

**ROSS MUNRO AWARD**

**VIMY AWARD DINNER**

**MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION**

**GATINEAU, QUEBEC**

**18 NOVEMBER 2005**

**PRESENTATION COMMENTS**

**BY**

**CHAIRMAN CDA**

**LGEN (RET) R.J. EVRAIRE**

Minister Graham, Gen and Mrs. Hillier, distinguished guests, Mesdames et Messieurs. For decades, men and women – both soldiers and civilians – have been making important contributions to Canadian defence. Many have made the ultimate sacrifice. It is because of them that we are able to enjoy the freedoms and rights that Canadians have today. And it is because of men like Ross Munro that Canadians have heard of the sacrifices our troops have made to ensure that Canadians can continue to enjoy those freedoms and rights.

Wes Gallagher, un correspondant de guerre américain qui est par la suite devenu directeur général de l'Associated Press, a déclaré que Ross Munro était le meilleur correspondant canadien de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale. Ross Munro a suivi nos soldats dans les villes détruites par les bombardements et les champs de bataille d'Europe pendant la guerre; ses écrits sur les Forces canadiennes étaient fidèles à la vérité, et empreints de sincérité et de compassion. Si ce n'était pour des individus comme Ross Munro, comment les Canadiens et les Canadiennes auraient-ils entendu parler des expériences — bonnes et mauvaises — de nos troupes en Europe ?

War correspondents brought meaning and understanding of war to Canadians, often at great personal risk to themselves. Today, a relatively small group of journalists continue to honour the tradition of telling Canadians about the work our troops are doing, both abroad and at home. Without them, the important work of the Canadian Forces would go unheralded.

Ce soir, nous sommes réunis pour manifester notre reconnaissance envers ceux et celles qui ont fait d'importantes contributions à cette tradition essentielle de reportage sur la défense. La Conférence des associations de la défense, en collaboration avec le Canadien Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute de Calgary, a décidé, il y a environ quatre ans, d'exprimer sa reconnaissance en créant un prix, appelé de façon très appropriée le Prix média Ross Munro, qui serait remis annuellement, lors du dîner Vimy, à un journaliste qui avait contribué de manière importante et remarquable à la sensibilisation du grand public aux questions de défense et de sécurité canadiennes.

To choose this year's recipient of the Ross Munro Media Award, the Award selection committee considered, as it does every year what material nominees have produced (in print, or electronic format - radio or television) for public consumption. Depth of analysis of the material is an essential element of the evaluation. The winner's contribution will have received wide acclaim and be considered significant journalism.

Before announcing our 2005 winner of the Ross Munro Media Award, I would like to mention that this year, in light of the outstanding quality of the nominees, the selection committee decided to award one honourable mention, to Chris Wattie (National Post), for his coverage of issues related to the Canadian Forces at home and abroad. Chris Wattie is an outstanding journalist, an engaging writer, and a gentleman. He also received an honourable mention for his excellent work last year. A certificate reflecting this honourable mention will be presented to Chris Wattie during the CDA's Annual General Meeting in March.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the 2005 winner of the Ross Munro Media Award has consistently demonstrated the finest qualities of a journalist who specializes in defence issues. He has covered Canadian defence issues for many years and produced well-grounded articles of exceptional quality on the Canadian Forces. His knowledge of the subject matter, fairness in reporting, and writing skill are truly exemplary. They set an extraordinary standard by which his colleagues may be measured.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in welcoming this year's Ross Munro Media Award winner.

Mesdames et Messieurs, invités de marque, applaudissons tous le lauréat du Prix média Ross Munro de cette année.

I am delighted to call upon Brigadier General Bob Millar, president of the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute, to make the presentation to Mr. Champion-Smith.