

HERITAGE CORNER

World War I Honour Roll plaques revealed after decades in storage

The Moore Museum has yet another historical treasure onsite. A poignant set of World War I memorial plaques which have been in storage for decades is now housed in a purpose built shelter on the museum grounds. The new display was unveiled on Nov. 6 with a solemn dedication service, led by Padre Fr. Paul Woolley. The service included the Kohima Epitaph, a fitting prayer written by combatants during the Battle of Burma during WWII. It reads, "When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today."

The 11 carved marble plaques documenting the names of Moore Township men who died in World War I were originally displayed in the first Moore Township office at the corner of Moore Line and Kimball Road, which later became the Moore Centre Women's Institute hall. The marble plaques were left in place until the building was vacated, when they were given for safekeeping to the Watson family, owners of the farmland adjacent to the hall. Soldiers commemorated on the plaques include: Sergt. Peter Gauld; Flt. Lieut. Thos. Wilfred Duncan; Pte. Samuel Brigden; Pte. Walter R. Browning; Pte. Frederick Arthur Keene; Pte. Harold M. Phillips; Pte. Frederick Robinson; Pte. Clarence Shaw; Pte. Charles N. Taylor; and Pte. Harry R. Tuddenham.

Given the historical value of the plaques, the Watson family kindly

donated them to the Moore Museum so that they could once again be viewed by the public. But their size and weight made them impossible to place within the museum building and they were stored away.

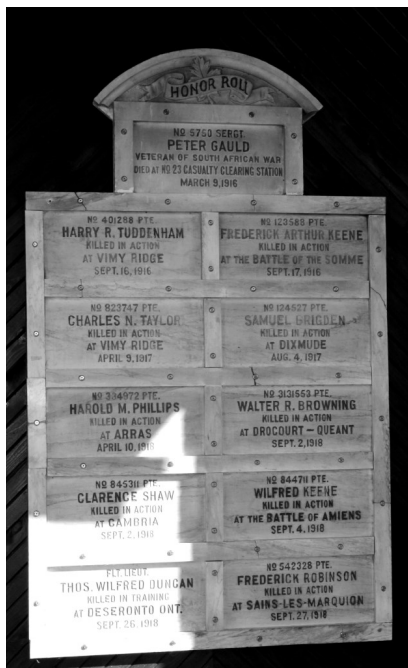
It wasn't until Chemfab Industries Inc., after consultation with Mayor Steve Arnold, donated funds to enable the building of a special shelter for the plaques. Museum volunteers took on the project, which required a careful design strategy to accommodate the heavy marble plaques. "A lot of planning went into making sure the bracing was in the right place," said museum curator Laurie Mason.

The volunteer construction team included: Dave Beer,



Piper Scott Shaw looks on as Jim Townsend, chair of the Moore Museum Advisory Committee, begins the dedication ceremony for the new World War I Honour Roll display on the Moore Museum grounds. Members of the Brigden and Corunna Legions stand at attention to honour the memories of those on the Honour Roll. Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

Lyle Gander, Leo Griffiths, Dan Hayward, Bob Johnson, Lloyd Macdonald, Dave Pattenden, John Richardson, Fred Strickland, Dave Taylor, and James Townsend.



The Honour Roll revealed.

My, how things have changed...



This vintage Pesha post card is a photo of King Street West in Sombra village taken around 1910. Of course, the street, which leads west to the Bluewater Ferry dock, has changed radically through the years. The brick building in the foreground is now the Pic and Pay Variety store, while the building next to it is the Aft Cabin Restaurant.

Photo courtesy Heritage St. Clair

Sombra ferry mounts daring rescue of Mancox

In the November Beacon, our archive diver, Allan Anderson of Heritage St. Clair, found a tidbit on the Mancox, the first Canadian ship to sail through the newly-constructed Canadian side of the Soo Locks in 1958. That alone constitutes an interesting bit of history but, to paraphrase broadcaster Paul Harvey, here's "the rest of the story".

In 1954, as the Mancox was upbound in the St. Clair River bound for Lake Superior with a load of coal, there was panic in the wheelhouse

when it was noticed that the fuel gauge was reading empty. The captain was able to make contact with Morgan Dalgety, owner of the Bluewater Ferry Company and captain of the shiny new ferry Daldean, which had been launched a mere two years before in Erieau. He arranged to bring a tanker truck to Sombra, then loaded the truck onto the Daldean and headed the vessel out into the river to where the thirsty Mancox was anchored just off the shipping channel. The Daldean approached the

distressed ship with extreme caution and, under Captain Dalgety's direction, crew members Art Shova and Roy Sharpe were able to offload the volatile fuel to the Mancox without incident.

The discovery of this interesting factoid led Mr. Anderson to wonder whether the Daldean offered full service, checked the oil and cleaned the windows as well.