

# Watford Guide-Advocate

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## WATFORD'S OFFICIAL WELCOME

### Enthusiastic Reception Given To Her Returned Soldiers

### BIG CELEBRATION ENJOYED BY IMMENSE CROWDS

### Medals and Signet Rings Presented by Major-General Sir Sam Hughes

The official welcome home to the soldiers of Watford and vicinity was carried out according to program on August 20th, drawing together the largest crowd that ever assembled in Watford.

Arrangement had been made on a scale never heretofore attempted and were carried out to the letter to the satisfaction of all. Early in the day visitors began to arrive. Each train brought its quota, but the majority of the people came by auto from far and near. By one o'clock the Main street was blocked with people waiting to see the big parade to the park.

#### THE PARADE

Marshalls.  
G. W. V. Band—Bandmaster Wilson. Distinguished Guests.  
Veterans, four deep.  
Floats—Lambton Chapter 149 I. O. D. E. Watford Wire Works trade float, Canada and the Allies.  
Decorated autos.  
Forest Concert Band—Bandmaster Dunlop.  
Red Cross Nurses in auto.  
Decorated nurses.  
Comic floats.  
Comic Racing Sulky.  
Ford's Peace Ship.  
Wild West Mounted men.  
Float, Flander's Fields.  
Juvenile riders in costume.  
Watford Fire Co. 1818-1918.  
Fancy and Comic costumes by the dozen.  
Autos by the hundred.  
After the procession and the huge crowd had arrived at the Park the chairman of the celebration committee, Rev. J. C. Forster, welcomed Sir Sam Hughes. The returned soldiers and other visitors and introduced Mr. Karr, of London, secretary of the Y. M. C. A. of Military District No. 1, as chairman for the day who remarked that Watford's celebration and welcome to the returned men was second to none in the district. He had come unprepared to see such a splendid demonstration.

The afternoon speakers were Sir Sam Hughes, Dr. Martyn, M. P., and Rev. S. P. Irwin, B. A., and the evening speakers J. E. Armstrong, M. P., Sir Sam Hughes and Rev. A. C. Tiffin. At both gatherings the memory of those who paid the supreme sacrifice was duly honored, the immense crowd meanwhile standing with bared heads.

Sir Sam Hughes, who received an enthusiastic ovation, said he had received invitations for the day but decided to accept Watford's. He thanked the people for their kindly greeting and spoke of his previous visit to lay the corner stone of the drill hall. Watford, he said, occupied a warm place in his heart. He had been criticized in the early days of the war for sending citizen soldiers to the front so rapidly and with such short training, his accusers predicting that the men would be unprepared for the conflict and those who returned unfitted for citizenship. On the contrary wearing the uniform had added prestige to the men and they had come home good citizens and gentlemen and had trimmed the Hun to a finish. He paid a splendid tribute to the Canadian Corps and said that more than anything else the splendid physique of the Corps was largely due to the recruitments from the rural districts of the Dominion and that the spirit of the pioneers which made possible the development of this country to its present world importance lived again in these men in France. The town of Watford had one of the best military records in the country, and it had by its contribution helped to make Lambton's record as a county among the highest in respect of enlistments throughout the Dominion.

At the conclusion of his afternoon speech the Major-General, assisted by Reeve Lindsay of Brooke township, presented signet rings, furnished by The Insignia Red Cross Society of the Sixth line, to the following veterans, residents of that community.

Corp. Cecil Sisson  
Pte. Alfred Emmerson  
Pte. Robert Boyd  
Pte. Charlie Blunt  
Pte. Russel Acton  
Pte. Frank Wiley  
Pte. Basil Saunders  
Pte. Jack Creasey

After his speech in the evening Sir Sam Hughes, assisted by Reeve Johnston, of Watford, presented medals and signet rings to Watford's sons and daughters who took an active part in the war. Corp. Mat. Cunningham and Sergt. W. D. Lamb were awarded medals for meritorious conduct. Corp. Cunningham received his but that for Sergt. Lamb failed to arrive in time. A few of those entitled to rings were not present and the names of others were not announced owing to some confusion. The list of

those who received, or will receive, these mementoes is below. If any name has been omitted but someone acquainted with the fact kindly notify Capt. R. H. Stapleford, secretary of the Soldiers' Day Committee. Following is the list.

