



Newsletter for January 2026

The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962



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

2026 Executive

David Dorward
President

Victor Rudik
1st Vice-President

Janet MacKay
2nd Vice-President

Gary Lenius
Secretary/Treasurer

Duncan Johnstone
Past President

Steve Alexander
Ottawa Chapter Chair

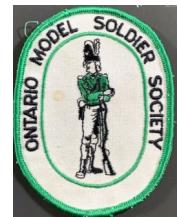
Jim Qualtrough
Annual Show Chair

Andy Traverse
Program Chair

VACANT
Technical Committee Chair

Toronto Chapter meeting Sunday, January 11th, 2026

Doors open at 11:00 am, **meeting starts at 12:30pm**
Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion, 110 Jutland Road, Etobicoke



This month's guest speaker is Andy Traverse and his topic will be the relationship between dental health and the ability to wage war and war stories from a dentist's chair



Ottawa Chapter meeting Tuesday January 27th, 2026 @ 7pm

The Barley Mow, 1541 Merivale Road



OMSS Virtual meeting Tuesday January 20th, 2026 @ 7pm

Virtual meetings are open to all OMSS and BMSS members
contact Bob Thompson at thompson_robert@rogers.com



International Toy Soldiers Club Virtual Meeting

Date TBA
@ 7pm GMT

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

Contact HQ@replicametalsoldiers.co.uk for an invitation
Or check out www.internationaltoysoldier.club



BMSS Monthly Virtual meeting Friday January 16, 2026 @ 7pm GMT

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

Contact: Jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk for more details.



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



NEWS FLASH

The Annual General meeting of the Ontario Model Soldier Society was held on Sunday December 14, 2025 and the following volunteers will be your executive committee members for 2026

2026 Executive Committee

President - David Dorward



Executive Committee Officers

1 st Vice-President	– Victor Rudik
2 nd Vice President	– Janet MacKay
Secretary/Treasurer	– Gary Lenius
Past President	– Duncan Johnstone

At large executive committee members

Ottawa Chapter Chair	– Steve Alexander
Annual Show Chair	– Jim Qualtrough
Programme Chair	– Andy Traverse
Technology Committee Chair	– VACANT

Key Club Positions

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

Here's an interesting Web site to check out!



This site was launched in 2012 to catalog the strange, offbeat and lesser-known aspects of military history — all the stuff that *really* fascinates us. Since then, they've published more than 500 articles from dozens of noted historians and authors, built a thriving community of 170,000 Twitter followers and have grown into a powerful influencer for all things military history.

<https://militaryhistorynow.com/>



Presidents message

I am a little overwhelmed at ascending to the Presidency of our club. As Groucho Marks once said, "I refuse to join any club that would have me as a member," a humorous and philosophical statement that reflects on the paradox of seeking acceptance from others. It suggests that if an exclusive club would accept him, it would not have high standards. In 1984 I joined the OMSS, over 41 years ago now, and the club accepted me without reservations.

I have now climbed to the heights of power and will attempt to do the very best job I can. I have no grand plan but want to turn over to the next President a financially strong and vibrant club. It will take your help to do that but I have always been impressed by the way our members have stepped up to the challenge.

I look forward to my year as President and want to give a shout out to our previous President and Executive who have kept the ship humming along. I can not do this without all of you.

Have a good holiday season and best for 2026.

David Dorward, OMSS President



Calendar news:

The Calendar Committee proudly announces that the 2026 OMSS calendar will be available for distribution at Toronto's January meeting. As always, it is critically important that you claim yours in a timely manner to save the club the postage costs. If you live near someone who did not attend, it would be a wonderful thing to deliver their copy, also saving postage.



The Calendar Committee is always looking for new recruits for next year's issue! We'll find you a job, guaranteed.

Frank MacKay
Editor



2026 Toronto Chapter Meeting Dates

January 11
February 8
March 8
April 12
May 10



September 13
October 11
November 8
December 13

2026 "On Parade" - Saturday June 13th
9am-3pm
Franklin Horner Community Centre
432 Horner Avenue Toronto (Etobicoke)

Toronto Chapter's December Meeting — OMSS Annual General Meeting and Christmas Luncheon



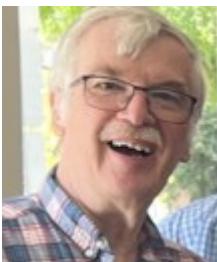
It was certainly a good turnout for the last meeting of 2025. The Annual General meeting was held where the outgoing president, Duncan Johnstone reviewed the past year with his final speech. That was followed-up with a presentation by Gary Lenius on the club's finances which continue to be solid. A vote was held to elect the 2026 executive committee which also passed. Thank you to those that stepped up to help out the Society. Following the AGM, the annual Christmas luncheon was held with over 35 members and their better halves in attendance who enjoyed a Swiss Chalet Christmas dinner. Thanks to Jeff Duncan's efforts, a few donated gifts were raffled off in addition to a couple of gift cards funded by the proceeds from the club table sales.

