

Heritage News



Commemorative 2014
The First World War
Volume 27 Issue 3

The Newsletter of Heritage Mississauga

Inside . . .

Centennial -First World War/3
 Path to War/3
 The Bigger Picture/4
 President's Message/5
 Editor's Message/6
 Canada Stands United!/7
 To Go or Not To Go!/8
 Village of Peace/9
 The First Modern War/10
 Battle of Ypres/11
 Battle of the Somme/13
 Battle at Vimy Ridge/15
 Battle of Passchendaele/17
 Canadian Women/18
 Hundred Days Offensive/19
 Seek Thee Thine Ancestors/20
 Beyond the Front Line/21
 Prisoners of War/22
 Canada's Bluebirds/23
 Museum Collection/24
 Peel Aid Programs/25
 Postcard from the Front/27
 Canada's Red Ensign/28
 Port Credit Memorial/29
 More to War/30
 Why We Remember/31
 Looking Back/31
 Heritage Matters/32

Heritage Mississauga Board of Directors

Barbara O'Neil, President
 Greg Carraro, Vice President
 Andrew Forbes, Treasurer,
 Ram Dhanjal, Secretary
 Luz del Rosario, Director
 Jake Dheer, Director
 Anthony Dimech, Director
 Winnie Fung, Director
 Don Hancock, Director
 Douglas Hancock, Director
 Margaret Jedlewska, Director
 Kimberly Phinney, Director
 Faith Rivers, Director
 Councillor Katie Mahoney, Director

Cover: Propaganda Poster,
vimyridgehistory.com

Contributors in this Issue include:



Caitlin
Beachey



Greg
Carraro



Elaine
Eigl



Jayme
Gaspar



Dorothy
Kew



Barbara
O'Neil



Alexandra
Rayner



Alice
Stanton-Hagan



Rachel
Schleihau



Hilary
Walker



Jenny
Walker



Jane
Watt



Matthew
Wilkinson

HERITAGE NEWS is a publication of the Mississauga Heritage Foundation Inc. The Foundation (est. 1960) is a not-for-profit organization which identifies, researches, interprets, promotes, and encourages awareness of the diverse heritage resources relating to the city of Mississauga. The Foundation acknowledges, with thanks, the financial assistance of the City of Mississauga Culture Division, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Community Foundation of Mississauga, The Hazel McCallion Fund for Arts, Heritage and Culture, The Hazel McCallion Foundation for Arts, Culture and Heritage, the Department of Canadian Heritage, The Heritage Canada Foundation, Service Canada, the Ministry of Culture, Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board, and Peel School Board which, together with its members, donors, sponsors, and volunteers, help to preserve Mississauga's heritage in its many aspects. Articles, contributions, comments, advertisements, and letters to the Editor are welcome. Please contact us at: **Heritage Mississauga, 1921 Dundas St. W., Mississauga, Ontario L5K 1R2**, phone: (905) 828-8411 or fax: (905) 828-8176, or e-mail: info@heritagemississauga.org You can also visit us at: www.heritagemississauga.com
NEXT DEADLINE: October 17, 2014

Editor: Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director Content: Matthew Wilkinson

Layout & Typesetting: Jayme Gaspar **Additional Contributor:** Museums of Mississauga

Photography: Canada At War, Canadian War Museum, Canadiana Room, Mississauga Library System, Sophie Cook, Jayme Gaspar, Heritage Mississauga, Imperial War Museum, Library & Archives Canada, George Metcalf Archival Collection, Museums of Mississauga, PPCL, National War Museum, Streetsville Review, Toronto Star, Jane Watt, www

Printing: The Print Gurus

Heritage Mississauga Staff

905-828-8411

Jayme Gaspar
Executive Director x31

Hilary Walker
Outreach Coordinator x23

Jenny Walker
Program Developer x22

Jane Watt
Administrative Assistant x0

Matthew Wilkinson
Historian x29

September 2014

Centennial of the First World War

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian, Heritage Mississauga

2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the First World War. Canada was a young country in 1914, not yet independent of Great Britain. When war was declared on August 4th, 1914, Canada was also at war.

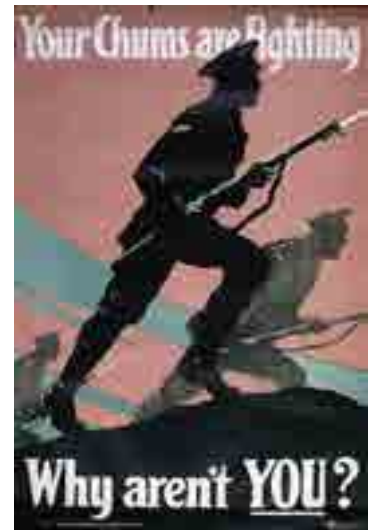
Over the course of the war some 619,636 Canadians enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force, and approximately 424,000 served overseas. Of these men and women, 59,544 members of the CEF died during the war. The Royal Canadian Navy reported 150 deaths, and some 1,388 Canadians died while serving with the British flying services. Between August 4th, 1914 and November 11th, 1918, scarcely a day passed when a Canadian did not lay down his life for his country.

Amongst those Canadians who fell were more than 90 young men from historic Mississauga. While they did not know Mississauga by name, they came from the villages and rural communities of Toronto Township: Clarkson, Cooksville, Dixie, Erindale, Lakeview, Lorne Park, Malton, Meadowvale, Port Credit and Streetsville. This publication is dedicated to their memory.

Mississauga Remembers: The First World War

To commemorate the centennial of the First World War in 2014, Heritage Mississauga is compiling a virtual cenotaph for soldiers from the villages of historic Mississauga who served and fell in the First World War. To date, we have documented over 94 men who went overseas during the First World War and never returned home. We are also tracing Mississauga connections to service and specific battles during the First World War.

Heritage Mississauga will be sharing many of the stories, memories, and sacrifices of those men and women from historic Mississauga who served and fell. There are stories of celebration, victory, worry, and heartrending loss. This issue of the *Heritage News*, together with online material at www.heritagemississauga.com and information that will be published in our "War Pages" publications, looks to share the information that we have gathered. It also documents stories from our heritage partners, the Canadiana Room at the Mississauga Central Library and the Museums of Mississauga, as we explore and share Mississauga's connections and contributions to the First World War. We will remember them.



www.canadatwar.ca

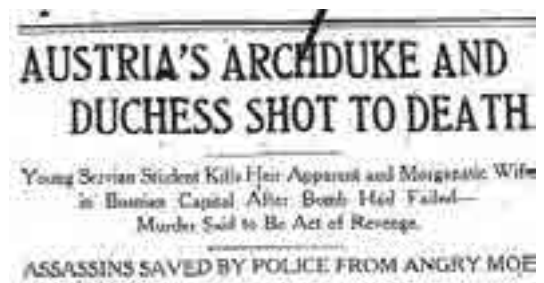
The Path to Europe's Great War

By Alice Stanton-Hagan



In the summer of 1914, Europe was rife with tensions over colonial competition, territorial claims, and fierce nationalist interests. The major powers had been forming alliances and accumulating weapons in preparation for a hot war. The catalyst that released those tensions and plunged Europe into a global war was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austrian throne, by Serbian assassin Gavrilo Princip on June 28th. One

month later on July 28th, after assuring support from Germany, Austria declared war on Serbia, and Russia began to mobilize. As expected from the tensions prior to the war, that declaration set off a domino effect. Although Russia mobilized only against Austria-Hungary, Germany declared war on Russia and the first military action on the Western Front began, followed by Germany's declaration of War on France and invasion of Belgium. In protest of the violation of Belgium's neutrality, the United Kingdom declared war on Germany on August 4th. Although Canada had confederated nearly fifty years prior, the nascent nation-state's strong connection with the Commonwealth as a colony meant that Canada was automatically brought into the war. Over the following several days Montenegro declared war on Austria-Hungary, Austria-Hungary declared war on Russia, and Serbia declared war on Germany. By August 7th the first members of the British Expeditionary Force had arrived in France and Europe's Great War began.



Toronto Star, June 29th, 1914

The Bigger Picture

By Hilary Walker, Outreach Coordinator, Heritage Mississauga

The Royal Canadian Mint dedicated its 2014 Proof Silver Dollar to the 100th anniversary of the declaration of the First World War in January; the Canadian War Museum opened two new First World War art exhibitions and held a First World War Centenary Gala in April; the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry commemorated its 100th anniversary with multiple celebrations in August; and the Royal 22e Régiment will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a gala in October. Across the country, all sorts of military and heritage-focused organizations have delivered, or are in the process of



Canadian National War Memorial, Ottawa

delivering, events that mark the beginning of the First World War. On a provincial scale, Doors Open Ontario events have been operating under this year's theme of "Remembering the First World War: Ontario in transition." Most of this newsletter looks at Mississauga's contributions to the First World War, and that is absolutely wonderful — as Mississauga's heritage source, we should be focusing on telling the stories of the residents of our city and what they experienced during the First World War. However, it is also important for us to remember how the Mississauga experience fits into the bigger picture; that is, how it fits into Canada's overall involvement and activity during the First World War. Over 600,000 Canadians served in the Great War, and every one of this year's many commemorative events recognizes the sacrifices, losses, triumphs, and victories that were experienced by those 600,000 individuals as well as all other Canadians at the time.

Are you interested in learning about the First World War on a national scale? Do you want to know more about the different

commemorative events that are happening in Ontario and the rest of Canada? Check out these helpful online resources in your search for more information:

Veterans Affairs Canada: www.veterans.gc.ca

In the First World War section of the Veterans Affairs Canada website, you can find information regarding specific battles, quick war facts, photo galleries, video and audio archives, medals and memorials, biographies, helpful timelines and a calendar of events. The calendar of events is particularly helpful if you are hoping to attend a specific commemorative event, as it allows you to filter events by city, province, date, and type of event.

Canadian War Museum:

www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/guerre/home-e.aspx

This online exhibition created by the Canadian War Museum gives a thorough introduction to the First World War, as well as in-depth information on the experience of going to war, important battles, life at the front, life at home during the war, key individuals in the war, and life after the war, as well as photographs of equipment, weapons, archival documents, propaganda, decorations, memorials, and people.

Canada 150: www.canada150.gc.ca

This website has plenty of information on important Canadian historical events, including a section on World War Commemorations (covering both the First World War and the Second World War). As the site is meant to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary, it also has interesting content regarding the country's general history.

Remember Our Fallen

William Clipperton

William Henry Clipperton, a former principal of the Streetsville High School, enlisted in March of 1916, and later joined the 8th Battalion in France. On August 15th, 1917, at the Battle of Hill 70, Lieutenant Clipperton was shot by a sniper. After some hours spent in a dugout he was removed to No. 18 Casualty Clearing Station, where he died two days later, at the age of 31. He is buried at the Lapugnoy Military Cemetery, 5 miles West of Bethune, France. He is listed on the Ontario Teachers Roll of Honour and the Streetsville Veterans' Memorial Cenotaph.



President's Message: *Midsummer Reflections*

by Barbara O'Neil, President, Heritage Mississauga

It's already late summer as I write this column - my favourite, most relaxed season (if one discounts the road work that has literally made its way to our family doorstep).

Lazy days encourage reflection, and a recent visit to New Orleans and an upcoming road trip through small-town Ontario, including a stop in Goderich, where my maternal ancestors farmed, are on my mind. **New Orleans is a feast for the eyes, the Paris of America, and not coincidentally, an incredibly heritage-rich city.** Although the population is still lower than pre-Katrina at 369,000, its citizens are proud of and well informed about its history. We stayed in an 1891 Queen Anne style mansion that is now a bed-and-breakfast, and toured the sights, including the National World War II Museum. It was inspiring to see how creatively exhibits were designed, to make history as tactile and interactive as possible, as we "boarded" period railway cars and later watched a 4D presentation narrated by Tom Hanks.

Goderich boasts many lovely heritage buildings, some of which were badly damaged in 2011's summer storm. The town lies in the path of Canada's "hurricane alley", and not enough money or political influence have yet been brought to the table to save all the worthy old properties from demolition. We're heading there to see the downtown area while it's still relatively intact. There's a First World War angle to this too: my grandfather and his two brothers left their farm to enlist in the army. All three of them completed degrees in medicine or dentistry at the University of Toronto at the end of the war, thanks to a returning veterans program.

HM Leads First World War Commemorations

Heritage Mississauga is taking the lead role in commemorating our City's own First World War veterans, through programming that brings the 1914-1918 period alive. Ours is a unique role, and without the important work HM is undertaking in researching and ensuring the accuracy of local historic details, much of this heritage would simply be lost or remain undiscovered and unhonored.

Among the **many First World War initiatives HM is launching** this year and/or over the next 3 years are:

1. Several federally funded summer student research projects have provided data for our online **Virtual Cenotaph** (coming soon)
2. A **Kit Bag Exhibit** (revealing the daily life of a WW1 soldier), on rotation through the Mississauga Library branches beginning August 6th
3. Publication of the **second comic book in the Heritage Mississauga Comic Series**, with a First World War storyline
4. **Participation in Doors Open First World War commemorative activities** at the Small Arms Building in Lakeview

5. A **Haunted Mississauga** evening reflecting the *Mississauga Remembers First World War* theme
6. Attendance by HM representatives and our Thompson's Company militia at **numerous Remembrance events** later this year
7. **Quarterly First World War War Pages broadsheet publications**, and many articles on related topics of interest in the HM newsletter
8. A **special First World War Christmas Gathering**, again at the Grange (period music and costumes, with prizes)
9. In a **huge coup for Heritage Mississauga**, in September 2015 we are scheduled to bring the famous Vimy Ridge cave drawings exhibit "Souterrain Impressions" to the City. This exhibit is travelling internationally, and will draw large crowds wherever it goes.