Nursing Sister R. P. Reed  
Nursing Sister Clara Tye  
Nursing Sister Diana Dodds  
R. H. Stapleford  
A. Owens  
H. Whittitt  
A. Johnston  
F. Yerks  
S. Rogers  
C. Roche  
Wm. Lamb  
Murray Forster  
H. Cooper  
Walter Pearce  
James McClung  
Charles Haskett  
Fred Thomas  
Eston Fowler  
Roy Lawrence  
Elgin Hicks  
Walter Restorick  
Tom Dodds  
Ed. Dodds  
Verne Johnson  
Komo Auld  
Fred. Phelps  
Wm. Restorick  
R. D. Swift  
Fred Birch

B. C. Binks  
M. Cunningham  
L. Johnston  
H. Brown  
L. Howden  
V. Brown  
Wm. Bruce  
Wm. McNally  
S. Dodds  
Geo. Lawrence  
Sam McClung  
Cecil Atchison  
Harry Thomas  
Bruce Trenouth  
Lon Aylesworth  
Fred Haskett  
Art. McKercher  
James Pharis  
Edgar Prentiss  
Ches. Schlemmer  
James Garrett  
Edmund Watson  
Norbert Roche  
Glen Nichol

After the platform proceedings a fine display of fireworks was given and then a midnight dance was held in the Armory at which the distinguished guests also lent their presence. A big crowd enjoyed the dancing for several hours then everyone went home completely satisfied with the day's doings.

#### WINNERS OF MORNING SPORTS

Judges—W. H. Shrapnell, Col. Kenward.  
Boys' under 10, 50 yd. dash—Billie Vail  
Boys' under 15, 50 yd. dash—George Willoughby  
Girls' race under 10—Gwendolyn Craig.  
Girls' race, under 15—Gwendolyn Craig.  
Girls' race, under 8—Gordon Rayner.  
Girls' race, under 8—Beatrice Galt and Violet Smith, tie.  
Throwing baseball farthest—Donald Prentiss.  
Eating raw potato—Robert Routley.  
Best fancy dressed boy—Carl Class, Jr.  
Best fancy dressed girl—Mary Connolly  
Find the shoe, blindfold—Gordon Jackson, Roy Cooke, Bobbie Bruce.

#### AFTERNOON PRIZE WINNERS

Judges—Walter Annett, John Zavitz, Wm. Parker.  
Calthumpian Band—Parkhill Musical Band, H. Clark, leader.  
Decorated Floats—1st prize, Lambton Chapter, I. O. D. E.; 2nd, Andrews Wire Works; 3rd, Clown Circus, Miss McIntosh.  
Decorated Autos—1st, C. H. Butler; 2nd, F. A. Just; 3rd, Harold Roche.  
Calthumpian Outfit—Basil Richardson  
Best dressed clown on vehicle—Jack Higgins, B. Richardson.  
Best comic costume on foot—C. H. Butler.

Youngest Veteran in uniform—Alfred Smith, Kerwood, aged 18 years, two year's service, four months in France.  
Oldest Veteran in uniform—Sergt. Major Owens, Watford, served 13 years in Scotch Guards, two years in Royal Garrison, two years training Canadian Militia and five years overseas with the C. E. F.

#### NOTES

The weather was perfect.  
There is lots of pep in the old town yet.

The Parkhill orchestra furnished excellent music for the dance.  
Those were solemn moments when the crowd stood with bared heads to do honor to our fallen heroes while the band played "Abide With Me."

The balloon ascension was one of the best attractions of the day. The young lady went up about 1000 feet before descending with the parachute.

Many of the visiting veterans failed to register, only seventy placing their names in the book. The committee regret that more did not sign.

All the surrounding towns sent large delegations and quite a few people were here from Detroit, Toronto, London, Sarnia and other distant points.

Sir Sam Hughes, J. E. Armstrong, M. P., and other distinguished guests were entertained at luncheon by Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Swift, Ross Lawn.  
The refreshment booths did a roaring trade. The day was hot and cool drinks were in great demand. The ice cream cone was in evidence everywhere.

Mr. Andrew Lucas, of Brooke, came in to see the sights and enjoy the day with the rest of the family. The old gentleman is 94 years old, but you would never suspect it.

The only item advertised on the program that was not pulled off was the tug of war between Warwick and Watford. The weather was too warm to stand the exertion.

