



Newsletter for March 2026

The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962



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

2026 Executive

Victor Rudik
President

VACANT
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, March 8, 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 Norm White and his topic will be Britain's Badlands
- The history of the disputed border between England and Scotland



OMSS Virtual meeting

Tuesday March 17th, 2026 @ 7pm

Virtual meetings are open to all OMSS and BMSS members
The topic is "Your Canadian Collection"
contact Bob Thompson at thompson_robert@rogers.com



Ottawa Chapter meeting

Tuesday March 24th, 2026 @ 7pm The Barley Mow,
1541 Merivale Road, Ottawa

Show and Tell topic is both Dioramas" and "Flame Throwers"



International Toy Soldiers Club Virtual Meeting Saturday March 13th, 2026

@ 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 March 20th 2026 @ 7pm GMT

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

This month's topic is "Honorable and Dishonorable"
Contact: Jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk for more details.



Sunday
March 29, 2026
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
at
Canadian Warplane
Heritage Museum,
Mount Hope, Ont.
For more details visit
IPMS Hamilton
www.ipmshamilton.ca

You won't want to miss



See hundreds of models,
many vendors including re-
tailers, distributors and pri-
vate sellers with a venue,
and atmosphere that is
tough to beat.

Show your support for other
hobby organizations with
your attendance, and don't
forget to **wear your OMSS
shirt!**

Notice from the Ontario Model Soldier Society executive committee



It is our unfortunate duty to inform you that our President, **David Doward , U.E.** passed away unexpectedly in early February. It has been a shock to all of us and we are greatly saddened to lose a great friend, collector and colleague. We offer our sincerest condolences to Dave's family and friends.

In addition to being a member of the OMSS, David was an active member in the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada. David was a United Empire Loyalist (U.E.) who are ancestors of those that supported the British Crown during the American Revolution (1775-1783) and moved to Canada.

David was employed at York University where he was a lecturer of Labour Relations and Health and Safety until 2010. He then worked at Humber College where David taught Health and Safety, Human Resources and Labour Relations until his retirement in January 2018.

Postscript: We believe David would have been pleased and chuckled; we had two OMSS members do a toy soldier deal in the parking lot at his Celebration of Life!

David will be missed by all of us.



What Happens Now?

In accordance with Article 3C of the OMSS constitution, where there is a vacancy in the Presidency, the office will be assumed by the 1st Vice President.

The executive committee held an emergency meeting following David's passing and confirmed the club's 1st Vice President, Victor Rudik will be serving you as President for the remainder of 2026.

Victor is grateful for the support and assistance of the other members of the Executive and Past Presidents. In accepting the President's position, Victor stated "This should be Dave's presidency, and I will do my utmost to make it a good one.

President's Message



Hi Everyone,

It was a shock to become President of our club, but at least I do not have to drop nuclear bombs like Harry Truman did. That said, I do have some 1/72 scale nuclear bombs and missiles in my collection, so you never know! Yes, I am one of those "small-scale" guys, but with a great appreciation for the artistry and history of all scales. I view us as fans of sculpture and fine art, especially in a particular scale. Every time I come to a meeting, I learn more about history, manufacturing, art, and design. Last month's meeting had a lot of that with Andy Traverse's presentation on the evolution of US helmets. And I promise to show you all more of my toy soldier and militaria collections. I plan to present some of my rarer items in the next few months. And I plan to visit our Ottawa Chapter at least a couple of times during my term. I want to see what you guys are up to!

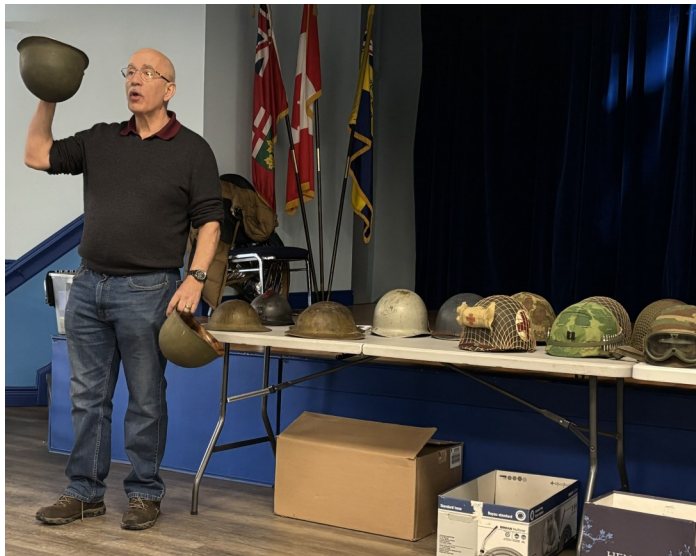
Although I am a relatively new member, I see that this club is a well-oiled machine, with everyone doing their part to make it a success. I joined because I saw the passion everyone has for the hobby, and I wanted to be part of it. We all have our niches, our knowledge and our skills; and that diversity is our strength. I am constantly impressed by the history and hobby-related skills and knowledge of our members and executive. And I am especially happy that there are so many past-Presidents around to provide advice and help. I am honoured to take on this role.

