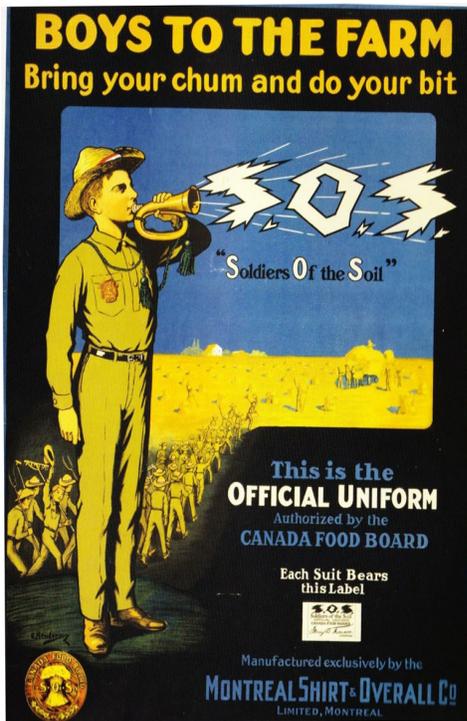


~HERITAGE CORNER~

Sombra Museum exhibit to commemorate anniversary of The Great War



Port Lambton church has long history

Sacred Heart Church in Port Lambton has a grand history that dates back to the early 1800s. It's history begins in 1852 when Father Michel Moncoq arrives in Toronto from France. He spent his first year in Canada at Caughnawaga, Quebec learning the languages of the Iroquois and the Algonquin nations.

In October, 1854, Father Moncoq was appointed to the parish that includes most of the shoreline communities of Lambton County, as well as the shoreline areas of Michigan. The central churches were St. Joseph's Church, Mooretown, and l'Eglise du Sacre-Coeur at Baby's Point, now known as Brander Park directly south of Port Lambton. On New Year's Day 1856, Father Moncoq crossed the ice on the St. Clair

River to Algonac, Michigan to attend a woman who was ill. On his return after dark, he fell through the ice and was drowned. His body was not recovered until the following July, and it was buried at the Baby's Point church where it remained until 1878, when it was relocated at the new Sacred Heart Church in Port Lambton.

The present day church was erected in 1964, and Father Moncoq's remains are buried under the centre aisle. The Baby's Point church was no longer needed after 1878 and was sold. It is thought that it ended its useful life as a blacksmith shop in Port Lambton.

This year, the world will be reminded again of the horror and the valour that permeate memories of The Great War, World War I, as it commemorates the 100th anniversary of "the war to end all wars".

An exhibit is now being created at the Sombra Museum to honour Canada and tell the story of those who gave their lives in its service during World War I. Anyone who has treasures from this era stored at home and who wishes to share or donate them to help tell this important story is encouraged to contact museum curator Shelley Lucier at 519-892-3982 or 519-627-2622, or online at sombramuseum@hotmail.com.

Left: This poster from WWI is an example of treasures being sought.

Local farmers were also conflict-ready soldiers

In 1885, the 3rd Troop of the 1st Regiment Cavalry was stationed in Mooretown for regular training. The troop of 24 members was commanded by Captain George Stewart of the former Moore Township.

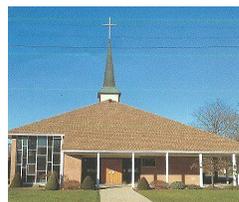
As part of the cavalry unit, every man was responsible for supplying his own horse. Each man received 50 cents per day, but the horse received \$1.

The troop would go to London each year for a 12-day training session, but as almost all of the men were farmers by trade, the Annual Drill had to be done before harvest time.

In 1892, the troop became part of the 1st Hussars.



The Third Troop included local residents, from left: William B. Watson, Wallace Stratton, and John Miller, grandfather of Gail Moran of Port Lambton, who submitted this great photo.



The present-day Sacred Heart Church in Port Lambton.

Photo Submitted

Sombra Museum seeks WWI items

World War 1 items, memorabilia or stories are being sought for the Sombra Museum's new exhibit to commemorate the 100th anniversary of "the war to end all wars".

Call 519-892-3982 for more information.