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## **O CANADA**

By Kelly Bent

On a per capita basis, Remembrance Day is observed more in Canada than in any other Commonwealth country. To me that was a great statistic to stumble upon. Maybe we as a nation aren't taking our freedom for granted. During the service I attended this year I again found my thoughts drifting to my grandfather. He is 86 years old and a WW II Veteran. He still puts on his dress uniform and medals every year and attends the parade in my home town. For my grandfather and lots of other young men in 1939, joining the war effort was the first time he had left his family and friends and his home town. It was also his first train ride. The abandoned rail lines that Canadians utilize everyday for running, hiking, snowmobiling, ATV riding and biking were the same ones that carried our brave young soldiers away to foreign lands and front lines. Their efforts



afforded future generations the time to linger on these rail trails enjoying family, nature and freedom. I imagine the trip for them was completely different. They watched their country race by outside the train windows wondering when or if they would see any part of it again.

Remembrance Day is not just about people from wars of the past. It's about men and women from our communities that have made the ultimate sacrifice for the greater good. It is also about appreciation for the work that our military personnel do today and every day to ensure that we all enjoy the special life we have in Canada. I for one will be taking more time to enjoy the land our veterans fought for and our soldiers are still fighting for. O Canada!



# PROJECT PROFILE

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## Saint Martin Bridge Project

The Chaudière River or “Boiler River” runs 185 km starting from its source at Lake Megantic in the Chaudière - Appalaches region of Quebec. This river runs northwards to the St. Lawrence River crossing through several hundred lakes and rivers on its way. The Chaudière river basin also contains approximately 330 of over 650 known vertebrate species that are part of Québec’s faunal richness. The location proved to be strategic for French colonization during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The river was a natural link between New France and the British colonies to the south. It was also used by Benedict Arnold at the time of his 1775 expedition to invade Quebec.

Today the Chaudière River is an extremely popular outdoor recreational area and the 40 metre high Chaudière Falls is a huge draw for tourists. The St. Martin Bridge project offered a strong and durable connection between two major regions but it was many years in the making. This joint effort involved \$1.1 million in funding that came from the municipality of Saint Martin, snowmobile and ATV organizations, regional organizations and government funding including Canada’s



Economic Action Plan through its partnership with the National Trails Coalition. This 110 metre long suspension bridge enables safe passage across the Chaudière. The multi-use trail is well utilized by hikers, ATV riders, and cyclists but it is also a snowmobile destination with the hundreds of kilometers of pristine trails and the picturesque towns and villages to stay in along the way. The St. Martin Bridge

project now entices snowmobile enthusiasts from Maine to come to sample Quebec's rich history and exciting atmosphere.

This major project was completed in September 2009 with great media attention and it was later visited by Prime Minister Harper.