On reflection, **Heritage Mississauga has come a long way over the past decade**, haven't we? We are now clear about our organizational identity: we *are* Mississauga's Heritage Source. We partner with virtually every community group and participate in every major city event. We've proved we can host big events and take on large scale projects. We've forged close ties with the Aboriginal community. We organize and sell out high profile fundraisers such as The Credits. We've established our own re-enactment militia. We're rolling out a comprehensive Cultural Heritage project. We regularly pilot new ideas to extend our relevance and reach. With continued financial support, imagine what we can accomplish in the next 10 years!

Remember Our Fallen

Alan Barrie Duncan

Alan Barrie Duncan, son of Reverend George Petrie Duncan of Port Credit, enlisted on October 20th, 1915. His attestation papers list him 5'11" with blue eyes and dark brown hair. He first went overseas in October of 1916, and served through the battles of St. Eloi, The Somme, Passchendaele, Amiens, and Cambrai. Two of Alan's brothers also served, including George Duncan who was killed in action at the Battle of Festubert in 1915. Captain Alan Duncan was killed in action on September 29th, 1918 at the age of 21 while acting as second in command of his Battalion during an attack North of Cambrai. He is buried at the Marcoing Line British Cemetery near Douai, France, and is remembered on the Port Credit Cenotaph.



From the Editor's Desk

By Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director, Heritage Mississauga

As one war's commemoration ends another's begins. December marks the official end of the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. It has been a busy year for Thompson's Company as they participated in numerous re-enactments, parades and local events. We appreciate these volunteers for their dedication to bringing to life the men and women of Toronto Township during this difficult time.

August 4th, 2014 marked the official anniversary of the start of the First World War and kicked off a number of local and national commemorations. Heritage Mississauga is focusing on the men and women of this community and their involvement in the war effort. Through research, exhibits, newsletter stories and our online virtual cenotaph, we will do our best to honour our fallen, those who returned and the families left behind.



Sophie's poppies, Sophie Cook

The world's most famous war memorial poem, *In Flanders Fields*, was written by Canadian Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae at the battlefield May 3rd, 1915 during the second battle of Ypres, Belgium. The bright red poppy that the Colonel describes has become our symbol of remembrance each November. Supporting our community Legions, we wear the poppy proudly in honour of our veterans and the sacrifices they made for our freedom. As part of our **Mississauga Remembers** project, Heritage Mississauga sent out "Legion of Honour Poppy" seeds to our members to grow in honour of our local veterans. We asked for feedback- "how do your poppies grow?" and were delighted to receive some images from Sophie Cook on the successful batch of poppies planted in a pot on her deck. We look forward to planting our own poppy garden here at The Grange in 2015 to accompany our 1812 roses.



On Sunday, September 7th we were honoured to be invited to share in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry 100th Anniversary ceremony at Trinity Anglican Church in Port Credit, where they honoured our own Lt. Colonel Agar Adamson. A plaque was unveiled by Agar's great granddaughter Madeleine Adamson and the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson Colonel-in-Chief (PPCLI). The PPCLI are also conducting a Memorial Baton Relay from Edmonton to Ottawa and



Soldier with Madeleine Adamson and Rt Hon. Adrienne Clarkson, HM

included Mississauga as part of their relay. The baton carries the full Honour Roll of the Regiment inside it. The event included a stop at the Adamson Estate and then the Small Arms Plant where visitors had the opportunity to visit a mobile museum display and speak with officials from the PPCLI.

It is very busy this fall all across the city. We were pleased to have a visit with Timothy Street on September 13th, as he helped Mayor McCallion officially open the Streetsville Village Square. This new public space has a First World War connection. The Streetsville cenotaph, constructed in 1926 in honour of local veterans who died during the First World War the cenotaph, has been moved to a more open space within the square to better support ceremonies of remembrance. Congratulations to everyone involved in the project. The new Square will be a highlight in Streetsville's community celebrations.



Mayor McCallion, Timothy Street, (Richard Collins), HM

Heritage Mississauga invites you to join us at Doors Open on Saturday, September 27th. We are at the Small Arms Plant supporting the Small Arms Society event and will be honouring the **Mississauga Remembers** project. The Lorne Scots Museum will be joining us, our new comic will be launched, and Thompson's Company will conduct firing demonstrations. There will be other World War II and Small Arms displays, a number of artisans will be on hand and **Frog in Hand** will be performing. Don't miss it!

Throughout the next four years we will continue our research, discovering more about the men and women of Toronto Township during the First World War years. We are looking forward to meeting you, our readers, as we share our findings at events, on our website, through publications and in presentations.

August 4th, 1914

As of 11:00 pm on Tuesday, August 4th, 1914, the British Empire, including Canada, was at war with Germany.



Waterloo Chronicle, University of Waterloo Archives

As a Dominion in the British Empire, Canada was not an independent nation in 1914. Britain's declaration of war on Germany meant that Canada was also at war, as were the other Dominions and Colonies within the British Empire. Canada did not, and legally could not, declare war on its own, and as such Canada did not issue a formal declaration of war against Germany.

The British Declaration of War: "Owing to the summary rejection by the German Government of the request made by His Majesty's Government for assurances that the neutrality of Belgium would be respected, His Majesty's Ambassador in Berlin has received his passport, and His Majesty's Government has declared to the German Government that a state of war exists between Great Britain and Germany as from 11 pm on August 4th."

Message sent to the Dominions from the His Royal Majesty, King George V, on August 4th, 1914

"I desire to express to my people of the Overseas Dominions with what appreciation and pride I have received the messages from their respective Governments during the last few days. These spontaneous assurances of their fullest support recalled to me the generous self-sacrificing help given by them in the past to the Mother Country. I shall be

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian, Heritage Mississauga

strengthened in the discharge of the great responsibilities which rest upon me by the confident belief that in this time of trial my Empire will stand united, calm, resolute, trusting in God. George R.I"

August 5th, 1914

Message sent to the British Crown by the Governor General of Canada on August 5th, 1914 (often viewed as Canada's unofficial declaration of war, but more a message of support to Great Britain)

"Canada stands united from the Pacific to the Atlantic in her determination to uphold the honour and tradition of our Empire." The Government of the Dominion of Canada issues proclamation calling for a special War Session of Parliament. A Canadian military contingent, consisting of one infantry division and additional army troops is authorized by the government, to be equipped, maintained and trained at the expense of Canada.

August 18th, 1914

Canadian Prime Minister Robert Borden issues this statement at the opening of the special war session of Parliament:

"As to our duty, all are agreed; we stand shoulder to shoulder with Britain and the other British Dominions in this quarrel. And that duty we shall not fail to fulfil as the honour of Canada demands."

Remember Our Fallen

Charles Nairne Lee

Charles John Nairne Lee enlisted on June 8th, 1916 and served as a Lieutenant with the 54th Battalion. He was killed in action by an enemy shell on September 27th, 1918, while occupying a trench north of Bourlon Wood during the advance to the company's objective. He is buried nearby at the Bourlon Wood British Cemetery. A flag and staff were presented to the Port Credit Chapter, I.O.D.E. on April 24th, 1924, by Mrs. Fred W. Lee, in his memory. He is remembered on the Port Credit Cenotaph.



Recruiting: To Go or not To Go

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian, Heritage Mississauga

From the outset of the war, there was social and political pressure on the young men of the community to enlist for service. Many newspaper ads conveyed posters that appealed to “patriotic duty” to Crown and County, while at the same time shaming young men to enlist by appealing to mothers and wives to “send their men”. Farmers and agricultural producers in rural areas, such as in historic Mississauga, were hard-pressed to determine the best course of action: to stay and work the farm and harvest crops to support the war effort, or to enlist and essentially leave the farm. Both agricultural produce and manpower were needed for the war effort.

In the early years of the war, particularly in 1914 and early 1915, voluntary enlistment was strong. The first contingent of 31,200 Canadians (amongst them some 800 men from Peel County) arrived in Britain on October 14th, 1914. Initially dubbed “Canada's Answer”, it soon became apparent that there would be no quick end to the war and that many more soldiers would be needed. By mid-1916, Canada had enlisted some 300,000 recruits, but had committed to raising 500,000 more by the end of the year. The pressure on Canada, led to a conscription crisis in 1917. The Military Service Act, amidst much controversy, was passed on August 29th, 1917, allowing the government to conscript able-bodied young men into military service.

In historic Mississauga there was a local recruitment station in Port Credit, while other “travelling” recruitment officers came to Streetsville and Malton periodically. In many cases however, interested new recruits travelled to nearby Toronto or Hamilton to enlist. Most of the young men from historic Mississauga who enlisted in the early years of the war did so voluntarily, while undoubtedly there were those in the later years of the war who were conscripted into service against their wishes.

Once enlisted, some basic training took place at the Long Branch Rifle Range and the Cooksville Fair Grounds, before many would make the march along Dundas Street to Hamilton. After training in Hamilton, regiments would be sent en-masse to the Canadian Expeditionary Force training base in Valcartier, Quebec, before being shipped overseas. Upon arrival in Britain, Canadian troops re-assembled on the Salisbury Plain outside of London, England, prior to being sent across the English Channel to the Front.



www.canadaatwar.ca

Remember Our Fallen

Harold Statia

Harold Edwin Statia from Streetsville enlisted on September 26th, 1914. He had worked as a printer and editor of the *Streetsville Review*. Harold attained the rank of Corporal before he was killed in action on October 8th, 1916 at the age of 22, while fighting at the Somme in Flanders. He was buried at the Adanac Military Cemetery in France. Corporal Statia is remembered on the Streetsville Veterans' Memorial Cenotaph.



Remember Our Fallen

Fletcher Oswald Miller

Fletcher Oswald Miller worked as a bookkeeper prior to enlisting in August of 1915. He served as a Private in the 116th Battalion. Private Miller was killed in action on July 23rd, 1917 during an attack southwest of Lievin, France, at the age of 23. He is buried at La Chaudiere Military Cemetery at Vimy. Locally Private Miller is remembered on the family gravestone in Eden Cemetery in Meadowvale.



Impressions in a Village of Peace

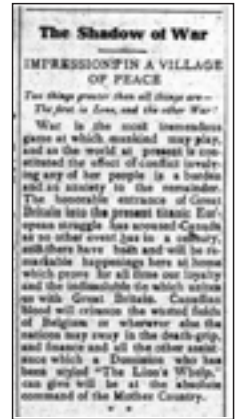
By Alice Stanton-Hagan

Examining the Early Days of the First World War through the *Streetsville Review*

August 1914 was a terrifying, confusing, and exciting time for people all over the world. As leaders declared war, mobilized armies, and tried to assess what the global impact of the First World War would be, small-town Canadians grappled with the ways in which a global war might affect their lives and communities. The *Streetsville Review*, a weekly circular which was the main source of news and social media for the villages of historic Mississauga, offers insight into the concerns of the readers just learning about the war that would change their lives and take many of their young men over the following four years.

The tone of the *Review's* general war news and the obligatory printing of the royal family's activities and announcements speak to Canada's strong ties to Britain at the start of the war. While later in the war Canadian troops would be discussed and celebrated separately from the other Commonwealth countries, the sense of Britishness in the *Review's* war coverage is evident.

Economic concerns were also largely tied to Britain. A short article from August 6th titled "War's Effect on Canada" discusses the potential economic impact of the war on Canada through London's stock market and the British wheat market, but assures readers that Ottawa's finance department is optimistic. Anxieties about food shortages in Britain were also reflected in local attitudes. While in London many grocery stores imposed limits on purchases to deter hoarding, Port Credit grocers exploited concerns about food, warning in advertisements published soon after the outbreak of war that "The European War may last a long while and it will be difficult to secure groceries. Our stock is fresh and clean and we would advise you to lay in a supply now." Legitimate concerns about hoarding and food shortages overseas were subverted to actually encourage stocking up. While Canada was sufficiently economically independent from Britain that there was no real risk of the war causing an economic collapse, the national imagination was still strongly concerned with Britain's prospects.



Streetsville Review,
HM



Main Street Streetsville c1900, HM

An article published on August 20th about the business outlook in Canada takes a much more optimistic tone, as it focusses not on risks to Britain but on potential gains that are specifically Canadian. The author urges confidence and courage in the face of war, predicting increased immigration, a wheat boom, and industrial growth for Canada.

The agricultural impact of the war was naturally an important concern in historic Mississauga, which was largely made up of farming communities. Land brokers immediately took advantage of the war, urging farmers to "Buy Farm Land Now!" and "GET READY FOR WAR PRICES." Advertisements somewhat tastelessly proclaimed that while many would suffer during the war, the farmers would prosper greatly.

