



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF MILITARY MUSEUMS OF CANADA, INC.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First let me wish all OMMC members and their families a Merry Christmas and very happy New Year. Indeed the dawning of the new millennium promises to be an important and very busy one for OMMC Inc.

In late December we learned that our application for a DND Millennium grant was approved in full. In partnership with the Directorate of History and Heritage at DND, OMMC Inc. will carry out the actual work for the project. Our project director, LCol Don Carrington (Ret'd) will provide an update in his column. Let me simply say that this project now has the necessary finances to complete the inventory as originally planned. I cannot stress strongly enough how important, the successful completion of this project is to the reputation of OMMC Inc. and our continued support from DHH/DND. I would therefore ask all OMMC members to assist the project any way you can.

The approval of our Millennium Project has necessitated a number of organizational changes. Effective 1 January 2000, our former president LCol Don Carrington (Ret'd) will replace our long serving Executive Director Maj Dick Malott (Ret'd) and assume the duties of the Executive Director and Millennium Project Director. More

on Dick later. We have also created a Membership Services Officer position which will incorporate the duties of the Course Coordinator with some of those currently in the Executive Director's job description. This includes membership lists, course registration and production of the Bulletin. This position will be held by Ms Paulette Potvin effective 1 January 2000. Mr. Dan Potvin will complete his responsibilities as course coordinator as of 31 December 1999 and return to his full time position as Museum Staff Officer at DHH.

The preparation for our 34th Annual Museum Course to be held at the Royal Military College Canada in Kingston are well in hand. Your Executive Committee met with the Kingston organizing committee last November. I must say our former president Prof. Jack Pike, Capt Ross MacKenzie (Ret'd) and Capt Vern Hayes (Ret'd) have done a superb job in planning for our next meeting. I am confident the meals and accommodation will exceed your expectations as outlined in last year's course critique. I encourage everyone to attend this year's course.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For over twenty-five years Major Dick Malott has been associated with OMMC first as

ORGANIZATION OF MILITARY MUSEUMS OF CANADA,
(OMMC)

MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 323
Ottawa (Gloucester), Ontario
K1C 1S7
(613) 733-8740
Fax: (613) 733-8630

Executive Committee

President

LCol Daniel S.C. Mackay
(613) 521-3193 Fax: (613) 521-3054 Cellular (613) 282-7052

Vice-President

BGen J.C. Brace (Ret'd)
(613) 965-2208 Fax: (613) 965-7352

Secretary

Maj Vince Brown, CD (Ret'd)
(613) 837-6216

Treasurer

Maj Keith Inches, CD (Ret'd)
(306) 586-8198 Fax: (306) 586-5525

Directors

Mr. William A.F. Mackay
(306) 780-5836

Jodi Ann Eskritt
(204) 765-3000 ext 3531

Mr. Don Pearsons
(613) 833-2500 ext 6276

Capt Ross McKenzie, CD (Ret'd)
(613) 541-6000 ext 6652/6664

Capt Marce Richard, CD (ret'd)
(506) 422-1304

Executive Director

LCol Donald B. Carrington (Ret'd)
(613) 733-8740 Fax: (613) 733-8630

DND Liaison Officer
Mr. Dan Potvin

(613) 998-7053 Fax: (613) 841-9810

Membership Services Officer

Paulette Potvin
(613) 841-7503 Fax: (613) 841-9810 Cellular (613) 293-9180

Secretary and then as Executive Director of OMMC Inc. In so doing he has become a institution in our organization. As our "Corporate memory" he has provided sage advise to the many executive committee he has loyally served on. Therefore, On behalf of OMMC I would like to formally thank Dick for his important contribution to our organization.

However, the legend continues. I am pleased to announce that on completion of his contract Dick will assume the position of Special Adviser to OMMC Inc.

Dick as asked me to remind everyone that he is still handling Britain Toy Soldiers and is available for evaluation of all types of military artefacts now at specific rates for all museum members.

Tribute

The President of the OMMC Inc. regrets to announce the sudden death by an aneurism of Lieutenant Colonel Norman "Bucky" Buckingham, CD. While raking leaves at his home on Wednesday, 27 October 1999, LCol Buckingham collapsed into a coma and died in hospital on Saturday, 30 October 1999. A private funeral was held on Thursday, 4 November 1999. LCol Buckingham was the long serving Director of the Directorate of Ceremonial and also an early honorary member of the OMMC Inc. A biography on LCol Buckingham will appear in a future issue of the Bulletin. We salute the memory of a dedicated member of the OMMC Inc.

A National Inventory of Canadian Military Memorials

Well, we are on our way. Thanks to some creative thinking in DHH, and some very generous support from DND and the Province of

Alberta, we are now able to begin work in earnest on our Millennium Project.

