

The
Ontario
Model
Soldier
Society



Founded 1962
www.omss.ca

2015 Executive

Gail Stone
President

Tom Elliot
1st vice president

Jim Qualtrough
2nd vice-president

Gary Lenius
Secretary/Treasurer

Norman White
Past President

Scott Dummitt
Past-it President

Eric Clarke
Program Chairman

Frank MacKay
Journal editor

Tom Elliot
Annual Show Chairman

Meeting Dates

- 2015 -
January 11
February 8
March 8
April 12
June 14
September 13
October 11
November 8
December 13

Annual Show
Saturday May 2
2015

Monthly Newsletter for March 2015

Next meeting:

Sunday, March 8, 2015

Branch 210 Royal Canadian Legion 110 Jutland Rd. Toronto

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



Ahhh, winter! One of the joys of living in Canada. This one has been a long, cold one and it dealt us a harsh blow last month. We had to cancel the February meeting due to the weather. That Sunday morning we had already seen considerable snowfall and the forecast was for it to get even worse in the afternoon. Many of our members come from considerable distances and we we're worried about them getting to the meeting and home again safely. We didn't want to re-enact Napoleon's troops' ordeal in getting home from Moscow!

It's always a difficult decision to cancel a meeting as you don't usually know until the morning before how bad it's going to be. Then the problem is letting people know. We sent out an email alert first thing in the morning. We have email addresses for about three quarters of our members. Gail Stone also phoned a number of members who don't have email but tend to come out to meetings. If we missed you we apologize.

With luck we've seen our last winter cancellation for this year. But in future situations where the weather looks dicey on a meeting day make sure you check your email before setting out for the meeting. If you don't have email you can call Gary Lenius (416 261 6494) to confirm that the meeting is on.

Keeping Our Roster Up To Date

A situation like this reminds us that it's important for members to keep us up to date with their contact information. We need current telephone numbers and email addresses. We'll be sending out the current roster shortly. Please review your information and let Gary know of any corrections.

The figures show above are from a series on Napoleon's Retreat from Moscow recently released by the Manes Marzano company from Argentina.

The newsletter is edited by Gary Lenius.

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

The Calendar Project

Journal editor Frank MacKay has proposed that the Society produce an annual calendar starting in 2016. It would be produced in December in place of one issue of the Journal. We are looking to produce it in full colour if feasible. The calendar would feature photos of model seen at our Annual Show or in the collections of our members. It would highlight dates of model shows and significant dates in Canadian military history. The OMSS executive has endorsed the project and charged Frank with getting the ball rolling. He's going to need lots of help.

Frank would like to convene a meeting of all those interested in compiling the 2016 OMSS calendar. There was great interest when the idea was discussed at the last meeting, now it's time to step up and do the work.

We will need: photographers, editors to compile all significant dates in Canadian military history, editors to compile all model soldier show dates for 2016, proofreaders and fact checkers, etc.

Most of all, we will need figures and toy soldier collections worthy of being published in a calendar. Hopefully these will all be supplied at our annual show--the work of OUR members only.

The meeting will likely be held after the March meeting adjourns and will not be lengthy.

Frank can be contacted at frank_mackay@hotmail.com or 416-283-3472

2015 Membership Dues—Same Low Price

Membership fees for 2015 are now due. Gary Lenius will be glad to take your money at the meeting.

We have held the dues to the same level again this year: \$35 for Regular membership; \$20 for Junior or Family members.

Journal Content Needed

Our Journal editor **Frank MacKay** reports that the cupboard is bare as far as new content goes so he is appealing once again for contributions from the members. Articles, book and figure reviews, show reports, letters to the editor, etc.... All are needed to fill up the next issue.

You can send him your input at frank_mackay@hotmail.com

New Additions

We have picked up some new members since January:

Michael Rial from Buffalo, New York.

Daniel Sneyd from Owen Sound. He will be coming to our Annual Show in May as a vendor.

Robert Thompson from Ottawa.

Robert is a long time friend of Harold Morrison and sent us a bit of an introduction to what he's into...

As you know, I've always had a passion for military history and toy Soldiers. In the last 2 years I had my 'epiphany' regarding how to channel my military history/miniatures interests. My '5 year plan' is to develop a scalable travelling exhibition (suitable for schools, malls, shows, etc.) titled "Redcoats in Canada - the Military History of Canada in Miniature".

The exhibit will consist of numerous thematic mini-displays/dioramas of toy soldiers in various scales (1/6th to 1/285th) that together tell a comprehensive history of Canada (as well as showing the variety/history of toy soldiers. Each display/diorama piece (with accompanying text panels) would illustrate a particular aspect of Canadian history in one of several topical 'era/chapters' (Early Canada, War of 1812, Expansion & Rebellions, WWI, WW2, Cold War, Current, etc.).

To date I have several War of 1812 mini displays completed, and I am currently working on the overall 'era/chapter' introduction displays. Each display can be as simple as a single 1/6 figure or as complex as a mass diorama of lots of HO scale figures.

My dream display had been a War of 1812 British battalion in line (over 500 figures). My problem with this display is figure scale ... It would be about 9' long with 1" plastic figures ... more reasonable (but costly) in 6 to 10mm scale.

I'll probably become a contributor to the newsletter as my travelling exhibit expands. Although I am not an expert in any one aspect of model/toy soldier collecting, I am sure I can add to the overall OMSS experience.

At the OMSS show I won't bring any displays as I'll be a vendor (selling retired Britains, vintage toy soldiers, vintage 1" plastic figures, 1/87 plastic minitanks, 1:285 micro-armour, military cards (collector/tobacco/postcards), and hobby storage/display supplies).

