



# The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962



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

## 2025 Executive

**Duncan Johnstone**  
President

**David Dorward**  
1st Vice-President

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2nd Vice-President

**Gary Lenius**  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Andy Traverse**  
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**Steve Alexander**  
Ottawa Chapter Chair

**Jim Qualtrough**  
Annual Show Chair

**Andy Traverse**  
Program Chair

**VACANT**  
Technical Committee Chair

# Newsletter for November 2025



## Toronto Chapter meeting

**Sunday, November 9, 2025**

Doors open at 11:00 am, **meeting starts at 12:30pm**

Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion, 110 Jutland Road Etobicoke

This meeting is The Annual General Meeting and annual auction.



## Ottawa Chapter meeting

**Tuesday November 25, 2025**

**@ 7pm**

The Barley Mow, 1541 Merivale Road



## OMSS Virtual meeting

**Tuesday November 18, 2025 @ 7pm**

Virtual meetings are open to  
all OMSS and BMSS members

contact Bob Thompson at [thompson\\_robert@rogers.com](mailto:thompson_robert@rogers.com)



## International Toy Soldiers Club Virtual Meeting

**Saturday November 8, 2025**

**@ 7pm GMT**

*(that's 2pm for most of us in Ontario)*

Contact [HQ@replicametalsoldiers.co.uk](mailto:HQ@replicametalsoldiers.co.uk) for an invitation

Or check out [www.internationaltoysoldier.club](http://www.internationaltoysoldier.club)



## BMSS Monthly Virtual meeting

**Friday November 7, 2025 @ 7pm GMT**

*(that's 2pm for most of us in Ontario)*

Contact: [Jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk) for more details.



## Toronto Chapter Annual Christmas Luncheon

Toronto chapter will be holding their annual Christmas luncheon  
on **Sunday December 14, 2024 at Noon** at the Legion.

As in previous years, we will be ordering Swiss Chalet and the  
Legion bar will be open for cold refreshments.

The cost is **\$25.00** per meal and Gary will collecting payment at the November meeting. If you are unable to attend the November meeting, you can send a cheque to; OMSS 43 Saugeen Cres, Scarborough M1K 3M8 or etransfer to [omss@bell.net](mailto:omss@bell.net)

The club will provide coffee and tea at no charge. Members are encouraged to bring a dessert item to share amongst fellow club members at the luncheon.



Greetings to all!

Our November meeting will be the always eagerly anticipated and always well-attended Annual Members Auction. Frank Mackay has graciously agreed once again to act as auctioneer. ( Many thanks, Frank. Your efficiency and pungent humour add to the enjoyment of the event.) There is almost always something for everyone, a not to be missed opportunity to augment one's collection at fairly reasonable prices. Something I always look forward to, no doubt so does everyone else.

Thanks to Mark Silverthorn for his excellent audio and video presentation at the October meeting on making action videos using model soldiers. To think that we can make movies of how we played with our soldiers as young people. Whole new dimension. Very cool indeed.

I remind the membership that we are in need of a volunteer to serve as 1st Vice President in the 2026 year. Don't all raise your hands at once, but November will be the second last meeting in 2025, the last in December incorporating the annual Christmas lunch.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting!

Duncan Johnstone, OMSS President



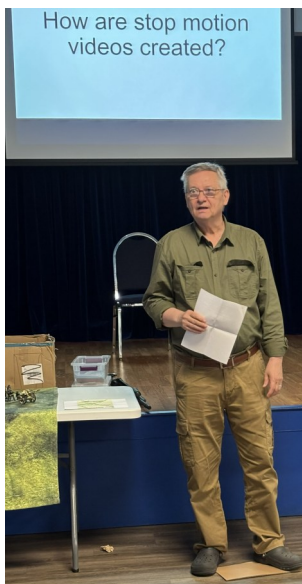
We regret to report the passing of another long time member of the OMSS. **Colonel Marv Rich** passed away September 12th.

