



Cindy Revell (centre), with Juanita and Dennis Bartsch, parents of Corporal Cole Bartsch.

Now that Project Heroes is well underway, we wanted to update you all on the progress of this mammoth venture. (For full project info, see www.projectheroes.ca).

We have been extremely busy interviewing families of the soldiers in order to get a better sense of what the soldiers were like in order to do the best job possible of painting their portraits.

We have been in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan to research the project and speak with families. We just returned from Newfoundland where we were doing plain air paintings - an annual practice that keeps our painting skills well exercised. On that particular trip, we were lucky enough to be joined by Cpl. Shane Keating's Mom, Judy Budd.

What an incredible, life-changing experience this has been for all of us (Susan Abma, Shairl Honey and Cindy Revell). The families have been more than welcoming, and have been very generous in sharing information about the soldiers with us. Although it is must be very difficult for them to do that, they share our goal of ensuring Canadians get a better understanding of who these soldiers were, how important their mission was to them, and that Canadians never forget these brave heroes who didn't return from war, but accomplished so much for our country.

It is impossible not to feel close to these families after speaking with them. Through sharing such personal information, we feel a strong kinship with them and an even stronger need to capture the soldiers to the very best of our abilities to make the families proud to be involved in Project Heroes.

We have raised several thousand dollars for the costs of the project so far and although we have a long way to go for the total dollars needed to cover the huge expenses of this project, the generosity of our sponsors has been overwhelming and we are deeply grateful.

If you would like to keep up to date on this project more often, you can follow our regularly updated blog at projectheroestm.blogspot.com, view our website at www.projectheroes.ca, and we're also on twitter at twitter.com/projectheroes.

Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to anyone who you feel might have an interest in this project.



Susan Abma (left), with Judy Budd, mother of Corporal Shane Keating.



BELOW: Susan (left) and Shairl Honey (right) with Patty Braun, mother of Corporal David Braun.



BELOW: As with the graves of the other fallen soldiers, Canadians leave mementoes at the sites. This is the gravesite of Cpl. David Braun.



BELOW: Shairl (left) with Maureen Eykelenboom, mother of Corporal Andrew (Boomer) Eykelenboom.