

The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962

www.omss.ca



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Club Table & Donations

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Newsletter for September 2022

Monthly Meeting Dates for 2022

Next meeting Sunday, September 11th

Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion 110 Jutland Road Toronto

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

September 11th - October 16th - November 13th - December 11th

OMSS Ottawa meetings have resumed in person gatherings with continued Meet and Greet and Swap Meets by Zoom which are open to all OMSS members. For an invite and link or more information, please contact Bob Thompson at Thompson_robert@rogers.com.



Letter from the President

It was wonderful to see all who came out to our On Parade Show on June 12. I understand that there were probably over 120 who attended the show with a good turnout of non-member attendees.

The weather was good and things went well for the set-up and the takedown after the show. I didn't see any issues with parking. The small size and the fact that there were no steps helped ease getting displays, boxes, etc. in and out of the venue.

While we could have used more displays from members, everyone was entertained with quality if not quantity. The arrangement and lighting helped to show off the displays. From the feedback I heard after the show, I think that it went off very well.

As such, my thanks to Scott Dummitt and Jim Qualtrough, to the judges, and to all of the members who helped out in so many ways. And a shout-out also to the Legion for the venue and for the availability of food. Congratulations to all members who put in displays, whether for display or competition and to all of the award winners.

We will have a post-mortem and see what we have learned from this first show in three years. However, it is a sure sign that the OMSS is getting back to normal.

Following what we see as a general reopening of society with relaxation and rescinding of most restrictions, we are planning for a return to more normal meetings in the fall. This will mean the usual General Meeting and elections in October. And, subject to discussions with the Legion, the return to the auction in November and a Christmas lunch for December. We will keep you informed.

That said, we will need some people to fill some positions, such as the Program Director and as some incumbents want a reprieve from their (much appreciated) work at some positions for several years. We also need topics, presenters/speakers for the September and October meetings. Please feel free to contact the Executive.

With that, I will wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe summer, and hope to see you at the meeting in September.

ON PARADE 2022

By Scott Dummitt

After having to cancel the Annual Show & Competition for the past two years due to Covid-19, the OMSS was once again able to hold "ON PARADE" on June 12 this year. Some adjustments had to be made and so the show was held at the Royal Canadian Legion on Jutland Road in Etobicoke instead of Humber College (Lakeshore Campus) as in past years. Even with the change of venue we still managed to bring in 19 vendors, of which two cancelled at the last minute and one had to leave early. This number including our Club Table run by Jeff Duncan gave us 36 vendor tables. This is about the same number that we usually have at Humber and attendees still had a huge variety of items they could browse through, from single figures to entire collections, 1/6th scale Action Figures and accompanying 1/6th vehicles, artillery pieces, hard to find vintage 54mm castles, kits; books, prints and more. There was something for everyone.

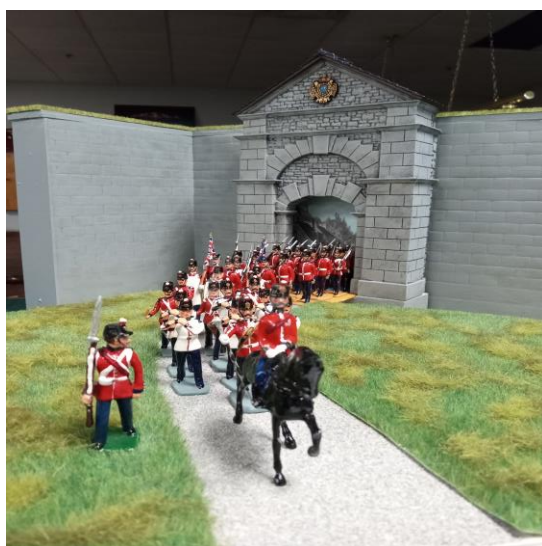
Many of our out of town members took advantage of the discounts we were able to obtain from two local motels, the STAY INN and CANADA'S BEST VALUE INN. Both accommodations were within 7 minutes of the Legion and that was a good deal for our members. Members also gathered at The Grille restaurant in Etobicoke on Saturday night before the show set up, for a casual supper and chat. Jim Qualtrough had arranged for our show tables to be delivered by 5 pm on the Saturday and the ever reliable Mike Chrus was there at the Legion to keep an eye on the tables as they arrived. Geoff Price and I arrived at the Legion around 5 pm and with those that were present we were able to start setting up the vendor room early and then were pleasantly surprised to find that we could set up the display and competition area early as well. The whole Legion was transformed into the show venue by 6:15 pm and at that point members and vendors were able to start setting up their wares and displays. Gary Lenius once again was instrumental in getting signage out, both to indicate the entrance doors and show signs out in front of the Legion.

