



Treasurer's Message

Our Lorne Scots museum is moving to a new location, so it's a great opportunity to take the material we've accumulated over decades, and present it in a more interesting and relevant way. We'll seek good advice, but we will also do much of the work ourselves. What should we include? We inherited some gems because the family didn't know what to do with them when grandfather died, and we got a bit of dross as well. A curator's job is to curate: to choose and organize and display the items that tell your story. That afternoon in London when we worked at writing a label for a coffee cup will finally pay off. And we will remember the advice we received at the Royal Alberta Museum, that when the number of words in your caption gets into the teens, you have reached the limit of most viewers' attention span.

The pitch: OMMC's annual courses have provided valuable lessons, but we can also support you if you want to take a course to develop a particular skill. I have seen the course reports, where you have learned more about making exhibits, designing panels, caring for artefacts, accessibility, event planning, and much more. There's a wealth of resources out there, and many of them are online. Is it time to start to explore, to see if there is a course for you, or perhaps one of your volunteers?

Richard

Commentaires du trésorier

Notre musée des Lorne Scots déménage dans un nouvel emplacement, c'est donc une excellente occasion de prendre le matériel que nous avons accumulé au fil des décennies, et de le présenter d'une manière plus intéressante et pertinente. Nous chercherons des bons conseils, mais nous ferons également une grande partie du travail nous-mêmes. Que devons-nous inclure ? Nous avons hérité de certains bijoux parce que la famille ne savait pas de quoi en faire quand grand-père est mort, et nous avons aussi reçu un peu de rebuts aussi. Le travail d'un conservateur est de conserver : choisir, organiser et afficher les éléments qui racontent une histoire. L'après-midi à London où nous avons travaillé à écrire une étiquette pour une tasse de café va enfin porter ses fruits. Et nous nous souvenons du conseil que nous avons reçu au Royal Alberta Museum, que lorsque le nombre des mots de votre légende dépassent une douzaine, vous avez atteint la limite de la durée d'attention de la plupart des lecteurs.

Le pitch : les cours annuels de l'OMMC ont fourni des enseignements précieux, mais nous pouvons également vous soutenir si vous voulez suivre un cours pour développer une compétence particulière. J'ai vu les rapports de cours où vous avez appris davantage sur la réalisation d'expositions, la conception de panneaux, l'entretien des artefacts, l'accessibilité, la planification d'événements, et beaucoup plus. Il existe une multitude de ressources, et beaucoup d'entre elles sont en ligne. Est-il temps de commencer à explorer, pour voir s'il y a un cours pour vous, ou peut-être un de vos bénévoles ?

Richard

OMMC Education Grant

APN2021: Accelerating Access

Sarah Coates M.A. , The Royal Canadian Regiment Museum

This spring, thanks to the OMMC Education Grant, I was able to attend the APN2021: Accelerating Access conference. This conference was focused on ways access can be increased for people with all abilities. Many of the speakers indicated how the pandemic highlighted both opportunities and gaps in the options available and encouraged changes to increase access. A theme of the conference was that creating accessible design should be an integral part of any process, not retroactively added on. I wanted to share with you a few ideas that I took away from the experience.

From the Beginning

Accessibility planning should be incorporated as part of the design process; not treated as a feature to be added on at the end. Accessibility should be one of the lenses that a project is viewed through in the planning process. This way, simple and low-cost aspects, such as colours used, can be integrated from the beginning. This avoids needing to solve a problem that the design created. If things are designed well with accessibility in mind, it will just become part of the environment and can benefit everyone.

Inclusion

An idea highlighted was that sites should engage with people with disabilities when planning changes. When making changes you need to include the voice of those that are being impacted by it. The phrase “Nothing About Us, Without Us” was heard throughout the conference reminding that people with disabilities should be involved in the process.

Go Beyond Code

Panelists presented the concept that adherence to building code was only a minimum point for accessibility and encouraged delegates to treat it as the floor rather than the ceiling. In the Technical Session “Harmonization of National Standards” the panellists discussed that by the nature of how building code is created it is often behind the needs of the community since it can take 5-7 years to make changes. When starting a new project, examine the design to see how it could be made better and to avoid introducing new barriers.