Although Marv hadn't been an active member for quite a few years, we will remember his long service and leadership in the Society including President for 1983-84.



## Toronto Chapter News

In addition to the usual 'Show and Tell and pre meeting vendors, Mark Silverthorn made a fascinating presentation on creating stop motion videos using Toy Soldiers.



Here is a link where to watch this YouTube Short:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/J2JAP0oXsu0>

## Ottawa Chapter News *(thanks to Tom Wright for the photos)*

The Ottawa chapter continues to be very busy. In addition to their regular monthly meetings they had an OMSS display at the Ottawa Scale Model show.



In the left photo, Bob Thompson and Mark Hilash man the OMSS table at the show

In the right photo, Monsters was a common theme at the show with the competition decided by popular vote.



## 2025 Chicago Toy Soldier Show *(thanks to Scott Paget for the photos)*



Several OMSS members attended the annual Chicago show and were able to catch up with a few friends.



On the left, Christian Aldo aka The Plastic General with OMSS friend Andrew Stevenson of Replica Metal Soldiers and Models who travelled from the U.K and attended Chicago for the first time



Steve Alexander had a table at the show



## Club Auction on Sunday November 9, 2025 at 12:30

It's time again for the Toronto chapter's annual auction.

This is a great opportunity for members to buy and sell model soldiers for their collections.

The details on how to sell or buy at the auction can be found in the separate document emailed with this newsletter.

### Auction Tips from the Auctioneer

It is a great honour to have been appointed the club's auctioneer again this November.

Having done this for about 10 years now, perhaps I could give you a few tips gained from experience which will help things to move along swiftly and also help your sales.

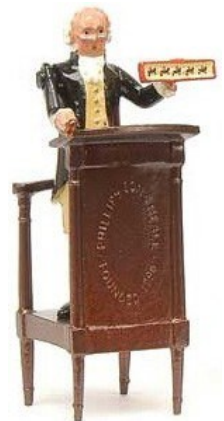
Firstly, it is imperative that you fill out your seller form completely, especially your seller number and your reserve price if any. If you do not do this, you will be causing confusion and delay. Pack the form with as much information about the item as you can: title, manufacturer, rarity, limited edition, provenance, etc. The more bidders know about it, the more desirable it will be and the higher the price it will fetch.

Do not over-price your item. You're in a room full of experts; they know exactly what it is and how much its worth and they're looking for a bargain. If you start low, you'll be surprised how high bidding can go. As auctioneer, you must remember that I work for the seller—not you. My job is to drive up the price as much as I possibly can and I will not drop the hammer until I have wrung the last possible dollar out of the sale.

Lastly, I would encourage every participant to donate an item for benefit of the club. Mark it clearly "Club Donation". You're getting quite a service here, professional and commission-free. Why not donate an item by way of thanks? It need not be excessive; a stack of books or an unwanted figure kit could put \$5 in the club's coffers and you'll get it back anyway though all the benefits membership offers.

I look forward to the excitement and the pleasure of seeing you all again at this month's auction on the 9th.

Frank MacKay, Auctioneer



### 2026 On Parade Update!



Everything is lining up beautifully for the 2026 'On Parade' show.

The date is **Saturday, June 13th 2026** with doors opening to the public at 9:00. Vendors can do a final pre show set up at 7am that morning.

Help will be required for show and vendor table setup Friday, June 12th at 3pm till 6pm.

Same Venue as last year; **Franklin Horner Community Centre 432 Horner Avenue in Etobicoke.**

Vendors can start contacting the Show chairman now to reserve your tables at [jimqualtrough@gmail.com](mailto:jimqualtrough@gmail.com).

