



Newsletter of the

ONTARIO MODEL SOLDIER SOCIETY

Founded 1962

www.omss.ca

Edited by Gary Lenius



May 2011

Next meeting

Sunday, May 15, 2011

Start time 1:00 pm

Branch 210, Royal Canadian Legion
110 Jutland Road, Toronto
Doors open at 11:00 am

Featured Topic

Canadians in the US Civil War

This year is the 150th anniversary of the start of the U.S. Civil War. It's our theme for the show this year and to tie in it's also the subject of this month's meeting. Over 50,000 Canadians participated in the War Between the States, on both sides.

To whet your appetite here's a link to some info on Canada and the Civil War: www.pvtchurch.tripod.com



Meeting Dates for 2011

May 15	October 16
June 11 (Annual Show)	November 13
September 11	December 11

OMSS Website Revamped

Our Society website has been updated with a new design and improved content. **Gary Lenius** has redesigned the site from the ground up and brought it up to modern standards. Check it out at www.omss.ca

Fairburn Castings: Take Two

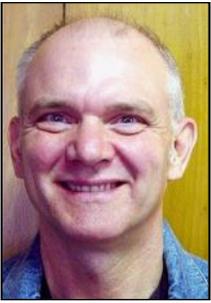
The late Bob Fairburn was a prolific home caster. His family has donated some of his assorted parts and figures to the Society. At last month's meeting these were put out for members to help themselves and quite a few members had a great time browsing through them. We have another batch to put out this month. We will do this after the formal part of the meeting so as not to disrupt the presentation.

Sale of Aitchison Collection

The sale of the late Paul Aitchison's figures will take place Saturday, May 28 in Bren Furlong's garage in Mississauga. (1568 Douglas Drive, near the QEW and Hurontario St.) (Note that washroom facilities will NOT be available.) Further details will be announced at the meeting and by email before the sale. Paul's collection included some more recent Britains sets and a large number of home-cast figures of many nationalities and units. Items not sold on the day will be on sale at the Annual Show in June.

2011 Executive Committee

<i>President</i> Jim Matresky	<i>Member at Large</i> Gail Stone
<i>1st Vice President</i> Guy Elliott	<i>Journal Editor</i> Frank MacKay
<i>2nd Vice President</i> Scott Dummitt	<i>Program Chairman</i> Eric Clarke
<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i> Gary Lenius	<i>Membership Chairman</i> Ian Pearson
<i>Past President</i> John Murdock	<i>Show Chairman</i> Norm White
	<i>50th Anniversary Chairman</i> Bren Furlong



President's Column

From our President Jim Matresky...

I know many of you have already been busy preparing your entries for this year's Annual Show and Competition at Fort York on Saturday, June 11, but for those of you who have not started there is still plenty of time. Remember our theme this year is the American Civil War, but of course, all themes are acceptable as usual for entry. To help warm us up to the theme at the show, our May speaker, Dr. Collette, will be focusing on Canada's involvement in the American Civil War. Did you know that more than 60,000 Canadians are said to have fought in the war – on both the Union and Confederate sides?

Our speakers in April, Ian Pearson and Phil Andrews, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the Canadian Victoria Cross Winners. The many stories of valour, sacrifice and bravery were quite overwhelming.

Frank MacKay presented an idea for the development of a pin as a memento for our 50th Anniversary celebration next year, and Jim Hamilton introduced the idea of a special case for our OMSS ID which will also be considered by the 50th Anniversary Committee. Planning continues for a 50th Anniversary dinner-banquet in 2012.

Gary Lenius and Scott Dummitt are working together on our new web site. More details will follow very shortly, but the preliminary work looks very exciting. Gary also presented the new promotion flyer for OMSS. It is amazing!

For those of you who were not able to be at the last meeting, you missed the excitement of Carl McTaggart's sale. Carl is downsizing and brought many items for sale. As well, at the end of the meeting more of Bob Fairburn's castings were offered, for free, to the members. John and Evelyn Brown have hinted that there may be more of Bob's castings at the May meeting. Of course all of our vendors were at the April meeting in full force and will again be offering many bargains at the May meeting.