Sunday morning we had a number of members at the Legion early, before we opened the doors for set-up, and once again things went very smoothly. When we finally opened the door at 10 am to the general public, there was a small line-up of attendees, patiently waiting in the slight rain that was coming down. The rain apparently didn't dampen their enthusiasm for the show and even though our attendee numbers were down, people stayed around all day. There were a lot of familiar faces that we hadn't seen for a few years and there were a number of newcomers who made it to the show.

Displays and competition pieces were down this year. I know that Covid was still on the mind of many, but there were a lot of local members who did not attend and I question whether this was the cause or the decline in pieces or are members just not interested in participating any longer? What was presented showed imagination and a lot of work. Jeff Duncan's "Commonwealth River Ferry Gunboat, Malayan Emergency" won both the Judge's Best of Show and Attendee's Best of Show awards.

Jeff who also ran the OMSS CLUB TABLE reports that the table made a \$560 in sales. The proceeds from Jeff's efforts go a long way into financing the OMSS and while I don't get to complain about my tickets not being put in the draw bag, I know we all appreciate his efforts on behalf of our Society.

A few memories of “On Parade 2022”



Jeff Duncan's "Commonwealth River Ferry Gunboat, Malayan Emergency" won both the Judge's Best of Show and Attendee's Best of Show awards.



Before



After

A Road Trip Towards Normalcy – Part 1

By Keith C. Ritchie

At the beginning of July, I decided to test the borders – and ArriveCan – and took my first overnight trip since September 2019, to attend the Chicago Toy Soldier Show.

I prefer driving whenever it is practical, and I will say that, with my interests in toy soldiers and American battlefields – most Civil War – this is really the best way of doing it. In this case, as well as testing how the borders are reopening, I had certain other objectives in mind:

1. Testing of ArriveCan, vaccination records and related administrative matters in anticipation of attending Britain's Collectors' Club Symposium in early August, being held at Gettysburg.
2. Visiting Britain's at their new offices in Chillicothe, in Southern Ohio.
3. Travelling again through West Virginia. WV is a very scenic but very rural state, formed by Abraham Lincoln in 1863 as a "free state", created from the western portion of Virginia. Its terrain is largely that of the Appalachian Mountains. Very scenic to drive, but road networks generally follow river valleys, with some crossroads through gaps in the old and worn down mountains. While not a site of major Civil War battles, with the exception of Harpers Ferry, there was fighting between Union and Confederate forces through the early war period. Harpers Ferry was a main target, because of the arsenal there, but also because it was a material depot to rail travel between the eastern states and the U.S. upper Midwest. But there were other skirmishes in West Virginia, and it is interesting to visit them and to consider how forces from both sides maneuvered their troops – infantry, cavalry, artillery and all supplies to fight in this rugged terrain.
4. Ending up in Gettysburg, for some scouting for Britain's Symposium in August, to visit the For the Historian store, and to catch some of the tourist activity during the Independence Day weekend.
5. Picking up some exclusive figures – namely William Tecumseh Sherman (exclusive to the History Store) and Old Abe (Exclusive to For the Historian). (Note 1: I also picked up a Tecumseh figure, another History Store exclusive, for another OMSS member.) (Note 2: I was also able to pick up an older Limited Addition Exclusive set at the History Store – discussed below.)



