



**50th Anniversary Year
1962 - 2012**

2012 Executive

Guy Elliott
President

Scott Dummitt
1st vice president

Norman White
2nd vice-president

Gary Lenius
Secretary/Treasurer

Jim Matresky
Past President

Gail Stone
Member at Large

Eric Clarke
Program Chairman

Frank MacKay
Journal editor

Ian Pearson
Membership Chairman

Norman White
Annual Show Chairman

Scott Dummitt
50th Anniversary Chairman

2012 Meeting Dates

January 8
February 12
March 11
April 15
May 6
June 10
October 14
November 18
December 9

Annual Show
Saturday September 8

Monthly Newsletter for January 2012

Next meeting:

Sunday, January 8, 2012

Branch 210 Royal Canadian Legion 110 Jutland Rd. Toronto

Meeting starts at 1:00 pm Doors open 11:00 am

Featured Speaker: Ian Pearson

Our own **Ian Pearson** is back again to share some more interesting fruits of his historical research. This month it's in the nature of "Unsung Heroes": individuals or units that may not be well known, but who nevertheless made their own mark on history.



The Journal Is Coming

Our Journal editor **Frank MacKay** sends his apologies that the latest issue could not be printed in time for the December meeting. But fear not; we will have it ready for pickup at this month's meeting.

OMSS on TV

In our continuing quest to promote the Society **Scott Dummitt** has arranged with CHEX TV in Peterborough to do a segment with member **Don Ritchie** at his home up that way. It will feature Don's collection and both Don and Scott will be participating. It will be shown during the daily news program at 5:00 pm on Wednesday January 4. CHEX is channel 12, Bell satellite 217. Check with your cable provider for availability in your area. Great publicity for us.

2012 Membership Dues

With the beginning of a new year it's time for us all to renew our memberships again. Treasurer **Gary Lenius** will gleefully take your money and issue you with a membership card for 2012. Same low price: dues have been held to the same rates as the past few years:

- The Regular membership rate is \$35 for the year.
- Junior membership (16 and under) is \$20.
- Family membership (2nd member at same mailing address) is \$20.

Show and Tell

Just a reminder that the "Show and Tell" portion of our monthly meetings depends on you the members bringing items out to show your fellow members. It could be a new acquisition (something for Christmas?), an unusual item you've come across or a new model you've completed, or are working on. Put it out on the table and tell your fellow members about it in a few brief words. It's good fun and adds interest to the meetings.

The newsletter is edited by Gary Lenius.

News items and notices can be submitted at omss@bell.net or 416-261-6494.

OMSS website: www.omss.ca



President's Column

From our President Guy Elliott...

Welcome to 2012, everyone. I hope and your family had a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

In the midst of all the hustle and bustle that's leads up to Christmas I always look forward to our Christmas Luncheon. I think of it as an oasis in a sea of hectic activity. This year's luncheon was one of the best in several years. Gail and her family do such a great job: great food, fine service and always with good cheer and smiles. I cannot think how they manage to do all that on \$5.00 a head (a Christmas miracle?). Even if I could figure that out, I still don't comprehend why they do it. It is a lot of work. Nonetheless, they do it for us and I can't even imagine what we'd do without them. Well done, Gail!

As well as the great food there are all those folks who give of their time and energy and go out and buy all the gifts for the ladies' draw and the gentlemen's draw – and then they wrap them all. This is a contemplative time of year and thinking of all the people past and present who do all those various tasks that allows us such a fine Society is a pleasant, warming thought. It manifests itself in so many ways.

The turnout for the luncheon this year was the largest in quite a while. That also brings a glow and lifts the spirit.

An idea to remember in the middle of the winter when the attendance at the regular meetings seems low. Just because a number of folks are down south or, as the song goes: 'the weather outside is frightful ' and we don't have a big crowd is no reflection on the Society.

Which brings me to this year – wow! This is the big 50th Anniversary. A certain degree of trepidation seeps into my heart when I think of all the tasks ahead. But if I take a big breath and look at it rationally, I realize it will be exciting, not onerous. There is an excellent Executive that is capable and effective and a 50th. Year Committee under Scott Dummitt that is proceeding ahead with the plans that the Executive has approved. This isn't the time or place to go over all the upcoming events, but we will keep you informed all along the way. The Executive started planning for this year back in 2010. And the pledge Jim Matresky made at the October meeting on behalf of the Executive will still stand while I am President this year. We will not spend the Society's funds without consulting the Society.

While we will talk about many things together this year, there is one thing above all else on which I want you to concentrate: The 50th. Anniversary Dinner on September 8. Don't plan any trips away, don't commit to anything with your friends / relatives and tell you children firmly: " No, we can't babysit that weekend.". In fact, tell all of them now that Saturday, September 8 is booked. We are going to have a great and memorable occasion and you want to be there.

Cheers!

Mark that date...

Saturday September 8, 2012 the OMSS Annual Show celebrating the Society's 50th Anniversary



Don Melhuish Appointed Life Member

As part of our year-end "honours list" we are happy to announce that Donald Melhuish has been appointed a Life Member in the Society. Over many years he served as an organizer and workhorse for the Society in many capacities. He served on the executive for many years, including a term as president. He was involved in everything from the Journal, to speaking at many meetings, organizing club displays at the CNE for many years, our presidential and presentation prints, to the Annual show and competition. Those who have been around the club for some time know that we would not have the Society we have today without the efforts of Don. Well deserved!

Frank Barrett Awarded Society Print

Our December meeting is traditionally our time to present some special awards. This year Frank Barrett was presented with the Society's Queen's Ranger print in recognition of his many services to the Society over many years. Shown here are incoming 2012 president Guy Elliott (at left) and outgoing 2011 president Jim Matresky (at right) presenting Frank with his print.

