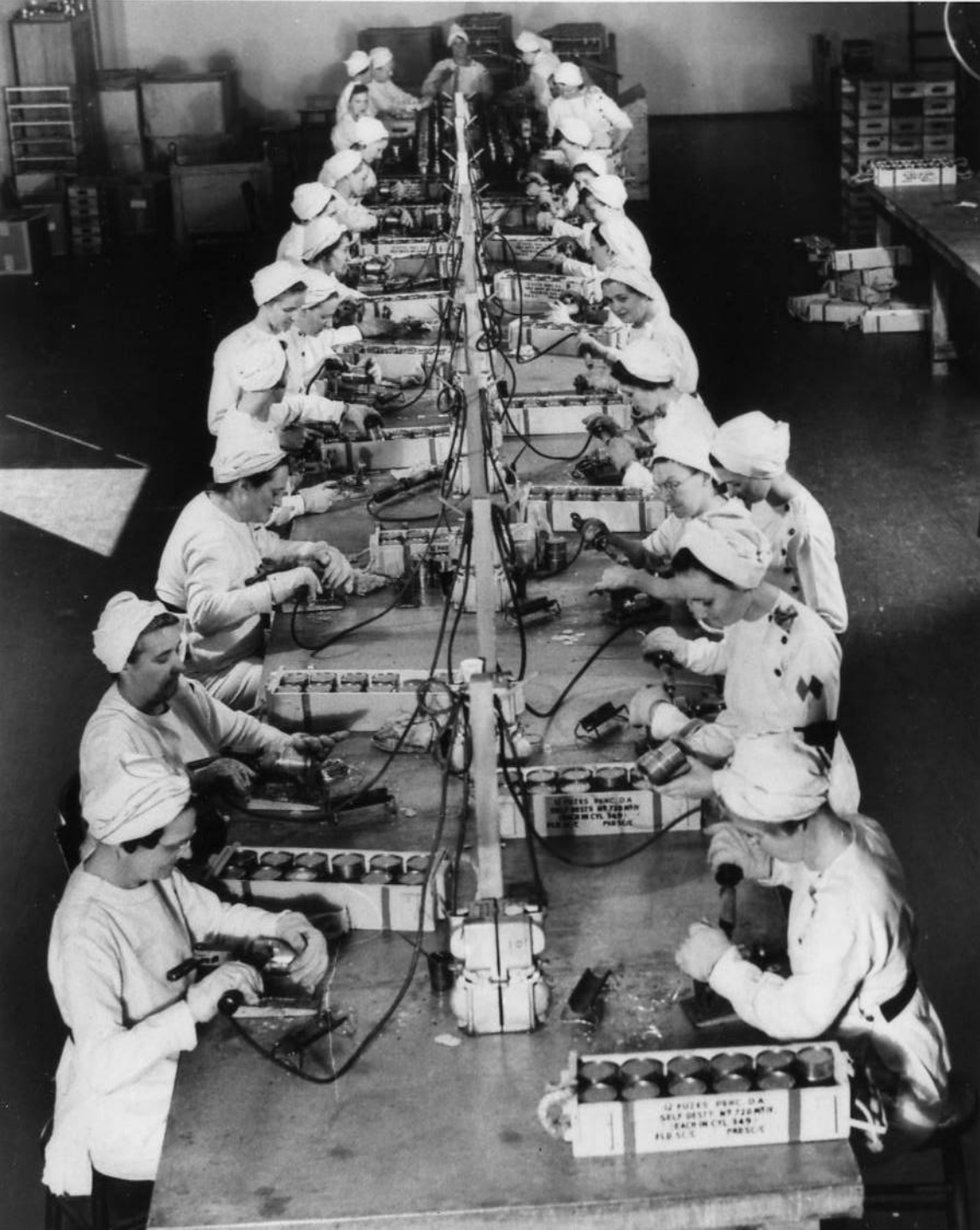


SCARBOROUGH'S  
BOMB GIRLS  
MEMORIAL  
BANNER INITIATIVE

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Isobel Main Montgomery



# GECO at Scarborough

Located southeast from Warden and Eglinton  
Avenues

Largest Munitions  
Factory in Canadian  
History



## **GECO**

- In operation from **1941-1945**
- **172** buildings on **346** acres of Scarborough farmland
- Employed over **21,000** Canadians
- **256** million rounds of ammunition filled and shipped overseas
- 4-kilometre tunnel system
- **20** original buildings in existence 2023

# Mission Statement

Scarborough's Bomb Girls Banner Initiative will:

- Honour Scarborough's bomb girls
- Promote an attitude of remembrance in Scarborough
- Raise community awareness of the invaluable military contribution Scarborough made during the Second World War
- Initiate conversations about the invaluable work carried out by women on the home front
- Provide a blueprint that can be applied to similar initiatives in Toronto and other municipalities to honour war workers





**LEST WE FORGET**



**Samuel S. Sharpe**

**First World War - Army**

HONOURED BY

**The Sharpe Family**

# Background

Based on Uxbridge's Memorial Banner Program

- Established by Uxbridge Secondary School teacher Tish MacDonald along with local RCL Branch 170
- Inaugural year featured 60 banners
- As of 2022, hundreds of banners fly not only in Uxbridge but in several nearby communities
- Cost to have a banner included is approximately \$200 – paid by a sponsor, typically the veteran's family
- Renewal fee every 2 years



Uxbridge's  
Veteran Memorial  
Banner Program

# Bomb Girl Banner Specifications

- “Second World War” will be used to indicate that Scarborough’s bomb girls served during the Second World War
- “GECO” will be used to indicate that these banners commemorate the women who worked at the GECO plant
- Photograph – each banner will depict a scene from the war-time plant
- Detail will be shown on both sides of banner
- One background colour/watermark
- Fabric: 23 oz durable vinyl
- Size: 60” by 27”
- Fabrication: 4.5” flat loop hem top and bottom with double stitching, reinforced webbing top and bottom, and grommets top and bottom



Banner Prototype

# Cost



Councillor Michael Thompson and bomb girl Isobel Montgomery

<u>Hardware &amp; Service Items</u>	<u>\$ Cost / Banner</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Banner hardware	\$111	Galvanized steel brackets/arms
Installation	\$130	Top / bottom banner brackets plus banner
Removal/Storage	\$23	Hardware stays
Printing	\$128	per 40 Banner bundle
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$391</b>	

Note:

- Graphic Design TBD
- Includes HST

# Roll-Out

- Forty banners available for inaugural year 2023
- Banners on display from October 1 – November 15 annually
- Positioned along Eglinton Avenue East from east of Warden Avenue westward to Pharmacy Avenue on both north and south sides of Eglinton in first year
- Banners added along Eglinton eastbound to Birchmount and westward to Victoria Park Avenue in subsequent years if funding available
- Additional opportunity to display actual bomb girl photographs





# The Ask

- Support the endeavour
- Cover costs for:
  - designing and printing of banners
  - Installation of banner hardware
  - Banner installation and take down each year
  - Banner storage each year
  - Launch event

# Next Steps

- Secure funding
- Finalize design of banner
- Print banners
- Set launch date
- Prepare media campaign
- Create merchandise such as T-shirts, hoodies, bookmarks, coffee table book, etc. to raise awareness
- Invite dignitaries, bomb girls, families, stake holders to launch event



Bomb girl Betty Warner

# Future Bomb Girl Endeavours

- Erect a **plaque** on-site
- Obtain **heritage designation** for former GECO property to preserve original buildings from demolition
- Establish a bomb girl **museum** in an original GECO building
- Erect a national **monument** in Ottawa to honour women war workers in Canada