



## Secretary's Message

As Secretary of the OMMC, one of the responsibilities I have is to act as a “clearing house” of information passed through the membership to OMMC member institutions, CAF Museums, individual members, and the Directorate of History and Heritage (DHH). This affords me first-hand knowledge of what is happening within our membership, what issues are being addressed, and the challenges faced.

Of course, one of the most serious challenge museums and members have faced is the pandemic. Museums have been closed and staff has been working either away from their museums, or only on a very restricted basis within the museums. This has, in some cases, made communication with the CAF Museum membership a bit spotty. One becomes used to the out-of-office responses to OMMC emails. The OMMC Board and Executive meetings have been held by teleconference, or in more recent times by Zoom.

Perhaps the most profound impact of the pandemic is the fact that we have not been able to get together physically for the past two years. This has necessitated that our Annual Meeting .../

## Commentaires du secrétaire

En tant que secrétaire de l'OMMC, l'une de mes responsabilités est d'agir comme un “centre d'échange” des informations transmises par les membres aux institutions membres de l'OMMC, aux musées des FC, aux membres individuels et à la Direction de l'histoire et du patrimoine (DHP). Cela me permet d'avoir une connaissance directe de ce qui se passe au sein de nos membres, des questions qui sont abordées et des défis à relever.

Bien sûr, l'un des défis les plus sérieux auxquels les musées et les membres ont été confrontés est la pandémie. Les musées ont été fermés et le personnel a travaillé soit en dehors de leur musée, soit de façon très restreinte dans les musées. Dans certains cas, cela a rendu la communication avec les membres des musées des FC quelque peu aléatoire. On s'habitue aux réponses hors bureau aux courriels de l'OMMC. Les réunions du conseil d'administration et du comité exécutif de l'OMMC se sont tenues par téléconférence ou, plus récemment, par Zoom.

L'impact le plus profond de la pandémie est peut-être le fait que nous n'avons pas été en mesure de nous réunir physiquement au cours des deux dernières années. C'est pourquoi notre .../

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of Members, and indeed elections to the Board of Directors, has been held virtually. I am sure that all can agree that this is not as effective as a face-to-face meeting - but we continue to get things done.

As much as I hate the word “pivot”, that is exactly what OMMC has had to do to meet the challenges we have faced. In some cases, it has meant we have been dragged “kicking and screaming” into the 21st century as we negotiate other ways of doing things. Nonetheless, OMMC is still working and planning at the Board and Committee level.

One good example of this is the virtual OMMC course which will allow those who participate in the program to both view the course material online at a time convenient for them, and then to take part in live discussions via Zoom. Other examples include the work of the OMMC Communications, Honours and Recognition, Education, and Governance Committees have undertaken over the past year.

Even so, nothing compares to getting together, as this is often the only time through the year that we get a chance to talk, work, network, and socialize. Let’s hope that our in-person courses are back on track for next year, so we can again see each other and compare notes.

Brad

Suite de la page précédente...

assemblée annuelle des membres et les élections au conseil d’administration se sont déroulées virtuellement. Je suis sûr que tout le monde est d’accord pour dire que ce n’est pas aussi efficace qu’une réunion en face à face, mais nous continuons à faire avancer les choses.

Même si je déteste le mot « pivot », c’est exactement ce que l’OMMC a dû faire pour relever les défis auxquels nous avons été confrontés. Dans certains cas, cela a signifié que nous avons été entraînés « contre notre gré » dans le 21e siècle, en négociant d’autres façons de faire les choses. Néanmoins, l’OMMC continue de travailler et de planifier au niveau du conseil d’administration et des comités.

Un bon exemple est le prochain cours virtuel de l’OMMC qui permettra à ceux qui participent au programme de visualiser le matériel de cours en ligne au moment qui leur convient, puis de prendre part à des discussions en direct via Zoom. D’autres exemples incluent le travail que les comités des communications, des distinctions honorifiques et de la reconnaissance, de l’éducation et de la gouvernance de l’OMMC ont entrepris au cours de la dernière année.

Malgré tout, rien n’est comparable au fait de se réunir, car c’est souvent le seul moment de l’année où nous avons l’occasion de parler, de travailler, de faire du réseautage et de socialiser. Espérons que nos cours en personne seront de nouveau sur les rails l’année prochaine, afin que nous puissions à nouveau nous voir et comparer nos notes.