Value

The conference looked at the value of creating accessible environments, including the increased audiences that you can reach. Panelists presented the idea that if your environment is not accessible you are cutting yourself off from skilled workers and future profits. Breda, located in the Netherlands, has benefited from making the city more accessible, thus allowing visitors to have more options to enjoy the city. This increases the market that their city can attract for tourism. The more accessible your space and content is, the larger the audience that you can reach.

Takeaways

The conference prompted me to think critically about museum spaces and programs. I really appreciated that accessible design can make a space better for everyone. Design that works well for wheelchairs will make it easier for strollers or museum staff using carts to move large artifacts. Acoustic baffling can benefit a person who is hard of hearing by reducing ambient sound, and it also reduces the distance sound carries from a visiting school group. The idea that more accessible design is generally better design for all, is a positive approach to creating a more inclusive space.

Military Museums Lend a Hand to the Mennonite Heritage Village

By Gord Crossley, The Fort Garry Horse Museum and Archives

The Fort Garry Horse Museum and Archives has been involved with the development of the exhibit “Mennonites at War” to be shown at Mennonite Heritage Village (MHV) in Steinbach, Manitoba, from June to November 2021. The idea began with a chance meeting with Andrea Klassen, Senior Curator of MHV four years ago, when we discussed our museum work.

Mennonites traditionally oppose war and violence and believe in the principle of nonresistance. The exhibit looks at the question of how war and military participation have shaped and sometimes divided Mennonite communities. The exhibit is divided into the stories of “Martyrs,” “Migrants,” “Objectors,” and “Soldiers”.

The first wave of Mennonites from Russia immigrated to Manitoba in 1874 in large part to avoid compulsory military service. Canada promised them exemption from military service and upheld the exemption during the First World War. Even with the exemption, about 100 chose to serve in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Mennonites who had remained in Russia served in the forestry and medical corps of the Imperial Russian Army. The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 led to the formation of the Selbstschutz, members of Mennonite communities armed by the retreating German army, who acted to protect their communities, some even taking offensive action against anarchists. The disruption of their way of life due to the Russian Civil War and First World War led to a second wave of immigration to Canada.

During the Second World War between 6,945 and 7,500 Mennonites registered as Conscientious Objectors (COs), and between 4,500 and 4,775 served in the Canadian forces, some as conscripts, but many as volunteers. The exhibit has artifacts of Mennonite men and women who served during that war, in the forces of Canada, the United States, Germany and the Soviet Union.

Many men who volunteered chose to serve in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, as they felt that helping relieve the suffering and caring for the wounded was an acceptable form of service. The



centre piece of the exhibit shows two medics of the RCAMC caring for a casualty on a stretcher, all items loaned by a private collector.

In researching Canadian Court Martial records from the Second World War, there were several examples of Mennonite men who reported for military service under the National Resources Mobilization Act, but chose to make a stand for their beliefs when they were issued their uniform and equipment, which they refused to wear.

The FGH Museum provided several artifacts and photographs for the display, and also helped with identification and interpretation of artifacts loaned to the MHV by the Steinbach Legion and community members. One exhibit highlights Sergeant Henry Wiebe, a tank crew commander with the FGH, who fought from D-Day to the end of the war, and received a commendation from Field Marshal Montgomery. The Legion House Museum, the 17 Wing Heritage collection, and items loaned by private militaria collectors filled out the exhibits.

The exhibit is expected to spark conversation in the Mennonite community, dealing with a complex subject with several and opposing points of view. The link to the exhibit appears below, or just search for “Mennonite Heritage Village.” <https://mennoniteheritagevillage.com/mennonites-at-war/>.

Tributes to the 87th Battalion (Canadian Grenadier Guards), CEF

By Brian Tracey, Musée Canadian Grenadier Guards Museum

Recently, the Musée Canadian Grenadier Guards Museum (located at 4171 L'Esplanade, Montreal) launched a program to verify, document locations and condition, and monitor the many hidden or private First World War memorials, tributes, and plaques that have been erected by families, churches, academic and non- military institutions across Canada that globally honour the Canadian Grenadier Guards and our members. Commemorating the 4,213 members who served with the 87th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) between 1915-1920, more than 25 previously unrecorded or newly-erected memorials have been located which pay tribute to some or all our First World War veterans.