Alongside predictions about the economic impact of the war, there was great concern and curiosity about its length and scope. Although we often think of 1914 as a heady and optimistic time, with young men rushing to enlist so that they would not miss out on the action that would surely be over soon, there were early forecasts which predicted a long and brutal war. Lord Kitchener, the Secretary of War, announced that he was prepared to continue directing men and resources towards the army for at least three years, which was the duration of his term in office. Although there is no news on local reactions to this news, the article reports that it had a "depressing effect on the reading public in London."

An article published in the *Review* on August 28th titled "The Shadow of War: Impressions in a Village of Peace" offers a rare introspective look on how the war was experienced by the people of Streetsville. While the author somewhat unenthusiastically goes through the requisite colonial sentiments of loyalty, sacrifice, and freedom, the article also offers several interesting observations on the war that break with the usual patriotic narratives. The first is a criticism of the broad and unconditional support for the war based on faith in the nation, man, and British civility. The author notes that the 'old military spirit' survives, despite the horrors of war, and that even "philosophic pacifists are all for war now 'because it will introduce a new era in the world's history'" but argues against this view, writing "nonsense, they are for war because Germany insulted Britain, deliberately and infamously. The lofty, ideal result is an incidental." This type of sentiment was very rarely expressed in the *Review*; while Streetsville residents may have been similarly skeptical about the war, the tone of public discourse was

Impressions in a Village of Peace cont'd

overwhelmingly patriotic, especially after local boys started to ship out overseas. The second argument is a comment on the extent to which citizens of Streetsville and Mississauga's other villages are able or willing to experience the horrific effects of war. The author writes that residents of Streetsville "will see none of the soul-searing phases of the conflict – just shadows that will pass before the sunshine." The article further suggests that when confronted with the gory vastness of the war through newspaper articles, locals are overwhelmed and avoid thinking about it. It evokes pastoral imagery and early colonization, suggesting that the area's residents prefer to bask in the peace and blessings of Canada at home rather than 'worry away the peace.' The article ends with a call for readers to remember the brave men who are facing death for their freedom, an important reminder which neither eclipses nor negates its other points. It is important to remember that alongside news of the war, which would later include updates on Streetsville's injured and fallen, the *Review* would continue to run local news, farming tips, and recipes. While the First World War brought significant changes, there was also continuity. Streetsville residents in 1914 were standing at the edge of history, not knowing what changes and continuities might exist during wartime. This small snapshot of the village offers a unique window into its concerns and priorities at that time.



Streetsville soldiers, 1914, HM

The First Modern War

By Rachel Schleihauf

The First World War is often considered the first modern war because it saw the rise of modern war technology and weaponry. Here are a few of the technological innovations from the First World War:

Tanks

The tank or "landship," defined as a heavily armoured military vehicle, was introduced during the First World War. Britain established both a Landships Committee and an Inventions Committee during the war to invent a new military weaponry and equipment. The Landships Committee commissioned William Foster & Co. to design what became referred to as the "tank", due to its resemblance to a steel water tank. William Foster & Co. designed the first tank prototype called "Little Willie," however the tank required improvements as it was unable to cross trenches and travelled two miles/per hour on rough terrain.

Britain finally introduced the first combat tank, entitled the Mark I, at the Battle of the Somme on July 1st, 1916. Afterwards, other countries such as France and Germany followed Britain's lead in developing tanks of their own.



Little Willie, British I Mark Tank, www

Poison Gas

The First World War experienced the first use of poison gas as a weapon of war. It is estimated that poison gas was responsible for approximately 91,000 fatalities during the war. The German army was the first to use poison gas on the battlefield at the Second Battle of Ypres on April 22nd, 1915. Poison gas was more effective than the tear gas grenades, because chlorine attacked the victim's respiratory system, consequently causing choking attacks. The Allies responded with a poison gas attack of their own in September of 1915. As the war progressed, the use of poison gas became more frequent. Several different forms of poisonous gas were used over the course of the First World War such as chlorine, phosgene, and mustard gas, each with their own deadly effects.

Trenches

The First World War is often referred to as the "war of entrenchment" due to the widespread use of trenches. For instance, the Western Front had trenches running from the North Sea all the way to the Franco-Swiss frontier. Trenches were used on both fronts during the First World War because of their advantageous qualities, such as serving as protection and allowing troops to advance easier. However, despite the advantages, diseases plagued the trenches due to extremely unsanitary conditions. Not only were soldiers in danger during battle, but the trenches exposed them to risk of getting trench fever or trench foot, and a multitude of other vermin-borne diseases. Approximately 200,000 soldiers from the Western Front died in the trenches. While not invented during the First World War, the widespread use of trenches along the Western Front highlighted what many came to see as a war of attrition, appalling casualty rate, and futility.

Mississauga's Soldiers at the Second Battle of Ypres

By Alice Stanton-Hagan

The Second Battle of Ypres took place between April 22 and May 15, 1915, and was the first major battle of First World War in which Canadian troops took part. It also marked the first use of chemical warfare in the form of chlorine gas used by German forces, and was the inspiration for John McCrae's famous poem "In Flanders Fields." German troops occupied all of Belgium, save a small salient (a bulge surrounded by Germans on three sides) near the city of Ypres in West Flanders which Allied troops had carved out during the First Battle of Ypres in the fall of 1914. The objective of the Second Battle was to hold that salient against relentless German attacks.

On April 22, 1915, the First Canadian Division of 18,000 men prepared to take its place between French and British troops defending the Ypres salient. At 5:00pm, the Germans released 168 tons of poison chlorine gas into French trenches. The new weapon was completely unexpected and without gas masks, most of the French soldiers either died there or fled, leaving a 7 kilometre gap in the Allied line. Fortunately the Germans had not predicted the high efficacy of their attack and were not ready to take advantage of its effects. Canadian forces hastily stepped in to defend the line. During the first 48 hours there, 6,035 Canadians became casualties. Of those, 2,000 fell and were buried nearby. The St. Julien Memorial stands at Saint Julien to recognize the efforts of Canadian troops in holding that crucial line between the 22nd and 24th of April 1915.



Second Battle of Ypres, Imperial War Museum

On the 24th, the gruelling battle of St. Julien began. German forces directly attacked the Canadian line with chlorine gas in an attempt to break the salient. Armed with notoriously faulty Ross Rifles and with no protection from gas but urine-soaked handkerchiefs, the Canadians nonetheless held on until British reinforcements arrived. It was a harsh introduction to European warfare but one that earned Canadians a reputation as hardy fighters.

For many Canadian soldiers Ypres was their first taste of battle. Volunteer soldiers who had signed up just a few months earlier realized the harsh realities of war. The first of Mississauga's soldiers to go overseas saw action at Ypres, and one lost his life during the battle.

Captain George Gordon Duncan of Port Credit served as captain of the 10th Battalion during the Second Battle of Ypres and was wounded on April 23. Capt Duncan would

Mississauga Casualties First World War

- 94 known fallen soldiers from the First World War who were from, or were honoured on, historic Mississauga memorials, honour rolls, or cenotaphs
- Average age of the fallen: 25.9 years old
- Research and documentation is ongoing

1914

Pte. Frank Sturch

1915

Pte. John Leviston

Adj. George Gordon Duncan

Pte. George Bertram Alexander

Lt. Cyril Talbot Burney Croft

1916

Pte. John Malone

L.Cpl. Frederick Anthony Tapp

Pte. Alexander Stanley Parker

Spr. Frederick Still

Pte. George Arthur Pearson

Cpt. Arthur George Scott

Pte. Robert Whitehead

Pte. William George Alexander

Cpl. Walter George Birkett

Pte. F. Graham (Joseph P. Garbutt)

Mississauga's Soldiers at the Second Battle of Ypres cont'd...

be killed in action one month later at the Battle of Festubert and buried at Brown's Road Military Cemetery. Gordon is remembered on Port Credit's WWI Cenotaph. His two younger brothers, Wallace and Allan, also fought, and his father George served as chaplain overseas. When Rev. Duncan returned he spoke of his son's bravery and encouraged Port Credit citizens to support the war effort.

Corporal Harry Kee, who was born in Streetsville, fought at Ypres and received the Military Medal for gallant service at that battle. In his civilian life, Harry was an electrical worker and attended Dixie Union Presbyterian Church. He was discharged at the end of the war and is remembered on Dixie Union's Honour Roll.

Lance Corporal Edgerton Sayers, a relative of the Harris's of the Benares House in Clarkson, served in multiple battles at Ypres and described the destruction he saw there in a letter: *"I have been through Ypres several times and since the last bombardment there is hardly a wall standing except part of the tower of Ypres Cathedral. The rest of the church is a heap of ruin. I think the only reason the tower is left standing is that makes a good land mark for directing artillery fire."* Among his belongings is a letter opener engraved with 'Ypres' that Edgerton bought as a souvenir. Three years after the Second Battle of Ypres, in June of 1918, Edgerton was killed in action, and is buried at Bellacourt Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. He is remembered on the honour roll of St. Peter's Erindale, where he was an active member of the congregation.

John Levison, a grocer from Port Credit, was among the group of Port Credit men of the 36th Peel Active Militia that went overseas early in the war. He was the first of 90 men from historic Mississauga to fall during or due to service in the war. John was killed in action on April 23, 1915 at the age of 30 while fighting with the 4th Battalion at Ypres. He has no known grave, but is memorialized on the Menin Gate Memorial in France and the Port Credit Cenotaph.

From a military perspective it would have been wiser to give up the salient and focus resources elsewhere, but British troops had already sacrificed so much for the small piece of land that it became a significant symbol of Allied resolve. There would be three further battles at Ypres: Passchendaele in the summer of 1917, Battle of the Lys in April 1918, and the Fifth Battle of Ypres in the fall of 1918. By the end of the war, battles in this area had caused hundreds of thousands of casualties on both Allied and German sides. Though decimated, the area remained in Allied hands until the end of the war.

Remember Our Fallen

Dennis Ainger

Dennis Ainger enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force on August 2nd, 1915, and joined the 75th Battalion. His attestation papers indicate that he was 5'6" tall, of fair complexion, with blue eyes and brown hair. Private Ainger was killed in action on March 1, 1917 during an intelligence raid prior to the Battle of Vimy Ridge at age 24. He is buried in the Zouave Valley Cemetery, Souchez, near Pas de Calais, France, and is remembered on the Honour Roll at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Erindale.



Mississauga Casualties First World War

1916 cont'd. . .

Pte. Howard Sutton Shaver

Pte. Andrew Milligan

Pte. Arthur Fry

Pte. Wilbert Adair

Pte. Thomas Blackman

Pte. Gordon Benham Kipp

Cpl. Harold Edwin Statia

Pte. Patrick Kelly

Pte. John William Hibbert

Sgt. Percy Joseph Devlin

Pte. Edward Cosmo Innes

Cpl. William George Green

1917

Pte. Henry Smith

Pte. Dennis Ainger

Pte. George Whitehead

Sgt. Mosley Chapman

Sgt. Thomas Cartwright

Pte. Joseph Clarke

Pte. William Kidd

Pte. Eli Rossiter

Lt. James Howard Fawcett

Pte. John "Jack" Young

Pte. David Anderson

Pte. Seymour Hunt

Pte. Gordon William Davis

Pte. Seymour George English

Lt. George Osborne Hall

Mississauga's Soldiers at the Battle of the Somme

By Alice Stanton-Hagan



Canadian Soldiers, Battle of the Somme, Collections Canada

The Battle of the Somme, which lasted from July 1st to November 18th, 1916, is remembered as one of the bloodiest and most futile battles of the First World War. General Haig planned for a swift victory that would break the stalemate and gain an advantage on the Western Front while distracting German forces from French initiatives at Verdun. Unfortunately, Haig relied on outdated methods of war which resulted in heavy losses on both sides: the Germans had around 660,000 dead or wounded and Allies suffered 623,907 casualties, including 24,000 Canadians, a quarter of the Canadian contingent. The villages of Toronto Township (now Mississauga) felt the losses of the Somme keenly and twelve of their boys were killed in action there.

The infamous first day of the battle was an enormous failure for Allied forces. For many, it represents generals' foolishness and lack of concern for privates' lives. This is especially true in Newfoundland; the 29th Nfld Division lost 733 of its 801 men that first day at the Somme. Prior to that attack on July 1st, British divisions pounded German lines with shells, expecting such an easy advance that troops were told to walk through No Man's Land. But Allied plans were poorly concealed and the soldiers were met with a barrage of German artillery fire. Even the divisions that were able to advance could not hold their gains due to the massive casualties: 20,000 men died and 40,000 were wounded. It became obvious that what was thought to be an easy battle would yield limited gains that would have to be hard-won, and Haig turned his focus to smaller objectives in the southern sector.

Canadian forces joined the battle at the end of the summer (at this time Newfoundland had not yet confederated). Their first action was the Battle of Flers-Courcelette, which lasted from September 15th to September 22nd, 1916. With only two tanks, Canadian divisions moved forward on the village of Courcelette and the nearby German trenches. After a week they had captured the village and German forces had moved back slightly to a prepared trench north of the village. On the first day of the battle two men from Port Credit were killed in action: William Alexander, an English labourer from the 18th Battalion, and Howard Sutton Shaver, a bricklayer who was fighting with Princess Patricia's Light Infantry.

