# UEL HALL OF HONOUR:
# Capt. GEORGE FRASER KERR, VC, MC & Bar, MM, UE

George Fraser Kerr was born on 8 June 1895 in Deseronto, Ontario and had strong roots in the Bay of Quinte. He was one of four children born to John James Kerr and Isabella Fraser. His father was a merchant and the family moved to Toronto around 1902 and later to Galt where he graduated from Galt Collegiate Institute and Vocational School in 1912. He then moved to Toronto to finish his requirements for matriculation. When war broke out, he was working as a chemist in Toronto, and enlisted as a private in the 3rd Battalion in Valcartier, Quebec on 22 September 1914.

He had an illustrious career as a soldier, rising through the ranks from Private. On June 13, 1916 Kerr was awarded the military medal for his actions during the battle of Mount Sorrel, where he led his platoon in the action following the death of the officers and sergeant. Shortly after that he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. On July 28, 1916 near Lens, he was wounded in both legs and his right wrist and had to be sent back to England for recovery. At the end of the year he returned to active service in France, and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in July, 1917. On 8 August 1918 during the first day of the Battle of Amiens he led his platoon to capture a battery of enemy guns, despite being wounded in the action, and was awarded the Military Cross. Less than a month later, on 2 September during action on the Drocourt-Queant Line, his leadership was recognized with the award of bar as a second Military Cross. Finally on 27 September 1918 at Bourlon Wood during the Battle of Canal du Nord, he led his company in the destruction of 4 machine-gun emplacements and capture of 31 German prisoners. For this action under heavy fire, he was awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest honour to a Canadian soldier. Kerr was personally presented with his Victoria Cross and Military Cross and Bar by King George V at a ceremony in Buckingham Palace on 20 May 1919.

Following the war he returned to Toronto and worked as a salesman in a company supplying metals. He also served as a Captain in the Toronto Regiment. George Fraser Kerr was married in Toronto on 6 March 1924 to Mary Beeman. She was born in Lennox & Addington in 1886 and died in Toronto in 1952. They had two children, Mary Louise Isabel Kerr born in 1925 and died of tuberculosis in 1933, and Janet Grace Kerr, born in 1927. He died accidentally from carbon monoxide poisoning while warming up his car in the garage on 8 December 1929 and was buried with full military honours in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Toronto, Ontario. His wife and first daughter

are also buried there. His medals are on display in the Canadian War Museum.  An Ontario Historical Plaque in his memory was erected in Centennial Park in Deseronto, Ontario. George Fraser Kerr is a descendant of Loyalists Daniel Fraser UE and John Galbraith UE. He was inducted into our Hall of Honour on September 9, 2023 by Brian Tackaberry.