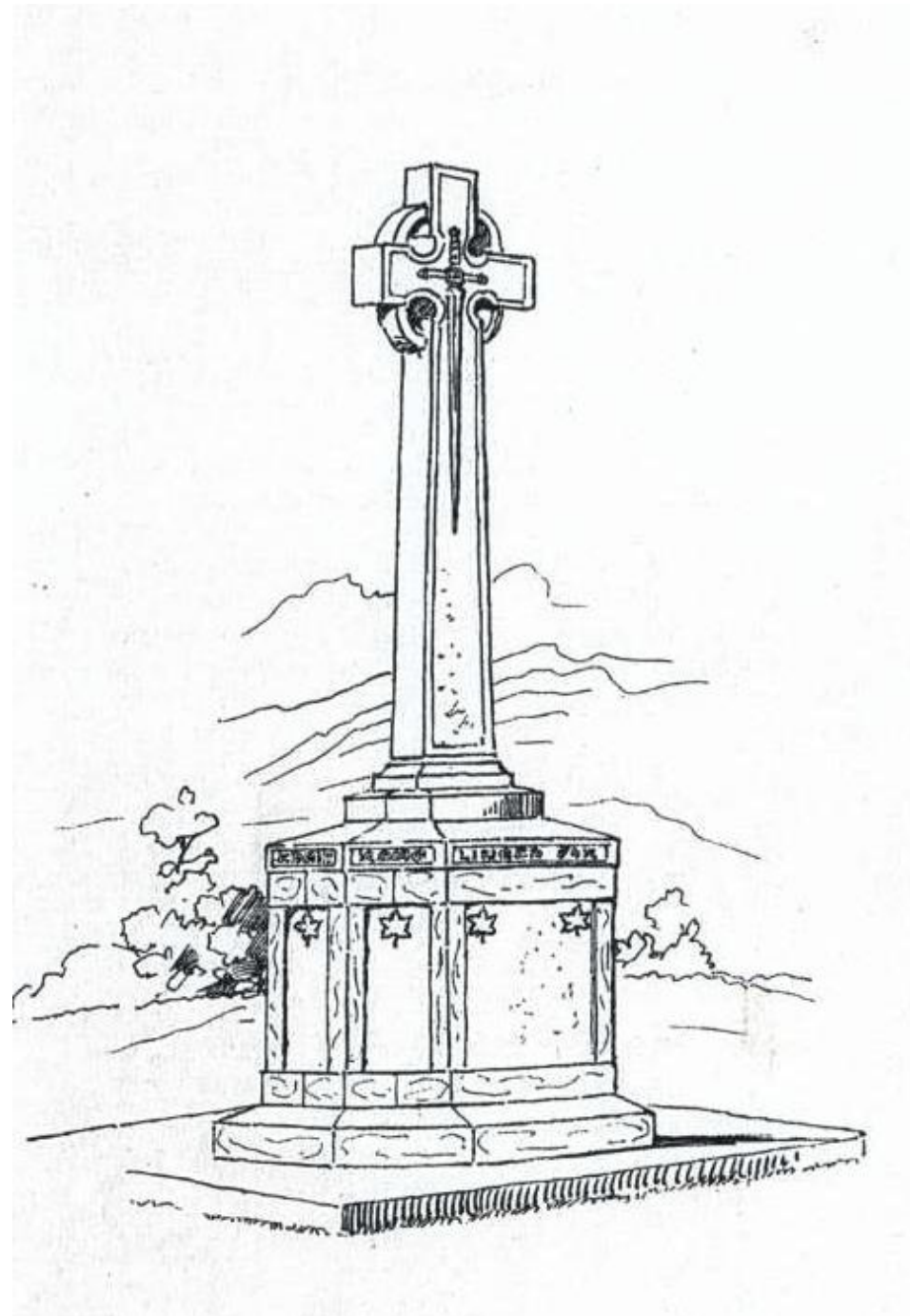


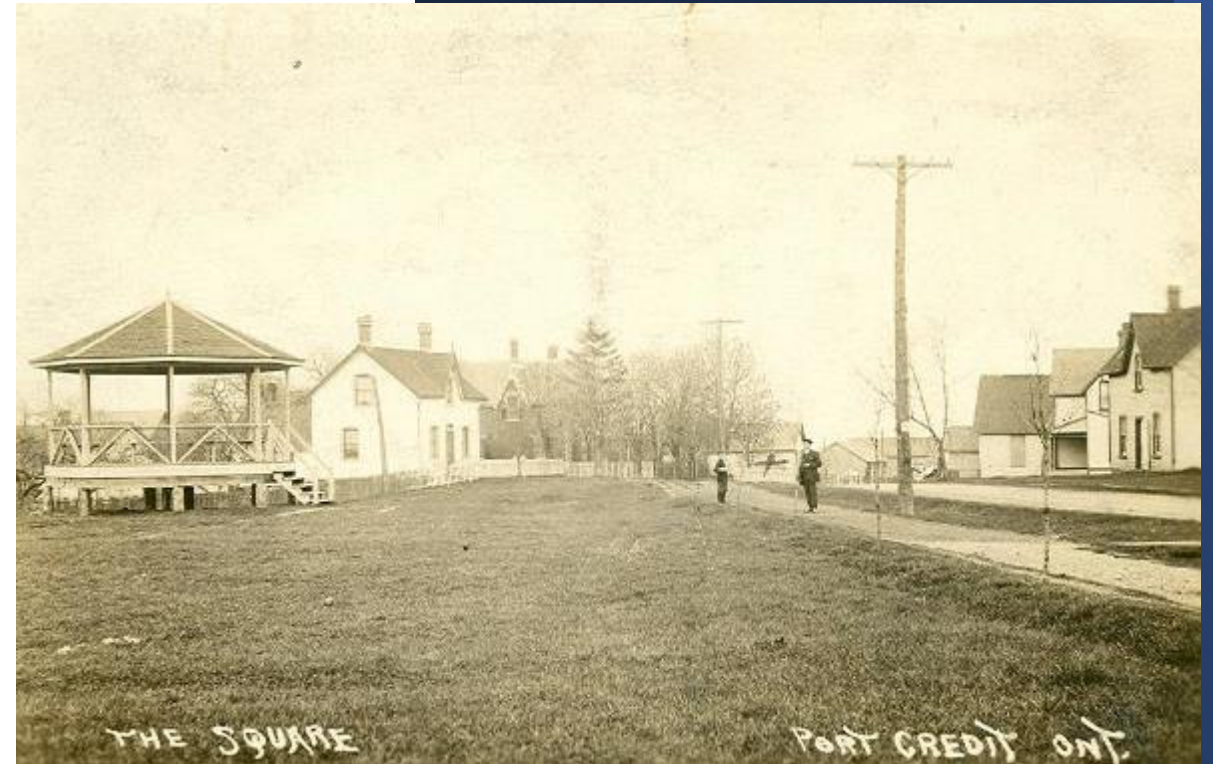
The Story of the Port Credit Cenotaph

Port Credit & Vicinity Soldiers' Memorial



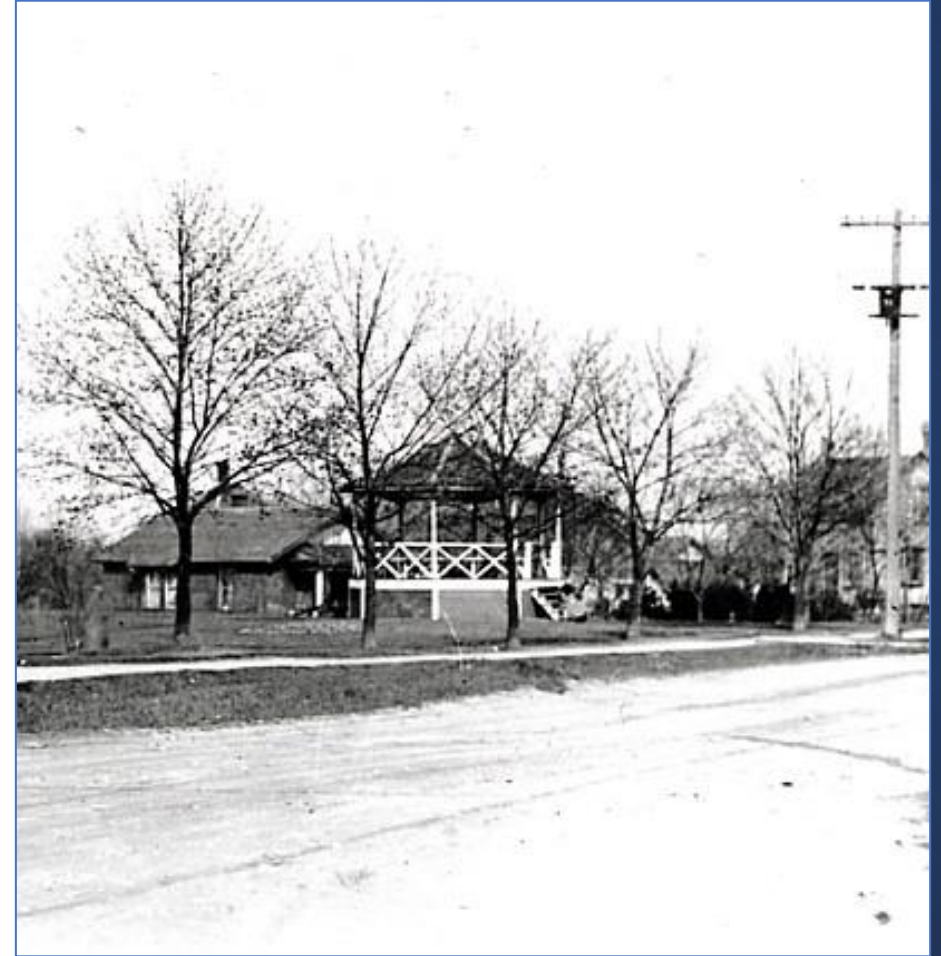
Port Credit Band Shell

- A band shell was built in the “Village Square” on Brook Street (now Stavebank Road) around 1904
- The band shell served as a place of music, community gathering, celebration
- Local soldiers received a resounding send-off to the First World War in August of 1914 from the band shell and square
- In 1925 the band shell was moved to the waterfront near the bottom of Stavebank Road, where it quickly deteriorated due to exposure and was demolished around 1928



War Years

- During the First World War, newspaper notices of casualties were posted at the band shell
- The band shell, located in the public square, became an informal place of somber gathering, sadness and remembrance



Concept of Cenotaphs

- Imperial (Commonwealth) War Graves Commission established in 1919 and championed the idea of cenotaphs
- Cenotaph = “Empty Tomb” as an earthly place of remembrance for the fallen who lie elsewhere