Wounds were also heavy at Courcelette: in September, Edgerton Sayers, a relative of the Harris' of Benares Historic House in Clarkson, sustained a shrapnel wound in battle, but recovered by November and continued to serve until he was killed in action in June 1918. Percy Joseph Devlin, a 'nursery man' from Erindale who attended St. Peter's Anglican Church, died on October 16th, having been shot in the head, hand, and arm on September 22nd. Two Port Credit boys, George Hall and Alan Duncan, served through

Mississauga Casualties First World War

1917 *cont'd.* . .

Lt. Jeffery Filder Smith

Pte. Charles Albert Rollings

Pte. Fletcher Oswald Miller

Lt. William Henry Clipperton

Pte. Wilfrid Arthur Cook

Cpl. Rueben Crawford

Sgt. George Hostrawser

Pte. William Kee

Lt. Col. Alexander T. Thomson

Pte. Oliver Adrian Stewart

Pte. Edward B. Seymour

1918

Lt. Cyril Roaf Barber

Pte. Arthur Whitehead

Pte. Oliver Sutton Hammerton

Pte. Sydney Butler

Abs. William A. Carrington

Lt. Frederick H. Langstone

Spr. Charles Roy Thomas

Pte. Christopher Sullivan

Cdt. Charles F. McHenry

L.Cpl. Egerton Arthur Sayers

Flight Lt. Charles Harvey

Cpl. Harold Robert O'Hara

Pte. John Pullinger

Pte. William W. Morris

Mississauga's Soldiers at the Battle of the Somme cont'd. . .

the Somme and avoided casualties, but both were killed in action later in the war. Though Alan was only 19, he was awarded captaincy after the Battle of the Somme. The heaviest losses of Mississauga's soldiers occurred in October 1916, early in the bitterly fought Battle of Regina Trench. The battlefield and trench conditions were abysmal following heavy rains, and tanks were rendered useless by the mud. While a few men were able to break through the German lines, they were easily cut off and captured or killed. Three soldiers from Mississauga were killed in an attack on October 8th. Thomas Blackman, a farmer from Erindale who attended St. Peter's, was part of the Battalion Bombing Platoon in the attack on Regina Trench. He was presumed dead after he went missing on October 8th, at the age of 22. Gordon Kipp of Streetsville, a writer for the *Streetsville Review* who was popular around the village, also went missing at that battle just three weeks after arriving at the front. For some time he was believed to be a prisoner, but was later presumed to have died at Regina Trench at the age of 28. Harold Statia, another Streetsville boy and editor of the *Review*, was also killed in action on October 8th. In June he had written to his sister thanking her for biscuits she had sent and reporting very muddy conditions at the Somme. Edward Cosmo Innes and William George Green, both from Port Credit, were also killed in the battle for Regina Trench, which was finally captured by the 4th Canadian Division on November 11th.

Further losses include Andrew Milligan, who died of wounds on September 28 at the Battle of Thiepval Ridge. Privates John William Hibbert and Arthur Fry of Port Credit were killed in action at the Somme, and Mosely Somerville Chapman of Erindale died from wounds he sustained there.

Shortly after Regina Trench was captured the Battle of the Somme finally concluded with the Battle of Ancre, November 13th-18th. Not much land was gained, but it had at least relieved pressure on the French at Verdun. The conditions had been horrific, the gains small, and the loss of life massive. The Somme was a far cry from the glorious victories that Mississauga's eager soldiers expected when they enlisted; it was poorly planned, bloody, and largely futile. Many started to doubt the value of such a war, but the friends and brothers of the fallen soldiers continued to fight bravely in the battles that followed, and would eventually lead to victory years later.

Remember Our Fallen

Robert Oscar Andrews

Robert Oscar Andrews was the last soldier from historic Mississauga to be killed in action during the First World War. He had grown up in Meadowvale and was working there as a farmer when he was drafted as an early conscript under the Military Service Act in October of 1917 when he was 20. He had been fighting with the 75th (Mississauga) Battalion for nearly a year until he was killed in action during the capture of Marchpont, a town east of Valenciennes that was taken as part of the Hundred Days' Offensive. The last Canadian soldier to die in the war was Pte. George Price, who was killed by a German sniper at Mons just a few minutes before the armistice.



Mississauga Casualties First World War

1918 cont'd . .

Sgt. Floyd Everard Graydon

Pte. John Moore

Pte. James William Dunn

Lt. Douglas C. Thomson

Pte. William Samuel Herod

Cpt. Franklin Walter Ott

Lt. Charles John Nairne Lee

Cpt. Alan Barrie Duncan

Pte. Percival Brooks

Pte. John William Crowe

Pte. Charles Victor Harris

Lt. Robert Ellerton Thompson

Pte. Ralph Herbert Edwards

Pte. William Crowley

Lt. Angus Douglas Gray

Spr. Arthur Franklin Gould

Pte. Robert Oscar Andrews

Casualties as a result of Service

OS. Earl O'Hara

Lt. Walter Douglas Read

Pte. Hubert H. McCaugherty

Pte. Cyril George Bogg

Pte. Earl Allan Smith

Mississauga's Soldiers at the Battle of Vimy Ridge

By Alice Stanton-Hagan

The Battle of Vimy Ridge on April 9th-10th, 1917, is remembered as a glorious moment for Canada that defined the country in its own right rather than as a colony and earned Canadian troops a reputation for toughness in battle. The ridge was strategically important for the Arras campaign, and a Canadian victory was unlikely given that the Germans held a heavily fortified high ground. The success is particularly notable because British and French forces failed at their objectives while Canadians succeeded. Moreover, it was the first time soldiers from all four Canadian divisions had fought together, and it represented the resilience and unity of Canadians. Many historians cite the victory at Vimy as a key moment in Canada's nation-building. However, it is important to remember the cost of such a victory amidst the glory it



The Battle of Vimy Ridge, painting by Richard Jack, Canadian War Museum

brought; 3,598 Canadians were killed and another 7,000 were wounded. Soldiers from historic Mississauga experienced both the rewards and the tragedies of that battle; some received praise and honours for their service while others lost their lives. Of the many who served, five Mississauga soldiers were killed in action and eight were wounded. I hope that by taking a closer look at a few men from our community who served we will be able to comprehend both the costs and the rewards of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

Through the winter, Canadian forces had been conducting raids on German trenches to gather intelligence, most of which had been successful. On March 1, 1917, the Fourth Canadian Division conducted a major raid on enemy trenches on the ridge using poison gas, but its execution was a disaster: the gas blew back towards Canadian forces and they were pelted with gunfire. The Canadians suffered 687 casualties including 30 prisoners and the death of Dennis Ainger, a farmer from Erindale who attended St. Peter's Anglican Church.

On April 9th 1917, all four Canadian divisions attacked the ridge, and the first three were successful in their objectives. The Fourth Division failed to attain the most important position, Hill 145, but Canadian forces continued their attack and captured the hill by the end of the day. On the 10th, German forces were ejected from the Ridge except for the 'Pimple' at the North end, which was taken on the 12th along with Givenchy village. On the 14th the Germans withdrew East to Douai.

Mississauga Casualties First World War

Possible Fallen

Pte. James Joseph Clarke

Pte. James Eggleston

Pte. Alfred Kahn

Pte. Thomas W. Brannen

Pte. William Robert Still

A Call to Action!

Heritage Mississauga now turns to you, our readers, members, and residents of Mississauga. We have names of people, and piecemeal information on their life, times, and service. But now we need the stories, letters and the pictures!

Did your ancestor live in historic Mississauga serve and fall in the First World War?

We are most interested in finding, documenting and copying pictures, portraits, letters, correspondences, and stories that relate to those who served and fell from historic Mississauga, and the families they left behind. Please contact us.

We are also looking for images relating to the First World War and historic Mississauga connections!

Please help us remember.

Contact us today:
history@heritagemississauga.org
905-828-8411 ext 29

Mississauga's Soldiers at the Battle of Vimy Ridge cont'd. . .

All of Canada's soldiers fought heroically and cohesively at Vimy, and one of the factors contributing to the victory was the fact that everyone, including privates, knew the plan well, so when officers and captains fell they were able to continue the attack. Many soldiers also received individual honours for their service at Vimy. Corporal Harold Kee, an electrical worker from Streetsville who attended Dixie Union Presbyterian Church, won a Military Medal for "gallantry and devotion to duty during the advance on Vimy Ridge April 9th 1917." After the Brigade Wiring Party was hit by a shell, he took initiative to organize another wiring party and secured communication to the report centre before going on to organize a stretcher party to aid wounded men.

Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Thomson, who was one of Mississauga's most praised and highest ranked soldiers, acted as second in command of the 10th Battalion at the Battle of Vimy Ridge. He was popular around Port Credit, and volunteered to serve at the first opportunity, reaching France before the end of 1914. His experience in the local militia helped him rise through the ranks and he earned a Military Cross in 1916. Lieut. Col. Thomson continued to serve through several injuries until he was killed in action in September of 1918, having fought for more than three years.

Lieutenant Colonel Agar Adamson, a British lawyer married to Mabel Cawthra, served at Vimy as commander of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He lived on the Adamson Estate in Port Credit with Mabel, who had received the property as a wedding present. Agar's correspondence during his service overseas serves as a unique personal account of the war as well as a portrait of his marriage. Following the attack at Vimy, Agar wrote "I think we can hang on. Our brigade did splendidly. . . We have done very well, though suffered a lot."

Thomas Cartwright, an English farm hand from Erindale, paid the ultimate price for his service at Vimy. He had been a member of St. Peter's Church, a militiaman, and member of Erindale's baseball team. We have no details of his death except that he was killed in the April 9, 1917 attack on Vimy after serving for 10 months, and is buried at the Zouave Valley British Cemetery. Joseph Clarke, a cook from Streetsville, also gave his life that day. He was killed in action by shell fire during an attack on enemy trenches at the age of 21, having enlisted less than a year earlier.

Christopher Sullivan of Port Credit fought and was wounded at Vimy. In his civilian life he was a labourer who attended St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church and was a private in the volunteer army. He would later receive a Military Medal shortly before falling in action in August of 1918. Another Port Credit boy, George Arthur Watson, was also wounded. The *Streetsville Review* printed his take on the battle, which echoes the sentiments felt by many Canadians, despite the pain and losses of war: "We gave Fritz just what we've been waiting to give him for a long time. Some wonderful things happened that morning."



Canadian Soldiers returning from Vimy Ridge, Library & Archives Canada

Remember Our Fallen **The Whitehead Brothers**

Perhaps no family in historic Mississauga gave and lost more than did the Whitehead family from Malton. Three sons all served and fell during the First World War. George Whitehead and his twin brothers Robert and Arthur all enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Robert was the first to fall, dying from pneumonia he contracted while training in England on July 17th, 1916 at the age of 20, and is buried at the Shorncliffe Military Cemetery. George was killed in action on March 30th, 1917 at the age of 25 and is buried at the Ecoivres Military Cemetery at Pas de Calais, France. Arthur died from wounds he sustained during service on February 6th, 1918 at the age of 21. He is buried at the Sucrierie Cemetery at Pas de Calais, France.



Mississauga's Soldiers at the Battle of Passchendaele

By Alice Stanton-Hagan

In the spring of 1917, the war was going poorly on the Western Front. Russia was on the verge of revolution and about to withdraw from the war, and German forces had launched full-force submarine warfare. The disruption to Allied supplies was so great that the British war cabinet feared they would be unable to continue fighting through 1918. General Haig planned to take a German-occupied coastal ridge to the East of Ypres in order to destroy two German submarine bases and block rail lines. The only part of Belgium not occupied by Germans was a small area near Ypres that was surrounded on all sides.



Wounded Canadians

Stretcher-bearers thread through shell holes to carry the wounded to aid posts close behind the front. Here, the wounded would receive first aid before walking or being carried farther to the rear for more advanced treatment. George Metcalf Archival Collection

Despite strong protest from British Prime Minister Lloyd George, British troops commenced attacks in June of 1917 and were met with great success early on at Messines Ridge. The battle continued through the summer of 1917 with small gains and very heavy casualties on both sides. By October, troops were exhausted and the modest progress had come at the cost of 100,000 British casualties. Moreover, the artillery used in earlier battles had left huge craters in the ground and heavy rains had turned the whole battlefield into a swamp.

Having proved themselves at the Battles of Vimy Ridge and Hill 70, Canadian forces were called in to relieve the British troops and provide the final push to take the ridge and gain control of the Belgian shore. Canadian General Arthur Currie felt reluctant to send his troops into a major battle right on the heels of Hill 70 in August, but Haig personally persuaded him. Currie did, however, extract a promise from Haig that he would be given sufficient time to plan and prepare for battle. That fastidious preparation had been the key to victory at Vimy and would be again at Passchendaele. Canadians arrived at the end of October and found horrific conditions. Duckboards were put in place to walk on, but many men and horses drowned in the mud before the battle had even begun.

"The condition of the ground beggars description. Just one mass of shell holes all full of water. The strongest and youngest men cannot navigate without falling down. The people we relieved tell me in the attack, a great many of their men were drowned in shell holes for want of strength to pull themselves out when dog tired."

Agar Adamson, writing to his wife Mabel - Oct 23, 1917

Lieutenant Colonel Agar Adamson of Mississauga led the famed Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry at Passchendaele. A British-born Barrister, he moved to Port Credit following his marriage to Mabel Cawthra. The two lived on the Adamson estate, which Mabel had received as a wedding present. In Agar's letters to Mabel he writes about Passchendaele with both pride and a deep sense of loss. Many of his men were injured or killed and he had to re-organize his whole Battalion after heavy casualties.

