

Garden Of The Unforgotten



The Cenotaph holds a prominent place in Memorial Park and faces Oshawa's main north-south street.

Memorial Park, Simcoe Street South, between Gibb Street and Bagot Street, Ontario

Constructed in memory of citizens of Oshawa who sacrificed their lives in World War I, World War II and the Korean War.

Unveiled on November 11, 1924.

Dr. T.E. Kaiser was the leader of the drive to erect a monument dedicated to the citizens of Oshawa who had sacrificed their lives in World War I.

It was Kaiser's daughter, Josephine, who suggested the "Garden of the Unforgotten" for the Park.

The monument was unveiled by Sir William Mulock, Chief Justice of Ontario, on November 11, 1924.

The monument included bronze tablets which listed the names of 138 Oshawa residents killed in World War I.

The monument, though based on a structure in Evesham, England, is quite unique. The memorial contains stones of every World War I Allied Nation, as well as stones from many of the battlefields where Canadians lost their lives. Included in the memorial are stones from England, Scotland, Egypt, Newfoundland, Russia and Japan.

Battles immortalized in the Oshawa monument include: Ypres, Vimy Ridge, Arras and Passchendale.

Another special feature of the monument is what lies beneath it. An airtight copper box is buried underneath the structure. It contains artifacts of 1924, such as newspapers, photos, and a cheque from the mayor to pay for the replacement of the slab that must be removed to unearth the box. The time capsule is to be opened in the year 2424.

The bronze figure of a Canadian Infantryman still stands, surveying Memorial Park from on top of the monument. In 1948, more plaques were added to mark the losses that Oshawa families suffered in World War II and, later, recognition was given to the residents who went to Korea during 1950-53.

The monument obviously holds an important place in Oshawa's history and it is witness to solemn ceremonies each Remembrance Day.