The Wednesday Group met at John Brown's house on Wednesday, April 27. A fun time was had by all who attended. Thank you John and Evelyn, for hosting the meeting.

David Dorward, a long standing member of our Society, has written an article for Toy Soldier and Model Figure magazine, May 2011. Featured in the article is our own Don Ritchie. If you are not lucky enough to have a copy of this issue, you can probably get one from Scott Dummitt at our next meeting, as he is one of the few Canadian vendors who sell this magazine.

Keep painting, casting, collecting, etc. and see you at our next meeting on May 15.

OMSS Annual Show: Saturday June 11

It's coming up fast. We hope you're all busily working on your displays and competition entries

Venue: Fort York

We will be back at Fort York again this year in our usual locations: the Junior Officers' Barracks and the adjacent blockhouse.

Theme: American Civil War

We have picked a theme for this year, the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. So we hope to see lots of ACW figures and displays out this year. But you're certainly not limited to that period; all displays are welcome.

Displays needed

Planning a display at the show? Let Norm White know so we can plan for your space requirements (contact info below).

Vendor Tables

Table rental in our vendor area has been held to \$45 (for an 8 foot table). Vendor packages have been mailed out to all our past vendors. Response has been good and we're already more than half booked. Get your bookings in soon to get your space reserved.

Annual Competition

See page 3 for updated rules for this year's competition.

Ian Pearson and **Phil Andrews** have stepped up to coordinate the judging at this year's competition. **Don Melhuish** will serve as elder statesman to provide guidance.

Catering

An army travels on its stomach and toy soldier fanciers are no different. So it's good news that **Janet MacKay** has confirmed that her and her IODE cohorts will once again be catering for us on show day.

Contact

Queries, ideas, volunteers—please contact our show chairman **Norm White** 416-285-5600 or email norman.white@utoronto.ca

OMSS at Hamilton Military Fair

The Society has been invited to participate in the Military Fair being held Saturday May 28th at the Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton (details on pg.4). **Gail Stone** will be coordinating our display at this show. We will have two tables to put on a display and promote the Society and our own upcoming show. She could use some help. If you can come out and help her man the table and/or provide some figures for display please contact her. 905-332-0653 gstone4@cogeco.ca

Annual Military Miniatures Competition Rules and Awards

For 2011 we have greatly simplified the structure of our annual competition. There are no more categories and classes to navigate. Just bring your entries and our judges will do all the work.

Entry Types

All the usual types of entries are still eligible:

Single figures	All scales and subjects. Kits, conversions or scratch-built.
Vignettes	1-5 figures in an intimate scene
Dioramas	Larger number of figures, vehicles in a larger scene
Military hardware	Tanks, planes, ships, artillery pieces, etc. with or without figures
Toy soldiers	Massed groups of home cast or commercial figures painted in the classic toy soldier style.
Wargame units	Smaller scale figures organized and mounted for wargaming
Collector's Displays	Figures that are not the work of the entrant. Judged on presentation and interest.

Basic Rules

1. Entries will be accepted between 8:00 am and 12:00 pm. Late entries will not be judged.
2. There is no fee for competition entry.
3. The competition is open to all. There is no limit on the number of entries.
4. An entry card must be completed for each exhibit entered and displayed with it. The entrant may choose to enter a number of figures as a group, in which case only one card need be completed. Entry cards must be returned to the committee at the end of the show.
5. Entrants are responsible for setting up their own figures within the competition area. Display materials such as cloth backdrops may be used. The Show committee reserves the right to limit the amount of space used.
6. Competing is optional. For exhibits presented for display only just check off the box on the entry card marked "Display Only, Not in Competition".
7. Entries that have previously won an award at an O.M.S.S. Annual Competition are ineligible.
8. Unless entered as a Collector's Display, entries must have been painted by the entrant. (Check off the appropriate box for a Collector's Display.)
9. Bases are recommended but not mandatory.
10. Questions concerning eligibility are the sole responsibility of the Committee. The Committee reserves the right to bar entries it feels are not suitable for public display.
11. All reasonable precautions will be taken to protect entries while on display. However the O.M.S.S. cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage.