The Canadian attack on Passchendaele commenced on October 26th. Currie's plan was to take small gains and then hold them. Troops used tanks to advance to their objectives, facing intense counter-attacks. Over the next two days the Canadians pushed forth and dug in to hold their ground using artillery and hand to hand combat, and by October 28th the first attack had succeeded.



Lt. Col. Agar Adamson, Princess Patricia's Light Infantry

On October 30th Canadian and British divisions began a second advance to the village of Passchendaele. The third and fourth Canadian divisions reached the city and held their gains for five days while waiting for relief, facing German artillery fire and wading in mud. By the time reinforcements arrived, 80% of the third and fourth divisions' soldiers had become casualties. Two of Mississauga's soldiers were killed during this attack. Corporal Reuben Crawford and Sergeant George Hostrawser were both killed in action near Passchendaele while fighting with the 116th Battalion. Reuben Crawford was an unmarried hydro operator from Cooksville who served as acting sergeant in the 36th Peel Militia. He was killed in action on October 31 1917 at the age of 37. George Hostrawser was born in Malton and worked as a farmer until he enlisted in December 1915 at the age of 18. He was killed in action near Passchendaele on October 31 1917 at the age of 20. Despite the losses the Canadians pressed on, and by November 6 were ready to close in on the penultimate objectives. Despite setbacks they had taken control of the end of the ridge by the end of the day and were well-positioned to finish off the battle.

Battle of Passchendaele cont'd. . .

On November 10th, Canadian divisions did the impossible and defeated the German troops at Passchendaele, despite countless disadvantages. The victory had cost Canadians 15,654 casualties and 1000 bodies were never recovered, lost to the mud forever.

William Kee of Streetsville was killed in action at Passchendaele that final day while serving as a member of the Borden Motor Machine Gun Battery. In his civilian life he was a labourer living in Toronto. Alexander Thomson and Oliver Adrian Stewart of Port Credit both died of wounds resulting from the battle. Further casualties include Pte. James Collings, a labourer and member of Clarkson's Methodist Church choir, who was wounded in the leg.

Reflecting on the battle, Agar Adamson wrote to his wife: *"The more I think of our assault the more wonderful it appears, we were given almost the impossible to do and did it. . . . The men's following of their officers and their real grief at their losses, shows that they were too valuable to lose."*

But what about Canadian women?

By Alexandra Rayner

Beyond the warfare, the First World War was a watershed event for the advancement of women's rights. The war marked the first time that female suffrage was seriously considered by policy makers. Thousands of women made the journey overseas and served in the Canadian Medical Corps. Sadly, 53 nurses died while in service. On the home front, women flooded into the workforce as men were shipped abroad. Women were employed by munitions factories and other occupations that were previously dominated by men. One of the most significant contributions by women to the war effort were the countless hours in free labour that the women provided: they knitted warm clothing for soldiers, collected rations, and sold victory bonds, an countless other support activities.



Canadian Nursing Sisters voting, 1917, Library & Archives Canada

The number of volunteer recruits plummeted after the summer of 1916. This forced Prime Minister Borden to revise his promises about conscription. Borden avoided a conscription crisis by creating a coalition government. Borden implemented two bills that would ensure the success of the Union party. The Military Voters Act and the Wartime Elections Act came into effect on September 20th, 1917. The former gave all members of the Canadian armed forces the right to vote, which included nurses. The Wartime Elections Act gave the vote to female relatives of servicemen.

In general advanced education for women was lacking, especially for those in rural areas like historic Toronto Township (Mississauga). This is evident from a *Globe and Mail* article written in the spring of 1917, where the editorial narrative suggests that women had to be educated to "properly" vote: *What a tremendous undertaking our women have taken upon themselves; the task of educating women to vote right. When election time comes the politicians will come around, a few nice words spoken in women's favour will win votes. I am speaking for country women who are always busy, and yet whose votes may turn a whole election.*

Many believed that women were unable to vote rationally. The *Globe and Mail* published a wife's account of what her husband had told her to do with this opportunity. It read, "You just find who's hottest for reinforcing the boys out here without the waiting game and plant your vote for him, little woman". Although some women got the right to vote, the choice for many was largely influenced by the men in their lives.

Borden could no longer deny female suffrage after their assistance in the election of 1917. As the *Globe and Mail* had proclaimed, "After the black night of the war there will come the dawn of a new day". On May 24th, 1918 an act was finally passed that gave women over the age of twenty-one the right to vote in federal elections. While this act enfranchised a large number of Canadian women, it only enhanced other Canadian prejudices. This act excluded women who were status Indians, Asians, Hutterites and Mennonites. These limitations made this act more of a symbolic victory, but the Military Voters Act and the Wartime Election Act did accelerate the cause for women's suffrage. *Women, such as Nursing Sisters, who served in a military capacity were proposed as the first to be eligible to vote in federal elections. In September 1917, the franchise was extended to Canadian women, over 21 years of age, with a relative who was serving, or had served in the War.*

Advance to Victory: The Hundred Days' Offensive

By Alice Stanton-Hagan

The Hundred Days' Offensive, which took place between August and November of 1918, was the final campaign of the First World War, characterized by a series of swift Allied victories that ended the war. Following the stalled German advances of the Spring Offensive, the Canadian Corps held the line near Lens, observing and strategizing but not participating in any major battles. Beginning August 8th with the Battle of Amiens, the Canadians fought through to November, finally pushing the Germans out of France. Although the first few years of the war had seen stagnant conflicts that resulted in huge numbers of casualties, the Hundred Days' Offensive was well-planned and executed by skilled Canadian soldiers who had gained an excellent reputation from the offenses of 1917. Nonetheless, the campaign was highly costly in terms of casualties, and fifteen soldiers from historic Mississauga were killed in action or died shortly after battle.



Wounded at Amiens

Canadians wounded at the Battle of Amiens lying outside of the 10th Field Ambulance Dressing Station. German prisoners of war are also dispersed through the crowd.

They likely carried some of the wounded back to the dressing station and are now waiting for someone to direct them to a prisoner of war cage. George Metcalf Archival Collection, via Canadian War Museum

The Battle of Amiens, which was fought from August 8th to August 11th, marked a turning point in the First World War. The plans for the initial attack by Canadian and Australian forces were kept secret and the Germans were distracted by a decoy counter-intelligence plan, so the advance on August 8th caught enemy forces by surprise and 13 km was gained that day. By the 10th German forces had slowed the attack, and most operations stopped by the 11th. While observers had been predicting that the war would last into 1919 or 1920, heavy German losses proved that the German army would only be able to hold out for months, not years. Canadian forces also suffered heavy casualties, which totalled 11,800 over the four days of battle and 4,000 on August 8th alone. The list of men who died that day includes John Pullinger, an English farmer from Dixie, who died of wounds on August 8th while fighting with the 20th Battalion.

Starting August 26th, 1918, operations were renewed and Canadian forces advanced, breaking German defensive lines astride the Arras-Cambrai Road. The Canadians had sustained 11,000 casualties by the time they finally broke through the Drocourt-Quéant line on September 2nd. Losses included the death of seven soldiers from historic Mississauga, three of whom belonged to the 18th Battalion. Canadians used the following three weeks to prepare for their next major battle.



Crossing the Canal du Nord

These Canadian supply units are crossing the dry bed of the Canal du Nord. The wrecked bridge in the background was deliberately destroyed by the Germans, while the dead Canadian in the foreground is grim testimony to the recent fighting. George Metcalf Archival Collection, via Canadian War Museum

The attack on Canal du Nord, which began on September 27th, was a risky operation that succeeded brilliantly. The Germans defended the strong point of Cambrai ruthlessly, as it was essential high ground for attacks and without it, the Hindenburg line would be untenable. During the night of September 27th, Canadian forces attacked the dry section of Canal du Nord, pushing north through the next day. They first needed to get through Bourlon wood east of the canal, an operation which was both essential to the battle and incredibly difficult, as it left a flank open to attack. Charles John Nairne Lee, of Port Credit, was killed by an enemy shell while occupying a trench to the north of Bourlon Wood. Alan Barrie Duncan, acting as second in command of the 75th (Mississauga) Battalion, was killed in action two days later when he was shot while moving forward to ascertain the position of the battalion. Charles Victor Harris of Cooksville and John William Crowe of Port Credit were two other casualties of this operation. Despite heavy losses, excellent planning, coordination of the Canadian Divisions, and support from British divisions allowed the Canadians to reach all of their objectives, finally capturing Cambrai on October 11th. The victories at Arras and Canal du Nord cost 30,000 Canadian casualties, but sent the German forces into retreat.

The Hundred Days Offensive cont'd. . .

Despite the advantage the Allies had over German forces on the Western Front, continued rear-guard action and the battle at Valenciennes on the 1st and 2nd of November was swift but costly. Robert Oscar Andrews of Meadowvale was killed in action a few days later at Marchmont, east of Valenciennes.

November 11th, 1918 was the final day of the First World War. It ended with the capture of Mons by Canadian troops, which was a significant symbolic achievement for the Canadian generals. Early in the war Mons had been lost in a fighting retreat by the Allied forces which slowed the Germans but cost many lives. Although relatively few soldiers died in the final battle for Mons, their loved ones were understandably bitter that men were sacrificed not to win the war, but for a symbolic bookend to years of bloody battle.

Seek Thee Thine Ancestors

By Jane Watt, Administrative Assistant, Heritage Mississauga

The commemoration of the start of the First World War has genealogists focusing on finding the wartime ancestry trail of their family members. There are many sources for research including attestation papers, honour roles, service records, war diaries, medical databases and paylists. The trail can get a little muddy if you do not have the exact regiment your ancestor was assigned to. Many of the Canadian soldiers went overseas from a local battalion only to be assigned to a British unit, changing their regiment numbers. Our suggestion? **Don't give up**, follow the trail and you should find the information you are looking for.

Heritage Mississauga's website (www.heritagemississauga.com) has an extensive list of research websites including many from Britain, Ireland, Scotland and some general sites that include European information. The list included here will get you started on some of the Canadian material out on the web.

For those of you who are just starting out in the lifelong passion of genealogy research, Heritage Mississauga hosts genealogy workshops each year with our partner, the Halton Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. Topics are varied and are usually sold out, we offer genealogists the opportunity to speak with experts, helping to break down barriers and find sources.

Websites for CANADA

Soldiers of the First World War – CEF – Attestation Papers <http://bit.ly/1fBD3eH>
Circumstances of Death Registers, First World War <http://bit.ly/1dYDWc8>
Commonwealth War Graves Registers, First World War <http://bit.ly/1bnO8OX>
Veteran's Death Cards, First World War <http://bit.ly/1kFRrE0>
War Diaries of the First World War <http://bit.ly/1dYwXQz>
Canadian War Museum <http://bit.ly/1fGwE19>
Far From Home Canadian War Graves in the United Kingdom <http://bit.ly/1kFxKMx>
Newfoundland Regiment and the Great War <http://bit.ly/1cNKVZT>
Great Canadian War Project <http://bit.ly/1eNsu48>
Books of Remembrance <http://bit.ly/1fBDA0f>
The Fallen App <http://www.thefallen.org/>
Commonwealth War Graves Commission <http://www.cwgc.org/>

Our next workshops are on Saturday **October 4th** "Researching Your Canadian Ancestors" and on Thursday **November 6th** a Beginners Genealogy Day.

All workshops are held at the Historic Robinson-Adamson House, The Grange, 1921, Dundas Street West in Mississauga from 10am-12:00, lunch break from 12:00-1:00, the last session from 1:00-3:00. The fee is \$25.00 per person for the day. Space is limited and it must be prepaid to reserve your spot. For more information call 905-828-8411 Ext. 0.

Halton Peel OGS also host speakers throughout the year and we invite you to visit their website for a list of dates and topics: www.haltonpeel.ogs.on.ca.

Death Beyond the Front Lines

By Alice Stanton-Hagan

When we think of those who fell during the First World War we imagine that they were killed in action or died of wounds sustained in battle. While many of Mississauga's fallen lost their lives that way, the war caused many casualties behind the front lines and even in Canada. Many activities essential to the army such as training, transporting ammunition, spending time in hospitals, and breathing poison gas put soldiers at risk of illness or death, even when they were not in the trenches. At least twenty of the ninety soldiers from Mississauga who fought and died in the First World War were killed outside of battle, but their sacrifices are no less great.

Even before soldiers reached the front lines, they were put in danger by the training required to go overseas. Most of Mississauga's soldiers trained at Camp Borden or Pettawawa, training bases in Southern Ontario. Some men were shot accidentally during rifle training, but by far the most dangerous activity was flight training. The early airplanes used in the First World War were incredibly unpredictable, and while the short average lifespan of war pilots is often cited, those who died without reaching battle are usually forgotten.



