

The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962

www.omss.ca



2023 Executive

Scott Milburn
President

Andy Traverse
1st vice president

Duncan Johnstone
2nd vice-president

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Secretary/Treasurer

Keith Ritchie
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Program Chairman

Brendan Hogan
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Scott Dummitt
Annual Show Chairman

Scott Milburn
Newsletter Editor

Dave Norman
Facebook Page Manager

Frank MacKay
Calendar Co-ordinator

Jeff Duncan
Club Table & Donations

OMSS Archivist
Ian Pearson

Newsletter for June 2023

Next Toronto meeting Sunday, June 11th, 2023

Annual "On Parade" Show and Competition

Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion 110 Jutland Road Toronto

See separate programme flyer for details

OMSS Ottawa in person meeting is scheduled for June in addition to online meetings via Zoom which are open to all OMSS members.

Contact Bob Thompson at Thompson_robert@rogers.com for details.

Upcoming Hobby related events

Ottawa Service Battalion Military Hobby Show – June 4, 2023

2100 Walkley Road, Ottawa - Major E.J.G. Holland VC Armoury

OMSS 'On Parade' – June 11, 2023

See attached programme flyer for details

or visit www.OMSS.CA

Scott Dummitt Presents – Open House - June 12, 2023

See details later in newsletter

Toronto Military Show – September 16, 2023

Etobicoke Olympian - for info visit: www.torontomilitaryshow.com

ChicagoLand Toy Soldier Show – September 24, 2023

for info visit: <https://chicagotoysoldiershow.com/>



Thanks to OMSS Member **Ron Peraziana** for passing this along.



President's Message – June 2023

With the arrival of warmer weather, it is time for the club's Annual 'On Parade' show and competition, but before we turn our thoughts to that, I must pass along some sad news.

Every single member of the club is important, each one contributing in their own way, but recently we lost some members who contributed a great deal to the club over the years, doing just about everything from speaker to show chairman to president. These individuals are mentioned later in the newsletter, but here I want to address the impact these individuals had on the club and the hole they leave behind.

It can't be overstated that a club like ours only exists thanks to the contributions of its members. I firmly believe that the more you put into something, more you will get in return, and the success of the OMSS is totally dependent on those who contribute to the club by lending a helping hand.

With this in mind, now is the time for people to step up and help move the club forward to honour those that preceded us.

As part of the journey to move the club forward, the executive has been working hard to find better accommodations to hold our annual show in the Toronto area that is near public transit and close to major thoroughfares and hotels, but at a cost the club can afford. Potential locations have been identified and are currently being investigated. I am confident we will have a much better venue next year to better meet the member's needs with things like larger vendor, display, and competition areas in addition to more parking as well as other improvements.

It is very evident we must increase our membership to support things like a larger venue for 'On Parade'. To do so, we need to reach out and attract younger generations to build their interest in the hobby and our club. To reach a younger audience, requires the club to improve our social media presence and modernize our website to get the word out and discover our club. This will take time and effort and if you are interesting in lending a hand, please speak to someone on the club executive.

As they saying goes, many hands make light work. I hope you will chip in and help the OMSS be everything you want it to be and more.



Kings Coronation Quick Facts

- **2, 200 guests attended the ceremony at Westminster Abbey**
- **29,000 security officials provided protection for the ceremony and attendees**
- **Cost approximately 100 million (UK Pounds)**
- **Estimated worldwide television audience of 400 million**



King Charles III – Admiral of the Fleet – by Tradition of London

**What's New in the Hobby –
June 2023
By Scott Dummitt**

This month we bring you two more figures that have been released to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. Literally within a few hours of the coronation, Tradition of London sent out photos of the new figures. The figure of Charles in the Coronation robes must have been waiting for the last minute details as it matches the undergarment colours exactly as was seen on TV. While not as detailed as



King Charles III – Coronation Robes – by Tradition of London

King & Country's King Charles III dress as Admiral of the Fleet, these two new figures will work wonderfully with anyone who is looking for gloss toy soldiers. The figure of the King in his Coronation robe can be worked in with BTSC's proclamation of King Charles III guardsmen giving the three cheers as they did in the Gardens of Buckingham Palace after the return to the palace. The Admiral of the Fleet figure sells for approximately \$39.00 Cdn while the Coronation figure is \$68.00 Cdn.

A nice surprise for Members of the OMSS is John Jenkins Designs new American Revolution figures depicting the Queen's Ranger (1st Americans). This Loyalist regiment can be basically described as a Legion, as it had a Rifle Company, Grenadier Company, a Highland Company and Centre Company for infantry. The regiment also had 2 squadrons of Hussars, 1 company of Dragoons and two small artillery pieces. The regiment reached its zenith under the command of Colonel John Graves Simcoe, who weeded out poor officers, stressed physical fitness, the use of the bayonet and improved their operating tactics. After the war the regiment was stood down in Nova Scotia, but later reformed in Chatham, England and sent to Upper Canada where it would take on another 50 United Empire Loyalist. The first released figure will be available at our show in June.