(Photo by Eunice Matresky)





News from Harold Morrison

Some of our members will recall Bryan Gibbins, a long-time member of the Society. Bryan was afflicted with cancer, but after major surgery, the cancer has been removed and doctors advise that he is free of it now. Bryan used to run Cardinal's Nest Hobbies in Brampton. He now lives in Meaford, Ontario. He also has contributed articles to our printed publication.

Bryan always appreciates hearing from old friends in the Society. You can email him at brygib@rogers.com

Thanks Harold, keep 'em coming.

Passing the Kukri

At the Annual General Meeting in October we elected a slate of officers for 2012. As the old year passes it is time for the new officers to take up the reins. Thus at the December meeting the presidential kukri was passed from 2011 president Jim Matresky to our 2012 president-elect Guy Elliott. The photo shows Guy flanked by Jim (right) and 2010 president John Murdock (left). (Photo by Eunice Matresky)

For those unfamiliar with it, the kukri is a traditional curved fighting knife long used by the Gurkha troops of Nepal, famous for their service with the British and Indian armies. For over 25 years the OMSS has used a kukri as a ceremonial badge of office for the president. He uses it as a gavel to open official OMSS meetings. It is kept in a custom made wooden box which you will see on the front table at meetings. Member John Hambly restored the box for us a couple of years ago.

On the kukri case are engraved plates listing each president of the Society since its founding. Jim Matresky recently had these brought up to date.

Note that we do not follow the Gurkha tradition that the kukri must draw blood whenever it is drawn. But don't tempt Guy.



Britains Limited Books by Joe Wallis

Author Joe Wallis sent us an email through the website recently. He has published two illustrated reference books on Britains figures. "Regiments of All Nations" covers Britains issues from 1946 to 1966 and is available postpaid to Canada for \$70 US. Originally published in 1981 as a 250 page soft-cover book it has now been revised and reissued as a full colour 450 page hard cover. His other book: "Armies of The World" covers 1925 to 1941 and is \$50 US postpaid.

For details on the books and how to order see his website www.leadssoldierbooks.com

Link of the Month: Wellington's Army in 1/72 scale

<http://youtu.be/MqLoLKibVuU>

In my youth I painted up a small wargames army of British and French Waterloo era plastic figures from Airfix. I had about a small brigade of each side at a typical wargaming scale of 1 figure for 25-30 men. So I was blown away when I came across this video on Youtube. A fellow named Bob Fraser has painted up 2 and a half British divisions' worth of Airfix figures at a scale of 1 to 1. That's 25,000 figures!

And if that's not enough there's 6,750 cavalry to go with them; see http://youtu.be/PwkQG2GxX_I ...GL

Still waiting for your postman to brave hail, sleet and snow to deliver your paper copy of the monthly newsletter? Let us send it to you by email. Avoid postal delays. Read the newsletter online in full colour by email. No more paper cuts! We send it out as an Adobe PDF file, a compressed format that won't swamp your mailbox or take ages to download.

Send an email to omss@bell.net to get yourself on the email distribution list.

Your editor (the guy who has to stuff envelopes every month) will thank you.



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.

Collections for Sale

A number of folks have contacted the Society for help in selling collections:

Andrea Risk has a number of figures, painted and unpainted that belonged to her late father, former member Jim Risk. There are also some military books. Contact her at jimmar3@sympatico.ca

Noreen Crowley is looking to sell her late husband Gary's collection. They are mostly Britains sets of Napoleonic and Revolutionary War subjects, plus some Don Troiani Civil War sets and some Conte Revolutionary War and Zulu War sets. You can contact her at 905-894-9781 or by email at gcrowley@sympatico.ca. She's in Ridgeway (down near Fort Erie).

Paul Alexander has a number of 1950's Britains sets to sell including a Landau, Coronation Coach, Royal Horse Artillery and Humber Staff Car sets. You can contact him at 416-453-3143.

Don Jordan is looking to sell a collection that includes Britains, Marlborough, Tradition, East of India and King & Country sets. His email is inferno@execulink.com

Mary Moss in Ottawa has recently asked if anyone in our organization would be interested in purchasing her late Husband's collection. He had figures from the following manufacturers: Corgi, King and Country, Stadden, and other miniature soldiers. WWI, WWII German. Mary can be contacted at memoss@rogers.com



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

HeritageCon 6 Sunday Feb 12, 2012

Model show to be held at the Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton. 9am to 4pm. Admission is \$5. For details visit www.ipmshamilton.ca

WellCoME XV Saturday, April 14, 2012

Wellington Country Modellers Exhibition at Bishop MacDonnell Catholic High School 200 Clair Road West, Guelph, Ont. \$7 admission. All types of models including several figure categories. Detailed flyer available at www.thesprue.com

Buffcon 29 Sunday April 15, 2012

Presented by the Niagara Frontier Chapter of the International Plastic Modelers Society. At the Knights of Columbus Club 2735 Union Rd. Cheektowaga (Buffalo) NY. All types of models including figure categories. Admission \$6. Check www.ipmsniagarafontier.com for details.

Can/Am Con 10 Saturday April 21, 2012

International Scale Model Contest presented by IPMS Champlain Valley. At the Holiday Inn 412 Route 3 Plattsburgh New York. Includes figure categories.

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

Moving? Send your change of address to: Gary Lenius 43 Saugeen Cres. Scarborough, Ont. M1K 3M8
or email: omss@bell.net Phone: 416 261-6494