

PRESENTATION OF MUNRO AWARD

CHAIRMAN CDA LGEN EVRAIRE'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Excellence, Distinguished guests, Mesdames et Messieurs. It is because of correspondents such as Ross Munro that Canadians have heard of the price members of the Canada's military have paid to ensure that we continue to enjoy those precious rights and freedoms.

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

War correspondents brought home to Canadians the reality of war, often at great personal risk. Today, a relatively small group of journalists continue to honour this tradition by telling Canadians about the work our troops are doing, both at home and overseas. Some of these journalists are recognized nationally and internationally for their work. Others, such as the late Arthur Hueston, a long-time publisher and Dieppe veteran, toil away in relative anonymity in order to inform Canadians about Canadian Forces missions at home and abroad. Certainly, without them, the important work of the Canadian Forces would go largely unnoticed and unheralded.

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 six ans, d'exprimer sa reconnaissance à un ou une journaliste qui a contribué de manière importante et remarquable à la sensibilisation du grand public aux questions de défense et de sécurité canadiennes. Après mûre réflexion, il a été décidé de créer le Prix média Ross Munro qui serait remis annuellement, lors du dîner Vimy.

To choose this year's recipient of the Ross Munro Media Award, the Award selection committee considered, as it does every year, the material that nominees have produced for public consumption, through print or electronic media. 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.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the 2007 winner of the Ross Munro Media Award has consistently demonstrated the finest qualities of a journalist who specializes in defence issues. For years, his superb battlefield coverage has enlightened Canadians about the world they—and their servicemen and women—inhabit. He is recognized as a brave warrior in his profession. His reporting has been a model for others, and he is held in high esteem amongst the élite of his professional peers.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, in this year of celebration of the Conference of Defence Associations 75 years as Canada's Voice of Defence, and in the presence of Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Patron of the CDA, I take great pleasure in asking Brigadier General Bob Millar, President of the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute and Partner with the CDA in supporting the Ross Munro Media Award, to come forward to present the Ross Munro Media Award to this year's winner... Excellence, Distingués invités, Mesdames et Messieurs, applaudissons tous le lauréat du Prix média Ross Munro - 2007, Mr Matthew Fisher.