It was wonderful to see so many members travel from far and wide for the AGM and luncheon.

As part of the celebration, Duncan Johnstone and Gary Lenius presented the Bryan Gibbons award to **Mike Chrus**. Mike can always be relied upon to lend a hand, whether it is setting up for the monthly meetings and On Parade to receiving and storing shipments for out of town vendors who courier items in advance of On Parade. Well deserved and congratulations to Mike.



Mike Chrus wearing the Bryan Gibbons medallion after presentation by OMSS president, Duncan Johnstone and Secretary/Treasurer Gary Lenius.



Ottawa Chapter's December Meeting

Thanks to Bob Thompson for submitting this report

The Show & Tell Topic for our December 30th meeting was "Christmas Gifts".

It appears that toy soldier collectors don't often receive toy soldiers as Christmas presents (unless they are under 8 years old). However, we had some great Christmas related presentations regarding toy soldier treasures from Christmases past. Other presentations included Bob showing off some of his recent acquisitions for his sketchy "I Love a Woman in Uniform" collection, and Julian's upgraded homemade 1/6 scale building that he introduced last month. Steve Hammond stole the show with his work on scratch building a massive machine used on the production line for the construction of German Tiger 1 tanks. (I'm going to force Steve to submit an article in the next newsletter with a brief description of his project, with photos.)



Discussions of club matters included planning requirements for the tentative **February 28 OMSS Ottawa Toy Soldier Show** at the Kanata Legion.



That's different—War Gaming "The Gingerbread Gang" found in a collectibles shop in Brockville



Bob showed off his Christmas presents to himself. Women Legionnaires and "Bess" of the 95th Rifles by Thomas Gunn

Items bought at the December meeting included some great deals on King & Country sets

2026 Ottawa Chapter Meeting Dates (*last Tuesday of every month*)

Save
the
date

January 27
February 24
March 31
April 28
May 26
June 20



July 28
August 25
September 29
October 27
November 24
December 29

**OMSS Ottawa Chapter show
at Kanata Legion
February 28 (*tentative*)**



South Carolina Military Miniature Society show

Thanks to Norm Cuthbert for submitting this story

After much anticipation the big day arrived, the South Carolina Military Miniature Society show. Saturday morning November 15 my family and I rose at six in the morning, got ready, met a friend in the club and on the road at seven.

After a two hour drive we arrived at the venue in a large room in the Confederate Museum. We quickly unloaded to can and got all my sales material set up on my table and items on the tables set aside for the competition. Trading was brisk and there were so many fun things up for sale. I managed to pick up 45 figures and was quite pleased.

Half way through to afternoon the plaques for the competition winners were placed on the tables in front of the winning entries. I was really happy to have won two of the five winning plaques! One for Civilian and one for Vignette.

The day is a great one for families. The State Museum with a working model of the Hunley submarine, a section of Fort Moultrie and so much more, the Planetarium, huge gift store and Confederate museum and Relic Room are all attached in the same location.

Come on down Y'all.

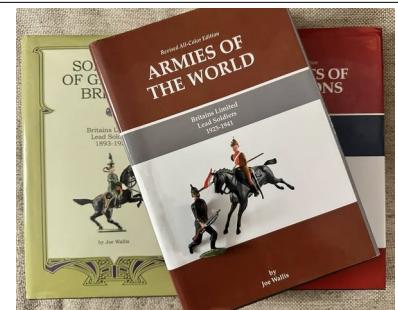
Check out the South Carolina Military Miniature Society on Facebook

A note from the editor: Apologizes for not fitting in this story in the December newsletter



Passages

Joe Wallis - Although Joe was not a member of the OMSS, many members had the opportunity to meet Joe over the years at various shows, or read one of his books. He was a noted American author on toy soldiers and a wealth of information on the hobby. Joe also contributed numerous articles in Old Toy Soldier magazine and several books on Wm. Britains. He will be missed.





OMSS Zoom Meeting for December

Thanks to Bob Thompson for submitting this report

12 attendees (6 Ottawa, 2 Toronto, 2 Quebec, 1 Montreal, 1 Newfoundland)

The Zoom meeting consisted of some good discussions, and lots of photo sharing.

Bob showed his usual humour, wow, & toy soldier photos collected from Facebook over the month (as well as recent acquisitions);

Brendan joined us, recently back from his overseas deployment, and showed us some great photos from his time in Latvia.

Johnathon from Newfoundland joined us for the first time, and showed us some interesting toy soldier photos.

A good time was had by all.

Toy Soldier Video Meetings

Thanks to Bob Thompson for submitting this report



Although I would argue that nothing replaces the personal enjoyment of attending a physical meeting of like-minded toy soldier enthusiasts ... participating in a video meeting offers a viable alternative. Video meetings may even offer some advantages over physical meetings ... with the ability to share stories, photos, and exchange toy soldier related information from enthusiasts across the country and around the world.

