



The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962



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Newsletter for May 2026



Toronto Chapter meeting

Sunday, May 10, 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 OMSS member Dan Stapleton.
Dan's talk will centre around his Toy Soldier Collecting Hobby

OMSS Virtual meeting

Tuesday May 19th, 2026 @ 7pm

Virtual meetings are open to all OMSS and BMSS members

The topic is "TBA"

contact Bob Thompson at thompson_robort@rogers.com



Ottawa Chapter meeting

Tuesday May 26th, 2026 @ 7pm

The Barley Mow, 1541 Merivale Road, Ottawa

The topic is "Axis Powers"



International Toy Soldiers Club Virtual Meeting

Friday May 8th, 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 May 15th 2026 @ 7pm GMT

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

This month's topic is "Military Pageant"

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



Many of the Society's members are unable to attend meetings in person. The club's newsletter and magazine are often their only way to stay up to date and connected with club and hobby related activities.

We need your stories to keep the newsletter and Journal magazine interesting and keep our members connected. Write about anything hobby related, just a few paragraphs or a few photos whatever you wish to contribute.

Everyone has a story to share: Contact

Newsletter editor at OMSSNewsletter@gmail.com or
Journal editor at Ian.Pearson560@gmail.com

President's Message

Hi everyone!

It was a pleasure to present the story of Giant Plastics Corporation last month! I was very glad I brought a portion of my collection, as having the visuals certainly helped. Eventually, we will get our Audio Video system working right! And I hoped the story of the trials, tribulations and triumphs of the company was entertaining. I wonder if there are any published photos of toys blocking the main railway lines to downtown Manhattan? I would bet that one of the New York newspapers would have a reporter on scene for that bizarre scene. I will have to continue my research. As some of you know, I am slowly writing my third book on small scale plastic figures, so any interesting info like that will certainly get added.



Looking forward, we have Dan Stapleton presenting this month. I remember buying from Dan's old store "Crossed Swords" many times and even found a couple of my favourite Atlantic sets there. I still have them too! I'm not sure what he will be talking about, but I know he has some interesting stories and history of his hobby, so I am sure it will be exceptional!

I'm also looking forward to our show in June! And since it is going to happen the day after FIFA starts, we have to take it into account. If you can put up our more distant members for the night, please do so! I am volunteering my place for some.

Cheers!

Victor Rudik, OMSS President



We have all the vendors tables booked up and we are ready to go with an exciting event.

Our featured workshop this year is the Hamilton Wargamer who will have a display going on in our breakout room. I have heard from numerous people regarding setting up their larger displays for the Competition area, so anticipate some super presentations. Looking forward to seeing everyone on June 13th!

Jim Qualtrough
OMSS Show Chair



Franklin Horner Community Centre
432 Horner Ave, Toronto (Etobicoke)
M5W 2B2

OMSS 'On Parade' Annual Show 2026 Update

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

Toronto Chapter's April Meeting

Thanks to Jeff Duncan for the photos



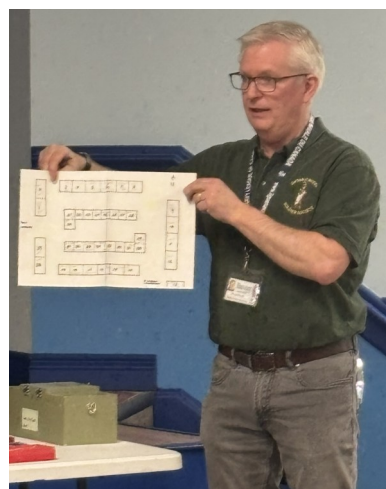
Victor Rudik gave an interesting presentation on the history of the Giant Plastics Corporation. It's products and the interesting stories associated with the company, including the unethical business practices and family feuds.



Victor showed a vast array of products from Giant Plastics Corp from his personal collection



Jim Qualtrough, OMSS Show Chair, provided an update on the show and the planned floor layout.



