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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*'Life on the Homefront'* multimedia project brings century-old history back to life

(New Glasgow, Nova Scotia) July 28, 2014 - Lest we forget. Those three words mean a great deal in the minds and hearts of those who have been touched by war, in particular the Great War from 1914-1918. River John C@P Society member and owner of Seafoam Woodturning Studio, Derek Andrews, wondered whether there could be a way to step back in time to 1914 so people would never forget – accessible by anyone from anywhere. Now, thanks in part to Derek's idea, the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL) is bringing history to life through their multimedia project *'Life on the Homefront: Antigonish and Pictou Counties during the Great War 1914- 1918'* accessible at [www.parl.ns.ca](http://www.parl.ns.ca).

This four-year project of the library goes beyond commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First World War by providing an in-depth perspective about how the Great War affected Pictou and Antigonish communities. The first part of the project, a blog, features a selected article from a local newspaper published 100 years previous to the posting date. Blog posts are slated to start August 4, the day the Great War was declared, and will continue to November 11 when the armistice was signed. As a feature of the blog, users will also be able to sign up for email notifications telling them when the post is published.

"It's a multi-faceted way of learning about the Great War and its impact on our community. The blog component also gives people an opportunity to see article clippings online - accessible from anywhere, adding an interactive component," says Eric Stackhouse, Chief Librarian for the PARL who's spearheading the project.

Other parts of the project feature an expanded book and digital collection focusing on the First World War, including e-Books, DVD's and photos easily ordered with a free library card. There will also be a monthly spotlight on stories from Antigonish and Pictou Counties related to the Great War, the first touches on Major Margaret C. MacDonald, Matron-in-Chief of the Canadian Nursing Service from Bailliey's Brook.

To kick-off the launch of the blog, there will be a book reading from author and historian, Dr. Ross Hebb

at the Antigonish Town and County Library, Tuesday August 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm and at the New Glasgow Library, Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am. Hebb's book to be released by Nimbus Publishing in August, is titled *Letters Home*, and is a collection of correspondences of 20 people shipped overseas from across the Maritimes, asking about their homes and farms, wondering at the girls in Britain, and leaving keepsakes and life advice for their children.

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