Brad

## A New Program for Our Membership: Honours and Awards

OMMC encourages excellence and celebrates individual achievements as well as outstanding projects conducted by member-organizations. In recognition of these unique accomplishments, the OMMC Board established the Honours and Awards Program at the end of 2019. An Honours and Awards Committee (HAC) was assembled shortly after, with the specific task of developing an implementation framework. The committee is formed of five members, two of which are ex officio. An active OMMC Board member chairs this committee and two other OMMC members join voluntarily to ensure that the program is successful. Currently, the committee is chaired by Dr. Georgiana Stanciu, with Brad Frogatt, OMMC Secretary as an ex officio. Capt. George Romick and Capt. Greg Gallant are the other two active members. The second ex-officio position is assigned to the individual who represents OMMC for CFMWS Volunteer Award; now vacant, this position was occupied by Eric Ruel.

HAC has prepared to launch the program this fall, with a special section on the OMMC website including the program policies, nomination forms and many other details. Nominations are accepted every year, before 1 February. As we are only starting the program, nominations can be received in categories: OMMC Award of Excellence and OMMC Award for Projects.



The OMMC Award for Excellence celebrates unique accomplishments and services to the OMMC by individuals who have made a remarkable contribution to the organization. A plaque will record all recipients with their name and the year the award was presented. The plaque is in safe keeping with HAC, but the awardee will receive a certificate and an OMMC coin, custom designed, with their name engraved on the rim.



The OMMC Award for Projects highlights remarkable projects that were conducted individually or as a team in any of the member museums and/or historical collections.

We plan to launch the HAC Program starting in 2022 and accept nominations every year no later than 1 February. Nominations will be assessed against criteria such as originality, relevance, effectiveness, museum practice standards, respect of OMMC values, community engagement.

We encourage everyone to go over the details that will be available on the website as soon as possible and hope to receive as many nominations as possible.



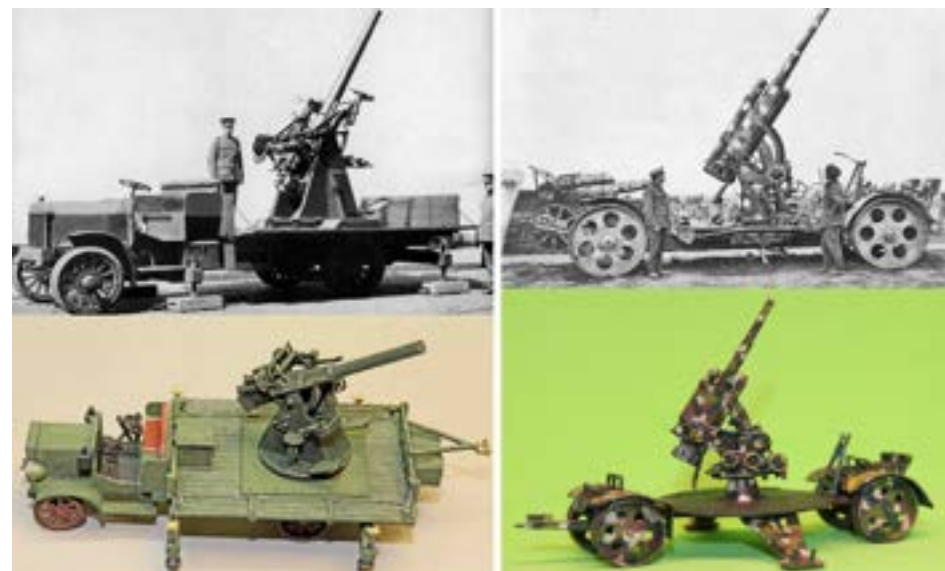
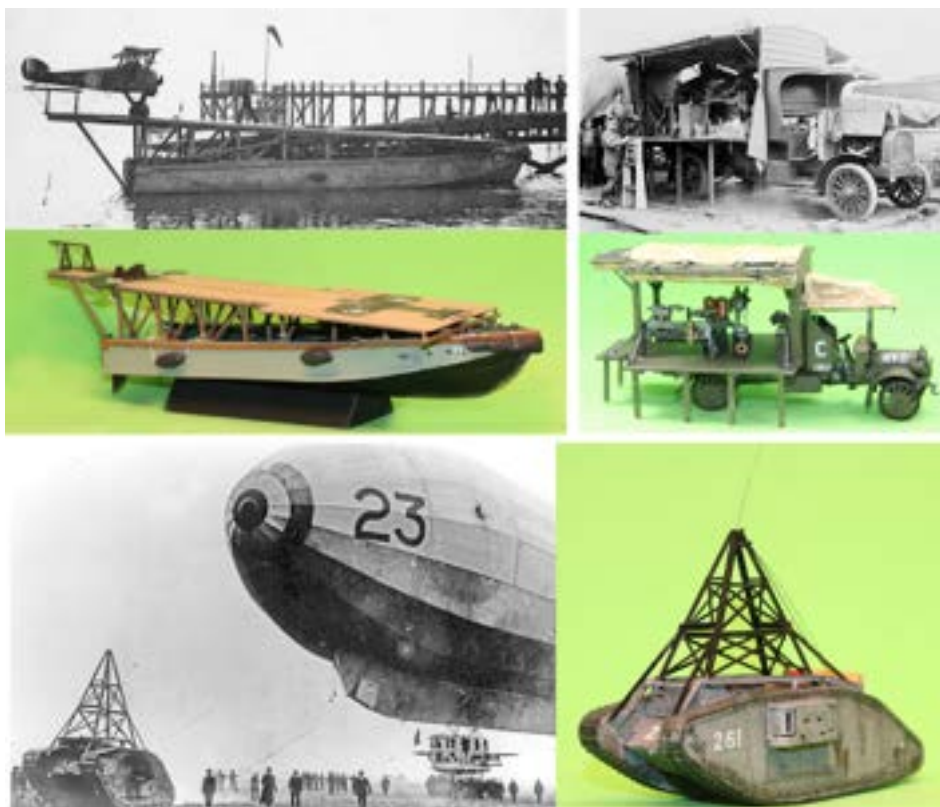
## Big Exhibits on a Smaller Scale

