



Preserving, promoting, and developing Wellington North's unique cultural resources to build a vibrant community and a prosperous economy.

CULTURAL MOMENT FOR NOV 6TH CELEBRATES, LIEUTENANT SAMUEL LEWIS HONEY V.C.

Samuel Lewis Honey was born in Conn, Ontario on Feb 9, 1894. Known as Lew, he was the eldest son of Rev. George and Metta Honey. Rev. Honey was the Methodist minister of the Conn circuit churches and would have occupied the Methodist parsonage at the corner of Maple St and Hwy 89 in Conn until 1896 when Rev. Honey was called to Listowel.



The Honey's home in Conn

Samuel obtained a teaching certificate and then graduated in 1914 with a certificate in the study of teaching methods and took a course as a cadet instructor. He had planned to enter college but instead enlisted on Jan 22, 1915. He was promoted to Acting Sergeant during basic training and was in Devonport, England on Oct 31, 1915. Because of his Acting rank, Honey went to Aldershot to take special courses in physical training and bayonet fighting and then taught these courses at Bramshott Camp until August 1916.

After attaining the rank of Sergeant that same month, he was transferred to the 78th Infantry Battalion, and went to France. On Feb 22nd, 1917, he earned the Military Medal for Gallantry for raiding a German trench and covering his platoon while under heavy grenade fire. At the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1917 he earned the Distinguished Conduct Medal for leadership and maintaining morale in the face of extremely heavy fire. He became Lieutenant in 1917. After Vimy Ridge, he returned to Bramshott Camp, became an instructor, then attended an officers' training course before returning to the front in October 1917. His regiment pushed through three positions before taking the heavily fortified German position in Bourlon Wood. On Sept 27, 1918, all of the commanding officers were killed, and Honey assumed command. On that date he won his Victoria Cross. He rushed a German position single-handed, capturing the guns and ten prisoners. Then went out alone after dark to locate a German post and returned with a party to capture it. He was wounded on Sept 29th and died on Sept 30th, 1918, the last day of the 78th Battalion's attack.



Honey was idolized by his men. He was buried in France. In July 1964, a plaque was unveiled in front of Westcott United Church in Conn where it remained until 2008. After the church closed, the plaque was moved to the front of the Legion in Mount Forest. In 1975, his family presented his medals to the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

Submitted by Councillor Penny Renken on behalf of the Wellington North Cultural Roundtable