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. 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.



Harold's Corner

Tidbits from Harold Morrison

aitchrwm@bell.net

Check on the Shoulder to Shoulder Collectibles web-site for a vast selection of militaria, including toy/model soldiers. The site is a spin-off of the bricks-and-mortar shop that Reid Moseley has been running for some years now out in Calgary. If you are looking for a 'must have' Britains, check with Reid.

Link: www.shoulder-to-shoulder.net

(Editor's note: I wish I'd know about this place when I was out in Calgary two summers ago!)

Bob Thompson has joined the OMSS. He lives in Ottawa, but will be at the May annual show as a member and vendor. I first met Bob in 1976 at Industry, Trade and Commerce, a Federal government department. He has a life-long interest in military history as well as a variety of toy/model soldiers and scale models. He is a valuable addition to our Club.

Dorset Soldier Castings publishes a 27-page catalogue, single spaced, two columns for every page. It contains an encyclopedic listing of toy soldiers from yesteryear, plus parts, artillery and vehicles. The proprietor, Giles Brown, has a web site at dorsetsoldiers.com (e-mail address listed.) Check with Mr. Brown on catalogue cost. It was ten pounds sterling in 1910. The shop has moved recently, the new address is: 48 Fortuneswell, Portland UK, DT5 1LZ

The low-end 3D copiers are running at about \$1200 to \$1700. You might get one at Canadian Tire for \$1,000, but check CT's web site, Portland, Dorset DT5 2JS, U.K. So far, silastic rubber compounds are the way to go.

There is no 'true' red for British infantry tunics. There is the red when the cloth is new, another red when it has been sun-bleached and shades in between. End of argument?

Volunteers and militiamen of Prince Edward Island, between 1859 and 1863. Details at

www.cmhg.gc.ca/cmh/image-392-eng.asp?page_id=451

Does any member know a source for Rose Miniatures 24th South Wales Borderers standing and kneeling firing? Let me know, please.

In the February/March issue of Canada's History magazine, there is a six-page spread about William Stark, who joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1916. It features examples of his water colour art and sketch work, plus a narrative on his life. His sketches now are in Library Archives Canada.

Also in the same issue are pictures and a write-up on Captain Cook, famous in our history for navigating the St. Lawrence and making possible The Battle of the Plains Abraham. There are other relevant stories related to his navigation in Canadian waters. Good visual coverage too.

I find it strange that the smallest and least populated province, P.E.I. is the source of the most complete set of Canadian Militia uniforms. The publication was part of a Centennial project. I gave my copy away to a friend and all I have left are colour photocopies of the plates. I will bring these to the March 8 meeting.

If you have a set of the BMSS Bulletin for 1996, you will find an excellent four-part series on human anatomy. Or, if you don't a set, something to look for. To whet your appetite I will bring the plates down to the meeting.



OMSS On Parade 2015

Show preparations are well underway and we hope you are all beavering away on your contributions (displays, competition entries).

The 2015 Show theme will be the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, which should be fertile ground for displays and competition figures. But, of course, you're not limited to the theme when it comes to subject and period. Start painting!

Food service will be on hand again courtesy of our IODE friends.

Vendor tables will be the same price as last year: \$50 for an eight foot table. The vendor info package and booking form are posted on our Society website www.omss.ca. We will have some new vendors this year. Bookings are already coming in so don't wait too long to get yours in.

Phil Andrews will be heading up the judging for the Annual Competition this year. He will be approaching some of you to lend a hand.

We have been in contact with the Radio Control Tank club and they are keen to come out and participate in our show. They would put on a display of their vehicles and do some demonstrations out on the fort grounds for us (weather permitting). Should be a great addition to the show.

If you're planning to bring out a **display** for the show please touch base with chairman Tom Elliot to discuss your space requirements.

Tom Elliot telliott45@hotmail.com 905-542-2393

Grey Army Group

Most of us who've painted figures over the years will have accumulated a "grey Army" of kits and figures that somehow never get to completing. Well now there's a Facebook group designed as a place for modelers to sell, trade and swap their surplus kits. It could also be a source for locating that hard to find figure you've always wanted.

Check them out at:

www.facebook.com/groups/997608106933284/

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

— UPCOMING SHOWS —

HeritageCon 2015, March 22, 2015

Model show and competition put on by the IPMS Hamilton group. 9 am to 4 pm, \$7 admission. At the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, Hamilton.

www.ipmshamilton.ca

Gettysburg Toy Soldier Show, April 26, 2015

10 am to 3 pm. \$6 admission. At the Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center, 2634 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg PA.

www.toysoldiershowpromo.com/annual_gettysburg_show

On Parade 2015, May 2, 2015

Our own annual show.

AMPS - Great White North Show

May 29-30 Oshawa Tank Museum

The Armour Modelling and Preservation Society (AMPS) is putting on their model show in conjunction with the Tank Museum's Aquino Tank Day. A chance to enjoy both models and full-size vintage military vehicles.

The OMSS will be sponsoring an award for figures at this show.

Show details at www.ampsgreatwhitenorth.com

Tank Day details at www.ontrmuseum.ca/OMVAevent.htm

Napoleonic Historical Society Annual Conference

August 28-30 Toronto, Ontario Conference packed with excellent information on the Napoleonic Era.

Website <http://www.napoleonichistoricalociety.com/Conferences/Index.htm>

Other Collectible Shows

Check out www.collectorshows.ca for some other locally hosted toy, train, and nostalgia shows.

On Facebook?

Make sure and check out our Facebook group maintained by Dave Norman.

www.facebook.com/groups/577999975631964/