



DAVE CARTER, GUELPH MERCURY
Daryl Fowler, manager of Victoria Road Recreation Centre, looks at plaques listing Guelph's war dead in November 2004. The plaques will soon hang at the cenotaph.

Cenotaph to bear names of war dead

BY ALAN FERRIS
MERCURY STAFF

GUELPH

When Memorial Gardens was closed in 2001, Guelph's tribute to its citizens who gave their lives in two World Wars was given a less-than-prominent place in the city.

Yesterday, that situation changed. Thanks to a \$10,000 donation from Stone Road Mall, plaques bearing the names of Guelph's war dead will hang on a wall beside the cenotaph at Eramosa Road and Woolwich Street.

"The legion felt it should be in a place where people can access it," said Mayor Kate Quarrie. "Parents could take their children to see their grandparents' names at any time. It will be in a beautiful spot."

"Too many people don't even know it exists right now."

Stone Road Mall's donation comes from the coins tossed into its fountain.

"We wanted to do something to honour the Year of the Veteran," said Maggie Olding, the mall's marketing manager. "When we heard about the plaques, it hit home."

When the bronze plaques were removed from the wall in the arena's lobby

to its back rooms, arena staff continued to keep the plaques clean and polished.

The fate of the plaques was still up in the air when the city decided to close Memorial Gardens March 31, 2001.

Council decided they should get a spot in another civic facility, possibly the planned new civic administration building on the site of the demolished arena.

Woodlawn Cemetery offered a prominent place for the plaques in its war veterans area.

Two years ago, the plaques were moved to the John McCrae Legion. But president Moe Ferris said that made them less accessible for people wanting to search for family names.

"This is a brilliant way to do it. This will be the plaques' final resting place and we're proud to be part of it," he said.

"I'm pleased that they're going to expand (the plaques)," said former legion president, Eric Smart. "We have to remember the soldier from Guelph who died in Korea and we must make sure that we honour those from here who are in our United Nations and peacekeeping efforts around the world."

"I'm pleased that our veterans will finally get the attention they deserve."

aferris@guelphmercury.com

Experts gather at U of G to tackle poverty

BY THANA DHARMARAJAH
MERCURY STAFF

GUELPH

Manish Raizada is trying to change the face of agriculture in developing countries.

The University of Guelph plant agriculture professor is working to develop new plants that regenerate from roots so farmers in the Third World won't have to grow from seed every season.

He said that would save farmers money on water and fertilizer, which are often in short supply. Many farm areas in developing countries don't even have infrastructure such as roads to transport fertilizer, Raizada said.

Raizada will join nine international experts in a panel discussion on eradicating global poverty. They will gather at

the U of G on Tuesday and Wednesday for the "Making Poverty History: Doing More of What Works" symposium.

He says his plants will allow producers in developing countries to squeeze out extra growing seasons in the same year for higher yields.

Agriculture is the main source of employment and income in many countries, Raizada said.

The key is to create more profits from agriculture by boosting yields, preventing disease outbreaks in crops and addressing concerns about soil erosion and soil nutrients.

Raizada said crops can be grown for compost, to add vital nutrients to depleted soils in developing countries.

To address the lack of water supply, Raizada said, countries can use cheap water-capturing devices.

Rain water can be collected from

Summerlee's view

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rooftops and transported to underground cisterns or collected in buckets, he said. Small reservoirs can be created in a village to use for irrigation.

Farmers around the world can also benefit by increasing the diversity of crops grown in their fields, Raizada said.

Currently, about half of all calories eaten by human come from three crops: corn, wheat and rice.

"Imagine if the auto sector only produced three kinds of cars. What would happen to the auto industry?" he asked. "It would plummet, but that's what we are doing in agriculture."

Poverty is the universal barrier to education, health and well-being, said U of G president Alastair Summerlee. The university community has people

armed with knowledge and experience who can take a leadership role in eliminating the barrier, he said.

The U of G is assisting the United Nations Millennium Development Goals to halve poverty by 2015.

Summerlee said universities can start by focusing on areas where they have expertise, such as influencing public opinion and public policy, motivating student engagement, contributing to international development and mobilizing great minds to discuss ideas of social importance.

The university's symposium will include Elisabeth Tankeu, the African Union's commissioner for trade and industry in 2003; Gerry Helleiner, chair of the Board of International Lawyers and Economists Against Poverty; and Agnes Wakesho Mwang'ombe, from the University of Nairobi.

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