As usual, there were great deals to be had at the many vendor tables.



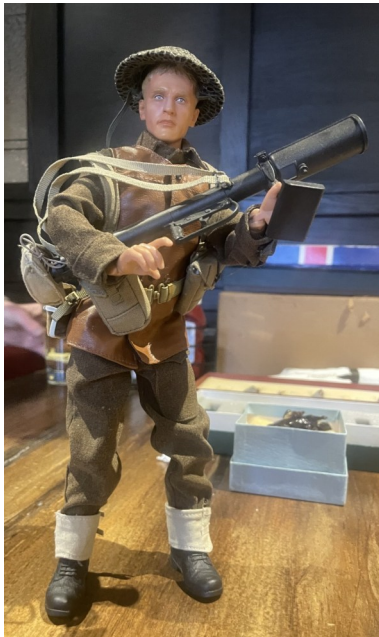


Ottawa Chapter's April Meeting

Thanks to Bob Thompson for submitting this report

The Show & Tell topic for our April in person meeting in Ottawa was "Anti Tank", with "unidentified" as a backup ... No one chose "unidentified" ... but there was a good turnout of presentations for "Anti Tank".

- Juan showed 1/6 scale 75mm and 57mm recoilless rifles.
- Julian also brought a crowd of 1/6 WW2 Germans, armed to the teeth with tank busting weapons
- Mark Hilash brought out a great collection of antitank guns & vehicles in various scales
- Kelly showed a 1/6 WW2 British soldier with a PIAT
- Steve Alexander showed up late ... he has a long commute (*less than a five minute drive*) ... but brought along a great selection of toy soldiers of all types for sale.
- Sylvain was short on anti tank since his collecting period is Napoleonic and earlier (*he could have brought some early anti armour longbowmen*).
- Bob didn't bring a single toy soldier, but gave a short? talk on some of his new types of war comics, and a display of some nice original lobby cards from war movies.
- The Show & Tell topic voted for the May 26 Ottawa Meeting will be "Axis Powers"
- Julian will host the May Meeting as the Ottawa Chapter works on restructuring its operational processes.



Kelly's WW2 1/6 British PIAT gunner



54mm Metal British Military Police Jeep (very heavy) - Francois brought this for sale and is still available



Show and Tell item from Sylvain's collection



Francois was selling some rare items including a Starlux farm building, and a collection of Marx Canada "Little Miss Deb" furniture pieces in original boxes (Green boxes on shelf above the farm)





OMSS Zoom Meeting for April

Thanks to Bob Thompson for submitting this report

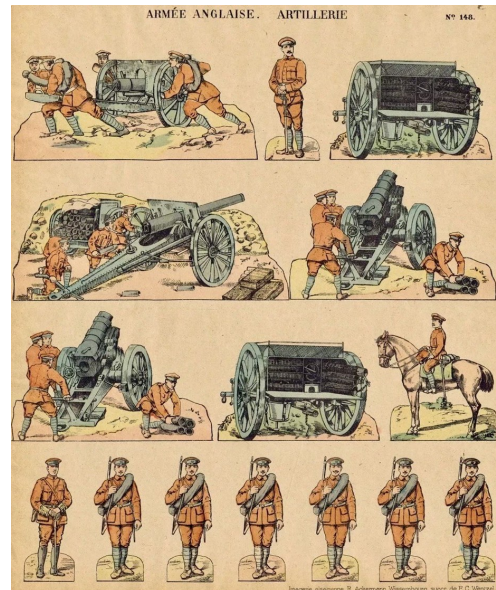
The April OMSS Zoom meeting had 11 participants (4 Ottawa, 1 Toronto, 2 Quebec, 2 England, 1 Montreal, 1 USA).

The Show & Tell Topic was "Easter". Along with a number of discussions, several presentations were given.

