



Hello Teachers,

Haldimand is home to a rich history. The first settlers in this area came to Upper Canada as United Empire Loyalists at the end of the American Revolution. Starting completely anew, these settlers created homes, businesses and relationships that would become the foundation of Haldimand as we know it today.

Canada and specifically Haldimand were greatly impacted by the tragedy of WWI. When Canada entered into the Great War, Haldimand was eager to contribute and by 1915 had formed the 114th Haldimand Battalion, also known as Brock's Rangers, as a part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. The 114th Battalion consisted of many First Nations troops, as well as troops from the ranks of the 37th Haldimand Rifles. These brave Haldimand men were sent overseas to reinforce the Canadian troops fighting alongside Britain.

Haldimand Museums has created a WWI educational package for students and teachers. Our goal is to educate students on the significance of Canada and specifically Haldimand's involvement in the first World War, as well as sparking an interest in local and Canadian history to give students a better understanding of Canada's historical contribution.

This educational package, titled *WWI and The 114th Haldimand Battalion*, includes in-depth information on The 114th Battalion, Canadian Nursing Sisters, significant WWI battles, daily life on the frontlines and on the home-front and explains the importance of Canada and Haldimand's involvement in the war effort. Notably featured are the stories of several Haldimand boys that bravely laid their lives on the line for the sake of freedom. Overall, the purpose of this information package is to give students a local understanding of WWI and the 114th Haldimand Battalion, as well as the historical and cultural significance that Haldimand County played in this event.

This educational package is now available for free online as a companion to *WWI and The 114th Haldimand Battalion Video*, allowing students an opportunity to explore and discover the Great War at their own convenience.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Haldimand Museums staff online at Haldimandmuseums.ca or by phone:

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Thank you,

Haldimand Museums

Haldimand Museums presents:
WWI and The 114th Haldimand Battalion



An educational tool presented by Haldimand Museums and sponsored by
Canadian Heritage

Table of Contents:

Title	Pages
About WWI <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Background on the War• Canada's Contribution to WWI• Haldimand County's Contribution• Canadian Nursing Sisters• Important Battles for Canada• Discussion Questions	4-6
Life in the Early Twentieth Century <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Life on the Frontline• Stories from the Frontline• Life on the Home-front• Food on the Home-front and Frontline• Discussion Questions	7-10
Life after WWI <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Life in Canada• Life in Haldimand County• War Memorial Hospital• Significance of WWI• Discussion Questions	11-12

World War One

Background on the war:

There were several different factors that lead to the outbreak of WWI. Tensions were building across Europe until the main spark that started the war; the assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austria-Hungarian throne. This murder angered Austria-Hungary and caused them to declare war on Serbia. The many alliances that both Austria-Hungary and Serbia had with other parts of the world pulled surrounding countries into the war. Russia joined the war because it was bound by its treaty to Serbia, while Germany who was allied to Austria-Hungary declared war on Russia. France joined soon after because of a treaty it held to Russia, resulting in Britain's involvement due to their alliance with France. Britain's enlistment in the war meant that all of the British colonies were required to become involved as well, including Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, and South Africa.



Canada's Contribution to WWI:

As part of the British colonies, Canada was obligated to take part in the war alongside Britain. Canada contributed greatly to WWI by providing financial aid and many troops to help fight overseas. There were 620,000 Canadian men and women that served and 66,655 gave their lives. In addition to the soldiers fighting on the frontlines, Canada contributed greatly to war hospitals overseas. There were 3,141 Canadian nurses that volunteered services for the Royal Canadian

Army Medical corps. These nurses were known for their hierarchical work structure and distinct uniform. Canada's involvement and sacrifice in WWI proved to the world what Canada was capable of and led to the formation of Canada as its own country, independent of England.

