

LdB Foundation half way to their fund raising goal

Recently, the Lac du Bonnet and District Charitable Foundation received a \$12,500 grant from the Thomas Sill Foundation for reaching the half way mark in the challenge to raise a maximum of \$50,000 in donations in 18 months.

Until September 2016, the Thomas Sill Foundation will match an extra \$1 for every \$2 donated to rural community foundations who maintain their endowment with the Winnipeg Foundation up to a maximum of \$50,000 donated.

The Lac du Bonnet and District Charitable Foundation, a Community Foundations of Canada member and Canada Revenue Agency registered charity, has its endowment fund managed by the Winnipeg Foundation and therefore qualifies for this support.

Help us get the full \$50,000 by donating. Leverage your donation even further by donating during the Endow Manitoba 24-hour giving challenge. Gifts made online through www.endowmanitoba.ca to the Lac du Bonnet & District Charitable Foundation's unrestricted fund on Nov. 14 will be 'stretched' by The Winnipeg Foundation (\$1 for every \$5 donated) up to a maximum of \$2,000 per foundation.

People wishing to donate can go online to the Lac du Bonnet and District Charitable Foundation's home page at www.lacdubonnetfoundation.ca between 12:01 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. on Nov. 14, click on the endow Manitoba icon in the upper right and click on "Make an Online Gift Now." For those without Internet access please call 204-345-2118 for information.

The Thomas Sill Foundation responds to a community's immediate wellbeing needs such as poverty, mental health and family safety, and also supports community projects in the arts, heritage, health, education and the environment. To find out more about the Thomas Sill Foundation visit their website at www.thomassillfoundation.com

Remember, when you donate to a registered charity you will receive a tax receipt that will provide you an income tax advantage. Help us make our community more livable and a better place to be today, tomorrow and forever.



A replica of a soldier in uniform stands sentinel at Library Allard, amidst a display of memorabilia and artifacts honouring the memory of the 5th Battalion Canadian Mounted Rifles.

St. Georges display honours 5th Battalion

By Arlene Davidson

The St. Georges Historical Society has once again partnered with Library Allard to present a poignant Remembrance Day display that this year honours the soldiers of the 5th Battalion Canadian Mounted Rifles.

The men of this regiment were a mounted infantry unit of the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the First World War. The troops were transported to England in 1915 and in 1916, they became an infantry battalion as they fought in France and Flanders between 1916 and 1918.

Memorabilia and newspapers from Nov. 11, 1918 tell the tale of this heroic force that was referred to as the Suicide Battalion after 90 per cent of the 5,375 soldiers were killed in battle.

The movie *The War Horse* was based on a book written by Robert Mackay. Although the author admits

that the characters in his book were fictional, the facts surrounding the plight of the men of the 5th Battalion Canadian Mounted Rifles were based on factual accounts as reported by the author's grandfather.

Visitors to the exhibit will see a decorated regiment jacket and an actual saddle used by the battalion, along with many more artifacts of interest. A large artillery shell believed to be from a Vickers machine gun and a piece of trench art that was made by a soldier as he sat waiting in a cold, water filled trench provide a chilling reminder of the horrors these men faced on a daily basis. A war rattle used to warn soldiers of attacks with mustard gas is also part of the display.

"Our boys went off to war in hats until a British made helmet became available for their protection," said Diane Dube, president of the St. Georges Histori-

cal Society.

Original regiment hats and helmets can be viewed along with the other war related items.

Dube pointed out the transformation of the Canadian flag over the years, noting that in 1876, only seven provinces existed.

A copy of a *Book of Remembrance* is part of the exhibit, which includes 365 pages profiling Veterans of the First World War. The original book, along with a tribute edition commemorating the fallen soldiers of the Second World War is housed in the Peace Tower in Ottawa. Every day, tower staff members turn a page to reveal the personal profile of a soldier, and at the end of the year the book lays open to Page 365, then reverts back to Page 1 on Jan. 1.

"The exhibit gives us the opportunity to profile some of the many books here at the library that provide documentation of the world battles," said Dube, who is also a Library Allard board

member.

Significant book selections have been placed amongst the display items including *The Suicide Battalion*, *The 1916 Experience* and *Brave Battalion*.

This historical display will remain intact until mid-November. Dube extends an invitation to everyone to come out to St. Georges and take a walk into the past. This educational exhibit will appeal to anyone with an interest in the role Canada played in the First World War. Groups are welcome and are encouraged to call ahead of time so historical society personnel can be present to address questions and provide more background information on the displayed items.

"I hope people will enjoy the display and find the history interesting," said Dube.

The exhibit also contains two new books featuring *War Brides*, which will be the theme of the 2016 Remembrance Day display.

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