



## Berlin to Kitchener in the Great War Grade 10

The program runs for two hours of a morning or afternoon and can accommodate 2 classes with a maximum number of 80 students. (Alternatively the program can be combined with Canada: a Changing Society to make a full day and accommodate up to 120 students.) Start time can vary, on the half hour no earlier than 9:30 a.m. **Available year round. Until Christmas – See the Exhibit: City on Edge: Berlin becomes Kitchener in 1916**

In the first part of the program, students view and take part in a dramatic re-telling of the story of how Berlin became Kitchener with first person speeches by William H. Breithaupt and Sergeant Major Granville Blood, taken directly from the time. Students are asked to vote on whether the process was fair and whether the name should therefore be changed back to Berlin.

The group is then sub-divided into smaller groups and rotate through 4 activities selected to give a picture of the home front in Berlin/Kitchener.

The 4 activities:

1. At the train station, students are given roles and subjected to authentic recruiting tactics known to have been used on the streets of Berlin/Kitchener during the war.
2. In the Galleries, students are given a tour of the industrial and working life area. They learn about products that were produced locally for the war effort, “soldiers of the soil” and women in the work force. Students then take part in simulated manual line work activities that would have been done in industry in the war. Button sorting for quality control and loading .303 British ammunition chargers.
3. Students view an in depth story of one local Great War veteran. Nursing Sister Maude Bowman, who served in Egypt and in Etaples, France is featured with many photographs and her own personal artifacts and equipment.
4. At the Old Order Mennonite, Peter Martin House, students do a statistical analysis of recruiting data. Based on this data, the myth that “German” Berlin did not “pull its weight” and send as many recruits to the war effort is dispelled. If anything, the local population surpassed most other areas in contributing to the war effort, likely to prove loyalty.

To book contact: David Neufeld or Jamie Perham  
**Waterloo Region Museum**  
**(519) 748-1914**  
[dneufeld@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:dneufeld@regionofwaterloo.ca)  
[jperham@waterlooregionmuseum.ca](mailto:jperham@waterlooregionmuseum.ca)