Haldimand County's Contribution:

Haldimand County had a significant impact on the first World War. Haldimand's greatest involvement in the war began in 1915 with the formation of 114th Haldimand Battalion. The 114th Battalion, also known as Brock's Rangers, was a Canadian force raised as a part of the Canadian Expeditionary force during the first World War. It was formed when Lieutenant-Colonel E.S Baxter, of Cayuga, begged the Canadian Minister of Militia to give him permission to form a Battalion in Haldimand. Baxter also convinced the government of Upper Canada of the need for trained personnel in the area. Many of the first recruits for the 114th Haldimand Battalion were drawn from the 37th Haldimand Rifles, an old force created in Haldimand before the war. Approximately one third of the 114th consisted of First Nations men. In July of 1916, the 114th Battalion was



deployed to Camp Borden, near Barrie, for training and in October of the same year they left for England. Upon their arrival overseas the 114th was separated, half of the men going to East Sandling in England and the other half went to West Sandling. From there, many Haldimand men assisted and reinforced the active units in France. It was reported in June of 1915 that Haldimand County had the largest number of men in training in Canada and overseas of any comparable county in Ontario. In 1936, years after the first World War, the Haldimand Rifles and the Dufferin Rifles of Brant joined together and were then known as the Dufferin-Haldimand Rifles.

Canadian Nursing Sisters:

In total, 3,141 Canadian nurses volunteered their services for the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. Canadian nurses were the only nurses in the allied armies with the rank of officers and the resemblance of a hierarchical work structure. The nurses were very proud of their nursing ranks, reputation on the battlefield and their distinct uniform. Haldimand's Bertha Smith was one of those chosen to become a nursing sister and her letters home were frequently featured in local newspapers, such as the Grand River Sachem.



Important Battles for Canada:

Battle of Passchendaele:



The battle of Passchendaele was thought to be the bloodiest and muddiest of the whole war. The British and Canadian armies tried to drive the Germans away from the English Channel ports, the location of the U-boat bases. In October, 100,000 men from the Canadian corps were sent into the battle. The many months of heavy rain and shell fire had turned the area into a mud field and as a result the trenches were in very bad condition. Ironically, the thick mud ended up saving lives by cushioning and swallowing the shells so they did not explode. The muddy battle turned out to be a success for the Allies. In November, the Canadian troops captured Passchendaele Ridge from the Germans.

Battle of Ypres:

The Battle of Ypres occurred as a result of a line created by the Allied troops in an attempt to stop the Germans from capturing the city of Ypres. The battle was especially significant due to the German introduction of poison gas as a weapon. The German army released 150 tons of chlorine gas from cylinders dug into the edge of the trenches. The gas burned the Allies' bodies and throats and created a gap in the Allied line. The German troops then moved into the gap but the Allies, many of whom were Canadians, fought harder to close the gap in the line. The Allies won the battle and the Canadian troops proved themselves to be a key part in the victory.

Battle of Vimy Ridge:

Many historians consider the victory at Vimy Ridge to be a defining moment for Canada. The Canadian corps was ordered to seize Vimy Ridge in April of 1917. The troops devised a plan of attack, strategizing and rehearsing for several weeks. The plan required engineers to dig tunnels under the battlefield in order to bring the infantry closer to the German lines safely. The Allies planned on using new artillery tactics prior to the main assault. The raid started with the Canadians conducting what was called a “rolling barrage”, which consisted of a rapid firing to keep the Germans in their bunkers. After three days, the Canadian’s plan was a success and the Allies captured Vimy Ridge.

Discussion Questions:

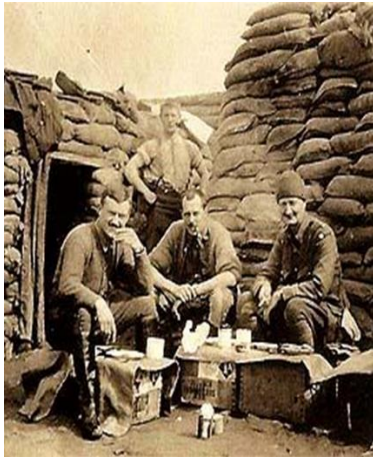
1. Do you think it was fair that Canada and the other colonies were forced to join the war because of their relationship to Britain?
2. Would you have volunteered to enlist in the war? Why or why not?
3. Why was it important for Canadians to prove themselves on the battle field?



