

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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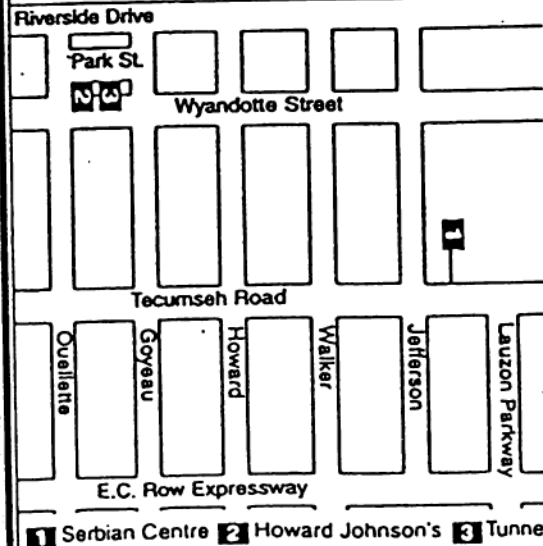
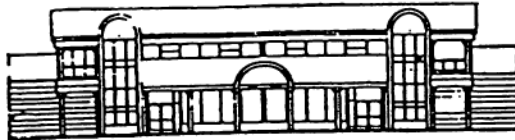
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Photographs and information for this exhibit have been obtained from the following books: Fotomonografija 1914-1918, Urednistvo ratnog albuma, Beograd, undated; Golgota I Vaskrs Srbije 1916-1918, Beogradski Izdavacko-graficki- zavod, Beograd 1971; The Serbians, by Paul Pavlovich; Serbian Heritage Books, Toronto, 1983.

SERBIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE
6770 Tecumseh Road East
Windsor, Ontario

From Highway # 401: Exit Essex Road
#19 to Tecumseh Road and left on
Tecumseh Road to # 6770



*Serbian Heritage Museum of
Windsor*



EXHIBIT:

"THE GUNS OF AUGUST"

**90 Years from the First World
War 1914 - 1918**

August 9, - October 29, 2004

INTRODUCTION

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the beginning of the First World War, though horrible, brought about the creation of the former Yugoslavia.

The war occurred at the most inconvenient moment for Serbia. After the two Balkan Wars in 1912 and 1913, Serbia's resources were totally exhausted. She did not need the war, especially not one against powerful enemies like Austria-Hungary and Germany

A key ingredient in the emerging diplomatic powder-keg was the growth of powerful nationalist aspirations among the Balkan states, which each looked to Germany, Austria-Hungary or Russia for support. The rise of anti-Austrian circles in Serbia following a 1903 palace coup

contributed to a further crisis in 1908 over Austria's unilateral annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as German pressure forcing a humiliating decline on the part of Russia, weakened (1905) by defeat at the hands of Japan and subsequent revolutionary disorder.

After the tragic death of Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sofia in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914, then territory of Austria-Hungary, it decided Serbia was responsible and thus accountable for the consequences. The fatal shots that killed the Austrian royals were fired by a Serb, Gavrilo Princip, citizen of Austro-Hungary, under the watchful eyes of the Austro-Hungarian police.

Acting primarily under the influence of Foreign Affairs Minister Leopold von Berchtold

and with German support, Austria-Hungary sent an unfulfillable 15-point ultimatum to Serbia (July 23), to be accepted within 48 hours. The Serbian government agreed to all but one of the demands. Austria-Hungary broke off diplomatic relations and declared war through a telegram sent to the Serbian government. So began one of the most exhausting wars in Serbian history. It is estimated 390,000 uniformed and 643,000 civilian Serbs lost their lives.

The Exhibit examines the Causes of War and proceeds through the events year by year: Defeat of the central Powers at Cer and Kolubara in 1914; Retreat through Albania to the island of Corfu in 1915-16; Salonika Front and the Liberation 1916-18.