

## VETERANS' MEMORIAL TO BE REFURBISHED

The monument and plaques at the memorial on Veterans' Drive will soon get some much-needed attention. The Hooksett Heritage Commission and Hooksett's Merrill-Follansbee American Legion Post No. 37 have partnered in a project to refurbish the monument that was erected after World War II through the efforts of the Hooksett Post and other local organizations.

Kathie Northrup, chair of the Heritage Commission, explains how the two groups came together. "With our charge to protect and preserve historic artifacts and the American Legion's commitment to honor fellow service members and veterans, this is a perfect partnership for a great project."

The granite for the main obelisk came from the local Belisle quarry. There are three plaques on the monument. One contains the names of those who fought in the "World War." The other two list people who served in World War II and the Civil War. The Civil War and World War plaques were transferred from the front of the old town hall building after World War II. Plaques on other stones honor individuals and veterans of Korea and Vietnam.

Northrup said the condition came to her attention at an event last May at the Jacob Square site on Veterans' Drive. "I noticed that the plaques and the monument were showing the effects of time. It has served us well for more than fifty years. The Hooksett veterans' monument should reflect the community's respect for its citizens who have served and those who made the supreme sacrifice. This should be the nicest park in town. We hope the community will support our efforts. Those of us not in the military aren't asked to sacrifice very much. This is something we *can* do."

"Our plan is to do fund-raising over the winter. If we meet our goal, we can get the work done and have a rededication in 2012," she continued. "We need to raise about \$5,000 to refinish the three plaques, clean the stains on the granite, and touch up/repoint the mortar between the granite pieces. If we exceed our goal, perhaps we could install a bench, a sign identifying the park, and maybe some planting."

The Hooksett American Legion Post 37 began the fund-raising campaign with an initial donation of \$300. "We at the American Legion in Hooksett consider it a pleasure to partner with our town's Heritage Commission for this worthy cause," said Commander Anthony Burdo. "We owe it to our veterans and their families to refurbish the monument and further upgrade the park in their honor. We are also pleased to kick off the campaign with our initial donation. I encourage all businesses, organizations and citizens to do their best and donate whatever they can afford in order for us to achieve our goal."

Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to the Hooksett Heritage Commission, c/o Kathleen Northrup, 24 Berry Hill Road, Hooksett, NH 03106-2201. Please note on the check that the donation is for the veterans' monument.



Leo Belisle, a World War II veteran and member of the American Legion Post 37 in Hooksett, inspects the plaques and granite monument at Jacob Square on Veterans Drive. Napoleon Belisle, Jr., Leo's father, cut the granite from his quarry on Hackett Hill Road.