Curtiss Jenny Crash, Fiddlersgreen.net

Cyril Croft, a young man from Streetsville, was one of those casualties. He was born in Streetsville to Reverend Otto Croft, the Rector of Trinity Church, Streetsville. Cyril had gone abroad to study with the intention of taking Holy Orders, and was in Streetsville waiting to be old enough for ordination when the war broke out. He enlisted right away in September of 1914, and after serving through the wet winter, volunteered for the Royal Flying Corps in the summer. On December 8th, 1915, he went up as a passenger with Lieutenant McDonald, who tried to land when he noticed that the engine was missing fire at 1,500 feet, but was unable to do so safely. Lieutenant Croft was killed in the crash at the age of 24. He had been a beloved son, a promising young officer, and a future religious leader of Streetsville. Cyril Roaf Barber was another young soldier from Mississauga who was lost during flight training. He died in a crash on January 7, 1918, while completing the final test of firing with a machine gun while flying. His squad commander wrote in a letter to Cadet Barber's parents that "the accident was one which always will happen as long as men fly aeroplanes built for fighting." These deaths were tragic but inevitable effects of the new technologies of war.

The First World War was the first and only large-scale conflict in which poison gasses were used. Both sides deployed chlorine, phosgene, and mustard gas. Although the initial fatality rates were fairly low due to counter-measures such as the use of gas masks and wet cloths to reduce exposure, the gas created scar tissue in soldiers' lungs. Men who were cleared to return to the front after a gas attack would suffer pulmonary infections such as tuberculosis and pneumonia that cut their lives short years and even decades after the war ended. Moreover, soldiers also faced a high risk of contracting viruses and infections while serving due to crowded conditions at the front and conditions in casualty clearing stations and military hospitals. These factors made soldiers particularly vulnerable to tuberculosis, pneumonia, and influenza. Two of those diseases would often be present in the same person, worsening the risk of death during the Influenza Epidemic of 1918. For every 100 Canadian soldiers killed in action, 6 died from tuberculosis, and for every 100 veterans pensioned for wounds, 25 were pensioned for tuberculosis.

Earl O'Hara was a soldier from Erindale who enlisted in 1915 and served with the Canadian Navy for the duration of the war. Both of his brothers served, and one fell in August of 1918. While Earl survived until the armistice, he died shortly afterwards of tuberculosis at a military hospital in Kent, England, at the age of 22.

William Alexander Carrington was a young man from Port Credit who lost his life in a military hospital in Plymouth, England due to contracting Scarlet Fever on April 15, 1918, at the age of 18. Seaman Carrington had been so eager to serve that he enlisted in 1916, even before he was old enough, and served aboard the H.M.S. Grecian Empire and was employed in minesweeping prior to becoming ill.

Earl Allan Smith, who was living in Lorne Park prior to the war, served with the 95th and 1st Battalions and was discharged at or before the end of the war. Although he lived for many years afterwards, his life was cut short in 1945 when he was 50 by pulmonary fibrosis and emphysema due to lung damage he suffered while serving. At the time of death he was living in Rochester with his common-law wife, Gertrude.

While the battles of the First World War were bloody, it is important to remember that its fatal effects reached beyond the battlefield, causing civilian casualties, illnesses, and accidents. While they may seem more futile or more preventable, these deaths were necessary and planned parts of the violence of WWI.

Prisoners of War

By Alice Stanton-Hagan

During the First World War, prisoners of war were taken on an unprecedented scale, with around seven million soldiers captured by all combatants between 1914 and 1918. Between 3,800 and 3,900 Canadian soldiers were held prisoner in Germany, including at least four men from historic Mississauga. Although the Hague Convention of 1907 governed treatment of prisoners of war, Canadians often faced abysmal conditions and great difficulties, especially if they were wounded at the time of capture.

The largest numbers of Canadian POWs were captured at the Second Battle of Ypres in April of 1915: Canadian forces suffered 12,000 casualties, including 2,000 dead and 1,383 prisoners. The Allies did not gain any ground in that battle, but the Canadian divisions were able to hold the line.

After a unit surrendered to German forces, the soldiers were rounded up and sent to a connecting point before being separated into officers and other ranks, and sent to one of nearly 300 POW camps in Germany and occupied France. Men were housed in crowded buildings, underfed, and forced to labour in salt and tin mines or perform agricultural labour. Food sent to British and Canadian soldiers by the Red Cross was essential for keeping them alive. The poor conditions at the camps sometimes bred typhus or cholera, which could spread to nearby villages. Officers' camps (offizierlager) were far more pleasant, as they often housed officers in repurposed buildings rather than tents or huts, and did not require officers to perform labour. The fatality rate for Canadian POWs in Germany was around 10%, with 382 Canadian prisoners dying of wounds or disease.



Canadian Prisoners of War, Germany, 1917, Library & Archives Canada

**Pte. Collingwood Schreiber
Escaped From Germany**

London, Jan. 19 -- Pte. Collingwood Schreiber, has just reached here, having succeeded in escaping from Germany on his fourth attempt. He spent 20 months in Germany, being captured in April, 1916. He twice received fourteen days' imprisonment and once seven days for previous attempts, but finally got away. Schreiber is unfeignedly glad to be back in the Canadian camp in England. He had a rough time as a prisoner, although he makes no great complaint of the treatment. The other Canadians with him, he says, were well when he left. He managed to escape each time entirely on his own efforts, travelling at night and hiding by day. He was treated most kindly after passing the frontier.

Streetsville Review, January 24th, 1918

The conditions at German camps led many prisoners to attempt escape, and one hundred Canadians were successful. Among them was Pte. Collingwood Schreiber of Clarkson, who escaped from the POW camp in Geissen, Germany on his fourth attempt in December 1917. He had been captured at the actions of St. Eloi Craters in April of 1916, at which 81 other Canadians had been taken capture. Pte. Schreiber had spent 20 months at the camp and been imprisoned three times for his previous escape attempts before he was finally able to escape.

News about prisoners of war was difficult to obtain, and friends and family members of captured soldiers were often in the dark about the location and well-being of their loved ones. Although prisoners theoretically had the right to send and receive a limited number of letters, this privilege was regularly denied. This was the case with Gordon Benham Kipp, who was a printer at the *Streetsville Review* prior to enlisting, went missing on October 8th, 1916 at the Battle of Regina Trench, having only fought for three weeks. He was thought to be a prisoner of war, but the following July he was presumed killed in action. In May of 1918 an escaped prisoner of war reported that Private Kipp had been in the same camp with him and was well, but no further word was received and Gordon never returned to Streetsville. If the escaped prisoner was correct, Private Kipp may have been one of the 382 Canadian POWs who died in German hands. Even now the names, numbers, and causes of death of Canadian prisoners of war are not known for sure.

After the armistice, Canadian soldiers were released in accordance with the Hague Convention, and returned home, although many were weakened and injured. Other than Private Kipp, Mississauga's POWs returned home safely. These included Private Alfred E. Thompson of Clarkson and Private William Langford of Malton, who had been a prisoner for almost four years.

Canada's "Bluebirds" Nursing Sisters in the First World War

By Alice Stanton-Hagan



Voluntary Aid Poster, Canadian War Museum

Although Canadian women had been serving in armed conflicts since the War of 1812 and had done so under the Canadian Army Medical Corps since the Northwest Rebellion of 1885, the First World War saw an enormous expansion in the number, range of duties, and prestige of Canada's Nursing Sisters. In the summer of 1914 there were fewer than 100 nurses on reserve, and only five held permanent positions. By the end of the war, the Canadian Army Nursing Service included 3,141 Canadian nurses, 2,504 of whom had served overseas.

Unlike in Great Britain, where nurses were affiliated with, but not integrated into the army, Canadian Nursing Sisters were part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force and held a rank equivalent to an Officer. Their blue dresses and white aprons earned them 'bluebirds' as a nickname. While many were stationed on the Western Front, nurses also served in Gallipoli, Egypt, and Salonika. Nursing Sisters worked in military hospitals at home and abroad, casualty clearing stations, and in emergencies, even staffed field ambulances just behind the front lines. Their duties included assisting with surgeries, cleaning and bandaging wounds, and monitoring soldiers for infection. Nurses who worked at casualty clearing stations or on hospital ships were subject to many of the same dangers as soldiers: bombing, shellfire, disease, and vermin. In total, 53 of Canada's Nursing Sisters lost their lives due to disease, enemy fire, or drowning.

Canadian military nurses were volunteers who were already trained and experienced in nursing prior to the war. The women who served were all unmarried between the ages of 21 and 38, and most came from middle-class families that lived around urban centres. The high wages, respect, and opportunities offered by the position ensured that there was never a shortage of volunteers.

Only a handful of women from historic Mississauga and the surrounding areas served as nursing sisters during the First World War. Most women who lived here were not in a position to leave their families to seek training as a nurse in a larger city, as they probably did not have the means to do so and were needed around the farm. Nonetheless, several women from the villages of historic Mississauga had the honour of serving as nursing sisters. Clara Charlton was a daughter of a prominent Meadowvale family that had farmed in the area for forty years. Clara and her younger sister Cora both trained as nurses in Canada before moving to the United States in 1911, when Clara was 24. She worked in New Jersey as a nurse, and enlisted as a U.S. Army Nurse a few years into the war. In August of 1919, the *Brampton Conservator* reported that Clara had arrived home safely. After returning from service overseas, she continued to live in New Jersey and work as a nurse, remaining unmarried, but she was remembered fondly as a Meadowvale girl and kept in touch.



Clara Charlton, Perkins-Bull Collection, PAMA



Ida Harcourt, Perkins-Bull Collection PAMA

Ida Mary Harcourt was another nursing sister from Mississauga. She was born in Streetsville to a family from the area, but moved to Brampton when she was around 10 years old. Early in the war she worked at a military hospital in Toronto, and enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in October of 1917. Ida returned home safely and married Clarence Victor Charles of Brampton in 1919.

Most nursing sisters were demobilized in 1919, and returned to Canada. Some married, while others continued to work in health care, which was one of the only careers available to women at the time. At the beginning of the 20th century the extensive role women played in the First World War could not have been imagined, but the scale and technologies of the war demanded brave, skilled, and professional women to actively participate. Canada's nurses rose to the challenge, and their service was honoured by a monument on Parliament Hill in Ottawa in 1926.

First World War stories from the Museums of Mississauga Collection

The Museums of Mississauga has various items in our artifact collection that highlight stories of the First World War

The Benares Historic House has a strong connection to this period as it is restored and interpreted to show daily life on the homefront in 1917-1918. Annie Harris Sayers, who grew up at Benares, returned home to live with her parents and her children while her husband Beverly went off to service; her brother-in-law and Clarkson resident, Egerton Sayers also fought in the war.

Beverly had married Annie in 1906 and the two lived in Clarkson. He was a member of the 36th (Peel) Regiment for six years and wasn't able to go overseas until the birth of his second child, Dora, in 1915. Commissioned into the 201st (Toronto Light Infantry) Battalion, Lieutenant B. Sayers joined up to serve King and Country in February 1916. He was soon transferred to the 204th (Beavers) Battalion where he was appointed to the position of Adjutant and promoted to Captain. The unit went overseas in March 1917, where upon arriving in England the 204th Battalion was absorbed by the 2nd Canadian Reserve Battalion. There were a number of officers who were awaiting a position in a fighting unit and because he was a higher rank Beverly was sent back to Canada with little chance of seeing action. Captain Bev Sayers returned in May of 1917 and later resigned in November of that year.



Beverly Sayers, MOM

Brothers Robert and George Herridge of Clarkson also served during First World War. Robert enlisted with the 126th Overseas Battalion on January 6th, 1915. He later obtained the rank of Corporal within the 38th Battalion and fought in France and Belgium including the battle of Vimy Ridge. Robert was discharged in May 1919 and returned to Canada settling down with his new bride in Clarkson.

George enlisted with the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force on December 6th, 1915 and served as a Private with the 95th Battalion in Belgium and France fighting at Passchendaele and Vimy Ridge. He was injured during his service with gunshot wounds in his left hand and thigh. George was discharged due to demobilization on March 26th, 1919.

The Museums of Mississauga are fortunate to have received archival items relating to both brothers during their time at the war; an artillery shell made by German maker Krupp and designed by Vickers was also donated in 2011.

We also have in our collection a five-page letter written to Irene Hodge of Cooksville from Lance Corporal Edwin Pearce on August 22nd, 1915. Lance Corporal Pearce remains a mystery, as there is not much that we are able to find about him. He was noted as being part of No. 3 Bay 4 Battalion of the Scottish Rifles and was at Fort Matilda in Scotland. In his letter he thanks Irene for her postcard and expresses his interest to go back to Cooksville and to see all his friends. He writes about his time in Scotland while he waits to be sent to fight in France. He also makes reference to Fred from the Mississauga Horse regiment who is missing and has ties to Cooksville. He closes the letter by writing that he hopes that Irene will remember him as well as her father and his friend Bud Stewart. The letter was sent to Irene in September of 1915. If anyone has information on Lance Corporal Edwin Pearce please contact the Museums of Mississauga at 905 615 4860.



Egerton Sayers, MOM

Beverly's brother Egerton also served overseas during the war. During the outbreak of war, Egerton was living in Clarkson and working as a clerk in a bank and enlisted in November of 1914. He later sailed overseas in May 1915 and was posted to the 19th Battalion and went into the trenches of the Western Front in September. During the Battle of the Somme, September 1916, Private Sayers was wounded by shrapnel in the arm and returned to England to recover in hospital. He returned to Canada in February 1917 and stayed for two months in Clarkson before returning to the Front in April. He was later

promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal. Egerton Sayers was killed in action on June 21st, 1918 while the 19th Battalion was occupying a defensive line. He is buried at Bellacourt Cemetery, Pas de Calais in France.

