

## RAY MIKKOLA OF PALLETT VALO HONOURED BY ONTARIO LT. GOV. DAVID ONLEY

The Last Post Fund (LPF), celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009, is a non-profit organization that to date has assisted thousands of families of Canadian war veterans with funeral expenses.

Lieutenant Colonel Ray Mikkola has been presented with the Last Post Fund Long Service Medal by Ontario Lieutenant Governor David Onley. For 15 years, retired LCol. Ray Mikkola, vice-president of the Ontario Branch of the LPF, and a partner with Mississauga law firm Pallett Valo, has worked steadfastly to help the fund continue the vision of its founder, Arthur Hair, who said 100 years ago, "to honour and protect in death seems but a small return to those who have protected their country in life."

"All of us at Pallett Valo are fiercely proud of Ray and his work at the Last Post Fund," said Anna Esposito, managing partner at Pallett Valo. "Ray Mikkola is a great leader and that's the type of person we want to keep attracting to our law firm."

The Last Post Fund administers the Funeral and Burial Program on behalf of Veterans Affairs Canada. The fund provides financial assistance to cover the costs of a funeral director, casket (or cremation and urn), and marker as well as other funeral expenses, to a dignified standard, to families of eligible Canadian war veterans.

LCol. Mikkola retired from the Canadian Armed Forces as Commanding Officer of the 7<sup>th</sup> Toronto Regiment, R.C.A., in the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. He was awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration (with bar) for service to Canada and the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal for military service.

He is a member of the Military Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association and is the chair of the National Real Property Section of the Canadian Bar Association. LCol. Mikkola joined Pallett Valo in 2004 after 14 years at a large national business law firm, became partner on January 1, 2006, and now heads Pallett Valo's Commercial Real Estate Practice. He was called to the Ontario Bar in 1988.

Pallett Valo LLP is the leading law firm in the Region of Peel. The roots of the firm go back to 1948. The firm has 26 lawyers and 51 support staff.



LCol Jim Breithaupt, KStJ, CD, OM (Pol), QC (left), was the Master of Ceremonies when LCol Raymond Mikkola, CD, a partner at Pallett Valo LLP, Mississauga's largest law firm, (centre) was presented with his Last Post Fund Long Service Medal by The Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

## UNITED WAY TO INVEST MORE THAN \$9.7 MILLION IN PEEL

United Way of Peel Region will invest more than \$9.7 million this year in local services, programs and initiatives that meet immediate needs and tackle their underlying causes. The \$9,782,542 contributed to the Community Fund in 2008 will help provide the support that people need in difficult times – crisis phone lines, food banks, emergency shelters, counselling, help with accessing income support programs, referrals to other community resources and more.

Funding is focused on strengthening families and children, reducing hunger, homelessness and poverty, helping abused women and children, supporting seniors to live healthy and independent lives, and helping newcomers and immigrants settle and integrate.

"In this economy, we know that more people than ever are turning to United Way-funded services and programs for support and assistance," says United Way CEO Shelley White. "It's important that we come together as a community to help individuals, families and neighbourhoods cope. It is vital that we have the capacity to support people during this recession and beyond."

Through the Community Fund, United Way supports a network of 105 vital programs and services provided through 54 social service agencies. It also supports community partnerships such as Success By 6 Peel, Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee, Fair Share Task Force, Peel Newcomer Strategy Group and Mississauga Summit, all of which draw people from all across the community to work on key issues. ❖

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