

# Letter from the Editor

With this issue we are enclosing a brochure and application form for membership in The Canadian Battle of Normandy Foundation/La Fondation Canadienne de la Bataille de Normandie. The Foundation has been established to promote knowledge of the Canadian role in the Battle of Normandy and the liberation of Europe. It has worked quickly to establish committees charged with developing programs for student bursaries, memorials, commemorative medallions, a travelling exhibition to mark the 50th Anniversary and publications including a battlefield tour guide.

The Foundation was organized in response to the relative neglect of Canada's role in the exhibits at *Le Memorial* in Caen. This innovative museum-memorial-study centre introduces hundreds of thousands of European and North American visitors to the history of 20th century war and the struggle for peace with scarcely a mention of Canada.

The United States Battle of Normandy Foundation, created in 1986, is working closely with *Le Memorial*. The Americans have established a major bursary program for university students and are building an impressive Memorial Garden with a cascading waterfall at *Le Memorial*. The names of all U.S. soldiers who fought in Europe are to be engraved on a "Wall of Liberty" in the garden. The United States Government, private companies and more than 50,000 individuals have provided support on a scale which Canadians can only dream of. The Americans have also acquired the right to refurbish the Abbaye d'Ardenne for their education programs. The Abbaye, the site of the execution of Canadian prisoners of war by the 12th SS Panzer Division, was captured by the men of the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade on July 8/9th 1944. Now, courtesy of the U.S. Battle of Normandy Foundation, Canadians and others will be encouraged to visit a site which Canadians ought to have acquired as a memorial many years before.

The Canadian Battle of Normandy Foundation is trying to make up for lost time. Architectural students from Carleton University and l'Universite de Montreal went to France in August to develop designs for a Canadian memorial garden. Many other projects are planned. Please join and support this effort. Recruit your friends, write to your Member of Parliament. For once let us try and do something to bring Canadians together and build something we can have in common. The annual membership fee is \$20.00 for individuals, \$100.00 for associations and a minimum of \$200.00 for corporations. **Canadian Battle of Normandy Foundation**, P.O. Box 77057, Hull, Quebec, J9A 2V4

Terry Copp