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NEWS

Harbord Collegiate unveils WWII memorial

An abstract stainless steel sculpture, honouring the Harbord Collegiate students who served and died in World War II, was unveiled today - the 62nd anniversary of V.E. Day.

By **DEBRA BLACK** Staff Reporter

An abstract stainless steel sculpture, honouring the Harbord Collegiate students who served and died in World War II, was unveiled today - the 62nd anniversary of V.E. Day.

The sculpture - 19 feet tall and weighing 3,600 pounds - is a stylized letter H with a severed gap in the middle to symbolize the young lives that were cut short by the war.

The names of the 52 students from Harbord Collegiate who died in combat are engraved on the memorial. More than 750 students and staff from Harbord Collegiate fought in World War II.

Inscribed inside the memorial, designed by Harbord graduate, architect and sculptor Morton Katz, are these words: "In the sculpture's embrace, may you feel the spirit of the names and see the faces of the fallen."

"As high school students, we don't spend enough time thinking about the past," Grade 11 student Narine Gharakhanian-Martiros told the hundreds of family, friends, students and dignitaries who gathered at the front of the school for this morning's dedication.

"We may wonder about the future and contemplate the present but when it comes to history, we often seem to need an inspirational nudge to remind us of the sacrifices the more than 750 students and staff that came before us have made."

"We must not forget those heroes," said Bob Sterling, a Harbord graduate from 1937 who was one of the lucky ones to return to Canada after serving in World War II as a navigator for special operations with the Royal Air Force.

Leslie Dan, a Holocaust survivor and graduate of Harbord Collegiate, also reminded the crowd that it is because of soldiers from Harbord and elsewhere - who fought so doggedly during World War II - that Canada has been able to build a compassionate, peaceful society.

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