Through the thoughtful support of Veterans Affairs Canada, arranged on our behalf by BGen Jacques Morneau, President of the Last Post Fund, we have secured furnished office space in Ottawa in which our Central Coordinating Officer will operate. We are negotiating, as I write this, with a Project Coordinator and a data entry person so that I expect the office will be up and running on 2 Jan 00. Our address will be OMMC Millennium Project, c/o Veterans Affairs Canada, Commemoration Division, 12th Floor, 66 Slater St., Ottawa, ON, K1P 5H1. If you have any queries about the project, please feel free to write. Also feel free to spread the word among you friends at the Legion or with the Cadets or Boy Scouts. We will desperately need their help.

You can expect to see coverage of the project in *Reveille* the Legion newspaper and *Legion*, their magazine.

The way we expect this to work is for a Legion Branch to pick up the local coordinating role and develop a plan to survey their local area. They will then contact the other branches, the Cadets and the Boy Scouts and set up the survey of their area. When that is done the various teams will visit the memorials, churches, parks, cemeteries etc. take photos as needed and fill out the questionnaire. Then they will send the data to the Provincial Coordination Centre (PCC).

The PCC will keep track of what is sent in and ensure their province is well covered, and will forward the questionnaires to the Central Office, where the data will be entered to a computer data base. From the data base a subset will be created on the OMMC web site www.ommc.ca. We expect also to send the data to the STEM-net web site www.stemnet.nf.ca/monuments in Newfoundland and also prepare listings of the

memorials by province for hard copy reproductions.

Elections 2000

We would normally be holding elections for three Directors at next year's Annual General Meeting, however, this may not be necessary as Treasurer Keith Inches, and Directors Ross Mackenzie and Marce Richard, have all indicated they are willing to continue in office for a further 2 years.

Those of you who have been holding your breath and waiting for the opportunity to volunteer your services, please breathe now and hold that good thought. There will be another opportunity, but it may only come in the year 2001 but, hey those are the really high priced jobs!

OMMC Inc. Members' Activities

Vancouver Museum's Toy Soldier Project

The exhibition called "Toy Soldiers: Playing for keeps" the collection numbered 6,200 figures which was donated to the Vancouver Museum by Ceceil Akrigg. Nearly all figures manufactured by William Britains Ltd. Of England.

The exhibition will include nearly 1000 figures, organized into room settings and vignette. The exhibit explores toy soldiers as toys. It considers how toy soldiers involved Canadian children in the lore and legends of the British Empire, and eventually, of Canada. The 1800 square foot exhibit will open at the Vancouver Museum on November 11, 1999 and run through May 8th, 2000, This work could not be accomplished without the enthusiastic assistance and support of the Canadian Historical Miniature Figure Society. The Society, which was dormant for about a decade, has begun

meeting quarterly at the museum. Members have assisted with the development of the exhibit's interpretive and display plan. The exhibit will include an area where collectors are invited on a rotating basis to display a sampling of their collections.

A travelling version of the exhibit is also being prepared. There will be approximately 1000 square feet available for rental by other museum. The touring version will be available from fall 2000 through fall 2002. Institutions interested in learning more about the travelling version should contact the Curator of History, Joan Seidl at the Vancouver Museum (604) 736-4431, or by e-mail at jseidl@vanmuseum.bc.ca.

Lost

WWI Typewriter in wooden case used in France by BGen Dennis Colborn Draper - in particular in Cambrai, France, where his efforts were rewarded by the government of France with the Croix de guerre.

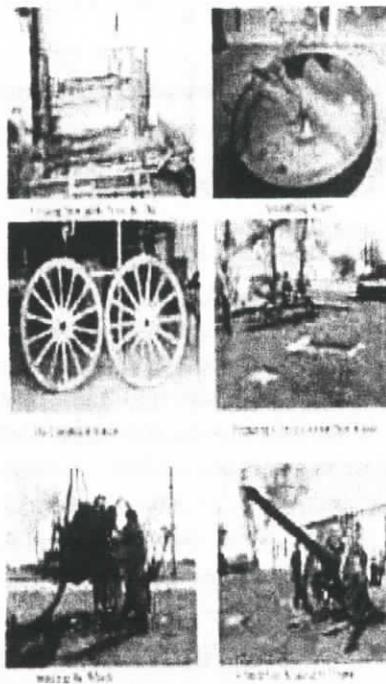
An auctioneer in Brigham, Quebec, about June 1994 - "MISTAKENLY" sold this typewriter possibly to a collector in the Maritimes. A descendant of General Draper's wishes to restore this cherished typewriter to the General's own regiment, the 5 R.C.M.R.s of Sherbrooke, Quebec, now known as Les Fusiliers Mont Royal, to be placed in their museum for posterity. The seeker wishes to complete such a transfer as one of the most valued elements of this her final will.