- Designs by Sir Edwin Lutyen & Sir Reginald Blomfield, literary Advisor Sir Rudyard Kipling
- Cenotaph designs were to be “noble, uplifting, classical, monolithic, yet tragic and enduringly sad”



Cenotaphs

- A guide was created in 1919 by the Imperial War Graves Commission to act as an informal guide to the creation of cenotaphs
- General concept was that a cenotaph would have not true horizontal or vertical lines – horizontal lines were to represent the apex of a circle that met 1000 feet underground, and the vertical lines were to represent the base of a pyramid that met 1000 feet in the air – the cenotaph, in broad concept, was to unite heaven and earth
- The “Cross of Sacrifice” design was the most common cenotaph form, and the one adopted by Port Credit



An idea

- Reverend Harry Earle from Trinity Anglican Church approached Port Credit Council on April 7, 1924, on behalf of the Port Credit Horticultural Society, with the idea of “beautifying the public park on Brook Street and the erection of a Cenotaph in memory of our soldiers killed in action during the War.”
- The band shell location was seen as the logical place for a memorial



- Port Credit Village Hall, c1920
- Formerly the Orange Lodge on Stavebank Road, this building became home to the Port Credit Council Chambers from 1914 to 1927
- It was here that decisions regarding the Port Credit Cenotaph were initially made

Port Credit I.O.D.E.

- On May 5, 1924, Mrs. J. Gray, Mrs. A. Lee and Mrs. F. Hamilton on behalf of the Port Credit branch of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire came before Port Credit Council asking for "... a grant to be in erecting a suitable memorial in Port Credit to the memory of our fallen soldiers."

Mrs. J. Gray & Mrs. F. Hamilton,
Port Credit I.O.D.E.



SPECIAL SESSION

Port Credit, December 3rd, 1924.

The Municipal Council of the Village of Port Credit met in the Council Chambers on the above date at 8 p.m. for the purpose of discussing with the various patriotic committees the advisability of erecting a monument for the soldiers of Port Credit and vicinity, who were killed in the late war.

Reeve Campbell being absent at County Council, Councillor Devlin took the chair.

All members of Council present.

The representatives of the patriotic societies present were as follows:—

Catholic Women's League

Mrs. Culligan and Mrs. W. F. B. Parson.