- Bob shared his usual monthly presentation of "Humour, WOW, and Wow Toy Soldier" photos scooped from the Internet;
- Eric Shaw showed unusual Elastolin German composition figures, and a crucifixion vignette done in flats;
- Johnathon from USA gave a great presentation of paper soldiers, depicting military events around the world that occurred at Easter time;
- Andrew from England showed some amazing plastic soldier conversions.
- **There was a discussion on the future of the continued operation of the OMSS Zoom meetings as Bob announced that he is no longer able to continue to run the Zoom meetings.** Over the next few months we will have to see if replacement volunteers will come forward to ensure the continuation of our OMSS Zoom Meetings.



Above: Eric Shaw showed a Crucifixion vignette using flats



Above: Johnathon showed some great paper soldiers



Above, Eric Shaw presented some unusual Elastolin figures



Who Knew? Prime Minister Mark Carney keeps a toy soldier on his desk?

Last week, Prime Minister Carney released a video which is the first in an occasional series of updates to the public he plans to deliver via YouTube.

The inaugural video posted on Sunday, April 19 was an internet-era version of U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's famous fireside chats, an effort to both comfort and energize the country through tough times ahead. In Carney's case, he laid out the economic and security threats facing Canada and how his government plans to deal with them.

Sitting prominently in front of him during his chat was a 54mm figurine of Major-General Isaac Brock, the British commander whose heroics helped save Canada from American conquest in the War of 1812.

"When I get into the office, I always look at this statue on my desk," said Carney.



You can check out the Prime Ministers video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uk2TZwkh4E&t=318s>

Brock was a hero who fought and gave his life for our forebears in the War of 1812. Before Canada even existed on paper, it had a shape in Brock's imagination," continued the prime minister. "Faced with the threat of an American invasion, Brock built alliances across our land and inspired what would eventually become Canada."



OMSS members, Scott Dummitt and Jim Qualtrough met up with Mike Myers at the East Cost Toy Soldier Show in Hackensack in 2017

The Brock figure was a gift from Canadian actor Mike Myers during the last federal election campaign. Although best known for his Hollywood comedy, Myers is passionate about military history and an avid toy soldier collector. His British-born parents both served in the Second World War—his father Eric as a sapper with the Royal Engineers and his mother Alice as a radar station technician with the Royal Air Force.

"Both my mom and my father were very respectful of the higher purpose of fighting the bad guys," Myers has said. "The spirit of saying 'no' to bullies is something I have tremendous respect for."

Editors Note:

The figure Prime Minister Carney is holding is from William Britain Ltd, Museum Collection, Model Number WB10148

The British General Issac Brock figure is available at your authorized Wm. Britain's dealer for approximately \$65.00 Cdn.





A Move into History

Thanks to Norm Cuthbert for submitting this story

Origins

It is hard to believe that it has been 26 years since I moved from Toronto to Charlotte, NC. It has proved to be interesting as far as history is concerned. Most of you might not know where Charlotte is located. It is in the central southern area of the state. The southern part of the city touches the northern border of South Carolina.

I can travel west and be in Atlanta in four hours and three and one-half hours southeast to historic Charleston, SC and the mountains in three hours. Its early history started with the original settlers, the Catawba Indians, from which a local river and county get their names. In the 1740s many Scots Irish, many being exiled by England, settled here on the corner of two trade routes. The county of Mecklenburg was established, and the village and county were named after the wife of King George III Charlotte of Mecklenburg, is known this day as the Queen City.

American Revolutionary War (ARW)

On May 20, 1775, from the town and surrounding districts a few patriots gathered just north of town, (4 miles from my house) and developed and signed the first Declaration of Independence. The American War of Independence was also known as the Presbyterian War because of the large number of exiled Scots who settled here and didn't like the English. In 1780 General Cornwallis and troops fought in and around Charlotte to the point that Cornwallis called Charlotte the Hornet's Nest! To this day Charlotte police officers wear a hornet's nest arm patch on their uniform. The NBA team is named the Charlotte Hornets, and the sports stadium is referred to as the Hornets Nest.

