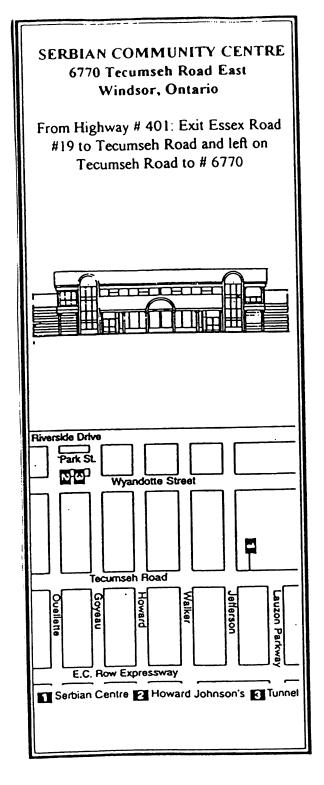
#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Serbian Heritage Museum gratefully acknowledges the assistance in the preparation of this exhibit to the following individuals who with donations, loans or otherwise contributed to its success.

Mrs. Stanislava Markovich Mr. Branko Budimir Mr. Slobodan Simsic Miss. Ivana Djuric

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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



# 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 90<sup>th</sup> 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

ingredient in A key the emerging diplomatic powderkeg was the growth powerful nationalist aspirations the Balkan states. among 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. territory of Austriathen Hungary, it decided Serbia was responsible and thus the accountable for consequences. The fatal shots that killed the Austrian royals were fired by a Serb, Gavrilo citizen of Austro-Princip. Hungary, under the watchful eves 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 15-point unfulfillable ultimatum to Serbia (July 23), to be accepted within 48 The Serbian hours. 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 It is history. estimated uniformed 390.000 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.