

BRANTFORD

# THE EXPOSITOR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2025



SERVING BRANTFORD AND AREA FOR 160 YEARS



POSTMEDIA

## NO STONE LEFT ALONE

*Middleport Heritage  
Society honours  
veterans A3*



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POSTMEDIA



Mary Anne Workman Rose, president of the Middleport Heritage Society, and Joyce Deagle Osinga, the society's secretary, at a memorial for Pte. James Oscar Fearman who died at Vimy Ridge on April 9, 1917. The society's annual campaign – No Stone Left Alone – to honour those who served in world conflicts including the First and Second World Wars is under way.

## HERITAGE GROUP WORKS TO HONOUR VETERANS

### No Stone Left Alone campaign underway

VINCENT BALL

Bonnie Sitter embarked on her Canadian history journey after discovering an interesting photograph in an album belonging to her late husband.

For Mary Anne Rose and mem-

bers of the Middleport Heritage Society, the trip began with a memorial plaque.

"It was during a service at St. Paul's Church when someone noticed a memorial plaque dedicated to James Oscar Fearman," Rose said. "But at the time, no-

body knew much about him and we thought that rather odd."

Determined to put a story to the name, the heritage society got to work. They learned Fearman volunteered to serve with the Canadian Expeditionary Force overseas during the First World War. He was killed in action on April 9, 1917 at the start of the Battle for Vimy Ridge.

A farmer, Fearman was 22 at the time of enlistment and 24 when he died.

"We think of him as being our first veteran because he was the inspiration behind our campaign – No Stone Left Alone," Rose said. "Every year since we discovered more about him, we've been researching other veterans by researching the grave stones in all of the cemeteries in the former Onondaga Township."

The campaign includes planting tulips and placing small Canadian flags at the grave stones annually just ahead of Remembrance Day. The society has also created storyboards which are also placed by the grave stones in advance of Remembrance Day.

SEE FEARMAN ON A4

# Fearman

FROM A3

"I think it's important that we remember the service and sacrifice of our veterans and this is exciting for us because we get to share what we learn with their families," Rose said.

The small photograph Sitter discovered is of three girls in farm outfits standing on the running board of a car. There were no names on the back of the photograph but there was a reference to the Farmerettes 1946.

"No one ever taught me about Farmerettes and I really felt quite indignant," Sitter said. "Why don't I know about this? I wondered.

"I've learned about Ontario history but I've never been taught anything about them."

Sitter wanted to learn more and discovered the Farmerettes were young women who worked on farms during the Second World War when men went overseas. They kept up food production throughout the war and their tasks included planting, harvesting as well as the canning of fruits and vegetables.



**Bonnie Sitter, author of Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz, Memories of Ontario Farmerettes, will be at the Onondaga Community Hall, Nov. 9, at 1 p.m. to talk about the Farmerettes and their contribution to the Second World War allied victory.**

Her work included interviews with women who were farmerettes and a review of the letters written by them while they were working.

Their work was vital to the war effort, Sitter said.

She wrote an article which was published by a magazine – The Rural Voice – and word about her work started to spread.

"The project started with a photograph, went to a magazine, to a book, to a play, a stamp and a documentary," Sitter said. "I think it could be a television series and a musical."

Sitter will be at the Onondaga Community Hall, 42 Brantford St., Brant County at 1 p.m. on Nov. 9 for a screening of "We Lend A Hand – The Forgotten Story of Ontario's Farmerettes, the documentary version of Sitter's book – Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz, Memories of Ontario Farmerettes. She will be joined by Colin Field who collaborated with her on the award-winning documentary.

Tickets are \$40 each and the event includes a lunch.

To register visit [www.middleportheritage.ca](http://www.middleportheritage.ca) or call 905-317-0091 or send an e-mail to [secretary@middleportheritage.ca](mailto:secretary@middleportheritage.ca). [Vball@postmedia.com](mailto:Vball@postmedia.com) [@EXPVBall](https://twitter.com/EXPVBall)

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