By Richard Feltoe, Great War Flying Museum

What do you do if you want to create a series of exhibits for which there are no original examples remaining, and even if there were, no space to house or exhibit them?

I faced this exact problem when after retiring as curator at the Redpath Sugar Museum I began working with the Great War Flying Museum located north of Brampton. Fortunately, I had a solution to this problem in the form of creating scale models of the pieces needed for display. Since my childhood I have been a builder of scale models. In fact, this hobby was the route by which I entered the museum field back in the 1970's (by building and repairing model displays for a number of regional museums in the UK).

Focusing on the events of 1914-1918 and subjects related to aviation, the Great War Flying Museum's collection already had a



number of model airplanes on display. Unfortunately, these were of varying scales and qualities of finished product, leading to an overall ineffectual and confusing set of comparative displays. In addition, there were significant gaps in the displays covering other aviation-related aspects of that conflict, including: airships/Zepplins, mobile maintenance workshops, anti-aircraft weaponry, sound-location and searchlight systems, the development of naval aviation and aircraft carriers, to mention only a few.

In response, with the support of the museum's curator, Natalie McHaffie, I embarked on a programme to standardize the use of a single 1/72nd scale for the main model exhibit gallery and to fill in storyline gaps with models that I researched and created.

These models were either built/converted from existing commercial kits, scratch-built from printed plans, or created solely by referencing original wartime photos. The results shown here are just a small part of what I have made and installed in the museum's revamped exhibitions and am pleased to say have already proved successful as both three-dimensional displays and tools in the museum's interpretive/educational programming.

If any museums within the network are interested in exploring this avenue of exhibit development, I would be happy to discuss and advise them on what options are available to suit their collection.

## A Mysterious Artillery Journal

By Andrew Oakden, Royal Canadian Artillery Museum

Sometimes artifacts have remarkable stories to tell. One of our museum volunteers found a 127-page journal belonging to an unidentified Canadian Artillery officer, documenting his wartime experiences from August 1914 to November 1915. The journal is old, with yellowing paper, likely transcribed with a typewriter in the 1950s or 1960s. Based on the notes included, past museum personnel had difficulty identifying the author and authenticating the document. The name of the author is noticeably missing from the manuscript.

