



Next meeting:

**Sunday, June 10, 2012**

Branch 210 Royal Canadian Legion 110 Jutland Rd. Toronto

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

**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

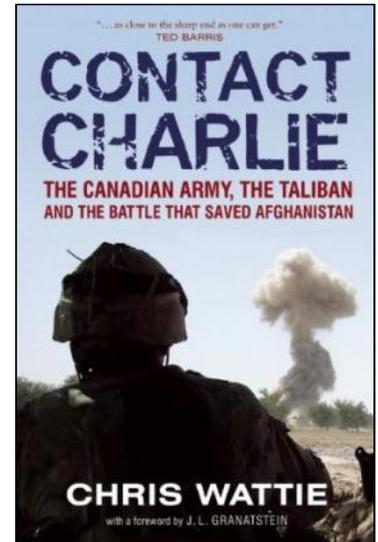
**Annual Show  
Saturday September 8**

**Featured Speaker this month**

**Chris Wattie**

**Author of "Contact Charlie"**

This month's speaker is a professional journalist who has done three tours as an embedded reporter with Canada's ground troops in Afghanistan. In 2008 he published the best-selling book "Contact Charlie: The Canadian Army, The Taliban and the Battle that Saved Afghanistan" based on his experiences with the 1st Bn PPCLI as they battled the Taliban in Panjwayi region. It was the most intense combat seen by Canadian troops since the Korean War. Chris currently writes for the National Post and is also a lieutenant with the Queens York Rangers. Join us for an interesting talk as Chris gives us his impressions from the "sharp end" of our Afghanistan mission.



**Britain's OMSS 50th Anniversary Commemorative Figure**

We have received a finished sample of our Queens Ranger figure that we commissioned from W. Britain. It has been featured in the Britain's Collector's Club publication, along with a plug for our show. The sample figure will be on display at the meeting.

Every member of the Society will be getting one of these figures to mark our 50th year. They are now in production and we should have them in time for the Annual Show in September. Another reason to make it out to the show!

**Annual Dinner Tickets—Last Call!**

The June 30 deadline for purchasing tickets for the 50th Anniversary dinner at Fort York is fast approaching.

Our 50th Anniversary Chairman **Scott Dummitt** has been working very hard to get the Annual Dinner organized and it's shaping up to be a great event to celebrate the Society's milestone year.

**We have already sold 76 dinner tickets. Our maximum capacity is 100, so if you're planning to attend you need to get your money in soon.** Send in the form that was mailed out or see **Gary Lenius** at the meeting.

The newsletter is edited by Gary Lenius.

News items and notices can be submitted at [omss@bell.net](mailto:omss@bell.net) or 416-261-6494.

OMSS website: [www.omss.ca](http://www.omss.ca)



## President's Column

*From our President Guy Elliott...*

### **50th. Anniversary Dinner**

As I write this (May 29) more than seventy-five folks are coming to the dinner. The deadline for cheques is June 30th. At that point we will lock-in the numbers with the caterer and that will be the end. Even if you are long-time member (and a very nice person) a cheque arriving from you after that date will be of no use at all – you can't come. That's sad, because you know it will be a great evening. The Society is covering one half the cost of this first class meal and evening. There will be mementos of the evening for everyone. I hope that if you've not yet paid, it's only because it keeps slipping your mind. Think of this as my personal reminder: I would really like to see you there.

### **Annual Show Competition**

A detailed 'Judging Criteria' package will be out to you soon. The Executive hoped it could go out with this Newsletter but that is not possible. Gary Lenius reminded us that some members get their Newsletter via Canada Post and that there would just be no room in their envelopes to include the Package and the Newsletter. Gary is swamped with his usual duties (and all the 50th. Anniversary / Annual Show materials) but will send that out as soon as he is able. We have worked hard on that Package and we think you will like it. We think it will provide you with a very enjoyable experience in the Competition. When it comes, have a look at it. Let me remind you that this will be a great year to enter.