Awards

The judges will award gold, silver and bronze trophies to deserving entries. The number of awards made is flexible and at the discretion of the judges based on the quality of the work entered. Entries will be judged in the context of the standards pertinent to the type of entry (see list above) and relative to the other entries of the same type. Judging criteria include level of effort, painting skill, interest and presentation and historical accuracy.

In addition there are some overall awards:

Junior Award	For outstanding work by an entrant 16 years of age or younger.
Club's Choice	Best of Show voted by ballot by those attending the show. (Don't forget to vote!)
Wellington Cup	Best of Show as selected by the judges.



Prince August Molds

Scott Dummitt is now the Canadian contact for Prince August Limited Molds. He has a small selection of Napoleonic and Traditional Toy Soldier Moulds in stock as well as the casting starter kits. He will order in other molds for interested customers with a small deposit. Sets of three molds are approximately \$60.00 plus tax. He is also looking for a source for casting metal. At this time Cerrotru (a type of hobby casting metal) is approximately \$17.50 - \$21.00 a lb. He hopes to have a stock of it on hand for hobbyists.

Calvin Tan Figures at Hornet Hobbies

Some of Calvin Tan's original WWII figures are currently on display at Hornet Hobbies 1563 O'Connor Drive. These are gold medal winners from some of the top international shows. Great inspiration for painters. You can also see some of his work online at zyclon.blogspot.com

Information Needed

Harold Morrison would like information on the Grand Trunk Canadian Militia uniforms of the 1860s. The militia included artillery, engineering and infantry. Any information would be deeply appreciated. Contact Harold at 416-269-3522 or email him at aitchrwm@istar.ca

Seeking Composition Figures

Hans Doring is looking for composition figures from such makers as Elastolin, Lineol and Hausser. You can contact Hans at 416-421-9951 in the evenings. Hans is also looking for someone who can do some repairs to composition figures for him.

Looking for Painted Figures

Stanley Kershman is interested in buying painted connoisseur figures and flats. You can contact him at stanley3211@hotmail.com or 613-726-2999.

If you know of an upcoming show that might interest our members, drop Gary a line.

Hamilton Toy & Collectibles Show May 23

At Michelangelos Banquet Centre 1555 Upper Ottawa St. Hamilton. Hours: 10 am - 3 pm Admission: \$3
For more information contact: sassea04@yahoo.ca

Military Fair Saturday May 28

At the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton. 9 am to 4 pm. Military antiques, badges, uniforms, books and prints. Aircraft and vehicles on display. Living history groups.

Contact Richard Garcia 647-709-9733 richardgarcia@sympatico.ca See www.warplane.com for museum info and directions.

Wings and Wheels Heritage Festival May 28-29

Vintage and military aircraft on the ground and on the wing. Military vehicles also. Hosted by The Canadian Air and Space Museum at Downsview Park and Airport. See www.wingsandwheelsfestival.com for details.

Toronto Toy Auction June 5

Burlington Holiday Inn & Conference Centre at 3063 South Service Rd. Burlington, Ontario Preview 11.00am, Sale 1.00pm See www.antiquetoys.ca for auction list.

Chicago Toy Soldier Show Sept. 25

The big one. Room trading all weekend and formal show Sunday. 10:00 am to 3:30 pm. At the Hyatt Regency Woodfield 1800 East Golf Road Schaumburg, IL 60173
Details at www.toysoldiershow.com

The Hobby Show November 4-6

Includes the Great Canadian Game Show. Formerly held at the International Centre they are moving to Downsview Park in Toronto this year. See www.thehobbyshow.com

Looking out for each other

Know of a member who's been ill or in hospital? Let Gail Stone know so that we can send them the Society's best wishes. Contact Gail at 905-332-0653 or by email at gstone4@cogeco.ca