Of these, there includes a street in Belgium and Europe, granite plaques in Drury and St-Quentin, a cenotaph in Trinidad, a section of municipal highway from Arras to Cambrai, a lane in Kidderminster, England, epitaphs and stained-glass window tributes in churches in Montreal and Quebec City, a Provincial Park in Ontario, three captured artillery pieces on the Plains of Abraham, several impressive Rolls of Honour within Canadian corporate and financial headquarters, memorial books commissioned and printed by several institutions, and many brass and ornate displays donated by family members, including one located at Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 6 in Owen Sound, Ontario.

Two examples of unique and interesting 87th Battalion-related tributes include an altar frontal and an oak tree.

"The poignant St Paul's Altar Frontal piece depicting the Holy Grail was painstakingly crafted by 138 casualties who had returned from the trenches. Blinded, crippled and shell-shocked, they were lying in hospitals around Britain and were encouraged into embroidery by medics who hoped it would distract them and help them recover." ("From the Hands of Heroes", 2016) The Frontal was used for the first time on Sunday, 6 July 1919, at the



Reverend David Ison, Dean of St Paul's. He is seen officiating at the November 2019 Memorial Service to mark the anniversary of the end of the First World War. © The Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral.

national service of thanksgiving for peace at the end of the war in the presence of the King and Queen and many of the injured soldiers from the UK, Canada, South Africa and Australia who had made it. Pte Edward Hodder was one of the craftsmen involved in the creation of the frontal and represented the 87th Battalion (CGG). Pte Hodder originally enlisted in 1915 with the 60th Battalion CEF prior to transferring to the 87th in April 1917. He was wounded multiple times including both legs and shell wounds - earning three Gold Stripes.

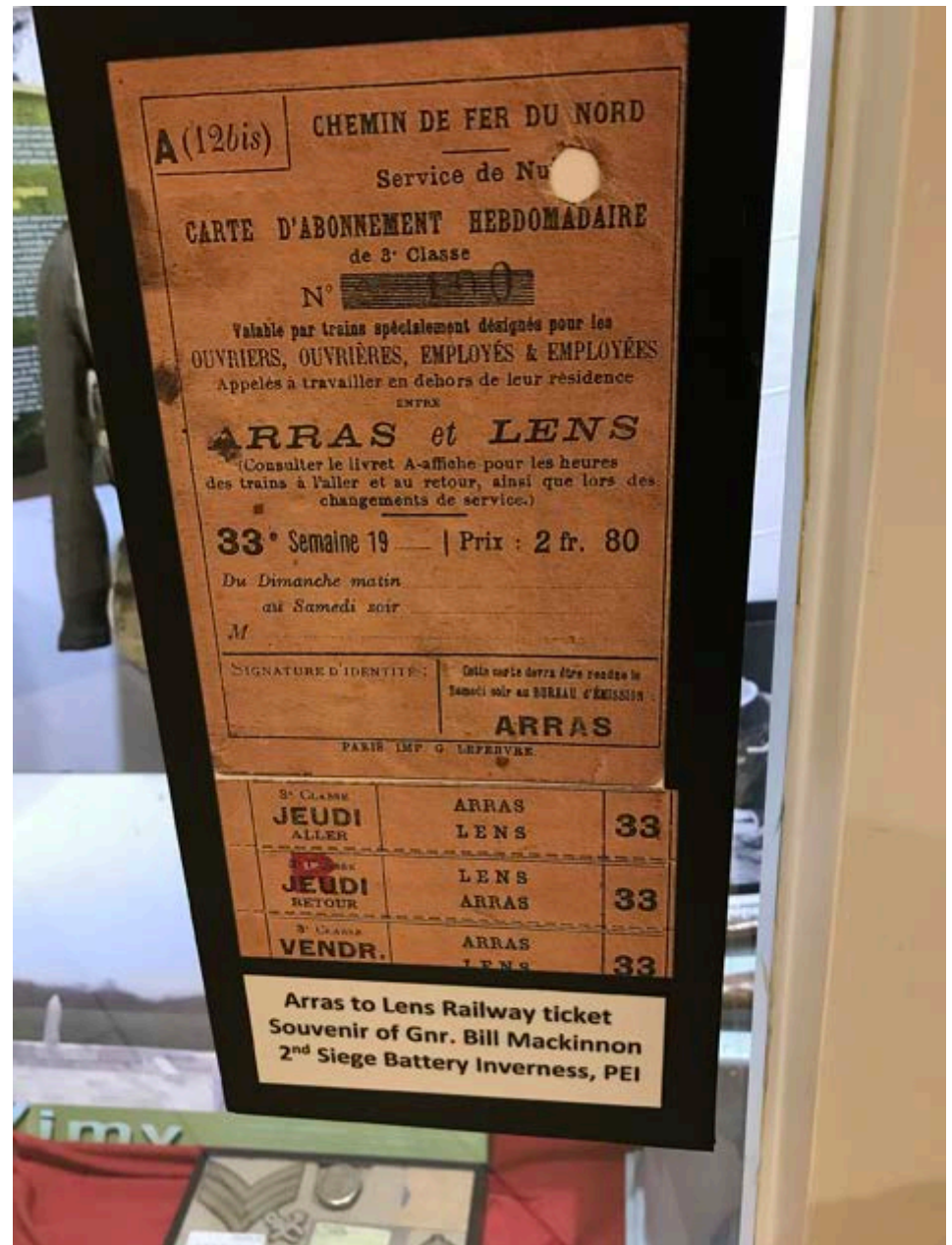
"The Loyola Road of Remembrance", in 1922, 36 maple trees were planted along both sides of Sherbrooke Street near Loyola Campus of Concordia University in Montreal as memorials to the Loyola boys who died in the First World War. A 37th tree was planted by the Loyola High School in 1996 when a careful search of the records (by Dr. A. Gilbert Drolet) revealed another First World War Loyola casualty. One of the trees is dedicated to a fallen Canadian Grenadier Guard, 177507 L/Cpl Daniel Stanton Hudson, M.M. KIA 14 November 1917 who had enlisted with CGG on 8 November 1915.