Payment can be made by etransfer to the treasurer at [omss@bell.net](mailto:omss@bell.net)

Jim Qualtrough OMSS Show Chairman

Thanks to David of Toy Soldiers Club for this story

## Henry VIII and his two wives (Not six!)

Like many toy soldier collectors, I've always liked historical TV miniseries. But those from the 70's produced by the BBC have a special place in my heart! They almost feel closer to theater plays than actual television. By focusing on talented actors instead of giant sets and special FX, those shows were able to bring back to life some of the greatest names in history. Amongst my favorite shows were I Claudius, Elizabeth R and, obviously, Henry VIII and His Six Wives. So, when King and Country announced his new releases for October and I saw King Henry himself, Anne Boleyn and Jane Seymour, I knew I had to write a bit about this trio!



### Henry VIII

King and Country said that the inspiration for this Henry VIII figure comes from various portraits by Hans Holbein the Younger. Holbein was a German-Swiss painter who became the official King's Painter in 1535. He is considered as one of the most important sources to get an idea of what the royal court looked like during the reign of Henry VIII. Within his production, there is one portrait that really stands out and that is also really close to what the toy soldier looks like in terms of body pose and clothing. The original painting was produced in 1536–1537 and was later destroyed in a fire in 1698. Luckily many copies still exist today.



***Portrait of Henry VIII by Hans Holbein the Younger, circa 1600.***

In this portrait, we can see the same outfits as the mini-Henry, but with some color variations. Almost all the colors used on the figure version can be found on other copies of the portrait of the king. Beyond the colors, the shape and body pose are spot on! He looks like a giant square on 2 legs and this is what makes his silhouette so unique!



***King and Country's "Henry VIII"***

## Henry VIII and his two wives *(continued)*

### The Queens



King and Country's "A Pair of Queens"

When comparing the figure to the portrait, we can easily see major differences. Her hair is light brown instead of almost black, her eyes are blue instead of dark brown and the shape of her face is round rather than a long oval. This is because the second inspiration for that figure is the 1972 tv show "Henry VIII and his Six Wives"! What we have here is in fact the famous British actress Charlotte Rampling! And this is why I got so excited when I saw those toy soldiers!



### Jane Seymour

As you might have guessed by now, Jane Seymour, the third wife of Henry VIII, is also mostly a depiction of the actress Jane Asher as seen in the movie "Henry VIII and his Six Wives".

***Photo to the right is Jane Asher as Jane Seymour in "Henry VIII and his Six Wives" (1972). Yes! Jane was playing the role of Jane!***



### Anne Boleyn

Anne Boleyn, mother of Elizabeth I and Henry's second wife, is based on various sources for her look. Amongst them, two stand out more than the rest. The first one is a posthumous portrait from 1550 usually on display at the Hever Castle. Many details are still unknown about that portrait, but this painting is currently being analysed by a team of art experts at the University of Cambridge. The results will be shared soon, at the opening of a new portrait exhibition in February 2026 at Hever Castle. In that portrait, she wears dark and red clothes and she carries a red rose, symbol of love and fertility.



***Near contemporary painting of Anne Boleyn circa 1550***

***Photo to the left is Anne Boleyn played by Charlotte Rampling in "Henry VIII and his Six Wives" (1972).***

## Henry VIII and his two wives (conclusion)

### Jane Seymour (continued)



**Portrait of Jane Seymour by Hans Holbein the Younger, circa 1540. This portrait is more representative of the real Queen.**

Also, just like in the show, she wears a green dress. This choice doesn't align with what the average portraits of the queen looks like. In most of the paintings, she can be seen wearing a red dress. Despite this colour choice, she still can be recognized by the iconic shape of her hairdress. Still, imagining her wearing green on a more casual day is still within the realm of possibility.

This is purely speculative, but I assume Waris Hussein, who directed *Henry VIII and His Six Wives*, wanted to get characters that are visually different, especially as those 2 characters were very close in the timeline. So green was picked for Jane instead of her signature red. Note that that a green dress was also used to depict the queen Jane on an old 1882 illustration in the book *"The Costumes of All Nations"* by Albert Kretschmer and Carl Rohrbach. Whatever the reason behind this, this gives us 3 visually unique characters that are much more interesting visually when looked at as a group. It's one of those cases where adapting within the range of "could have been" makes it just better.