Would anyone having any knowledge of the whereabouts of this typewriter please contact Catherine M. Draper as promptly as possible at: #9, 1046 Pandora Ave., Victoria, BC, V8V 3P, or telephone (250) 382-8987; or e-mail cdraper@vanisle.net

Restoration of the Q.F. 4.7 Inch MK V Gun

On the 17th May 1999, the RCA Museum returned one of its more unique guns back to its display in front of the Museum's Main Building. Since 1994, when it was removed in order to make an appearance in the film "Legends of the fall". The 4.7 inch MK V Gun has been undergoing restoration work. Both in its wooden wheels had been badly damaged by the effects of decades of outdoor display.

Restoration of the wheels was a daunting task. Each wheel weights just over 500 lbs. Fortunately, the Museum found Mr. Cliff Coe of Harney, MB and a qualified wheelwright who volunteered his shop and services to the RCA Museum and with his help we were able to rebuild both wheels.



Name change recognizes local flying ace's heroics



The
Nanaim

o Airport terminal building was renamed in honour of a little known First World War pilot from Nanaimo whose exploits rivalled those of Billy Bishop and Baron Von Richthofen.

The fact flying ace Raymond Collishaw remains such an obscure figure in his hometown, despite an amazing career and after the war, led to the formation of the Remember Collishaw Committee several years ago.

The committee initiated a fund-raising project to rename the airport's terminal in his honour.

Chairman Ted Brother said the committee with the support of the Nanaimo Airport Commission erected the new sign at the terminal recognizing Collishaw and the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force.



Winnipeg Police Museum

The Winnipeg Police Museum is seeking your assistance in two projects that they are involved with.

The first involves locating the whereabouts of various King's Police Medals (KPM) or as they later became known, the King's Police and Fire Service Medal (KPFSM). Mr. John Templeman is in the process of writing a book on these medals that were awarded to Canadians. There were only 52 of these medals awarded in Canada between 1912 and 1950 which makes them very rare. Members of the Winnipeg Police Force were awarded five medals and have located three which have been donated to the Winnipeg Police Museum for display. Any information on the whereabouts of these medals and on the recipients would also be appreciated.

The second involves locating old Canadian naval cap ribbons or "tallies" as they were known. The Canadian navy followed the British practice of wearing ships names on their caps from 1910 until the unification in the 1960's. At the outbreak of war, Canada had only 13 ships but grew to the third largest navy in the world by the end of the war. The wartime ships did not wear individual ships tallies for security reasons but rather the standard HMCS. After the war practice of individual tallies continued. Mr. Templeman would like to complete this collection if possible.

Any members who could assist in either of these projects can contact Mr. John Templeman at (204) 986-3976.

Friends of the Canadian War Museum

The friends of the Canadian War Museum will hold a silent auction fundraising event in conjunction with the opening of a major exhibit

of Canadian War art in February 2000, The art exhibit will open in the Canadian Museum of Civilization 10 February and the silent auction will be conducted in the main foyer of the Hull Museum site during the afternoon of 9 February and all day 10 February. All proceeds of the auction will go toward the continuation of support projects for the museum via the Friends.

To date, auction items include a number of First World War prints and clothing, reproduction edged weapons, jewellery, a wide selection of autographed books and other non-military prizes donated by civilian companies. Two major showpieces will be full-sized Egyptian sarcophagus and a bronze statue of a Second World War aircrewman which was used in the RCAF 75th anniversary at the CWM. The friends are still accepting donations of items to add to the auction. No firearms will be auctioned. Anyone wishing to attend should contact the Friends office at (819) 776-8618; write to Friends at 330 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0M8, or contact them by e-mail at triari@hotmail.com.

The auction will be open to the public during the normal museum opening times on 9 and 10 February.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

“OMMC Inc. members wishing to apply for financial assistance to attend the OMMC Inc. annual military museum course or the US Army Training courses should write to the Mr. John G. McAvity, Executive Director, Canadian Museums Association, 280 Metcalfe Street, Suite 400, Ottawa, ON, K2P 1R7 for full details and applicable application forms. (Telephone (613) 567-0099 and Fax (613) 727-5002).”

The mannequin project has been completed successfully with 49 mannequins of different types from Eaton's at Bayshore, Nepean, Ontario being

distributed to 14 museum members of the OMMC Inc. A maximum of three mannequins per museum was authorized on a first come first served basis. A total value of \$45,000.00 in mannequins was purchased for \$10,000.00. The mannequins were resold on a non-profit cost basis.