PEI Regiment Museum Opens a Pop-Up Vimy Ridge Exhibit

By Greg Gallant, PEI Regiment Museum

The Prince Edward Island Regiment Museum is commemorating one of the bloodiest battles, yet one of Canada's greatest military triumphs in Canadian history with a pop-up display on Vimy Ridge, which took place 9 April 1917.

The display, a partnership between the museum, City of Charlottetown and Veterans Affairs Canada. The display located in a window inside the Confederation Court Mall in downtown Charlottetown contains artifacts, Uniforms, historic photographs. It was display until 24 May.



Battle Drill School Exhibit at Vernon Cadet Museum

By Maria Brunskill, Vernon Cadet Museum



“The Vernon Cadet Camp Museum is moving, but only temporarily,” said Manager Maria Brunskill. “The Vernon Military Camp is closed because of COVID-19, so we have decided to open an exhibit in downtown Vernon.”

The exhibit, which opens on 21 May in the Sun Valley Mall on 30th Avenue, will focus on the Battle Drill School that was located at the Coldstream Ranch.

The exhibit will feature over 100 photos of military history in the Vernon area between 1940-1945. A never-before-viewed film of the training that took place at the Battle School in Vernon and on the Coldstream Ranch, as well as a number of artifacts and documents from the First and Second World Wars and the Cadet Camp will be on display.

Located some 6 km to the east of the main camp, the Battle School trained Canadian soldiers in advanced fighting skills from 1942-45.

The Coldstream Ranch Battle Drill School was built at the Coldstream Ranch, six kilometres east of Vernon, in 1942. It was the first FIBUA (Fighting in Built up Areas) training centre in the world. In 1944, it moved to the Vernon Military Camp. It was used for advanced infantry training where real-world situations brought home from the European front were applied in life-saving training exercises. Over 7,000 men trained in Vernon during the Second World War. To this day, unexploded artillery and mortar shells used in training are still turned up by the frost and development of the surrounding hills.

Internment camps were also located in Vernon during the World Wars; in the First World War for Ukrainian Canadians (this camp is now the site of W.L. Seaton Secondary School) and in the Second World War for people of Japanese descent (mostly from Vancouver).

After the Second World War, the main camp on Highway 97 was mothballed. In 1949, it was reopened and became an Army Cadet Training Centre for the Royal Canadian Army Cadets.