Benares Historic House is proud to be a participating site during **Doors Open Mississauga/Culture Days on September 27th and 28th, 2014**. During the event the public will get a chance to explore what life was like during the First World War in both the battlefield and on the home front through a variety of activity-based and interactive stations. There will be a flyover of WWI replica planes from the Great War Flying Museum. The event is free and runs from 10 am until 4 pm.

For more information, please go to www.museumsofmississauga.com or www.mississauga.ca/doorsopen

Peel County Aid Programs during the Great War

By Caitlan Beachey

For the residents of Peel County, the number one concern at the beginning of the Great War was the production of comforts for the local soldiers overseas. The initial reaction at the onset of the war was for the women to knit high quantities of clothing articles. As often recorded in the *Streetsville Review*, the community was entirely focused on 'sox, sox, sox'. The women's immediate contributions to the soldiers were noted at a 1915 meeting of local notables at the Mississauga Golf Club. One participant admits that "the women of Peel County had been the most energetic in every war activity while the men had been lagging behind..." Despite continuous praise on behalf of the women's success, they had their own struggles in regards to raising sufficient funds and maintaining high quality product while keeping up with the increasing demand from the front. The women realized the necessity of money for both donating to the various causes and for funding their own patriotic work. With more funds, they could purchase a knitting machine that would increase productivity and quality, fully meeting the ongoing demand from the front. By 1915 the frequency of fundraising events under the auspices of Women's Institutes and patriotic leagues significantly increased.



Clarkson Women's Institute Gathering, Lorne Park, 1914, HM

The majority of patriotic fundraising programs were run by the local Women's Institutes, the Women's Patriotic League of Cooksville and district, the Women's Patriotic League of Port Credit, and the local Red Cross societies. Additionally outside the sphere of women groups was the Erindale Young Men's Club. The culmination of these four organizations with smaller church groups and local aid societies kept Peel County occupied with programs on a weekly basis. The fundraising programs took a number of different forms. The programs varied from euchre parties to debates, but most common among the women were garden parties and patriotic dances.

Garden parties were held frequently throughout the spring and summer months and raised sufficient funds for the organizing society. The party often took place on the grounds of an Institute member's residence and was highly attended by locals from surrounding villages. Each party would provide



Clarkson Women's Institute Strawberry Social Gathering, 1915, HM



Streetsville Review, July 1915

entertainment ranging from vocal and musical ensembles, comedic acts, dramatic plays, and dance performances. An example of a successful garden party was one held at The Homestead, the residence of Mr. Edgar Adamson. It was held on July 24th 1915 under the auspices of St. Peter's Church, Erindale and Rev. H. W. Thompson. The party featured entertainment by Bert Harvey and Leroy Kenney, Canada's Greatest Comedians, Miss Evelyn Bryce, soloist, Miss Geraldine Harris and Bert Powell, Scotch dancers, and the Oakville Brass Band. According to the *Streetsville Review*, about 100 people were in attendance making the gate receipts amount to over \$200. The refreshment booth at the party raised the total receipts to just over \$375. The majority of the proceeds, an unspecified amount in the newspaper, went directly to the Red Cross Society and the remaining amount was used to pay for the expenses of the garden party. The other garden parties held by the Women's Institutes and other societies ran in a similar fashion. They had local entertainment, refreshments, and patriotic speeches. Their admission fees of 25 cents per adult would culminate into larger proceeds to send to the war relief cause of their choice. Donations were sent to various organizations including: the Red Cross Society, Peel Ambulance Fund, Belgian Relief Fund, Serbian Relief Fund, Soldier's Comforts Fund, Blind Soldiers Fund, or used for their own patriotic work to purchase supplies.

Peel County Aid Programs during the Great War cont'd. . .



Serbian Relief Fund Certificate for Geoffrey Sayers

The type of fundraising event would take the form of the seasons. Garden parties and concerts were prominent in the summer, fundraising booths at the fair were done in the fall months, and the bulk of the knitting and bandage rolling was done during the winter season. The events would also shape themselves around major events. For example, Halloween gave the women of the Women's Institutes the opportunity to arrange themed dances or concerts at the farms. Halloween of 1916 was celebrated with an 'At Home' in the form of a patriotic dance. It took place at the Mercervale Farm at the southeast corner of Glengarry Drive and Dundas Street and was organized and ran completely by the Erindale Women's Institute. The women decorated the property with flags, bunting, black cats, and witches. They set carved and lit pumpkins in the corners of each room. The Lyric Orchestra of Brampton added to the haunting Halloween atmosphere by playing bewitching music for the majority of the night. With cake also served in a Halloween theme, the night was an overall success. The total receipts came to \$144.40 with expenditures of \$28.85, creating a balance of \$116.65 to be sent directly to help the soldiers who had been blinded in the war. More specifically, the money would

help finance the creation of special books for 70 of the blinded soldiers. Themed events, such as this, were very popular within the community. They provided the people of Peel County with a fun, holiday event that gave them the opportunity to directly help their local soldiers.

The arrangement of fundraising events was a weekly occurrence during the years of the Great War. Because the women could not directly help out on the battle field, they organized activities that would relieve their local soldiers at the front. The organization of these events not only aided the soldiers, but brought the women closer together. Many of the women had husbands, fathers, or sons fighting overseas, and needed the support of others in similar situations. A letter from Mrs. Mildred Bellegheem on October 29, 1969 mentions her experiences working with the women at the Old Stone Church (now Dixie United). She depicts a picture from her memory of a young woman and her two small children weeping as they rolled bandages to send overseas. She states that the women felt 'immensely patriotic and important' when they knitted socks or organized a garden party. In the end, the aid programs set up by the women of Peel allowed their local soldiers the many comforts necessary to their personal success. The women ultimately succeeded in bringing the community together under one patriotic cause.



Advertisement from the Streetsville Review, 1917

13th Annual

HAUNTED MISSISSAUGA

Space Limited
Call to book your seat today
905-828-8411 ext 0

"The Rally 1914"

Friday October 24, 2014

Tours

7:00pm, 7:20pm, 7:40pm, 8:00pm,
8:20pm, 8:40pm, 9:00pm

\$5 Adults
\$3 Youth and Seniors

Presented by Heritage Mississauga in
partnership with the Museums of Mississauga
Benares Historic House
1507 Clarkson Rd. N.

A Postcard From The Front:

By Dorothy Kew, Local History Librarian, Mississauga Central Library

Richard James Morphew of Clarkson, 19th Battalion CEF

Field Service postcards were developed during First World War so that soldiers at the front could send messages home to their families without the need for them to be censored by their officers. The soldier crossed out those items on the back of the card which were not applicable. If anything else was added to the card it would be discarded. This is a field service postcard, sent by Richard James Morphew to Mrs. P. W. Hodgetts of Clarkson in November, 1916.

Mrs. P. W. Hodgetts was the wife of Percy Hodgetts, a fruit grower in Clarkson and the secretary of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association. He published a list in 1919 of those fruit growers in the province who had served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the War. The list included 51 residents from Clarkson, 13 from Lorne Park, and three from Toronto. Of these men eight were listed as killed in action. The Mississauga Library is fortunate to have a copy of that list in the Canadiana Collection, along with a few letters from the front from Clarkson men who served in the war, as well as the above field postcard.

Richard James Morphew, the sender of the card, was born in 1885 in Edmonton, Middlesex, England, the son of Joseph Briggs Morphew and his wife, Eliza Coleman, and baptized in March 1886. He immigrated to Canada in 1906 as a labourer, sailing from Liverpool on board the SS *Lake Erie*, and arrived at the port of Saint John, N.B. On the 1911 Federal Census Richard was living in Clarkson with the family of Harry Pattinson, at Lot 29, Concession 3 SDS, working on his fruit farm. Harry Pattinson was a well-known fruit farmer in the Clarkson area, farming on Lot 30, Concession 3, SDS. His daughter, Enid, born in 1916, would marry Robert Speck, who became the last Reeve of Toronto Township and first Mayor of the Town of Mississauga.



Percy & May Hodgetts, Clarkson-Barnett Scrapbook

Richard enlisted in Toronto on 12th April, 1915, in the 19th Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force. He was assigned regimental number 56169 and indicated on his attestation form that he had served one month with the 9th Mississauga Horse. He gave his occupation as carpenter. He was described as 5 ft. 5 inches in height, with a dark complexion, blue eyes and brown hair. He named his father, Joseph Morphew, of 15 Belmont Avenue, Palmers Green, London, as his next of kin. Curiously he gave his birthdate as 27th December 1889, perhaps wishing to appear younger than he was.

The 19th Battalion was originally raised in Exhibition Park on 6th November 1914; it was sent to Shorncliffe, Kent, England on 23rd May 1915, and then to France on 14th September of that year. Richard would doubtless have seen service at the Battle of Thiepval in September 1916. The Battalion was also involved in the battles of Vimy Ridge, Hill 70, Passchendaele, and the Somme.

Richard returned from the front on 24th May 1919, on board the SS *Cretic*, sailing from Liverpool to Halifax. He did not remain in Canada but returned to England at some point and died there 8th December 1965, in Islington. The World War that raged from 1914 to 1918 was a defining experience for generations of Canadians. It became part of our collective consciousness and now, one hundred years later, we are returning once again to these memorable years.

Numerous national and international projects are underway to assist researchers and create public awareness. Mississauga Central Library's Canadiana Reading Room is planning to contribute to the local perspective. Staff is scanning articles of interest from *The Streetsville Review*, researching local stories and writing biographies of ordinary men and women who contributed to the war effort. Material will start to go online in August on the Local History webpage. The library's First World War collections are also available to the public.



MLS



MLS

Canada's Red Ensign

By Alice Stanton-Hagan



Vimy Red Ensign

Of the many flags which have flown over 'Canada' through its various iterations, the Red Ensign, or Canadian Ensign, is the most bound up in Canada's legacy as a military nation. Through Canada's history and development as a nation, debates around which flag should be officially adopted have always been tied up with ideas of identity, duty, and unity as a nation.

The flag was first used in Canada in 1868, bearing a Union Jack in the top left corner and one or more provincial crests on the right. A version with the crests of all four founding provinces began to be used informally as the national flag. In 1892 it was authorized for use on Canadian ships, but held no official status on land. Nonetheless, it was often used and became enshrined in various traditions, often appearing in military displays and recruiting efforts.

During the First World War, Canadian soldiers carried the Canadian Ensign into the battles of Lens, Hill 70, Passchendaele, and Vimy Ridge. The use of the flag at these iconic battles, especially Vimy, strengthened the connection between the Canadian Ensign and military nationalism. The flag flown at these battles was curiously the 1868 version with four provincial crests, rather than the version that was usually flown at the time. Soldiers may have carried this flag because they found it on the merchant ship they had travelled on. The original flag that was carried has survived and is on display at the Imperial War Museum in London. Many people feel the flag should be returned to Canada because it is an important symbol of the country's history, but it has remained in England, except from 2005 to 2008 when it was loaned to the Canadian War Museum.

In 1924 a version of the Red Ensign that bore the composite shield from the Royal Arms of Canada was authorized for use on Canadian government buildings abroad, but it did not fly as the official flag of Canada until 1945. Nonetheless, Canadian soldiers proudly fought under the Canadian Ensign in the Second World War.

In 1964, Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson's initiative to finally choose a new and distinctive Canadian flag created an opportunity for Canadians to participate in their favourite pastime: a debate about national identity. Pearson wanted to choose a flag that would represent Canada and serve the needs of the growing country. While many Canadians were happy to choose a new flag, disagreeing only on what it should be, there was a large pushback against the whole initiative. Veterans and conservatives for whom militarism was a central aspect of Canadian identity felt strongly that the Canadian Ensign should remain the national flag.

At a Winnipeg Royal Canadian Legion convention at which Pearson had been invited to speak, 2,000 people heckled and booed the Prime Minister. They felt that by choosing a new flag, Canada was forgetting their sacrifice by creating a national symbol for a country that no longer centred its identity on military victories. This opinion was held strongly, but by a minority of Canadians, and so the search for a new flag pressed on. After much debate, our current Canadian flag was chosen, and it flew as the national flag for the first time on February 15, 1965. Today there are still many people who favour reverting to the Red Ensign.

The issue came up again in 2007, when Second World War veterans and the two surviving First World War veterans petitioned Prime Minister Stephen Harper to fly the Red Ensign above the Vimy memorial in France. Harper agreed, and the Canadian Ensign marks the location of Canada's most famed military victory. Perhaps this is a good compromise: the Red Ensign is respectfully remembered as a part of our military past, but the maple leaf flag flies as a symbol of all Canadians.

Remember Our Fallen **Frederick Herbert Langstone**

Frederick Herbert Langstone enlisted on September 26th, 1914. Private Langstone was transferred to 5th Battery Canadian Field Artillery, with which he fought until December 1915 and participated in the Second Battle of Ypres. In January 1916 he was promoted to Second Lieutenant Royal Field Artillery and was wounded in the leg and suffered from gas poisoning in April of 1917. He was killed in action on April 17th, 1918 at Kemmel Hill, and is remembered at the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium. He is remembered on the Honour Roll at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Erindale.