Women's Institute

Mrs. Stallworthy and Mrs. McKay.

Daughters of the Empire

Mrs. A. Lee and Mrs. John Gray.

Township or Original Patriotic Memorial Committee

D. E. Hughes and Mrs. H. S. Boner.

Patriotic League

Men's Association

Port Credit

Burgess and A. W. Briggs.

It was moved that Mr. Hughes take the

Special Council Meeting

- Council promised to seriously consider the request
- A special meeting of Council was held on December 3, 1924
- Council approved the concept of a memorial and specified that the cost of the project was not to exceed \$5,000 and committed \$2,500 for the project – the rest was sourced through donations from the community

chair. Carried.

The business of the evening was then proceeded with and the matter of erecting the monument and a suitable site for the same was duly discussed, and it was agreed that steps be at once taken to obtain a suitable site for same as well as a design and that a Committee be appointed to inquire into those matters.

It was then moved by Mr. Burgess, seconded by Mr. Briggs, and resolved, that in the opinion of this meeting, the form of memorial to those who died in the great war, from Port Credit and the very immediate neighboring community, should take the form of a cenotaph or monument, to cost in the neighborhood of \$5,000. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Briggs, seconded by W. T. Gray, and resolved, that the chairman select a Committee of three to obtain designs and prices for a cenotaph or monument to place before a meeting, to be called a month hence. Carried.

The chairman then appointed the following Committee to obtain prices and designs:—

Councillors Coleman and Patchett, Mrs. H. S. Bonner, Mrs. A. Lee, as pursuant to the above resolution.

Site Committee—Reeve C. W. Campbell, W. T. Gray and Mrs. McClelland.

It was also moved and seconded and agreed to, that the reports of the Committees be presented to Council as early in January as possible and it was also agreed that the present standing Committee, composed of W. T. Gray, A. W. Briggs and D. E. Hughes continue to act as formerly.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

G. W. GORDON, Clerk.

C. W. CAMPBELL, Reeve.

Memorial Committee

- Minutes of a Memorial Committee meeting with the Village Council dated April 27, 1925 recorded that designs submitted by the McIntosh Granite Company were approved
- Committee chaired by W.T. Gray of the St. Lawrence Starch Company, while the design was overseen by Mr. D.E. Hughes

W.T. Gray



JOINT MEETING OF THE MEMORIAL, EXECUTIVE AND GENERAL COMMITTEE

Port Credit, April 27th, 1925.

Met on the above date.

W. T. Gray, Chairman of the Executive, in the chair.

The Clerk read the minutes of the last meeting of the Memorial Committee of April 3rd, 1925, which minutes were adopted as read.

Mr. D. E. Hughes reported that the Design Committee had made a choice of the design for a memorial submitted by the McIntosh Granite Co., and recommended the same for the favourable consideration of the General Committee.

Mr. Hughes moved, seconded by Mrs. Sullivan, and resolved, that the designs submitted by the McIntosh Granite Company be accepted by the General Committee, the cost to be not more than \$5,000.00. Carried.

Moved by D. E. Hughes, seconded by Mrs. Gray, and resolved, that the names of Mrs. W. R. Wadsworth and Mrs. W. W. Innes be added to the committee to wait on the Toronto Township Council. Carried.

Moved by C. W. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Bonner,

and resolved, that the site for the memorial be the Village Park situate on Lot St. Carried.

Moved by Mrs. Gray, seconded by Mrs. Culligan, resolved, that this committee adjourn to meet again Monday evening, the 11th day of May, 1925, at 8 p.m., that the General Committee be notified. Carried.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

C. W. CAMPBELL, Reeve.

G. W. GORDON, Clerk.

A Community Effort

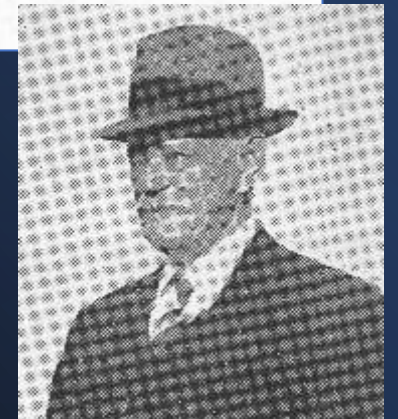
- The Soldiers' Memorial Committee was truly a cross-section of the Port Credit community
- The Anglican, Presbyterian, Catholic and Methodist churches were all represented
- Local aid and benevolent organizations took part, as did several local business owners
- Port Credit Clerk George W. Gordon played an integral role in spearheading fundraising efforts with the Port Credit Masonic Lodge