### **Annual Show Displays**

I'm going to be a bit long-winded on this topic. Please pardon me. I am a toy soldier collector. My collection is about 1/3 commercial sets, 1/3 conversions from purchased and 1/3 made from castings. I like them all equally. 'Competitions' are not what I'm about. I've been in every Annual Show since I joined nine years ago. I do displays. I bring some toy soldiers from home to share my love of them with you and with visitors. Over the years I've brought bands or cavalry or artillery or Canadian soldiers or Indian soldiers or whatever. They don't have to be perfect or beautifully painted – they just need to be something that I think people would enjoy to see.

This year I won't be doing a display. My health plus the Show ( I'm judging! ) plus the Dinner is all I can manage. But I'll have a display next year. I'm already mulling over what to bring. Britains used to have sets called: 'Regiments of All Nations'. Maybe I'll bring some from the lesser-seen countries: Bulgaria or Mexico or Malaya. Maybe instead I'll bring Commonwealth soldiers or Holger Eriksson 30mm figures or the Cowboys and Indians of my childhood. Who knows?

Here's my point: all of you have at home some soldiers that I would really like to see. Everyone else in the Society would really like to see those soldiers too. I'll bet they would please visitors as well. Please don't be selfish. Let me remind you: please bring something of yours to display at the Show. Thanks. P.S. – I don't claim to be an expert on displays but you can always contact me and chat about doing a display.

## OMSS Annual Show and Competition

*Saturday September 8, 2012 10am to 3:30 pm Fort York Toronto*



The photo at left shows why we're not at Fort York this month. No, it's not Occupy Toronto back again. This month as part of War of 1812 bi-centennial events an art installation called "the Encampment" will fill the fort's grounds with 200 tents. Each tent will contain a visual representation of an aspect of the war's civilian history. It will run June 8 to 24th. It will be lit at night and open free to the public. Should be quite a sight.

### **Show volunteers needed**

There will be a sign-up list for both the set-up (Friday 7th September) at this year's OMSS "On Parade 2012" show, and for the tear-down and set-up of tables and chairs for the Dinner on the Saturday (8th September). We really would appreciate the help of anyone who can as the more we have to help, the faster things get done. The list will be available at the June meeting. If you can't make the meeting and are willing to help out, please contact either Norm White or Scott Dummitt

## More on the Annual Show...

September 8 is approaching fast. We hope everyone is working on displays and entries for the annual competition.

### Show publicity

Show postcards and posters will be available at the meeting. We need members to take these and get them put up at local hobby stores and other likely spots.

### Vendors

The vendor package has been sent out to those who had tables at our past shows. Bookings are already coming in. We are holding the price at \$45 for an 8 foot table, a bargain compared to most shows. The vendor forms will also be posted on our website. If you haven't sold at past shows but would like a table see **Norm White** or **Gary Lenius**.

### Displays Needed

We really need your participation to make the show a success. We need members to bring out displays of all aspects of the hobby. Frankly the turnout last year was disappointing and we were left with empty space. Let's make a special effort to mark our 50th year and really show off our hobby. As Guy has said in his column, everyone has something that your fellow members and the public would like to see. It's not too early to let Norm White know what display space you can fill.

### Show Chairman

Norm White 416-285-5600

email [norman.white@utoronto.ca](mailto:norman.white@utoronto.ca)

## Harold's Corner - News items from Harold Morrison

### Canadian Uniforms WW2

Early in 1939-40, Canadian soldiers wore sun helmets. The helmets were not the British pith-type of the Far East, but more along the lines of the U.S. model.

In winter our soldiers wore a distinctive khaki head-dress with front flap, ear flaps and a neck covering all of which were worn up in milder winter weather. Heavy overcoats, or great coats, with epaulets were winter-wear. Usually the garment extended below the knees. (My source has no recollection if the great-coat having single rows or double rows of brass buttons.)

The waist-length battle dress tunic buttoned up to the throat. When U.S. General Eisenhower adopted a re-styled jacket with lapels and shirt, the pattern was copied towards the end of the war by Canadian soldiers.

Early on, Canadian Highland regiments wore glengarries and balmorals as appropriate, a major change being the use of khaki balmorals

While recruiting for the volunteer army, one of the enticements was the walk-out uniform. This featured a hip-length jacket of sand colour, conservative lapels, khaki shirt, black tie for other ranks, and a sand colour for officers. Obviously jackets and trousers matched. Officers had a short, dark brown leather-covered swagger stick, sometimes called a walk-out

When citizens became the subject of draft, one of the tip-offs was that their uniforms had no regimental or corps identification. The terms of the draft were that they would not be shipped overseas. From the razzing they took from regular army soldiers and persuasion sessions with officers some did indeed volunteer for overseas duty. Otherwise they had to live with the term, zombie.