The Toronto costumer who had his fancy dresses for hire in the Rogers Hotel building was not very well patronized, most of the masqueraders making their own costumes.

Between the grand stand and the platform there was seating capacity for about 1200 people, yet many had to stand. During the evening proceedings quite a few remained seated in their autos.

The Forest band gave some good music and plenty of it. Our Forest

friends can justly be proud of their band boys and Bandmaster Dunlop's skill and ability in conducting the organization.

The war trophies received much attention, a constant stream of people examined them during the entire day, and some of the boys who had been in France willingly explained the use and workings of the different implements.

The day gave an opportunity for many re-unions of comrades and of families and the efforts of the managing committee were rewarded by the spontaneous way in which the crowds enjoyed the day.

Many of the private residences were artistically decorated, which helped to give a gala appearance, and some of the business firms spent considerable time and trouble in making their premises attractive. Some of the store windows were exceedingly well dressed.

The section of the grounds used for the platform proceedings was brilliantly illuminated by the Delco-Light system installed for the occasion by W. O. Spalding. The illumination was a revelation to those unacquainted with the system.

It is high time that the barbed wire fence around the platform was removed. When the lights were turned off for the fireworks there were several complaints of torn garments and lacerated cuticles. If it is necessary to have a fence in that spot plain wire should be substituted.

The afternoon baseball game was interesting and close and was watched by a large crowd. It was between the Stratroy Veterans and the Watford nine, the home team winning by a score of 6 to 4. In the morning the Alvinston Juniors defeated the Watford Juniors 7 to 4 in a five inning game.

In the platform attractions there was something to please everyone. The conjuring and sleight-of-hand tricks were skillfully done, the marionette dancers amusing, the comedian rough house stuff tickled the young people and the female impersonation was clever. This part of the program was superior to anything in the line ever presented here.

The aeroplane kept the people sky gazing all day. The aeronaut did not stint the flights and performed all the known stunts. Seventeen passengers were taken up, in time to make an ascent being Miss Sadie McEachern of Brooke and the last Mr. Rollie Doddie, who was taken to a height of 3,100 feet, looped the loop and got all the other thrills.

The committee made no mistake in engaging the War Veterans' Band. It is a splendid musical organization, as much at ease playing an operatic overture as a Southern melody, rag time or patriotic air. Bandmaster Wilson is an excellent conductor and his time is perfect. The members of the band have all seen service in France and if they fought as well as they can play the Hun got something to ponder.

It is regrettable to have to state that there are quite a few people who have little patriotism in their make up. A number of these sneaked into the park by way of the back fence, and in the evening others took in the whole proceedings from the outside of the fence. These spongers not only contribute fifty cents towards honoring the soldiers who have sacrificed so much for the public welfare. If the proceedings were worth seeing and hearing they were worth paying for. Probably all these, however, were "conscientious objectors."

The street decorations were extensive and exceedingly creditable to all concerned. Two evergreen arches entailed a lot of hard work to erect but made a fine showing. On Monday the decorating committee put up strings of flags across the streets from the station to the park which made a gay showing. Along the line of procession were numerous banners. A few of them read as follows:—  
Welcome to our visitors  
We are proud of Sir Sam Hughes  
Long Live King George V.  
Eat, Drink and Be Merry  
The Town is Yours—Paint it Red or any old color  
Hughes, the Father of Canada's Glorious Army  
Soldiers, We are Proud of You

REMARKS HEARD IN THE CROWD  
It's a bumper of a crowd.  
Didn't that kid wagon look cute.  
Cry, it was hot in the Armory.  
The G. W. V. bunch is some band.  
I've got confetti all down my back.  
We won't forget this day in a hurry.  
Gee, that airman can do some stunts.  
Watford certainly does things right.  
I would go up in the plane if I had the price.  
There was something going on all the time.  
This is the biggest crowd ever in the park.  
That fellow had enough truck in that ag to fill a trunk.  
I'd like to know how that conjurer does those tricks.  
Watford should certainly be proud of its bunch of veterans.  
I can't hear half what is said for the noise of that airplane.  
The best procession of all those I've seen and I've been all over.  
I thought fifty cents admission high, but I got my money's worth.  
It is not usual to see so many preachers mixed up in a thing like this.  
Isn't he a great jollier. (This refers to one of the guests of the day).  
I wish they would peddle some ice

cream cones through these seats.  
That was a better platform performance than you see at the Western Fair.  
I wish they would rip off those masks so that we could find out who they are.  
The committee certainly gave all they advertised. You generally get about 50 per cent.  
Did you ever see so many cars together at one time. There must be nearly a thousand of them.  
I wouldn't drop from that balloon for a million dollars. She must have been about two miles high.  
I wanted Sadie to come with me. She'll be sorry she didn't when I tell her about the big time we've had.