Life in the Early Twentieth Century

Life on the Frontline:

Canadian soldiers who went to fight were sent to assist the British forces. Many soldiers from Haldimand County were able to stay together or keep in contact during the war because many were members of the 114th Haldimand Battalion. The battalion consisted of men from Haldimand County and the majority of them knew each other from childhood. Many of the men from the 114th Haldimand Battalion would write letters to home describing the war and informing their families if a soldier they knew was injured or had died. Soldiers would keep in contact with their families back home through written letters and families would often send care packages to soldiers at war overseas.



While at war, the majority of soldiers were posted to fight in the trenches. Life in the trenches was not glamorous. Soldiers were forced to live in trenches filled with water for long periods of time, often resulting in a condition called trench foot. Hygiene was not something that the soldiers could be concerned with; pests such as rats and lice roamed the trenches resulting in the spread of disease. Along with guns, hand grenades and land mines became commonly used weapons that would blow up upon impact. Poison gas was also introduced as a weapon during WWI. Chlorine gas, phosgene gas and mustard gas were all used to injure enemies upon inhalation. Surprisingly, illness killed more soldiers than any other cause during the war. At the time, many of today's life-saving methods and antibiotics had not yet been discovered, resulting in the death of countless soldiers from minor injuries.

Stories from the Frontline:

John Close:

John (Juney) was born July 4, 1896 in Mitchell. His parents were John Close & Caroline Delphine Cherry. After the early death of both parents Juney moved to Garnet to live with his maternal grandparents. On March 11, 1916 he enlisted in the 114th battalion, "C" Company. (Hagersville). Once overseas he was attached to "A" Company, 3rd Division, 7th Brigade, RCR, in France. In his own words Juney talked about his experiences while overseas: "We knew what we were getting into - enough wounded vets returning - telling stories of the mud and trenches - somebody else would have to take their places - it was as simple as that." "There were battles when we would lose 10 or 15 men out of a unit of 35." "I got my medal for being stubborn."



Juney was at Vimy Ridge, Battles at Amiens, Arras, and more. He returned home March 19th, 1919. "When I look back, I really had a charmed life, there were so many times just unbelievable

escapes happened.” Juney married Olive Parkinson and had four daughters. He died February 6, 1993 and is buried in Hagersville Union Cemetery.

Arthur Calvin Smith:

Arthur was born April 16, 1897 in Moulton Township. He was the second son of Mr. & Mrs. Gerrard Smith. He had lived in Dunnville for a number of years and worked at the Monarch Knitting Mill. He enlisted in B Company 114th Haldimand Battalion, Brock’s Rangers and went overseas in November of 1916. He transferred to the 19th Canadian Battalion B.E.F France. Once overseas, Arthur wrote many letters home. The following is from one dated July 14th, 1917: “I got a dandy parcel from Jennie a few days ago also one from the Dunnville Red Cross. In Jennies’ parcel were some fine chocolate... about 15 bars and some with cherries.” “ I had a little swim tonight but I think a good swim in Lake Erie would be allot better.” Arthur was wounded in the Battle of Lens on August 16, 1917 and died the same day.



Andrew Doughty:

Andrew Doughty was from Nanticoke, Ontario. Andrew was born April 15, 1894. His occupation at the time of enlistment was a farmer. Andrew was single when he enlisted on March 28, 1916 in Hagersville, Ontario, at the age of 21 years. He joined the 114th Over-Seas Battalion, Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force. In a letter written December 18, 1916, Andrew was in England expecting to go to France the next day. By April 4, 1917 Andrew was killed in Action in France. Andrew was buried in the La Chaudiers British Cemetery, Lens, France.