The journal includes facts that help to narrow the identity of the author. I read each page and noted facts about the young officer. He came from the 4th Battery, Canadian Field Artillery, Non-Permanent Active Militia out of Hamilton, Ontario. He volunteered for the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Toronto. He left with the first Contingent and served with the 3rd Field Artillery Brigade in France. He mentioned dating a young woman named Verse.

The 26-year-old junior officer was enthusiastic, intelligent, and a good writer and storyteller. He spoke of daily routines, the excitement of battle, the eagerness to fight the Germans, and the painful certainties of trench warfare. He lost his share of friends at the front and adapted to the landscape. One of his tasks was reviewing outgoing letters and censoring content, yet in his journal, he painted a vivid and dark picture of the frontlines during the First World War. In one passage, he wrote, "War is so very truly hell and this yard by yard fighting ... just resolves itself into a case of counting corpses. ... There is no romance in such as that," (page 103). He transformed from a young, naive, jingoistic reservist who trained during the summers at Petawawa, Ontario, to a coolheaded and self-composed battlefield-hardened officer.

On page 75, he said he received a gift from his cousin, Alice Crerar, which helps to identify the mystery soldier. With a bit of research, the girlfriend, Verse, in the journal was Verschoyle Cronyn from Toronto, who married then Captain D. G. Harry Crerar on 14 January 1916. In "A Thoroughly Canadian General" by Paul

Douglas Dickson, the author wrote that Crerar kept a journal from August 1914 to November 1915. Dickson notes that Library and Archives Canada (LAC), Crerar Papers, Volume 15, contains the WW1 journal. All of the information matches, except we have an edited and shortened version with omitted names.

Based on the details above, I can confirm the author as General H. D. G. Crerar. General Crerar was a junior officer in the Canadian Artillery during the First World War. He fought in the trenches at the Second Battle of Ypres, Vimy Ridge, Amiens, and the Last Hundred Days. During the Second World War, he commanded the First Canadian Army, leading the Canadians during the Normandy Campaign, the Rhineland Offensive, in Holland and Germany, and concluding with victory in Europe. He helped shape and define the Canadian Army during the Second World War.

Crerar did not write an autobiography, nor did he want his papers published. After he died, many of his letters and correspondence did not survive. Did General Crerar have this journal prepared possibly to publish? It is impossible to say at this time. However, someone went through the trouble of transcribing, editing, and



shortening his original journal. We also have no record of this journal in our database and no documentation that it belonged to General Crerar. Unquestionably, the journal is a fascinating first-hand account of trench warfare from one of the greatest Canadian Generals. It helps redefine our understanding of the past, and we are thrilled that it survived.



## Valour Canada Update

By Aaron Curits, Valour Canada

As summer comes to a close, Valour Canada has been focused on creating virtual tours.

### Our Latest Virtual Tours

Valour Canada is excited to announce that we have launched an updated and improved Juno Beach tour that aims to engage and educate youth about our country's role in the D-Day assault. Also, on the regiment's birthday back in April the King's Own Calgary Regimental History tour was presented to the public. We are currently finishing up a virtual tour of the Banff Internment Camp as well as having others that are currently in the development stage. Stay tuned for tours of the Naval Gallery of Alberta and the Regimental History of P.P.C.L.I. To browse our virtual tours, please visit [valourcanada.ca/virtual-reality/](http://valourcanada.ca/virtual-reality/).



### Valour Canada History & Heritage Scholarship

The aim of Valour Canada's History and Heritage Scholarship (VCHHS) is to support Canadian high-school students in their college or university pursuits by providing an engaging, thought-provoking, and memorable scholarship contest. This year's VCHHS competition finished in mid-June. We are proud to announce our 2021 winner, Katie Roy, Vancouver, British

Columbia, who covered the Japanese Canadian War Memorial. Our runner-up, Jonathan Babcock, Seeley's Bay, Ontario, looked at the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument. To view the best videos submitted by the students, please visit our YouTube VCHHS playlist [here](#).