Monday next is Labor Day and a public holiday.  
The Americans are the first to punish food profiteers. This is one war that they deserve credit for.  
Potato tops make a fine showing but the crop seems to be a failure. The tubers so far dug are very small.  
Edgar Prentiss arrived home from overseas on Tuesday of last week. He went over with the 67th Battery about a year ago.  
The members of the Presbyterian church presented Mr. and Mrs. R. N. McKenzie with an address and hymn books at a social evening held at the Mansie.

The Merchants Bank management with their usual liberality, surprised their superannuated managers with a 33 per cent. increase in their pension. Col. Kinnard was notified of the increase last week.  
The president and secretary of the East Lambton Agricultural Society canvassed the town on Tuesday for special prizes for the Fall Fair and secured a fine list, which will be published next week.  
Peter Giesmer of Sarnia township was chosen by the West Lambton Conservatives as candidate for the Legislature at the Petrolia convention on the 20th.  
Thos. Wilkie, conspicuous objector, who some weeks ago with others of the same ilk preached nightly on the streets of Watford, was refused admission into the United States at Port Huron recently on the ground that he was likely to become a public charge.  
Kenneth Johnston, of Buffalo, N.Y., son of the late Dr. T. G. Johnston, M. P., of Sarnia, has invented a grease lubricant composition which has been taken over by one of the largest oil companies in the states on payment of over \$600,000 in royalties.  
The farmers of Ontario are today enjoying a period of unexampled prosperity. Some idea of this may be gleaned from the fact that a traveller for law office supplies, on a trip up through Bruce and adjacent counties two weeks ago sold 1,700 Discharge of Mortgage forms in one week, which is as much as is usually sold by him in this particular territory in four years.  
The directors of the Lambton Farmers' Insurance Company at their meeting held here two weeks ago decided to give \$15 cash in special prizes at the East Lambton Fall Fair, as follows: For the best bushel of wheat, \$5.00; best bushel of barley, \$4.00; best bushel of oats, \$3.00; and best bushel of potatoes \$3.00. These prizes are liberal ones and will be worth competing for.  
What is the use of being a Prince anyway? You can't go travelling unless you have a warship for a private hotel; you can't enter business, because you don't need the money; you can't take a hand in carving your own fortune, for it has all been done for you; you can't be a statesman, because it isn't allowed. What zest is there in life when ambition is taken out of it?  
A meeting of the members of the 149th Overseas Battalion is called for Labor Day at Sarnia. A meeting of the members living in Watford was held on Aug. 13th and it was decided to hold an informal re-union of the battalion on Labor Day, when it is expected steps will be taken to form a permanent association or union of members, with branches at Watford, Forest, Petrolia and Sarnia. Arrangements are being made for the City Hall for the evening.  
The re-organization of the 27th Lambton Rifle Regiment is now being considered, and the plans will shortly be announced. Like all other rural regiments, the Lambton unit finds itself with an overplus of officers, and many of these will probably have to hand in their resignations and go into the regimental reserves. Less trouble than existed before the war is anticipated in getting the regiment up to strength as an unusually large number of veterans wish to keep up their military connection, and have signified their intention of joining the militia. An eight company strength on the same establishment as before the war will probably be the suggested form of the organization.  
The Methodist and Presbyterian congregations have united in services during the vacation of the pastors. These services commenced last Sunday, the morning service being held in the Presbyterian church and the evening in the Methodist. Next Sunday the order will be reversed and so on for four Sundays. Rev. Mr. Forster takes charge the first two Sundays and Rev. Mr. Tiffin is responsible for the second half time.  
Word has been received here that George Shanks who was one of the first contingent to leave Watford for overseas in 1914, died in a military hospital in England from fever contracted in the trenches in France.  
Additional locals on page 5.