Soldiers' Memorial Committee

W. T. Gray— <i>Chairman</i>	Mr. D. E. Hughes
Geo. W. Gordon— <i>Secretary</i>	Mrs. F. W. Lee
Mrs. H. S. Bonner	Mrs. J. McClelland
Mr. C. W. Campbell	Mrs. E. A. McKay
Mrs. M. Culligan	Mr. C. Patchett
Rev. G. P. Duncan	Mrs. Sullivan
Rev. J. H. Dudgeon	Rev. J. Sheridan
Rev. H. Earle	Mr. John Thomson
Mrs. John Gray, Sr.	Mrs. C. Urquhart



George W.
Gordon



McIntosh Granite Company

- The McIntosh Marble and Granite Company of Toronto was established in 1872
- The McIntosh Granite Company of Toronto was a preeminent builder of war memorials, cenotaphs, gravestones, cemetery markers and obelisks in Canada following the First World War
- In 1947 the company suffered a large fire, which gutted the company office, its records, and its inventory warehouse
- By 1958-1972 the company was known as McIntosh Granite Monuments

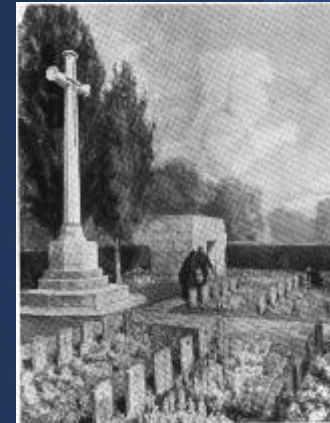
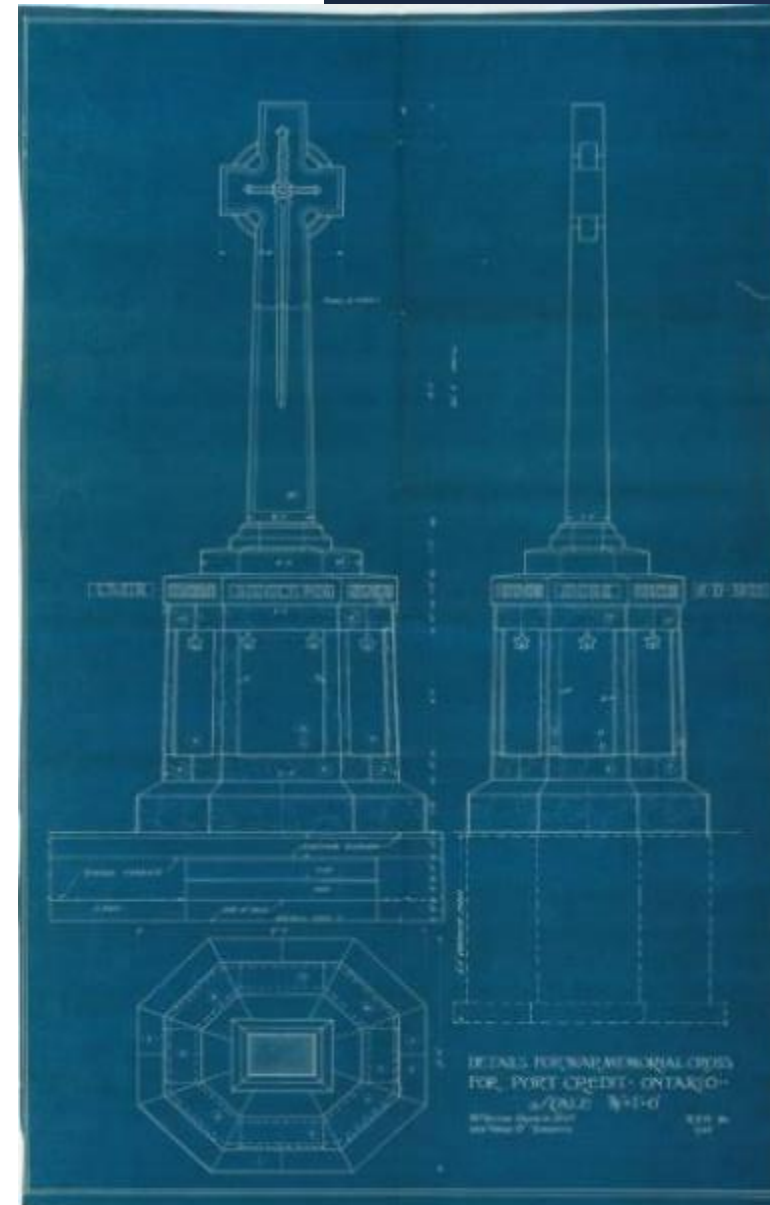


