

## MEDALS AND MEMORIES MINUTES



### Valiants Memorial

Nov. 5, 2006, Governor General Michaëlle Jean unveiled a collection of five statues and nine busts in Ottawa. The 14 life-sized men and women were selected by the Valiants Foundation to commemorate Canadian military history from the 17th to 20th centuries. Seven of the 14 portray individuals from WWI and WWII, including Lieutenant Hampton Gray featured in one of the Reading and Remembrance lessons on the Victoria Cross. The sculptural works, designed by artists Marlene Hilton-Moore and John McEwen, circle the Sappers Staircase underpass on a corner of Confederation Square. A wall nearby bears a Virgil quotation, *Nulla dies umquam memori vos eximet aevo* No day will ever erase you from the memory of time. Sculptor Hilton-Moore, who was active in the Durham Region arts scene for years, stated that she wanted to make the sculptures at real scale so that the historical figures would be 'one-to-one' with the public. The Valiants Memorial website includes a lengthy quotation by Pierre Berton, part of which says, "Canadians are not a warlike people. Yet when the trumpets sound and the cannons roar, we have, throughout our history, answered the call. The men and women memorialized here stand as symbols for a nation shaped by conflict and strengthened by sacrifice ... we know, deep in our hearts, that without the hard example provided by the kind of Canadian remembered here, this country would not dare call itself a nation."