Port Credit and Vicinity Soldiers' Memorial

By Elaine Eigl, President, Mississauga South Historical Society

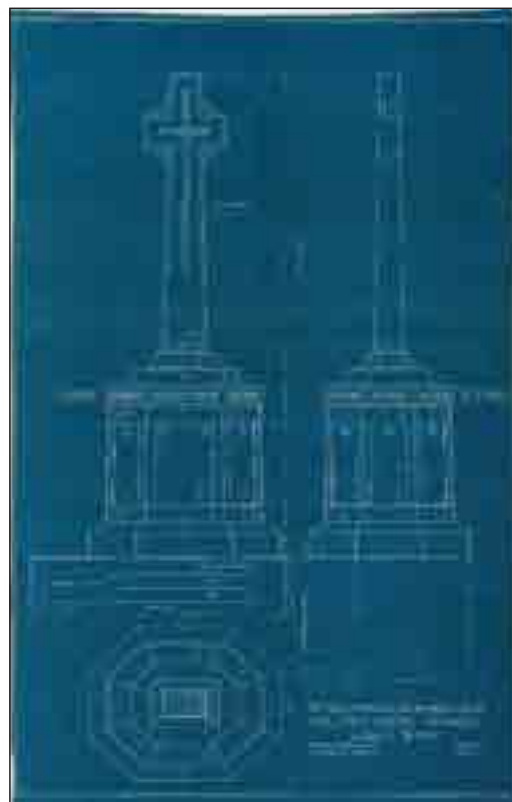
Those whom this memorial commemorates were numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardness faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom.

"Let those who come after see to it that their names be not forgotten."

So reads the plinth of the Port Credit cenotaph. The same dedication was also used on the title page of the Ceremony of Dedication program, which was held on Thanksgiving Day, Monday November 9th, 1925. A copy of the original program is held in the Mississauga South Historical Society (MSHS) collection, as is an original blue print of the Port Credit cenotaph.

In 1919 the Soldiers' Memorial Committee was formed to welcome home the returning soldiers. It was later reorganized, with the help of the Port Credit Village Council, to determine how commemoration of the local men who served their country, including the 30 men who would never return home, were to be remembered.

The MSHS collection holds correspondence dated October 24th, 1925, from George W. Gordon, Secretary of the Soldiers' Memorial Committee, Port Credit and Vicinity, explaining that "...there was such a difference of opinion as to what form memorial should take, and how to obtain funds for the various kinds suggested, that no action could be taken, until a few months ago...". Chairman W.T. Gray indicated that consideration was given to such diverse things as a hall, library, playground, and a monument. The Committee and Village Council decided that the monument "...should be erected in the old Village Park on Brook Street.", which, until 1944, was the name of Stavebank Road. The monument and commemoration ceremony costs came to just under \$6,000.00, with funds raised from a combination of public funds and private donations. The list of donors appended to Mr. Gordon's letter reads like a Who's-Who of late 19th/early 20th century Port Credit. Labour and materials was provided by McIntosh Granite Co., with \$123.30 being paid to St. Lawrence Starch Co. for "labor for McIntosh".



Port Credit Cenotaph Blue Print, 1925, MSHS



Returning Soldiers Reception, Hobberlin House Port Credit, 1919, MSHS

Two contemporary newspaper articles describe the parade, which commenced at St. Lawrence Park. Major John Hughes led the guard of honour who, along with the Port Credit Band and a number of Veterans, marched along the route to the site of the new cenotaph, which was unveiled by Lieutenant-Governor His Honor Henry Cockshutt. The crowd in attendance at the dedication ceremony was estimated to be between 1,500 and 2,000 people. Music played and four uniformed soldiers were posted at the four corners of the memorial where they stood with reversed arms throughout the ceremony. The guard of honour was inspected by Lieutenant-Governor Cockshutt; a massed choir, composed of members of the choirs of the United, Presbyterian, Anglican and Roman Catholic churches sang "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"; and a passage was read by Rev. J.H. Dudgeon.

This was followed by the dedication address which was read by Reverend G.P. Duncan, formerly of Port Credit. Consecrating

the cenotaph must have been a melancholy task for Rev. Duncan, as amongst the names engraved upon the stone are those of two of his sons.

As those who come after, we commit to seeing that their names be not forgotten.

There's more to war than fighting.

By Jenny, Walker, Program Developer, Heritage Mississauga

As the world gets ready to commemorate the First World War, Heritage Mississauga has put together an exhibit that brings attention to the personal life of the soldier. While gruesome images of war are widespread, items have been included that highlight the “normalcy” of the men who went off to war. These were ordinary members of the community who took a small piece of home with them as they travelled thousands of miles to defend their country. Many of these items were the products of existing industries which went into overdrive once war was declared, while others were launched to meet specific wartime needs.

Some local companies like Dominion Canners battled a declining home market, an increase in freight rates and an abnormally high amount of produce to increase in size, as smaller canning plants joined with them for three years in a bid to save the canning industry. Eventually the company expanded into BC and Quebec and by 1919, it had grown sufficiently to build a \$1 million factory in Hamilton providing much needed jobs for those returning from war.



Wm. Davies & Co. produced tinned pork and beans from their premises at Beachell Street, near Front Street East in Toronto. In addition to

providing smoked meats for the home market, the company conducted a lucrative export trade with England. The firm also raised pigs and is partly responsible for Toronto receiving the “Hogtown” nickname; it's said that the squeal of pigs from their crowded pens was a famous sound in the city. Meanwhile in Port Credit, the St. Lawrence Starch Company was facing a shortage of workers as those recently arrived from England signed up and

returned to defend their native land. According to a history by William Gray, there was little evidence of the brutalities of war in the community, and that war was glamourized with lots of flags and parades. The company began producing “WHITE CLOVER” as a glucose substitute which was used in jam making and home canning, while on the industrial side, large amounts were ordered by Orange Crush and Coca Cola. A new use of starch was also found as a component in explosives produced through the domestic munitions industry which boosted the company's profits and contributed to its longevity in the city.

When thinking of Canada's contribution to the First World War, Battles such as Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele are brought to mind but unless a family member was involved, it's easy to forget that these were just ordinary members of the community; it's hoped that this exhibit goes some way to helping us put a human face to their sacrifices.

The First World War “Kit Bag” Exhibit is a travelling exhibit that will be hosted by libraries in Mississauga over the next four years. The exhibit is located at the Central Library, Art & History Department, 3rd Floor until October 27th and then will move to Lorne Park Library.



Kit Bag Exhibit, HM

Remember Our Fallen Franklin Walter Ott

Franklin Walter Ott enlisted with the 25th Varsity Battery in Toronto on March 17th, 1915, and went overseas in June. Captain Ott transferred to the 116th Battalion in August of 1916, where he served at the Battles of Vimy, St. Eloi, Lens, Hill 70, Passchendaele, among others. He was mentioned in dispatches by General Haig in April 1918 for gallant and distinguished services in the field, and was awarded a Military Cross. He was killed in action on September 17th, 1918 at the battle of Arras. He was 25 years old. Franklin Ott is buried at the Monchy British Cemetery in Pas de Calais, France and is honoured by an individual memorial at Trinity Anglican Church in Port Credit and on the Port Credit Cenotaph.



Why We Remember

By Greg Carraro, Vice President, Heritage Mississauga & High School History Teacher



Port Credit Boys, Perkins Bull, Brock to Currie, c1917

The First World War occupies a unique place in our collective memory. It is recent enough for most of us to be able to recognise the places where many of the battles occurred and the faces of the more famous participants (a popular English band is named for the unfortunate Archduke Franz Ferdinand whose assassination sparked the start of the war) but distant enough to forget that those grainy old images of soldiers marching off to war were in fact average young men from different nations with lives and loves not that different from ours. As a grade 10 Canadian History teacher, I am always careful to point out to my 15-year-old students that those who answered the call all those years ago, who came from the same communities, where roughly the same age as they are now.

When war came in 1914, much of the world welcomed it as an opportunity to demonstrate national prowess and to reinforce, or realise, imperialist aspirations. Canada, as a senior member of the British Empire, was

obliged to assist the motherland and do its part for King and Empire.

But for many Canadians, the war was an opportunity to adventure beyond the narrow confines of their small towns or farms, to find work and three square meals a day or simply go to war because that's what all their friends were doing.

The many villages that now make up the City of Mississauga made their contribution to the war effort sending hundreds overseas determined to stop the Kaiser.

It seems strange that a farm boy from Malton should find himself fighting Germans in a trench in Belgium because a Serbian nationalist killed the Archduke of an aging Austro-Hungarian Empire, but such is the bizarre nature of what contemporaries called the Great War.

In recent years, as the survivors have succumbed to old age, it has become more urgent that we remember the ravages of war and the fragility of peace. In honour of the sacrifices of those who fought, who died and those who worked on the Homefront, Heritage Mississauga is marking the Centennial of the start of the war with a series of events and exhibits.

Looking forward ... looking back: Mississauga Remembers

This issue of the *Heritage News*, in honour of our fallen from the First World War, has only scratched the surface of Mississauga's connections to the First World War. Future issues of the *Heritage News*, our upcoming "War Pages" publications, and our website will continue to relate this compelling chapter of our City's story, both triumphant and tragic. We will look at the story of the Curtiss Aviation School and Aerodrome, the Long Branch Rifle Ranges, the home guard, taxation and rationing, the challenge of returning soldiers, and much, much more. For example, what happened on October 8th, 1916 that claimed the lives of five "our boys"?

Our heritage partners, including the Canadiana Room at the Mississauga Central Library, the Museums of Mississauga, the Streetsville Historical Society and the Mississauga South Historical Society are also focusing on different components of Mississauga's significant First World War story, and we invite you to visit and connect with them as well to learn more about Mississauga's multifaceted connections to the First World War.



Long Branch Aerodrome, Curtiss Airplane, c1917

From the Terry Kelly song "A Pittance of Time", the stanza "There's a price to be paid if you go, if you stay. Freedom's fought for and won in numerous ways." resonates, and our Mississauga Remembers program will seek to remember the stories of those who supported the war effort both at home and overseas, and to honour the memory of our fallen.

Heritage Matters

Heritage Mississauga

Events

Sept. 27 10-4 Doors Open at the Small Arms building in Lakeview on Lakeshore Road
Oct. 4 10-3 Genealogy Workshop-Researching your Canadian Ancestors
Oct. 24 7-9 Haunted Mississauga at Benares Historic House, please call 905-828-8411 to reserve a spot
Nov. 6 10-3 Genealogy Workshop-Beginning Genealogy
Dec.14 6-8 Carolling at "The Grange"

Exhibits

Debbie Hatch Discovery Centre
Sept. 9-Oct. 27 Lucy Kovaliv Art Show
Nov. 4- Pat Hertzberg Exhibit

Lower Exhibit Hall

July 8-Oct. 3 ALFEW "Aggregation 16"
Oct. 14- ALFEW "Aggregation 17"

Art Gallery of Mississauga www.artgalleryofmississauga.com

Friends of the Britannia Schoolhouse

Dec.14: Christmas Open House

Are you interested in volunteering at the Schoolhouse? Volunteers help on an occasional basis with our events and in the gardens. Not only do we support a worthwhile cause, we have a lot of fun doing it. Email our Chair Shirley Hoad at shoad@bell.net, if you have a few hours to spare and an interest in helping preserve a community treasure for future generations of children.

Halton Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society

For info contact Jane Watt jwatt@ica.net 905-281-1701
October 26 2-4 Oakville Public Library-Glenn Wright "Researching Our First World War Ancestors"
November 23 2-4 Brampton Public Library-Katherine Barber "Where There's a Will, There's a Word"
Mississauga Arts Council 1055-300 City Centre Drive Mississauga, ON L5B 3C9 Tel. 905-615-4278 mac@mississaugaartscouncil.com

Mississauga South Historical Society

November 18 Help us celebrate Mississauga's 40th birthday. MSHS is throwing a party at Clarke Hall, with guests, a movie about Mississauga, historic displays by some of our members, cake . . . and, of course, our second annual trivia contest. See how much you really know about our city's past 40 years.

Mississauga Sports Council and the Sports Hall of Fame

5600 Rose Cherry Place - Suite 101, (Concourse Lobby - near the elevator), Sports Complex - Hershey SportZone, Mississauga, Ontario L4Z 4B6 Contact: info@mississaugasportscouncil.org Tel: 905-267-3536 www.sportsmississauga.com.

Museums of Mississauga

Guided Tours at the Museums available every Sunday 1 to 4 pm
November 2 Downton Abbey Tea & Tour at Benares Historic House
November 23 Afternoon Tea at Bradley House
Reservations are required for the above two teas, call 905-615-4860 ext. 2110

Streetsville Historical Society

905-814-5958 mbyard@sympatico.ca
General meetings are the 2nd Thur. of the month (Feb, Apr, Oct, and Dec) 7:30 pm at our NEW venue, in the Fellowship Lounge at Streetsville United Church, 274 Queen Street South.

Trafalgar Township Historical Society

For info contact Jane Watt jwatt@ica.net 905-281-1701

Visual Arts Mississauga www.visualartsmississauga.com



Thursday November 13, 2014

Join us for a special night as we celebrate the "Heritage Heroes" in our community!

Park Inn by Radisson

175 Derry Road East
Reception 6pm
Dinner 7pm
Awards Ceremony to follow



Tickets \$65.00 or the Early Bird Table Price of \$500 for a table of 10

Tickets going fast, get yours today!

With thanks to our sponsors:

