

The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962
www.omss.ca



Brig. Gen. Darrell Dean (Ret'd)
Honorary President

Newsletter for December 2023



Next Toronto chapter meeting Sunday, December 10th, 2023

Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion, 110 Jutland Road
Annual Christmas Luncheon

Swiss Chalet meal for those who ordered one in advance.
Food will be delivered at noon.
Please bring a dessert to share if you are attending.

OMSS Ottawa

has no in person meeting scheduled for December, but will resume in January.



Virtual meetings via Zoom are open to all OMSS members.

Tuesday, December 19 @ 7pm is the next "Zoom" meeting.

Contact Bob Thompson at Thompson_robert@rogers.com for an email invitation to the next meeting or more details.



2023 Executive

Scott Milburn
President

Andy Traverse
1st Vice-President

Duncan Johnstone
2nd Vice-President

Scott Paget
Ottawa Chapter Chair

Gary Lenius
Secretary/Treasurer

Mark Silverthorn
Social Media and
Program Chair

Jim Qualtrough
Annual Show Chair

Tom Wright
Technical Committee Chair

Keith Ritchie
Past President

2024 Toronto Chapter Meeting Dates

January 14

February 11

March 10

April 14

May 12



September 8

October 6

November 3

December 15

**2024 "On Parade" is Saturday June 15 9am-3pm
at**

**Franklin Horner Community Centre
432 Horner Avenue Toronto (Etobicoke)**



President's Message

As with most things in life, model soldier collecting is about the people you meet along the way. As 2023 comes to an end brings an opportunity to reflect on those friendship's, the club's past year and peak at what 2024 will bring for the Ontario Model Soldier Society and the members.

The club had an extremely successful year thanks to the hard work of many volunteers working behind the scenes for the benefit of the members. Club meetings, taking place in-person and virtually had a full complement of lively and entertaining gatherings thanks to the efforts of Bob Thompson (Ottawa) and Mark Silverthorn (Toronto) for recruiting speakers and arranging a full schedule of interesting topics.

This year we added a representative for the Ottawa chapter to the executive committee to ensure good communication between the chapters. Thanks to Scott Paget for volunteering to fill this role as it evolves into a permanent position on the executive, once the club's bylaws are amended (which is currently underway) and will be brought to the membership for a review and vote soon.

We are privileged that in 2023, Brigadier General Darrell Dean accepted the position of Honourary President. His role will help raise the profile of the club thanks to his support and active participation in the hobby and other volunteer organizations.

Of course, "On Parade 2023" was a huge success primarily thanks to the efforts of our retiring annual show chair, Scott Dummit. The event experienced increased attendance and the Legion was jammed to the rafters with displays and vendors. Thank you, Scott Dummitt for your years of hard work making "On Parade" the success it has become. We can look forward to next year's show which will take place in a larger facility in the same neighbourhood as the Legion but brings improvements such as more table space, ample parking, and a snack bar with an area to sit down and take a break. Thanks also to Jim Qualtrough for assisting Scott and accepting the position of show chair for 2024.

I want to thank Ian Pearson and Phil Andrews for their hard work in adjudicating the annual club competition at "On Parade" for many years. Ian and Phil travelled far and wide visiting other clubs to learn and refine their skills and the results were obvious with their balanced and fair judging. I am pleased to announce that Keith Ritchie has accepted the position of Chief Judge for next year's competition.

Toronto's club auction in November was a huge success with a record number of sales and many happy buyers walking out the door with the latest additions to their collection. Thanks to Frank Mackay with his energetic auctioneer skills for keeping things moving and Gary Lenius for his well-organized record keeping and acting as banker.

This year we saw the launch of several initiatives to better engage existing members and attract new members to our club. Improvements to our Facebook pages, the launch of the OMSS YouTube channel and LinkedIn are very important steps forward for the club thanks to the hard work of our Social Media Chair, Mark Silverthorn, Facebook managers, Dave Norman and Bob Thompson and our webmaster, Gary Lenius. These initiatives will introduce the OMSS to a new audience that we have not been able to reach before. These steps are critical to ensure the future viability of the club in the technology-based society which we live today. You can expect to see more improvements in the future such as additional YouTube videos, increase use of virtual meetings, a photo gallery for members, website improvements and more.

In November, a Technology Committee was formed. The purpose of this group of volunteers from both the Ottawa and Toronto chapters is to leverage technology for the benefit of the members of the club. Thanks to Tom Wright for stepping up and agreeing to chair this new team and kick off the initiative.

In 2024, members can expect to see a continued full schedule of interesting speakers and continued improvements such as the launch in January of workshops at the Toronto in-person meetings with hobby related topics such as model soldier painting and diorama and display building.

It has truly been a privilege and an honour to serve as your club president for the past year. I hope I met the high standard set by those that came before me and fulfilled the role to the satisfaction of our members and for the betterment of the OMSS.

'Fair winds and following seas' to our incoming president Andy Traverse and his executive committee.



What's New in the Hobby – December 2023

By S. J. Dummitt

John Jenkins Designs has just released a splendid figure of Major John Graves Simcoe, one of the commanding officers of the Queen's Rangers during the American Revolution. Simcoe took the regiment and turned it into a unit capable of fighting the enemy on its own grounds. He was an ambitious commanding officer that got rid of those officers he felt were inferior and drove his command hard to make them a first rate fighting unit. After the war he was appointed the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada (now the province of Ontario) in 1791. He petitioned to reform the Queen's Rangers which had been disbanded in Nova Scotia after the war, as he felt there should be a fighting unit in Upper Canada for protection against the Americans. While the regiment was reformed in Chatham, England, and sent back to Upper Canada, its strength was only two companies and used mainly for constructing installations and roads. Simcoe died in 1806 in Exeter, England just before he was to take over as Commander in Chief of India. Today the Ontario Model Soldier Society's logo is that of a Light Infantryman of Simcoe's beloved Queen's Rangers. The regiment's name lives on through the Queen's York Rangers, a regiment of the Canadian Forces. The Simcoe figure, which is part of Jenkins Queen's Rangers series, will sell for approximately \$74.50 Cdn. Other releases for Jenkins coming this month



JJD's Major John Graves Simcoe

constables on horse. Both carry lances with pennants, one with a pillbox headdress the other with a pith helmet. They will sell for approximately \$150.00 Cdn each.



I recently was contacted by Arron Wood in the UK about his unique business. For all of you collectors of Britains Deetail, Swoppet, Timpo, Airfix and DSG Toy Soldiers here is a great find. Britains Flags produces those flags that never were available for your figures. Located in Wiltshire, the fairly new company produces 1/32 scale flags and decals with over 300 items available for sale. The web site is very easy to maneuver around and prices can be displayed in Canadian dollars. The series is broken down into different conflicts and the flags are made of vinyl and come with a plastic flag staff. It is well worth your time to take a look at the web site: <https://britainsflags.com/>



William Britain Limited expects to have their newly announced British General Issac Brock figure ready for release in late December. The figure is unique in that he is wearing the "Tecumseh Sash" that was presented to him by Chief Tecumseh and worn by the General at Queenston Heights when he was killed. The figure will sell for approximately \$67.00 Cdn. Other notable figures to be released include: Oliver Cromwell, King Charles I, French Grenadier with Eagle 1815, 43rd Foot Ctr Company marching, Presidents Nixon, Johnson & Carter in their war time service uniforms, Admiral Nimitz, General MacArthur, and while not a President, Dolly Madison who saved the Washington painting before the White House was burned in 1814.



2023 Auction Report

by Gary Lenius

The Society held its annual auction at the November meeting as usual. This year's auction was a lively affair. 104 lots were put up for sale and there were many high-quality items and some very spirited bidding. In fact the 84 lots that did sell went for a whopping total price of \$4210 - surely a record total for us. There were 10 lots that sold for \$100 or more. Sales of club donation lots raised \$437 for the OMSS.



Our auctioneer Frank MacKay did a sterling job as usual and kept things moving nicely. Thanks also go to our auction runners Scott Milburn, Jeff Duncan, Mike Chrus, Alex Monsour and Jim Qualtrough who shuttled the lots around for us. Finally yours truly handled the administration and produced the auction cards. The settling up went smoothly thanks to the computer application that I have developed for the auction over several years. It tracks all the lots as they are sold and allows me to produce a tally of each person's purchases and sales at the push of a button.

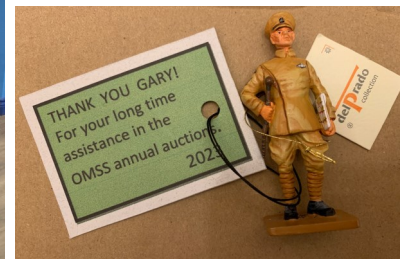
Thanks also to all those who participated as bidder-buyers and/or sellers. It was particularly nice to see some of our newest members out, including Brent Needham, Paul Thompson and David Myles - who came all the way from Amherst Nova Scotia!



A small example of the goodies that were up for auction



President Scott Milburn presenting a thank you gift to Gary Lenius for all his hard work managing the auction.



OMSS Ottawa Chapter Report - November 2023

Submitted by Tom Wright

Hello Gents,

For this issue there is no long version. We had to get things out sooner, since the Dec newsletter is going out earlier. That said, we should have more for the January issue.

This past November Ottawa participated in the OMSS Zoom meeting, and we held our in-person Ottawa meeting on Monday evening, November 27 (Usually held on Tuesday).

For the Zoom meeting the Show & Tell Topic was "Toy soldier books". The next Zoom meeting will be on Dec 19 with the topic of "Napoleon". Also the movie Napoleon will be covered.

Remembrance was an important theme for our in-person meeting. Morley Verdier reported on the Remembrance Day Ceremony held in Greely Ontario, a 1/2 hr south of Ottawa, and in the afternoon he attended the Remembrance day gathering at the Kent St Legion for the Ottawa Service Battalion. Also as a part of remembrance the Ottawa chapter paid tribute to our former toy soldier members who are no longer with us.

The Ottawa November show and tell topic, suggested by Kelly H., was "What you have not shown before". For this we had home turned (on a lathe) model cannons by Steve H., a 3D printed submarine by Juan L (1/72 scale) and toy soldiers in different materials by Kelly H. There was also show and tell from Doug C, Dennis D, Rob T, Mark H, Steve A, Francois B and others.

Looking forward we (the Ottawa-chapter) are considering the level of our participation in the Gallery Aylmer show in Aylmer Que. and the Military Hobby show at the Walkley Armoury - stay tuned.

There is no December Ottawa-Chapter in-person meeting. The next one is in January.

Till then, all the best for the new year. - from the Ottawa-chapter



Be sure to check out this interesting YouTube video

[How The American Civil War Made Canada](#)



 How The American Civil War Made Canada

New videos on the OMSS YouTube!

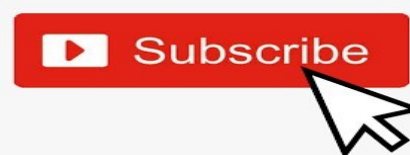


Mark Silverthorn has added more videos to the club's own YouTube channel! Be sure to check out the new interviews of Honourary President, Brigadier General Darrell Dean as he discusses his interests in the hobby and what he collects.

Mark has a lot more interviews and short movies planned for the channel to keep you coming back for more.

Simply go to YouTube and type in "**Ontario Model Soldiers Society**" in the search bar to find the club's channel

And remember to subscribe to the OMSS channel, there is no cost to do so and it helps raise the profile of our channel to other YouTubers.



Don't forget, OMSS is now on LinkedIn, too!



Be sure to check out what's new on LinkedIn and connect with others that are interested in model soldier collecting .

Go to LinkedIn and type in "**Ontario Model Soldiers Society**" in the search bar to find the club's channel



The Quartermaster's Store—WANTED

OMSS Member David Dorward is looking for
1/72 Forces of Valour tanks for purchase, boxed or not.

Please contact at; dkdorward@sympatico.ca



If you are not a vendor and have something hobby related you are looking to sell or if you are hunting for that hard to find missing piece for your collection, members can list it here at no cost and space permitting.

Simply send your request to the newsletter editor at scottm33@live.ca



"Happiness is not a goal; it is a by-product."

Eleanor Roosevelt

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.
Articles that cannot be accommodated will be forwarded to the Journal Editor.
News items, notices and upcoming events can be submitted to scottm33@live.ca.



The Annual General meeting
of the Ontario Model Soldier Society
was held on Sunday November 19

and the following will be your executive committee members for 2024.

2024 Executive Committee

President - Andy Traverse



1st Vice-President – Duncan Johnstone

2nd Vice President – David Dorward

Secretary/Treasurer – Gary Lenius

Past President – Scott Milburn

At large executive committee members

Ottawa Chapter Chair	– Scott Paget
Social Media Chair	– Mark Silverthorn
Technology Committee Chair	– Tom Wright
Annual Show Chair	– Jim Qualtrough

Key Club Positions

Chief Judge	– Keith Ritchie
Club Table and Donations	– Jeff Duncan
Annual Calendar Manager	– Frank MacKay
Club Archivist	– Ian Pearson
Facebook Manager	– Dave Norman



Time to renew your membership and support your club

The cost remains the same as last year: \$40 for regular members and \$25 for family or junior members.

Gary has made it easy to renew and offers several methods of payment;

- Pay in person at the monthly meeting
- Send a cheque: OMSS at 43 Saugeen Cres., Toronto ON, M1K 3M8
- ETransfer: Send it to the email treasurer@omss.ca
- PayPal: send it to the address omss@bell.net



The Movie "Napoleon" Review by Eric Shaw

So, a while back when I first heard that Ridley Scott was making a movie about Napoleon, I was excited. They do not make many historical films anymore for a variety of reasons and certainly not about the Napoleonic period. Then the trailer for Scott's film was released and I could not wait to see it.

Scott has given us a number of fine films over the years, so my expectations for what he would do with the 5'7" man in the gray greatcoat were high. But when I saw the trailers, I started to feel uncomfortable. I believe a film is first and foremost a work of art, not a historical document. We can acknowledge yet excuse historical inaccuracies in a film that is particularly good from an artistic point of view. Zulu and Waterloo are examples of this. For the most part, they get their history right. There were a number of things that bothered me in the trailers and I had a feeling that these would be indicative of the film as a whole. I saw the film on Wednesday, November 22nd - and I was right. The two focal points of the film are certain events in the rise and fall of his career and his relationship with his first wife Josephine, neither of which are handled particularly well. In the former, we see the siege of Toulon, Austerlitz, the invasion of Russia with the battle of Borodino and Waterloo - none of which are handled accurately or well. For the uninitiated they may have seemed exciting, but for me, because of the inaccuracies and ridiculous stagings, I could not get worked up. Just to give a few examples - The bulk of the garrison at Toulon were white coated French Royalists, Spaniards, and Neapolitans. The British lost a total of around 600 killed and wounded and the loss of no ships. The Royal Navy wasn't stupid! But of course, no one will recognize white coats and everyone can identify with evil redcoats who have been responsible for every atrocity in history since the Babylonian seizure of Jerusalem. And that's what you get at Toulon in this film. The business on the frozen lake at Austerlitz is mostly a myth and whereas that was the focus of this section of the film. I think the French taking of the Pratzen Plateau should have been the focus - where Napoleon's brilliance was amply displayed. Finally, I will mention Waterloo - a battle that I know intimately well. I was even there after all for the 175th Anniversary! I found myself constantly wringing my hands and commenting "WTF is this". Too many things to mention here, but I will mention 3 - No earthworks, sharpened stakes or tents were on the battlefield! The Anglo-Dutch did not form squares in the valley between the armies! And Napoleon certainly did not charge into the fray! Everything was done much better in Waterloo 1970 and Rod Steiger made a much more convincing and believable Napoleon (right age too). There are so many more things to complain about - we will be doing it ad nauseam for years, but I will not do it here. The relationship between Napoleon and Josephine was confusing and without the depth of character development which would make it interesting. There was this constant love/hate dynamic going on that was jarring and the "love" scenes were laughable. As with much else in this film, this important aspect was forgettable. As for Joaquin Phoenix, he has this look of Napoleon in middle age, but is too old to be believable as a young Napoleon in the 1790's. I would have cast Timothee Chalamet for that period of Napoleon's life. Phoenix mostly looks the part but speaks in this whispery American growl which I didn't care for. Rod Steiger was American, but he didn't come across that way when he played Napoleon. The lighting was way too dark in this film. Everything bathed in blue or gray. They lit historical films so much better before the 1980's!



Ridley Scott

Joaquin Phoenix

The movie “Napoleon” review conclusion

Now it's not all bad. The costuming is well done, even if some of the cravats were too loose. Two images of Egypt - Napoleon with his army moving along behind him and Napoleon in front of the Sphinx - just like in the Gerome painting. Also, that black general with him in the mummy scene - that is supposed to represent General Dumas - father of the great writer -

though he and Napoleon were at odds. A nice touch nevertheless. The whiff of grapeshot and the takeover of the government were well executed. I liked the casting of Tsar Alexander I - young, blond, and naive. I could fill a book with my thoughts on this film but can't here. I realize the difficulties in bringing the life of Napoleon to the big screen.



Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821),



Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821), also known as Napoleon I, was a French military leader and emperor who conquered much of Europe in the early 19th century. Born on the island of Corsica, Napoleon rapidly rose through the ranks of the military during the French Revolution (1789-1799). After seizing political power in France in a 1799 coup d'état, he crowned himself emperor in 1804. Shrewd, ambitious and a skilled military strategist, Napoleon successfully waged war against various coalitions of European nations and expanded his empire. However, after a disastrous French invasion of Russia in 1812, Napoleon abdicated the throne two years later and was exiled to the island of Elba. In 1815, he briefly returned to power in his Hundred Days campaign. After a crushing defeat at the Battle of Waterloo, he abdicated once again and was exiled to the remote island of Saint Helena, where he died at 51.

Source: <https://www.history.com/topics/european-history/napoleon>

Napoleon is often represented in his green colonel uniform of the Chasseur à Cheval of the Imperial Guard, the regiment that often served as his personal escort, with a large bicorne and a hand-in-waistcoat gesture.

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napoleon>

