, and today we learned a little bit more about the woman who supported this remarkable man,” said Doug Kester, Vice President, Real Estate, Canada Lands. “More importantly, this is a woman who is an important part of Edmonton's history in her own right.”

Canada Lands is a federal Crown corporation, within the portfolio of the Honourable John Godfrey, Minister of State (Infrastructure & Communities). Reactivated in 1995 to optimize the financial and community value obtained from surplus properties no longer required by the Government of Canada. The company is self-financing, pays taxes at all levels of government, and implements innovative property solutions to enhance the quality of life in communities where it operates. Since its inception, the company has distributed hundreds of millions of dollars to the government as dividends, cash acquisitions and payment for properties.

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