## LOCAL HAPPENINGS

THE GUIDE-ADVOCATE welcomes all items of interest for this column. Call phone 1, send by mail or drop item in GUIDE-ADVOCATE Letter Box.

COOL NIGHTS.  
AUGUST is nearly gone.  
NOW for the fall fairs.  
SCHOOLS will re-open next Tuesday.  
DON'T be a traitor to your own town.  
The crop of 1919 went in dry at any rate.

FOR USED FORD CARS see R. MORN-  
INGSTAR, Watford Garage.

HAVE you tried canned whale steak? It is fine. On sale at Rogers & Jacklin's.

TRINITY Church Sunday School picnicked at Hillsboro on Wednesday afternoon.

NOTICE of the Court of Revision of the voters' lists for the Temperance Referendum will be found in the advertising columns.

The government estimate of the fall wheat crop of Canada 1919 is 28 1/2 bushels as compared with 19 bushels last year. The yield per acre is the highest average on record.

The regular meeting of the Women's Institute will be held at the home of Mrs. J. D. Brown on Thursday afternoon, Sept. 4th. Members please remember the date. Meeting to commence at 3 o'clock.

The regular monthly meeting of Tecumseh Chapter, I. O. D. E. will be held at the home of Miss Margaret McLeay on Tuesday, Sept. 2nd. Quotations—Irish Authors.

The Stratroy Age says a citizen of that town was fined \$10 in Watford for speeding. Some mistake here. Probably the Stratroy man was in a condition that he did not know what town he was in and mistook some other place for Watford.

R. C. MCLEAV has sold his beautiful brick residence on Victoria Street to Mr. George Harper who will move into it shortly. Mr. McLeay has decided to rent in Toronto and will build a home in Mimico. He will have a sale of household furniture on Saturday.

Rhyme composed by a man going on his summer vacation: "Little bank roll, ere we part, let me hug you to my heart; all the years I've clung to you, I've been faithful, you've been true. Little bank roll, on lay you and we'll start together to a gay and festive spot; I'll come home—but you will not."

A "Song and Story" service will be held in the Congregational Church, Watford, on Sunday evening at 7 p.m. You are cordially invited to come and enjoy this service. The pastor, the Rev. T. DeCoursey Rayson, will conduct the service and preach in the morning at 11 a.m.

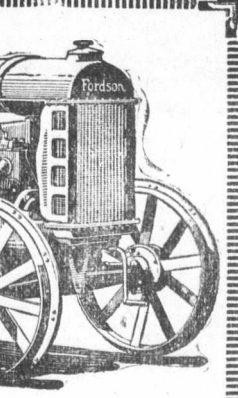
SCHOOL-OPENING means new shoes for the boys and girls. Come in this week and get yours. The latest models—and most reasonable in price.—J. P. DODDS & SON.

WATFORD bowlers succeeded in covering themselves with glory on Wednesday night of last week at Forest, when they defeated the Forest rink and brought home the silver cup donated by Mr. Tom. McGibbon, of Sarnia. The Watford line-up was: Skip, F. Rogers; third, F. Lovell; second, F. McIlveen; first, G. Harper. The cup is on exhibition in F. Lovell's window. The local bowlers have been challenged by Petrolia for the trophy and it is expected the game will be played here this week.

WORD was received late Saturday night that Mrs. Freeman Kersey had passed away at St. Joseph's Hospital, London, about 8 o'clock that evening. Mrs. Kersey had been under medical care for over a year. Last winter she was attacked with the influenza and was in hospital for a long time, undergoing several operations, but partly recovered her health this summer. A few days before her death, however, it was found necessary for her to undergo another operation, but her constitution being undermined by her previous lengthened illness her strength was insufficient to stand the strain. Mrs. Kersey was the second daughter of Mr. Henry Williamson, 4th line, Warwick. She was married Feb. 9th, 1914 and lived in Watford for a couple of years, when her husband sold out his business here and later on settled in Georgetown. She was a young lady of exceedingly pleasant disposition and made many friends who deeply regret her death. The sympathy of the community goes out to the bereft husband and other relatives. The funeral was held on Monday afternoon from her girlhood home, 4th line, to the Watford cemetery. The Rev. S. P. Irwin conducted the service assisted by Rev. E. H. Savers. There was a very large attendance.

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