Within an hour and a half of Charlotte are ARW battlefields at King's Mountain and Cowpens to the west. It was through Charlotte that Cornwallis and his troops passed, fought at Guilford Courthouse then moved on to Yorktown, Virginia.

The railway came in the 1840s and 50s and the telegraph shortly after. In 1859 the North Carolina Military Institute came into being. The town grew rapidly. By 1860 a total of 36% of the population were slaves. Most of the merchants and professionals owned two or three each. Thirteen businessmen owned many slaves, as well as two women.

Civil War

While North Carolina had a wait and see attitude a plain blue flag was raised with a white star in the center. The state eventually left the union. All federal arsenals, banks, mint and other properties were seized. Suddenly infantry and cavalry units were being formed in and around the city including the Hornets Nest Riflemen and Charlotte Greys. Ladies were making and presenting flags with speeches and great ceremony. The students at the City Military Academy were transferred to Raleigh as drill masters. Charlotte infantry companies were formed into the new 1st North Carolina Volunteer Regiment. Merchants provided funds to start various militia companies, and one paid out of pocket for a complete artillery battery including horses. All troops were treated to lush banquets before leaving the city. Local industry took on a new look. Clothing manufacturers hired women to make uniforms for local regiments. Others started making saddles and hardware for horses. Most of the population were not on plantations either in the military or involved in making clothing, shoes, horse equipment, cannons or donating funds for the war effort.

A ladies hospital association was formed; nurses and local soldiers were sent to Virginia. The hospital association soon became the Soldiers' Aid Society of Charlotte. Meeting three times a week they made uniforms, trousers, overcoats, shirts, haversacks, gloves, pillows and socks. Ladies not attending the meetings were fined. The governor Zebulon Vance spent much time in the city greeting trains of wounded soldiers and set up a hospital opposite the main depot. Many coastal ports were closed to naval manufacturing, so equipment was sent to Charlotte and a plant was constructed. Some equipment was transferred from the Iron Works in Richmond, Virginia. Both free blacks and slaves were hired to do labor in the city. They also built a railroad running north of the city. Eventually many of these people and deserting soldiers became a local problem resulting in the establishment of a home guard to control the situation.

A major fire in the town in February 1863 caused devastation to the confederacy. Over 23,000 bushels of corn and oats, 1,900 sacks of flour, 160 boxes of sugar, blankets, uniforms, leather and other supplies were lost. As 1864 arrived the Confederate Government took control of the railroads. General Longstreet's corps passed through the city a couple of times as did President Jefferson Davis. Charlotte became very busy as well as a military hub. Passenger traffic on the railroads was limited to once a week while all other rail traffic was military. Since the railroads were different gauge all troops, equipment and cannons had to be transferred by hand from one rail line to another. Many federal prisoners escaped in the confusion. There are recorded instances of escaped federal soldiers being recaptured and shot in the city.

A Move into History *(Conclusion)*

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New tax laws had businesses pay an additional \$500 and others \$50 per year. Farmers had to turn over one-tenth of production to the government which was then turned over to the army. North Carolina paid the most of all confederate states. A new 500-bed hospital was built on the fairgrounds and the naval yard continued to make carriages for naval guns along with propeller shafts for iron clads and mines (torpedoes) for rivers. Due to a labor shortage many machines remained idle. The work week became seven days a week but still many orders remained unfilled.

In February 1864 a new Conscription Act was introduced. This created Junior Reserves of males 17 and 18 and a Senior Reserves 45 to 50 years old. These took even more professional trades and farmers from the area. These men fought with General Johnson against Sherman and the federal army at the last battle in the east at Bentonville, NC, about two hours east of Charlotte. The city, a bustling center which was so supportive of the confederacy, had become a city filled with refugees and wounded soldiers. A prisoner of war camp was setup, but most prisoners were transferred to the second largest camp at Salisbury, a 45 minute drive east. It was the largest POW camp next to Andersonville.