This exhibit will be open to the public Tuesday - Sunday from 10-6. Admission is by donation.



Valour Canada Update

By Aaron Curtis, Valour Canada

As spring had slowly but surely begun to make her presence known, Valour Canada had been focused on creating virtual tours of museums. We have also hosted our first virtual quiz night, our first virtual speakers' series, and our first virtual beer tasting fundraiser (but with real beer)!



Our latest virtual tour: King's Own Calgary Regimental History tour

Valour Canada is excited to announce that we have launched the King's Own Calgary Regimental History tour on the regiment's birthday (April 1). We are proud to say that working alongside the King's Own has facilitated the creation of our best tour yet. We also excitedly anticipate the upcoming launches of tours that are currently in the development stage. Stay tuned for the Banff Internment Camp, Untold Stories of WWII, and the Regimental History of P.P.C.L.I.

To experience our virtual tours, please visit our VT page <https://valourcanada.ca/virtual-reality/>.

Virtual Quizzes, Vimy Speaker Event, and Tailgunner's Beer

Valour Canada held its inaugural virtual quiz event back on 4 March at 1900 MST, a time that is a little late for all the easterners reading this. Twelve teams entered (36 participants) and only one was able to leave the virtual squared circle as champion. A big congratulations to "Brunch Buddies" and a warm applause for the runner-up: "Not the Colonel".

In commemoration of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, and in partnership with the Royal Alberta United Services Institute (RAUSI), on the evening of April 8th we welcomed Dr. Spencer Jones, Dr. Patrick Brennan, and Dr. Geoffrey Bird to talk about the battle's place in Canadian history. The Vimy Speakers' event was attended by 112 people; most were Canadians, but a couple of Americans, and a few Europeans were also present. Feedback received was very positive and we anticipate hosting a similar event in the autumn – please keep your eyes peeled for updates.

Our Beer in the Bunker event (20 May at 1900 MST) was our first ever beer tasting and collaboration with Tailgunner Brewing Co. For \$50, Calgary residents will receive, delivered to their door, a beer bundle that includes four different 473 ml cans of craft beer, a tasting glass, and pretzels. In between quiz rounds, the Brewmaster took us on a descriptive journey that highlighted the different characteristics of each beer. It definitely was a good time!

If you would like to be added to our notifications list to receive messages about upcoming events, please email us at contact@valourcanada.ca.



Education Bursaries!

OMMC has education bursaries of up to \$500! For application forms, see the website. So far, applications for 2021 have been slow – we'd love to see more! If you're concerned about in-person learning because of COVID-19, there are plenty of online opportunities. The Northern States Conservation Center and the University of Victoria both have great online museological courses, and many conferences are still happening virtually. In fact, you can even work towards a diploma or a certificate from the University of Victoria. Think outside the box, too – there are appraiser certification courses, management courses, financial management courses and more, all of which have strong application for what many of us do in our museums. You've already completed one of our bursaries? Consider writing an article for the Bulletin! Share what you've learned and inspire others to adding to our collective "knowledge pool". Support the team!

Des bourses éducatifs!

L'OMMC a des bourses d'études allant jusqu'à 500 \$? Pour les formulaires de demande, consultez le site Web. Jusqu'à présent, les candidatures pour 2021 ont été lentes - nous aimerions en voir plus! Si vous êtes préoccupé par l'apprentissage en personne à cause de COVID-19, il existe de nombreuses opportunités en ligne. Le Northern States Conservation Center et l'Université de Victoria proposent tous deux d'excellents cours de muséologie en ligne et de nombreuses conférences se déroulent encore virtuellement. En fait, vous pouvez même travailler vers un diplôme ou un certificat de l'Université de Victoria. Sortez également des sentiers battus - il existe des cours de certification des évaluateurs, des cours de gestion, des cours de gestion financière et plus encore, qui ont tous une forte application pour ce que beaucoup d'entre nous font dans nos musées. Vous avez déjà terminé l'une de nos bourses? Pensez à rédiger un article pour le Bulletin! Partagez ce que vous avez appris et incitez les autres à ajouter à notre «bassin de connaissances» collectif. Soutenez l'équipe!

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