William Selkirk Duff:



William was born on December 30th, 1895. He was the son of David Duff & Angelina Viola Birdsall. He enlisted with the 114th Haldimand Battalion at Cayuga on March 23rd, 1916. At the time of his enlistment he was single and a banker. He went overseas and was transferred to the Canadian Infantry 4th Battalion. William died from wounds received at the Battle of Passchendaele on November 8th, 1917. He is buried at Nine Elms British Cemetery, Belgium.

Cameron Brant:

Cameron was born August 12, 1887 in Brant County. He was the son of Robert & Lydia Brant of Hagersville. Cameron was descended from the famous Chief Joseph Brant. On his enlistment papers Cameron said that he was married to a women named Flossie and was a Sheet Metal Worker by trade. Once overseas, Cameron was dispatched to the Canadian Infantry (Central Ontario Regiment) 4th Battalion. Lieutenant Brant was killed in action on April 24, 1915 in

Ypres Salient, Belgium while gallantly leading his men in the charge. He is buried in Menin Gate (Ypres) Memorial, Belgium.



Peter Russell:

Peter was born on January 2, 1896 in Dunnville and was the son of A. M Brown. He signed up under the 114th Haldimand Battalion. At the time of his enlistment he was single and a student. Once overseas he was sent to the Royal Canadian Regiment. Pte. Brown was killed at the battle of Vimy Ridge and is buried at Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

William Blott:

Bill was born August 10, 1893 at the Blott homestead on the Lake Shore, Dunn. to Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Blott. He entered the Bank of Commerce service in Dunnville in 1910 and eventually was transferred to Moose Jaw, Sask. While there Bill enlisted with the Princess Pats Canadian Light Infantry. He was first wounded on June 3rd, 1916 in the third Battle of Ypres and sent to England to recuperate. In November of 1916 he was awarded a commission as Lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Regiment and went back to France. He was officially reported to his parents as being wounded in the Battle of Vimy Ridge. It was later reported that he had been wounded and taken to a German hospital, later dying of his wounds.

Donald George MacPhail:

Donald was born April 23, 1864, son of Donald and Christina MacPhail. He was ordained to the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, beginning his career to the Church at Picton. After that he spent several years ministering out west before coming to Knox Church in Cayuga. When the war began Donald enlisted in the 114th Battalion. In April of 1918 he transferred to the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders of Vancouver as Chaplain of that Regiment and left for overseas to France where he labored for the welfare and comfort of his men for 18 months. He was then transferred to England and placed in charge of hospitals, as visiting Chaplain. Due to ill health, he was given the position of Chaplain on the Hospital Ship Llandovery Castle, conveying wounded Canadian troops to Canada. Donald's ship was torpedoed on June 27, 1918 when he returned to England from Halifax and he drowned in the sinking.

Life on the Home-front:

During WWI, the families left behind in Canada and Haldimand had to make do with the lack of men at home. Both women and children still in school were required to start working due to the shortage of men. Many women began working in factories, hospitals and farms, resulting in the nickname "farmerettes". Often grandparents and older relatives would live with their families and look after the children while the women worked to provide for their families. Due to a lack of proper health care and poor sanitation at the time, it was common for people to get sick and die from disease. Upon the conclusion of the war, many people were eager to enjoy life once more and both the Canadian and global economies started to boom. The "Roaring 20's" saw a drastically change in society, from



the toils of war to a vibrant era. The 1920's was witness to the manufacturing of many new inventions and the passing of various new laws.

Food on the Home-front and Frontline:

During WWI, Canada and Haldimand County made an effort to conserve food and vital materials to help supply the troops and Allies abroad. "Meatless Mondays" and "Wheatless Wednesdays" were encouraged to unite the public behind the war. The government distributed recipes without



sugar and other rationed ingredients and newspapers published special war menus in order to help conserve food that was running out. The majority of the diet on the home front consisted of beef, bread and biscuits. Flour was in such short supply in 1916 that bread had to be made with ground turnips.