**Queen Jane Seymour from *The Costumes of All Nations* by Albert Kretschmer and Carl Rohrbach.**

### Conclusion

For many years *King and Country* has been known for adapting some figures so they could be unique and yet appeal to many known references. In this case, it's a matter of historical portraits and a TV show that I really like! As a fan of this series, I can only hope that we will get more characters from that series in the future. Two wives out of six is a good start, but this means that four are still missing!

## You've gotta check this out!

Ian Pearson shared this great website for old photos and information of uniforms from the past for your next project



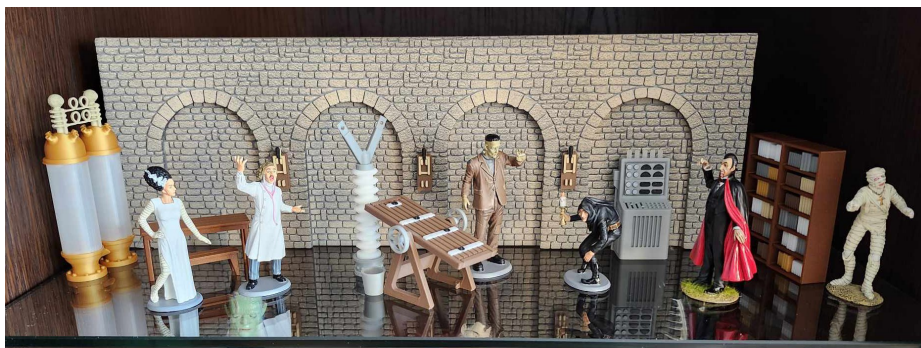
A Virtual Museum of Victorian-Era British Military Photographs and Associated Research

<https://www.soldiersofthequeen.com/>

Thanks to David of Toy Soldiers Club for sharing this tip

## Need a movie set for your monsters?

Halloween was just a few days ago, but it's never too late to talk about monster movies! Back in 2023, King and Country released a few monster movies related figures. These were amongst my favorites pieces during that year.



However, it's a bit hard to create a scene for them as this is really a niche theme in the world of toy soldiers. Still, I've found on Etsy a person located in London (Ontario) selling 3D printed Frankenstein Lab book nooks. I've contacted him so he could just 3D print the props at 1/30 scale. If interested, search for "ForestCity3DStudio" and contact the seller for a custom order with a special price for only the props. For the backdrop, I've used a low relief brick railway arch section for model trains. Many models are available and it's easy to find one for almost every space.

Link for the props: [www.etsy.com/listing/1671227525](https://www.etsy.com/listing/1671227525)



## The Quartermaster's Store



### Frank Barrett Collection for sale

Frank Barrett's family is looking to relocate his beloved toy soldiers to a new home to be enjoyed by others.

The collection includes Bastion, Britains (ancients, modern, limited editions, and plastic "eyes right"), CBG Mignot (Napoleonic), Ducal, Marlborough/Blenheim, Nostalgia, Soldiers' Soldiers, Steadfast and Tradition. Many are in their original boxes.



One of his prized possessions is the Marlborough Delhi Durbar series. He has the entire procession of elephants, handlers, regiments, and accessories.

Frank also has a collection of military bands (foot and mounted) casted by Gord Dumbleton that Frank counted as some of his favourite figures.

Our aim is to sell to likeminded collectors.

Please contact Frank's son, Grant at; [Grantbarrett3@hotmail.com](mailto:Grantbarrett3@hotmail.com)

or (647)928-4961 with any enquiries.



*"I'm not crazy, my reality is just different than yours."*

Cheshire Cat—Alice in Wonderland

The newsletter is edited by Scott Milburn

News items, notices and upcoming events can be submitted to

[omssnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:omssnewsletter@gmail.com)