The Ayr Great War Memorial near Waterloo was also built by the McIntosh Granite Company in 1922 following the “Cross of Sacrifice” design, and was visited by the Port Credit Soldiers’ Memorial Committee

Cross of Sacrifice design

- The “Cross of Sacrifice”, also called “Cross Type A”, was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and consisting of an octagonal stepped base supporting a tall stone cross on which is fixed a downward pointing bronze sword
- This cenotaph design was located in numerous war cemeteries after the First World War

Blueprint for the Port Credit and Vicinity Soldiers’
Memorial from the McIntosh Granite Company



*Graves of the
Fallen
concept
design for
the “Cross of
Sacrifice”*

Unveiling

- The memorial was officially unveiled on Thanksgiving Day, Monday November 9, 1925
- The memorial was draped by an enormous Union Jack, and was officially unveiled by Lt-Governor Henry Cockshutt
- More than 2000 people gathered for the march to the Square on Brook Street (Stavebank Road)
- *“Port Credit has every reason to be proud of her boys and every reason to talk of their valiant deeds” ~ W.T. Gray, Chairman*



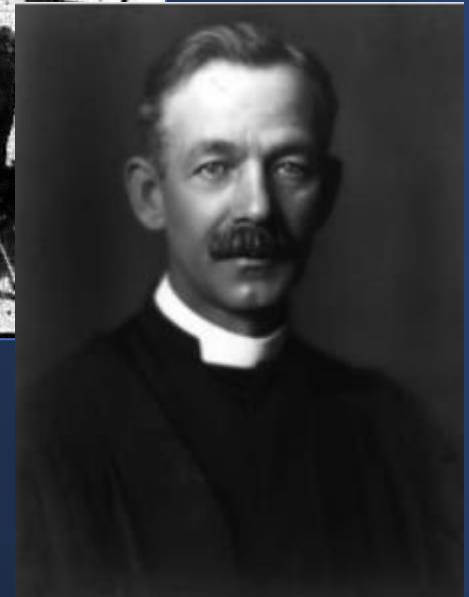
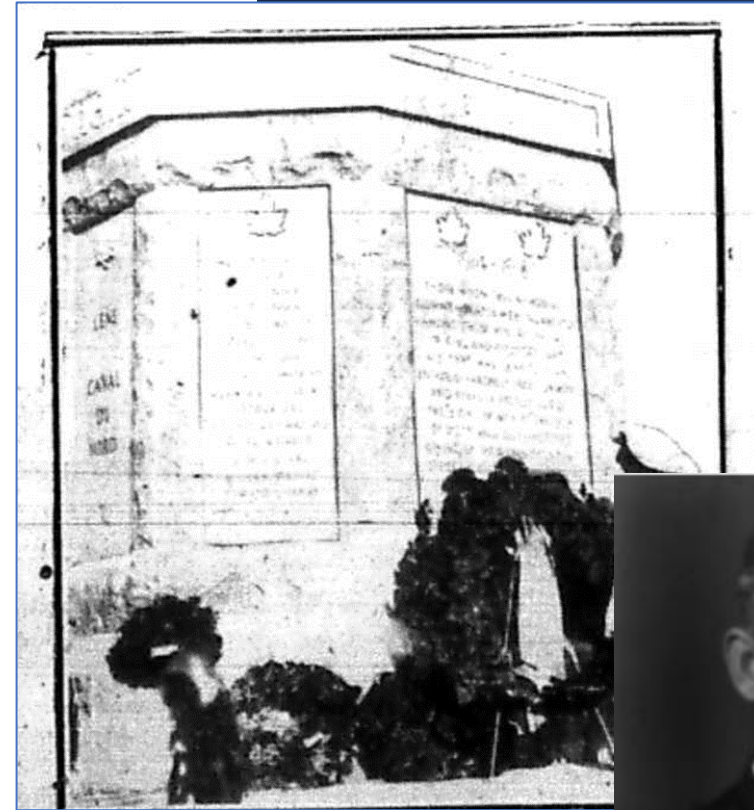
*Lt-Governor Henry and
Isabella Cockshutt, 1923*