The refugee problem was so great Charlotte residents were required to register and stay in the city. All the others were to camp outside the city. The federal army was moving north and the city, Columbia, SC was captured. Charlotte feared destruction, but Sherman chose to head west to Fayetteville, NC. A force was sent north destroying the railway tracks as they advanced. The population was in fear as to whether the city would be burned like Atlanta or Columbia to the south. Generals Joseph Johnson and Beauregard came to the city and temporarily set up headquarters before heading east to meet Sherman and his federal army at the battle of Bentonville, south of Raleigh.

Soon every house, store, hospital and tents were used to serve the sick and wounded. Food and supplies were brought in from all the surrounding area. The city was overcrowded and scared.

The wife of President Davis and many other notables escaped from Richmond, VA and came to Charlotte. Most of the confederate documents were transported to Charlotte and safely stored. Not long after the city's funds were taken to a farm and buried while numerous attacks occurred around the city. On one occasion General Johnson was shot above the heart but a silver dollar in his pocket saved his life!

On April 18, 1865, President Davis arrived in town. He was giving a speech when he got word that President Abraham Lincoln had been assassinated. The last meeting of the Confederate government was in Charlotte on April 26, 1865, the day Johnson surrendered to Sherman. That spot is marked by a plaque to this day. All members of the government fled in different directions. Jefferson Davis fled to Georgia where he was captured on May 10th. It took over a year to finally transport all the wounded and sick from Charlotte to their homes and fully recover from the loss of over 3,000 local men who were killed in this civil war.

Charlotte continued to send men and women to serve their country in the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II and other battlefronts since then. Certainly, it has a rich and proud history.

If you are ever coming south or heading north on I-77 look up my information in the club's roster and get in touch with me. Come and see our history.

About the author

Norm Cuthbert has been a member of the OMSS for over 51 years and is also a member of the South Carolina Military Miniature Society (SCMMS). He has attended a number of model soldier shows in Canada and the U.S. and presently has about 9,500 figures in his hobby room.



Eric's Travels and Collection *(thanks to Eric Shaw for this story and photos)*

Zinnfiguren Bohm in Vienna is worth a visit. That's my son coming out of the store when we were last there. The Austrian Army is one of my special interests, so this is a place I like to go.



I took Eighth Army soldiers from different manufacturers and painted them in the same style to unify them. I was pleased with the results, but I have many more to go. See if you can figure out all of the makers here.



ABOVE: A wonderful, action packed scene from the Russo-Japanese War that I staged. The figures are by Team Miniatures, the Japanese Army of this period being another interest of mine.



ABOVE: Action packed scene from the Russo-Japanese War that I staged from the Russian point of view.

Yet another interest of mine - the Indian Mutiny. They don't make many figures for this period, so I pick up what I can. These are all mainly Britains. I am converting some Civil War figures by Expeditionary Force and the results are very good.



Eric's Travels and Collection *(conclusion)*



On the left are some of my favourite figures, a set by King and Country. I don't think any explanation is necessary here. I would put this set amongst my favourite figures in my collection.



Above: This is my bit of fun for this month. Make of it what you will. I am an artist, and satirical, absurdist pieces are my specialty.

On the right is an interesting set from a collection that Andy Traverse came across. Anyone who knows me knows that I like oddball stuff. If Indian Mutiny figures are rare, Indian Army soldiers from the 1790's, early 1800's are even more so. I always get excited at finding stuff like this!



Brendan Hogan was in Ottawa recently for the Ottawa Militaria Show and was presented with his welcome home gift by Bob Thompson on behalf of the OMSS.

A note from Brendan Hogan;

Please pass along my many thanks to all the members and how I was deeply touched by the kind gesture of the 'welcome home' package following my recent overseas deployment.



the last word

"Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself"

Leo Tolstoy

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