I also can't wait to attend our big "On Parade" show on June 13th. Plans are well under way to make it a bigger event than last year's. And again, if you are available the day before to help set up, we'd greatly appreciate it.

Cheers to a great 2026! Victor Rudik, President

Toronto Chapter's February Meeting

Thanks to Jeff Duncan for the photos



Andy Traverse gave an informative and engaging presentation on the evolution of United States Army helmets. He brought with him quite an assortment of examples for his talk.

The pre-meeting vendors tables were full and some excellent bargains were to be had.





Ottawa Chapter's February Meeting

Thanks to Bob Thompson for submitting this report

Our recent February in person meeting in Ottawa was well attended.

OMSS business matters included a lively discussion on the goal of OMSS Ottawa hosting a Toy Soldier Show in Ottawa. It was agreed that if the Ottawa Chapter could make a Toy Soldier Show happen within the next year, we would then consider using our "formula" to assume the running of the very popular Military Hobby Show that has been cancelled in 2025 and 2026 due to lack of a host organization.

Steve Hammond showed us several completed scale models of his tank factory machine tools series, and he gave us a great report from his recent attendance at the Heart of the South Toy Soldier Show in Virginia.

The Show & Tell topic of "Artillery" resulted in a large number of excellent presentations including a display of vintage Britains artillery by Kelly, and an extensive display of artillery in various scales from a huge range of manufacturers by Steve Alexander. Bob showed a unique collection of 24 pieces of 1/32 scale pewter artillery of the world offered in the 1980's by subscription only, and Britains WW1 Artillery set #17869 (limited edition of 450).



To the left and below, Bob's unique collection of 24 pieces of 1/32 scale pewter artillery of the world



William Britains WW1 Artillery set #17869



OMSS Zoom Meeting for February

Thanks to Bob Thompson for submitting this report

The February OMSS Zoom meeting had 12 participants, (4 Ottawa, 3 Toronto, 2 Quebec, 1 Montreal, 1 England, and Dennis D checked in from his winter escape in South Carolina).

The Show & Tell Topic was “Opposites Attract” (a tribute to Valentine Day???) Many of the presentations skirted the “Opposites Attract” theme by showing soldier vs soldier adversarial opponents.

Aside from Bob’s usual monthly presentation of “Humour/WOW/&Wow Toy Soldier” photos scooped from the Internet, other presentations included another interesting photo display by Ian from England on his “unboxing” of box #18 toy soldiers from “under his bed”; and his nice collection of diecast OO/HO scale “Models of Yesteryear” horsedrawn vehicles.

There was a lively discussion regarding the longevity of the (rumoured) custom of French Canadian Militia wearing specific coloured toques ... Quebec (blue), Trois-Rivieres (white), and Montreal (red). Did the practise originate/ extend from The French and Indian Wars, through the American Revolution, to the War of 1812, and on to the Rebellions of 36-37??

Bob tried for the “opposites attract” romantic theme with his “Napoleon Advancing” piece (photo above), but then fell back to opposites being “mortal enemies”.



mortal enemies for “Show and Tell”



Two of the discoveries from Ian’s “archeological dig”



Zoom Meeting for February (conclusion)



Two of Ian's diecast pieces from "Models of Yesteryear"



OMSS 'On Parade' Annual Show 2026

We are getting so much closer to the June 13th show date!!!! A lot of work is being done behind the scenes, including hearing from our vendors who are already booked and eager for the show to start. We have eleven tables left for rent at \$50.00 each. If you have already committed to me that you are coming, please pay Gary through the omss@bell.net link and he will update me with the latest vendor list.