Earliest known picture of the Port
Credit Cenotaph is from 1927

A Community Cornerstone

- *“The unveiling of this monument is in proud memory of men who have gone and made the supreme sacrifice. The services rendered for us by these men make us feel we have never done enough for them and for our country. Today we are not here to sorrow or to gloom but to honor those who died for us.”*

~Rev. George Petrie Duncan



Capt. Reverend George Petrie Duncan of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Port Credit served at the Battle of Vimy Ridge and lost two sons during the First World War

Memorial

- The monument is made from Canadian granite. It is 26 feet in height and has a base of 12 feet
- On its lower front the following inscription is carved with the names of the fallen on either side: *“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.”*



Vimy Park

- The park in which the Cenotaph stands today was not originally named
- It was informally referred to as the “Square”, “Village Park”, and “Cenotaph Park”
- In 1927 it was referred to as “Memorial Park”
- In 2017 the Council of the City of Mississauga formally named the park “Vimy Park” in honour to the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge during the First World War
- In 2023 the Port Credit Cenotaph and Vimy Park were officially rededicated after the City of Mississauga undertook redesigned and restored the cenotaph and park

MISSISSAUGA REMEMBERS

The band shell, and the park became the focal point of summer community gatherings.

The first mention of raising funds to build a memorial to fallen soldiers in Port Credit came in April of 1924. A year later, in 1925, a cenotaph design from the McInosh Granite Company was accepted. The band shell site was selected for the location of the Soldier's Memorial, and the War Memorial was unveiled on November 13, 1925 by Lt. Governor Henry Cockburn.

Naming of Vimy Park

The design of Soldiers' Memorial is based on the "Cross of Sacrifice," an accepted cenotaph design by Sir Reginald Blomfield for the Imperial (now Commonwealth) War Graves Commission in 1918. The Memorial originally listed the names of 32 soldiers from Port Credit and the surrounding area who fell during the First World War. In 1946 and 1983 respectively, casualties from the Second World War and Korean War were added. The park in which the Memorial sits was not originally named. In 2017 the Council of the City of Mississauga formally named the park "Vimy Park" in honour to the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

Port Credit War Memorial

The Port Credit and Vicinity Soldiers' Memorial is located on what was once the former site of the town square and band shell. During the course of the war notices of casualties were posted on

The Battle of Vimy Ridge, April 9-12, 1917

The Battle of Vimy Ridge was a pivotal military engagement in the First World War. Canadian troops were ordered to capture Vimy Ridge in April of 1917. The Ridge was a strategic and heavily fortified ridge that held a commanding view. Previous attempts on the Ridge had failed. To capture the Ridge, Canadians carefully planned their attack. Engineers dug deep tunnels and soldiers remained underground for weeks before the attack. Attacking together for the first time, more than 15,000 soldier in the four Canadian divisions attacked Vimy Ridge at 5:30 am on April 9, 1917. Many consider the Canadian victory at Vimy a defining moment for Canada. Canadian troops also earned a reputation as formidable and effective because of this stunning success.

Soldiers marching along Dundas Street, Etobicoke, Spring 1915. Heritage Association

"Our Boys" at Vimy
Amongst those at Vimy were more than 50 soldiers from historic Mississauga, including seven who lost their lives: Private Dennis Ainger of Etobicoke, Sergeant Thomas Cartwright of Etobicoke, Private Joseph Clarke of Streetsville, Private William Kidd of Clarkson, Private Eli Rossiter of Clarkson, Private Jack Young of Clarkson, and Lieutenant James Fawcett of Streetsville. 11 others from historic Mississauga were wounded.

Port Credit Boys' Auxiliary Plant 1915.
Joe Beck & Gerry Wilkie Bakers Bay, Mississauga Library Special

Soldiers at Clarkson railway crossing, summer 1915. Regina & Fred Anderson at PMSA

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MISSISSAUGA



Additions Over time

- Over the years, additions have been made to the cenotaph
- Commemorations and names of the fallen from the Second World War were added in 1946
- Reference to the Korean War was added in 1983
- “Afghanistan War” was added to the cenotaph in 2025



Heritage Mississauga

“The Grange”

Robinson-Adamson House

1921 Dundas Street W.,
Mississauga

905-828-8411

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