Queen's Rangers (1st Americans) by John Jenkins Designs

Passages

May has been a difficult month for the members of the OMSS as we have lost three long time members and friends. All have contributed to the Society over the years and we will sorely miss them and their friendship.



Ken Durie – Ken was a long time member of the OMSS. He was known for his wonderful painting of connoisseur figures, especially the 70 to 100 mm figures. Over the year Ken would continuously have figures at our annual show and won many awards for his painting.



Tom Elliot – Tom's smiling face and wonderful personality was always a pleasure to have around. He was a former OMSS President and chaired our Annual Show & Competition for a few years when we were at Fort York. Tom was not only a member of the OMSS but was also an avid model railroad club member as well.



Guy Elliott – Guy personified the OMSS in so many ways. His wonderful historic lectures were always of the utmost interest. I particularly remember one where he told us of his families military efforts as far back as the Riel Rebellion. Mixing fact with humor he had most us in stitches during that talk. Each year he would plan out a theme for his display at ON PARADE and then bring it to life with his wonderful displays. Manning the display area we always put aside for him, he and his wife Sandy would treat each person who approached him about it as an old friend.

Michael Robert Pidgeon passed away in February, 2023. Michael was an active member of the OMSS for many years although he had not been able to attend meetings since the Covid lockdown. Michael enjoyed casting and painting model soldiers and over the years he created many dioramas for the club's annual show.

Robin Ward The club was recently advised that Robin, who was another long-time member passed away sometime in 2022.

The Miracle of Dunkirk



Many great books and popular movies have recorded the dramatic events of May 26 through June 4, 1940 that became to be known as “The Miracle of Dunkirk”.

Most of us are familiar with the basic story; In the spring of 1940, Britain had sent an expeditionary army to help France defend against Nazi aggression, but by May the combined forces of over 400,000 troops had been driven back to the English Channel and there was a real risk that the entire British and French armies at Dunkirk would be taken prisoner of war. This would have been a huge setback to Britain’s capacity to continue the war. So on the 26th of May, Britain launched an armada of ships and boats that crossed the English Channel on a treacherous journey of over 70 kilometres from the UK in an evacuation code named “Operation Dynamo”. At the time, Prime Minister Winston Churchill reported to parliament that they hoped to rescue 20,000-30,000 of the over 400,000 stranded troops.

In the end, this ramshackle and hastily assembled flotilla of over 933 Royal Navy ships and civilian boats evacuated over 338,000 soldiers. The remainder, sadly, were either killed in action or taken prisoners of war.

What many would interpret as a defeat, this ‘miracle’ would turn out to be a major turning point of the war for Britain, serving as a morale booster due to the incredible and seemingly impossible success of the evacuation.

The British transformed the Dunkirk evacuation into a moment of national pride and perseverance. On June 4, Prime Minister Winston Churchill roused his country by declaring with this famous speech: “[We] shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.”

Sources: www.English-heritage.org, www.britannica.com, www.ivm.org.uk;
www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dunkirk_evacuation



Quartermaster's Stores

Napoleonic Collection for Sale

Don Soule is a long time OMSS member and the time has come that he must sadly downsize and as a result sell his entire collection of Napoleonic figures

Don's collection consists for well recognized manufacturers and all have the original boxes. He is motivated to sell the entire collection or large chunks at a time. All items are priced for quick sale.

Don resides in the Kitchener area and can be contacted via email at donsoule1@gmail.com for more information or a list of the collection.

June 12 Open House – Scott Dummitt Presents

Over the years, many members who travel from the east for 'On Parade' have commented that they would like the opportunity to drop by Scott's to see his collection and peruse his store on their way home.



So for those that wish to take a break from their journey, Scott is hosting an open house from noon until 5pm on Monday June 12. Scott is a short 15 minute drive north of the 401.

Take exit 464 off the 401 and head north on County Road 28 to **1754 Carmel Line** in the small hamlet of Ballieboro. We hope many members take the opportunity to drop by for a chat, a cold drink and a sandwich.

Did You know?



King Charles III is the first heir to the throne to earn a university degree and has served in both the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy.

He earned his pilot and parachutist wings while in the RAF and qualified as a helicopter pilot while serving in the RN. While in the navy he served onboard several frigates and destroyers, ultimately, serving as commanding officer of a RN minesweeper prior to assuming his duties as a member of the Royal Family.



There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer

General James Doolittle

The newsletter is edited by Scott Milburn.

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

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