



Showcase Projects

City of Morden / Great War 100-Year Anniversary Heritage Conservation / Community Group Projects



To commemorate the 100th anniversary of WWI, the City of Morden completed a number of projects in Confederation Park.

A committee representing Morden Collegiate, the Morden Legion and the City have been working on a number of projects to improve the historical content in Confederation Park corresponding to the war's centennial. Events have included:

1. Additional names were added to the Cenotaph in 2014 – local historian Darryl Toews discovered names missing from the cenotaph while conducting his research. The names were added at a ceremony that included a Colour March by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #11 and tributes to the soldiers. There was a stamped concrete pathway installed and lighting to the Cenotaph was added.
2. WWI memorial plaques were installed providing history and local content in a chronological series of posted plaques along the walkway; additional memorial benches were also added.
3. WWII memorial plaques were installed providing history and local content in a chronological series.
4. Murals were installed displaying local images of war time; shrub beds were refurbished.

With these additions, a park has been created with more meaning and history in the community. Although it was a nice green space in the downtown area, it is now also a destination park. There is an interest for local residents to visit the park as well as visitors to the community.

The additions to Confederation Park are a great tribute to the local Veterans and reminds citizens and visitors how the war affected Morden. It is important to continue to educate the youth, and others, on the sacrifices of war. The park shows a great deal of history that is important to these important periods of Morden's community history.

The inclusion of the school was a natural fit with local historian and high school teacher, Darryl Toews, leading the partnership. Students in graphic design classes were involved with the design of the WWI and WWII plaques supported by their teacher Ms. Ashley Hoytink. The youth involved in the project contributed their creativity and enthusiasm and they felt a sense of pride when the finished project was on display in the park.

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #11 assisted with their knowledge of proper protocols and historical materials. The project has helped to strengthen the relationship between the City and the Legion. There is one final part to this project which will include adding more names to the cenotaph in the spring of 2019 which marks the official end of the centenary. This will ensure the Veterans receive the recognition they deserve.