### Valour Canada's In-Museum Youth Education Program

Valour Canada's The Character of our Canadian Military History (CCMH) program is ready for autumn presentations in Calgary at The Military Museums (TMM) in November, but given COVID-induced restrictions it is unlikely that we will be able to make presentations to cadets, guides, or scouts in other provinces this fall. If you would like to learn more about how your museum can add a free, youth-targeted education option to its programming repertoire, please contact Valour Canada's lead educator ([aaron.curits@valourcanada.ca](mailto:aaron.curits@valourcanada.ca)).

To help us continue educating young Canadians about Canada's military history, please consider becoming a member or making a donation. Connect with us at: [contact@valourcanada.ca](mailto:contact@valourcanada.ca).



## Sponsorship and Donations Learning

By Bethany Aitchison, Canadian Forces Museum of Aerospace Defence

As we all know, generating revenue for museums is becoming increasingly focused on business planning as grant programs become less reliable and more competitive. Over the last few years at the Canadian Forces Museum of Aerospace Defence (CFMAD), I have been making a point to work with more businesses, but the world of corporate sponsorship and fundraising can be complex and complicated.

With the support of OMMC's Education Grant, I was able to take advantage of online learning through George Brown College in Toronto, with the "Event Sponsorship and Fundraising" course. This course, part of their Event Planning program, was a thorough introduction to this topic, and will be valuable for our museum.



The course covered donations at both an individual and corporate level, and corporate sponsorships. While I enjoyed learning about donor trends and designing an effective appeal letter (and now closely examine all such letters that arrive at my house), the sessions that covered sponsorship were the most interesting to me.

I have worked with corporate sponsors for a few years at CFMAD, but have been extremely fortunate that a couple local businesses have been regular supporters, so minimal effort had been required to secure those sponsorships. If we want to expand our reach to more businesses, or to seek higher amounts of funding, this training will be essential. It has provided me the toolkit in how to seek out potential sponsors, make an effective and intriguing pitch, create a proposal kit, and how to keep those sponsors happy to create long-term and lasting relationships.

Some of the main themes and big takeaways that I can learned include:

- Research a company's corporate values or other community commitments and determine if they match your mission. Businesses want to align themselves with other organizations that make them look good.
- Creative activations at the event or during the lead-up will get your event (and their name) noticed more, so coming up with exciting or popular sponsored activities within your event will attract a more engaged audience.
- Corporate stewardship is a year-round job. It's important to not just thank the donors or sponsors at the time, but to continue fostering that relationship for the long-term. Maintaining a database of important updates or reaching out when their company is in the news are great ways to stay connected to the people that are supporting our work.

It will be interesting during our next event (whenever that may be as we are still closed due to COVID-19) to see how much use I can make of this training. I am identifying more businesses that might make good partners, and coming up with more creative ideas to entice them into supporting our event. I can't wait to welcome visitors back to CFMAD, and to start planning new and exciting events that will, hopefully, be supported by businesses that believe in our mission as much as we do.

Thank you again to OMMC for supporting this learning opportunity, and I encourage everyone to consider the Education Grant for their own professional development, including non-traditional museum courses like this one.

## NEW Facebook Group!

In an effort to improve communication between museums and museum workers in our organizations, we now have a private discussion group attached to our Facebook page. This group is intended for OMMC Members and institutional staff and volunteers only; Please feel free to invite your colleagues from member institutions or your own organization and let's get the networking and conversations going on military museums in Canada.

To join you will need to have an existing Facebook account and find the group at the link below. Click "Join Group" and you will be asked a series of short questions which are to verify that you are a member of OMMC Inc.

Click [here](#) to visit the Facebook group.

## NOUVEAU Groupe Facebook!

Dans un effort pour améliorer la communication entre les musées et les travailleurs des musées dans nos organisations, nous avons maintenant un groupe de discussion privé attaché à notre page Facebook. Ce groupe est destiné aux membres de l'OMMC et au personnel institutionnel et aux bénévoles uniquement. N'hésitez pas à inviter vos collègues des institutions membres ou votre propre organisation et lançons le réseautage et les conversations sur les musées militaires au Canada.

Pour rejoindre, vous devez avoir un compte Facebook existant et trouver le groupe sur le lien ci-dessous. Cliquez sur « Rejoindre le groupe » et une série de questions courtes vous seront posées pour vérifier que vous êtes membre d'OMMC Inc.

Cliquez [ici](#) pour visiter le groupe Facebook.

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