There are several inserts with this issue of the Bulletin including data on the Military Collectors Club of Canada's annual Convention and Bourse to be held at the Château Laurier, Ottawa, Ontario, 17 - 20 August 2000. Please try to attend if at all possible.

New members

To our new members since the last issue of the Bulletin, welcome to the OMMC Inc.:

- The Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society of Vancouver
- York Sunbury Museum-Bruce Lynch, Director
- Artificial Reef Society of BC, Major Davis Shirlaw, President
- Terry Burik, St. Andrews, Manitoba
- Judith E. McCabe, Sring Lake, New Jersey

Effective 1 January 2000

- John S. Debly
- Lt. Kelly Deschènes of Le Musée Régimentaire de Hull

I wish to pay my personal tribute to the late LCol N.A. “Bucky” Buckinham who died of an aneurism, 30 October 1999. He guided the development of DND's Directorate of Ceremonial for several years during which time he assisted in the progress of the OMMC and OMMC Inc. He was our first Honourary member of the OMMC being appointed 9 October 1987 and he participated in most of our

annual military museum courses. He was an avid equestrian and rode with the hounds whenever an opportunity presented itself. He was the first treasurer of the friends of the Canadian War Museum for many years. I salute his memory.

Membership Services Officer Notes

An OMMC Inc. membership renewal/invoice was issued for year 2000 for payment by all members. Dues are still only \$35.00 Canadian yearly. Those who have not paid their 1999 dues will be dropped from the mailing list after this issue of The Bulletin.

Our Annual Course Registration Form will follow shortly.

YOU DESERVE A LITTLE LIFT!

Appreciate the present hour. Sit and hear your own breathing and look out on the universe and be content...

One does not have to do something to pass the time, the time can pass by itself.

Lin Yutang

So often we race from one day to the next, barely breathing in our rush to get everything done as we can do more. But in our haste, we can lose our connection to nature, our families and ourselves. Sitting with a cup of coffee, staring out the window for a few minutes a day reconnects us. And as we observe the glitter of snow in the morning sun or share a conversation with our children, we realize that doing nothing is the most important thing we can do.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 1999

CITYLIFE

MILITARY MUSEUMS MEET AT CFB GAGETOWN

Mission to preserve heritage

BY MICHAEL STAPLES
The Daily Gleaner

Safeguarding and promoting the military's rich and diverse heritage is the overriding theme this week as CFB Gagetown hosts the annual meeting of the Organization of Military Museums of Canada.

The association represents 350 members, institutions and museums from across the country.

"Our main concern is to preserve our military heritage," said Lt.-Col. Don MacKay, vice-president of the Organization of Military Museums of Canada, while taking a break from a tour of Old Government House in Fredericton.

"We want people to understand that there are people across the country in these museums who are not only concerned about our military heritage but want to promote it." Capt. (Retired) Marcel Richard, curator of the military museum at CFB Gagetown, was pleased with having the national eye focused on his operation.

It has provided the perfect opportunity to show others what has been accomplished with regard to the preservation of military heritage in this area of the province. Richard said. The idea is to share that expertise with delegates, he added.

"I got nothing but roses yesterday from the visit (to the museum)," the curator said in an interview. "They (delegates) liked it and they like the way I've done things and that sort of confirms we are on the right track."

The annual conference also allows participants to see and hear about what artifacts other military museums have. That results in a con-



— THE DAILY GLEANER/STEPHEN MACGILLIVRAY PHOTO

MILITARY HISTORY: Delegates from the Organization of Military Museums of Canada were hosted at Old Government House by Lt. Gov. Marilyn Trenholme Counsell on Tuesday. Above, Trenholme Counsell shows a 1835 painting of the original ballroom in Old Government House to Lt.-Col. Dan MacKay, organization president. The painting was by Capt. Campbell of the 38th Regiment.

stant interchange of material. There are 64 museums within the Canadian Forces system.

"There is a wealth of stuff out there that is available to all of us," Richard said.

The conference, meanwhile, crisscrosses the country each year. Guest lecturers and speakers share their knowledge on various aspects of museum life. Experts on conservation, preservation and military history make presentations.

Also included on the various agendas are visits to historic sites, such as Tuesday's trip to Old Government House.

A tour of the New Brunswick Museum in Saint John is also planned before this year's conference ends on Saturday.

Like other museums, those within the military community are also struggling to find enough funding to survive, said MacKay.

"It is very important for us to maintain these collections and, at the same time, get new interest out there in the community," he said. "One of our jobs now, as we get into the new millennium, is to (interest) the youth of today with a knowledge and appreciation of the military past."