

## **N.B. legislature declares 2006 Year of the War Bride** **Women's sacrifices made significant contributions to province, MLA says**

**By Mary Moszynski**  
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**FREDERICTON** - Following an emotional statement by Liberal MLA T.J. Burke, the provincial legislature has declared 2006 the Year of the War Bride.

Burke, MLA for Fredericton North, introduced the motion to show his support to a campaign under way to convince Ottawa to declare 2006 the Year of the War Bride.

The initiative was spearheaded by Fredericton resident Melynda Jarratt. New Brunswick is the first province to support such a motion. But for Burke the motion was about more than representing his constituents, it also had a significant personal importance to him, as his grandmother was a war bride. About 30 war brides were in the legislature yesterday.

"I had an opportunity to meet them individually, I had an opportunity to hold their hand, I had an opportunity to share tea with them and that's something that I've missed from my grandmother for years," said Burke.

Doris Lloyd, a war bride who moved to Plaster Rock in 1944 from England, said she's pleased 2006 will be the Year of the War Bride.

"I feel sad, I feel glad, I feel proud, very proud to become a Canadian," she said.

Thinking about the family members she left in England, Lloyd said the transition from England to Plaster Rock was difficult. "You grow to like it. I don't want to leave it now."

About 65,000 women and children immigrated to Canada during and following the Second World War and nearly one in 30 Canadians have a war bride in their family tree, said Jarratt.

As he talked about the contributions of war brides in the legislature, Burke was unable to finish reading a newspaper article about their sacrifices.

After pausing for two minutes, unable to stop the tears from welling up in his eyes, Burke allowed Liberal MLA Roly McIntyre to finish reading the article.

"I said I wasn't going to do this today," he said, his voice cracking, as other MLAs clapped their hands in support. The motion received unanimous consent from the MLAs, who rose to their feet following Burke's speech.

"I think it's a very good resolution. It acknowledges the commitments, the sacrifices made by an incredible group of incredible women and this is the type of motion we fully

support," said Premier Bernard Lord. "We're all supportive."