"Old Abe"



"The Prize"

A Road Trip Towards Normalcy – Part 1 conclusion

I am an early morning person, and got through the border at Niagara Falls on June 30, no problem. I had my passport and a paper copy of my COVID vaccinations, and was through with minimal questioning. I avoid toll roads wherever possible, and use Interstates for part of my journeys, but prefer to use secondary highways (old US 2-digit highways and State highways and roads). Slower but more scenic, and even more direct in terms of distance if you plan it right.

With this, it was easy to get to Chillicothe by late afternoon on the 30th, and get a hotel in the more modern commercial area, just outside of the downtown. Chillicothe is less than an hour south of Columbus, but I avoided the State capital, coming in from the northeast (and cutting through Zanesville – where the Western author Zane Grey was from). Chillicothe was the first and third state capital of Ohio. It has a population of around 22,000, and the main downtown and residences dates back to the early 20th Century, and earlier. I was familiar with the town, having visited The History Store a few times to pick up some figures. The History Store is located on the main street in the old town. A nice small town to visit. It is mostly rural in the surrounding area, but with a lot of Indian history. Tecumseh, the historical Indian Chief is prominent, and featured in local museums but there are also archeological sites – Indian mounds and village sites in the surrounding areas. Some can be visited, with one just north of the town and an easy drive to visit. (Chillicothe does have some modern amenities – including two Tim Hortons. Even if the staff there didn't know when Canada Day was when I visited one on July 1.

Britain's "new" digs are actually right around the corner from The History Store – even more convenient. I had prearranged to meet with them – they do not officially have a storefront yet, and are still getting organized, even after relocating back in 2020. Ericka was there, as were Ted Deddens and Doug Dearth, while Ken was working at home. I had a wonderful visit with them, as we talked about the last three years, and chatted about what is coming, and their plans. For their renovations, their operations, and for the 2022 and even 2023 Symposiums. Ericka reminded me that next year will be the 130th anniversary of Britains – and to expect some activities for that anniversary year. I also (and obviously) picked up an order of new releases.

Jeff Duncan recently shared an interesting Youtube channel he came across that club members may find useful for research on your latest project

<https://www.youtube.com/c/TheHistoryGuyChannel>

The History Guy presents stories of forgotten history about five to fifteen minutes long. Topics range from aviation history to forgotten battles, historical figures and more from around the world

Club Calendar news

The Calendar Committee asks anyone who may have taken photos at the annual show to bring them to the September meeting or email them to **frank_mackay@hotmail.com**.
September 30 is the deadline for any inclusions.

We are aiming to have the calendar produced once the meeting dates for next year are confirmed and it will be distributed at the Christmas meeting.

Every member receives one copy of the calendar, but if you wish to order extra copies for gift giving or for every room in your house, please reserve your copies in advance with Frank.

The Quartermaster's Stores

I'm trying to thin out my collection of model soldiers (on the strong advice from my wife).

I have a huge selection of HISTOREX Napoleonic figure kits and "Green Box" Nemrod sets,

Poste Militaire 90 mm figures and some Wm. Britains figures.

Also selling vintage Airfix Napoleonic kits.

I have several of these 54 mm, 1/32 scale plastic kits.

The Polish Lancer, Cuirassier, Scot's Greys, and British Hussar.

In the collection are some 1/72 scale military kits and figures.



Send me an email for a complete list @ jhoffmann00@cogeco.ca or call 519-787-1020

I can bring your kits to the September meeting or ship directly to you.

The Last Word

I have to thank Alex Monsour for the amazing job he did as the editor over the last several years. He never missed an edition and each one was interesting and enjoyable to read. I also must thank Alex for his support during the transition. His patience and guidance during the handover is much appreciated and helped ensure a smooth and seamless transition.

The newsletter is edited by Scott Milburn.

News items and notices can be submitted to scottm33@live.ca.

Articles must be submitted no later than 14 days before monthly meetings. Note due to postal costs the Newsletter is limited to 6 pages maximum. Articles that cannot be accommodated will be forwarded to the Journal Editor.