Turning to the Royal Canadian Navy, on active duty almost anything went. Sailors would wear dungarees (now jeans) and tee-shirts with geographical or commercial advertising. Badges of rank, worn on the sleeve for commissioned officers differed: The Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve wore wavy (or zig zag) stripes. (Hence the song, Roll along Wavy Navy.) Later the straight stripes of the RCN were used by RCNVR and regular RCN officers.

In the RCAF, when a man won his pilot wings, he would take the wire stiffener from his head-dress. For commissioned officers badges were worn on the sleeve. Their tunics had epaulets.

(Source: A nine-year-old boy living in the early months of the war.)





### Seeking Kit from Melhuish Sale

James Hamilton is looking for a kit that was part of the sale of Don Melhuish's estate at the April meeting. It's a plastic kit of a large scale (8 inch?) US Marine or Army Infantryman from World War 2 that was in a plastic bag. If you could bear to part with it please contact James at 416 621 8977 or [hhamilton@bell.net](mailto:hhamilton@bell.net)

### Royal Marine Band for Sale \*Price Reduced\*

Mike Pidgeon has a 30 piece Royal Marine Band for sale (with boxes). Made by "All The Queen's Men". Price: \$200.00, O.B.O. Pictures available on request.

Contact Mike Pidgeon, 905-478-4724

Email: [mpidgeon@rogers.com](mailto:mpidgeon@rogers.com)

### Airborne!

Dragon Models British Airborne "Red Devils" Arnhem 1944 model, original box with great graphics, 1/16 Warrior Series, unbuilt, parts still in original plastic bags inside box, \$10 & great read hardcover book, Sgt. Don Malarkey with Bob Welch, Easy Company Soldier, "The Legendary Battles of a Sergeant from WW2's "Band of Brothers" \$10. These are plus shipping if you want them mailed. Contact David Dorward at 905-584-5838 or [dkdorward@sympatico.ca](mailto:dkdorward@sympatico.ca)

### Seeking Grant's Royal Scot

Frank MacKay is looking for figure No. 2 in the series put out some years ago by the William Grant's Scotch Whiskey company. Preferably in the original packaging. If you have one to spare contact him at [frank\\_mackay@hotmail.com](mailto:frank_mackay@hotmail.com)

### 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](mailto:stanley3211@hotmail.com) or 613-726-2999.



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

### 14th Annual Marx Toy & Train Collectors Convention June 15-16

At the Kruger Street Toy & Train Museum, 144 Kruger Street, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

See [www.toyandtrain.com/convention.htm](http://www.toyandtrain.com/convention.htm)

### Toronto Military Show Saturday June 23

Medals, badges, all kinds of militaria, books, maybe even some toy soldiers. This show runs about 4 times a year around the GTA. This one's at the Etobicoke Olympium 590 Rathburn Road, Etobicoke 8:30 am to 2 pm Admission \$7

### "On Parade" OMSS Annual Show September 8

It's our show dummy! See page 2-3

### Chicago Toy Soldier Show September 20-23

The big one! The actual show's on the Sunday (23rd) but room trading starts from the Thursday. At the Hyatt Regency Woodfield 1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, IL 60173

See [toysoldiershow.com](http://toysoldiershow.com)

### Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment Militaria Show & Sale Sat. October 20

We are looking for volunteers to man two or three display tables at this show in Peterborough, Ontario. The show is open from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. Set-up time is 7 am. This is a small show but always seems to have a crowd of at least 300 people. We have several members in the Peterborough area, and several more in the surrounding area. Take a day and bring out some of your favourite items to show the public and help celebrate our 50th anniversary year with the public. Interested members can contact Scott Dummitt for more info at [scottjd@sympatico.ca](mailto:scottjd@sympatico.ca) or (705) 939-1028.

### 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](mailto:gstone4@cogeco.ca)

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