

On the 44th day of the flame moving across the country, LCol(Ret'd) Chuck McCabe reached out, took hold and then held the Olympic torch high, instantly becoming part of Canadian history. A long-standing supporter of the AFP/AAC and treasurer of the Association, McCabe proudly carried the Olympic torch to represent Canadian veterans.

"I received a phone call asking me to carry the torch and represent veterans, and I said, 'let's go for it.' I also received an email from the Vancouver Olympic Committee (VANOC) telling me I was chosen but didn't tell me when," says McCabe.

The big day was eventually set for 12 December, and McCabe was one of 184 torch bearers to carry the flame through the nation's capitol, along with Senator Romeo Dallaire and Olympian Carolyn Waldo.

"It was late in the afternoon, the sun was out and it was a mild day, above freezing so the run was comfortable," describes McCabe. "I jogged 300 metres up Elgin Street to the National War Memorial where I handed the torch to another veteran."

That veteran was Maj(Ret'd) Ron Currie, and before proceeding on his leg of the run, both men stopped to have their photo taken by photographers.

"I will never forget running with the van in front, the photographer in the back and the great crowds. My best memory is of the 92-year-old female veteran – they brought her in to carry the torch, and she was sharp as a tack," says McCabe.

Along with his personal memories, McCabe also purchased his torch as a symbol of his proud and momentous occasion.