For a variety of reasons, the option to attend a physical meeting is often not possible. Time constraints, bad weather, travel distance, poor health, or just plain inconvenience can rule out the luxury of attending a physical Toy Soldier meeting.

I recommend everyone should give these video meetings a try ... they are all fun, enjoyable, and you will no doubt learn many things you didn't know about our amazing hobby ... all from the comfort of your own home.

The technological requirements for participating in these meetings are both simple and free. All can be accessed easily from a smartphone (iPhone or Android), a tablet, or a laptop or desktop computer. (Our monthly OMSS Zoom meetings are hosted and run entirely from an iPhone.)

We are fortunate to have access to **3 distinctly different monthly video meetings on Toy Soldier related topics:**

OMSS Zoom Meeting – held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7pm ... hosted by Bob Thompson from Ottawa.

BMSS Zoom Meeting – scheduled for the 3rd Friday of every month at 7pm UK time (2pm Toronto time) ... hosted by James Opie from England. The BMSS video meetings are open to all OMSS members.

International Toy Soldier Club Video Meeting – alternating between either a Friday or Saturday once a month at 7pm UK time (2pm Toronto time) - hosted by Andrew Stevenson of Replica Miniatures from England.

Take the time to arrange a test run using the technology and give a video meeting a try!



Help keep your membership costs low!

Remember to support our advertisers and tell them you saw their ad in the OMSS Journal or calendar



History of the Bryan Gibbons Award

The Bryan Gibbons Award is presented to the OMSS member who by their actions goes above and beyond contributing towards the betterment of the Society. Bryan Gibbons is a former president (1969) who proposed the award and donated the plaque. The current president selects the annual recipient of this prestigious award which is presented at the Societies annual Christmas Luncheon.

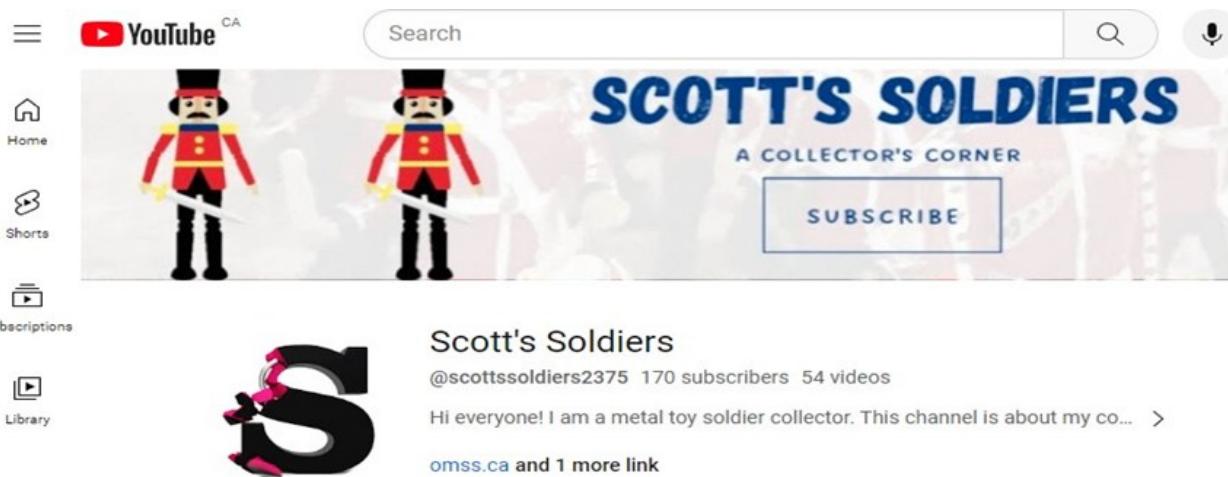
Past Recipients of the Bryan Gibbons Award

2013 - Harold Morrison
2014 - Gail Stone
2015 - Tom Elliot
2016 - Scott Dummitt
2017 - Brendan Hogan

2018 - Jeff Duncan
2019 - Robert Thompson
2020-2022 - Gary Lenius
2023 - Ian Pearson
2024 - Jim Qualtrough

If you like watching videos, don't forget to check out; **Scott's Soldiers on YouTube**

hosted by our very own Scott Page (OMSS Ottawa)



<https://www.youtube.com/@scottssoldiers2375>

Remember to click on **Like** and **Subscribe** to raise the profile of toy soldier collecting on YouTube.



Keep your contact information up to date

Please notify the Society should your email address, phone number, or mailing address change to ensure you continue to receive timely news and information from us.

You can **email any changes to**; omss@bell.net or see Gary at the next meeting



'In life there is no second act'

F. Scott Fitzgerald, author

The newsletter is edited by Scott Milburn
News items, notices and upcoming events can be submitted to
omssnewsletter@gmail.com