Meals on the frontlines were very different than those at home. At the beginning of the war, soldiers were allowed 10oz of meat and 8oz of vegetables per day. As the war continued, food shortages caused decreases in the size of a soldier's food rations. The diets of soldiers mainly consisted of various meats, stale bread, vegetables and stews. Two popular and easily accessible foods on the frontline were pea soup and horse meat.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did WWI impact life on the home-front?
2. What role did children play in the war effort?
3. How do you think rationing effected families?
4. How do you think WWI changed the roles of women?



Life after WWI:

Life in Canada:

After the war ended in 1918, the soldiers returned home to their families. Society wanted to celebrate the war's end, contributing to the vibrancy and wealth of the "Roaring 20's". A greater number of industrial jobs became available, giving returning soldiers a larger opportunity to find work. In an attempt to celebrate life, many people began to spend more money. Due to the stable economy, a greater number of people wanted to have families, resulting in an increased birth rate. Although the economy was doing very well, economic success did not effect everyone. Farming was not prosperous and as a result many people left their rural communities for urbanized cities where it was more likely to find employment.



Life in Haldimand County:

Life in Haldimand County was just as it was throughout the majority of Canada. Men were returning from the war and people wanted to celebrate. When the war ended, many parades and festivals occurred in Haldimand County to celebrate the armistice as well as the return of loved ones. Many new businesses opened and the local economy became very successful. Some of the various types of businesses that were popular in Haldimand County included clothing stores, meat shops, bakeries, farmers markets and hardware stores. Local businesses were supported by Haldimand citizens and were generally very successful. At the time, Dunnville was perhaps the most industrialized town in Haldimand County.



As an agricultural centre, Haldimand County's agricultural industry was booming during the war in an attempt to supply food to the war effort. However after the war ended, lower food production levels caused economic hardship for local farmers. In the 1930's, after a decade of economic stability and success, Haldimand County, as well as the rest of the Western World, entered a period of economic decline resulting in the Great Depression. As a result, this era was nicknamed the "Dirty Thirties".

Haldimand War Memorial Hospital:

In 1919, World War I had drawn to a close and the people of Dunnville saw the need for both a hospital and a memorial to commemorate the local soldiers that had participated in the war. The citizens of Dunnville decided to combine the two necessities and opened a War Memorial Hospital. Mr. Lalor, a Member of Parliament for Haldimand County, purchased a property for the hospital and donated it to the Dunnville Women's Patriotic Society. In 1920, The Haldimand War Memorial Hospital opened its doors to the public for the first time. The Haldimand Memorial

Hospital was the first county memorial hospital of its kind in Canada. The hospital served as a successful community cornerstone for 30 years before increased population in the area necessitated the construction of a new facility. Costing approximately \$400,000, the new hospital opened in 1951 and could accommodate 48 patients.

Significance of WWI:

The first World War was very significant to the growth of both Canada and Haldimand County. The excellent performance of Canadian troops in battle overseas helped to validate the idea of Canadian nationhood. Although Canada was classified as an independent country prior to WWI, many Canadians felt as though they were still under the control of the British Empire. Canada's eager ability to unite its citizens on all fronts for the war effort proved to the world stage that Canada was capable and deserving of independent nationhood.

World War I also brought local, national and global recognition to the brave troops from Haldimand County. Numerous men from the 114th Haldimand Battalion played a key role in many of the major battles fought throughout WWI, including Passchendaele and the Battle of Ypres. The Battalion earned itself an excellent reputation as a result of the bravery, dedication and loyalty demonstrated by Haldimand's men throughout the war.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think the impact of WWI was on Haldimand County and Canada?
2. Why do think it is important to learn about the history of WWI?