We have the same set up as last year and look forward to 'everyone in the club' putting something into the competition and/or display area to show off our hobby. We did great last year and looking forward to a banner year this year.

A number of members of the Club met by Zoom on Wednesday February 25th and had a fabulous, informative, educational and philosophical discussion on Judging of the On Parade competition. It is such a deep, involved subject and we have had major success in finding issues large and small that we as a group can definitely work on, drill down into or leave it alone. It is a work in progress but I am very confident that you will all be pleasantly agreeable on the progress of our working group and the extremely competent input from all of the participants.

On that note, one of the largest hurdles is having subject matter experts on the 'Traditional Toy Soldier' class of figures. We all know that there are many very capable people that could judge these figures but are the main vendors at the show and are unable to free themselves up to go and do a legitimate job of judging the competition entries. (We need to get our heads around that somehow and it is one of our largest stumbling blocks). We are open to suggestions from the larger club community on this..

I also want to say that we may be looking at special awards for a few classes of competition or display entries that best represent our Canadian heritage and the three arms of the armed forces Navy, Army and Air force. More discussion to follow and eager to chat at the March monthly meeting about the subject.

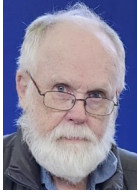
Please get your entries ready for the competition/display on Saturday June 13th at 9am. Look forward to seeing you all there.

Jim Qualtrough
OMSS Show Chair



Canada's Largest Model Soldier Show
ON PARADE 2026
Presented by the Ontario Model Soldier Society
Saturday June 13, 2026
9 am to 3 pm
Admission \$10
Free Parking
Franklin Horner Community Centre
432 Horner Ave. Toronto (Etobicoke) M8W 2B2
Massed displays of toy soldiers, large vendor area,
modelling competition and more.
Show details at www.omss.ca
Show Contact: Jim Qualtrough 416-543-0873 email: omss@bell.net

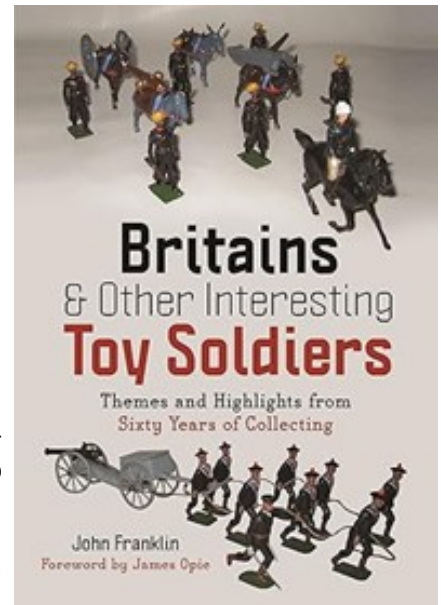
Book Reviews



Submitted by Ian Pearson, OMSS Historian and Archivist

Britains & Other Interesting Toy Soldiers

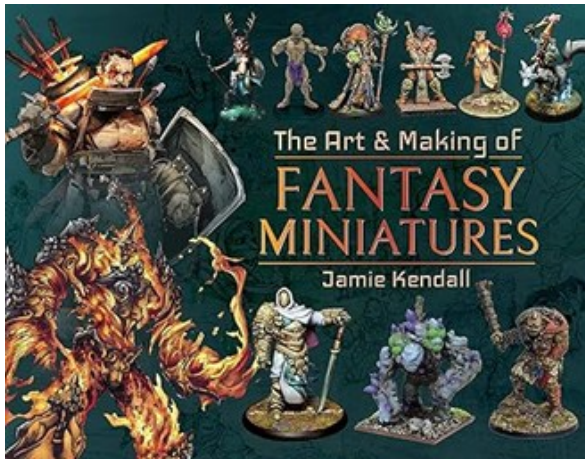
Explores the lifelong passion of collecting traditional toy soldiers, offering insights, anecdotes, with over four hundred photographs that showcase a sixty-year journey of dedication and expertise in the hobby. John Franklin has been collecting traditional toy soldiers for over sixty years, mostly Britains but, as the title suggests, including other interesting additions. In this book he shares some of the in-depth knowledge gained through experience and countless hours of careful research, but most of all the passion and enthusiasm for his hobby. He explains how he was inspired to collect soldiers, like so many, in early boyhood and how a hobby grew into an obsession. The various chapters then examine themes he followed in his collecting, such as Britains Special Painting Orders and Indian Army Pipe Bands for example, or address questions regarding the manufacture or identity of specific sets that he has researched or, in some cases, is still seeking the answer to. It is packed with anecdotes, useful technical information and helpful advice for the collector but it is above all a proud tour of inspection of a sixty-year labour of love. Over four hundred photographs, show much of the author's magnificent collection in a parade of miniature pomp and splendour.



Author—Jamie Kendall

Pen and Sword Publishers—2020

ISBN—978-1-52676-7424



The Art and Making of Fantasy Miniatures

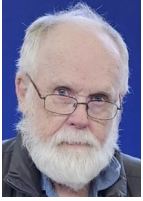
The Art and Making of Fantasy Miniatures is a showcase of some of the best talent in the industry. Compiled with the cooperation of eleven of the most innovative companies from Europe, the UK and USA, it shows what goes in to the creative process of taking an initial concept from two-dimensional sketches and translating it into a three-dimensional figurine ready for collectors and tabletop gamers. Game designers, artists and sculptors explain their part in bringing these miniature works of art to life. The book is lavishly illustrated with over 1,000 images, including concept art, work-in-progress sculpts and beautifully painted miniatures.

The book features miniatures from games and companies such as Aradia Miniatures, Alkemy (Alchemist Miniatures), Avatars of War, Godslayer (Megalith Games), Guild Ball (Steamforged Games), Relicblade (Metal King Studio), WARMACHINE and HORDES (Privateer Press), RUMBLESLAM (TTCombat), Drakerys (Don't Panic Games), Kings of War (Mantic Games) and Freeblades (DGS Games).

Here's a great resource for Canadian badges, rank insignia, flags and more;



<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/defence/caf/military-identity-system.html>



Atlanta Georgia Model Figure Show, 2026

Submitted by Ian Pearson, OMSS Historian and Archivist

Phil Andrews and myself attended the Atlanta Model Figure Show in Marietta Georgia last weekend. Excellent show. Phil was awarded a Bronze for his Confederate General JEB Stuart model and I got a gold for my High Flight and two Medal of Honors displays.

On the way down we stopped at Ringgold Georgia, the new location of SQUADRON SHOP. An excellent place to visit for model kits, accessories, books and more from brands all around the world from all categories including everything from aircraft to science fiction and everything in between, if your down in that area.

Attached are some of the entries seen at the show. Enjoy.



On the left, Phil and Ian at Squadron in Ringgold. Our thanks to Brandon Lowe for welcoming us.



On the right, Phil's BRONZE medal model of JEB Stuart, 120mm



Ian's GOLD medal display of HIGH FLIGHT and Medal of Honour winners

Atlanta Model Figure Show Photos (continued)



Atlanta Model Figure Show Photos (conclusion)



Important news for painters of Canadian badges and crests

Thanks to Frank MacKay for passing this along;

Transition to the Canadian Crown for government, military & police service badges

The Canadian Royal Crown was created by the Canadian Heraldic Authority, at the request of the Government of Canada, to serve in perpetuity, regardless of the reigning monarch, meaning no redesign process will be required in the future. The new design replaces religious symbols (crosses & fleur-de-lis) with maple leaves & a snowflake.



St. Edwards Crown

His Majesty King Charles III has approved the design of the **Canadian Royal Crown**. It now represents the Sovereign's authority in Canada.



new Canadian Royal Crown

All CAF badges will be updated with the new crown, with a few exceptions. Most Royal Canadian Navy primary badges will not transition to the Canadian Royal Crown since they display the Naval Crown; a few Canadian Army primary badges will not be updated since they display a different Royal Crown or no Royal Crown at all. It will still take several years due to the volume of identifiers across the CAF to be updated.

For more information check out the following links;

<https://www.gg.ca/en/heraldry/royal-and-vice-regal-emblems/royal-crown>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/royal-symbols-titles/royal-crown-cypher.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/defence/caf/military-identity-system/transition-canadian-royal-crown.html>



The Quartermaster's Store



If you are not a vendor and have something hobby related you are looking to sell or if you are on the hunt for that hard to find piece for your collection, members can list it here in the club's newsletter at no cost and space permitting,

Simply send your request to the newsletter editor at omssnewsletter@gmail.com



the last word

'...If you listen, you learn; if you talk, you don't "

John Hurt, actor

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