



HMCS ALBERNI
Museum and Memorial
25th anniversary

INDIAN HEAD MUSEUM
Renovations to Northwest
Rebellion to Present

THE
Bulletin

WINTER 2025 ❦ VOLUME 32 • ISSUE 1

ORGANIZATION OF MILITARY MUSEUMS OF CANADA

**DESCEND INTO HISTORY,
75 FEET UNDERGROUND TO THE**

**DIEFEN-
BUNKER**

CANADA'S COLD WAR MUSEUM

**Introducing the
New Carleton County
Military Museum**

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THE Bulletin

ORGANIZATION OF
MILITARY MUSEUMS
OF CANADA

The Bulletin is the official publication of Organization of Military Museums of Canada (OMMC). Articles may not be reproduced without permission. Issues are published four times annually.

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Mission, Vision, Objectives, Accountability

OMMC is an association of people and organizations with an abiding interest in the military history of Canada, the preservation, display and interpretation of military artifacts and memorabilia, and the effective operation of military museums.

Mission

The mission of the OMMC is to preserve the military heritage of Canada by encouraging the establishment and operation of military museums, to educate museum staff through lectures, discussions, workshops, visits, small education grants, publications and exhibits, and to cooperate with other public and private bodies devoted to the same or similar purposes.

Vision

The OMMC vision is to foster and be part of a national co-operation in a common agenda to preserve and interpret the military history of Canada, set in the wider context of Canadian and international society and human affairs.

Objectives

To accomplish the mission, the OMMC will pursue these objectives:

- conduct the annual training course;
- award the small education grants annually;
- broaden the membership across the spectrum of military museums in Canada;
- develop the collaboration with agencies and associations having similar interests;
- generate greater capability for self-sufficiency; and
- maintain qualification as a registered Canadian charity.

Accountability

OMMC will be clearly accountable to its members, to its supporters in and outside government and to the applicable regulatory agencies of the Government of Canada.



INDIAN HEAD MUSEUM RENOVATIONS

While our museum in Indian Head, Saskatchewan primarily focuses on local history, we do have a 400 square foot building specially dedicated to our military history.

As a veteran and military history enthusiast I have taken on the military building as my personal project. Our military collection is comprised of items dating from the Northwest Rebellion to Present.

This year we have arranged a work agreement with the local Air Cadet Squadron, 691 Hawk, to repaint our museum and give it a bit of a face-lift. The cadets helped remove all of our artifacts and move display cases. They then gave the walls and floor a fresh coat of paint while the cadet parents painted a Union Jack on one wall to help ground our soon to be updated WW1 exhibit. We will soon be moving artifacts back in place, changing out some items before we host local

veterans and cadets to our refreshed space later in the year. Our museum is only open full time during summer, any other times are typically by appointment.

Another project the cadets are working on in conjunction with the Indian Head Museum is vinyl banners commemorating local veterans. These banners will be hung on lamp posts on our main Street, Grand Ave, leading up to Remembrance Day. We are starting with 10 this year and hope to add 10 per year for the next few years. Our Town Council has been extremely supportive of this project. 🍁

Ken Turpin, CD PO1 Ret'd. is a veteran (1981-2005) of the RCN and currently on the Board of Directors at the Indian Head Museum in Saskatchewan.

Renovations in progress.

By Ken Turpin CD PO1 Ret'd.

Introducing the New Carleton County Military Museum

By Aaron Bouma

I am Aaron Bouma, military historian for my area of Carleton County, New Brunswick Canada. For many years I have had this dream to build a military museum.

In 2010 I celebrated a milestone – building over 200 handcrafted wooden military models. That is when the encouragement started to build a military museum.

With the opening of BOUMA Woodworks on July 12th, 2015, displaying my homemade wooden military models, I was encouraged to build a military museum with the artifacts and models I've had in my collection.

In 2015, a major stepping stone in realizing my dream of a museum, was getting the M2 90mm Anti-Aircraft gun from my hometown of Woodstock. That gun was built in 1942, which now sits in front of the museum.

Construction of the museum officially started in 2021, with the base and then the concrete. The frame was done in May 2022, work my brother and I mainly did ourselves. I also had help from numerous friends in the community. Justin Scott Carpentry and numerous others filled their time when they could, helping with the construction. I hired a crew for the roof, my friends at Heritage Construction put the steel roof on. The journey was of course stressful but rewarding. The spring and summer of 2023 I was dealing with the struggle of putting the siding on. Sometimes it would be just me going 18 feet above



The pictures displayed are of our opening day and more field trips to the museum since opening day.



ground on a ladder to put panels up and nail them in, but it was a worthwhile struggle.

The museum would not have been possible without the great donations from my community to make it possible in the timeline that I had planned. Members of the public who donated \$100 to the museum got their name or business name burned onto wood which was then displayed in the museum. That was an unbelievably successful campaign. I picked November 4th, 2023, to open the museum. That date, I was successful.

One of the first items to go into the museum were the flags, all the modern flags that were aligned with NATO countries and western countries were on one side. Flags from other countries that were either aligned or not aligned on the other side. All the historic flags from the First World War, Second World War, and Cold War were placed from left to right axis and allies.

I added some of my best, handcrafted models, and artefacts from the two wars, including exhibits representing local New Brunswick units such as 3rd Field Artillery Regiment (also known as the Loyal Company) the 67th Carleton Light Infantry, 71st York Regiment, and the Carleton & York Regiment, North Shore Regiment. Artifacts included anything from photographs, cap badges, helmets, shells, uniforms, bayonets, etc. With the ongoing donations of artifacts, the museum has gotten even better since opening.

On the opening day, our Member of Legislative Assembly, our provincial Minister of Education, and our federal Member of Parliament, Richard Bragdon, were there. Our provincial Minister for Military Affairs, and even our former Premier and family, including many veterans, friends, and family were also in attendance. It is a continuous aspect of growth and



modernization. My dream came true but expanded from many more donations since the opening day. I am now planning the expansion of the museum. When do I start? That is still currently a work in progress.

I was persistent in my goals and my dream to get this museum running.

Carleton County Military Museum is located at 1120 Route 560 in Jacksontown, New Brunswick. It is open from March to November.

Please visit www.facebook.com/groups/2741000232816362/ for more information. 🍁

Aaron Bouma, military historian for Carleton County, New Brunswick Canada, autism self-advocate, owner-curator of the Carleton County Military Museum located in Woodstock, New Brunswick.



DESCEND INTO HISTORY,
75 FEET UNDERGROUND TO THE

DIEFEN- BUNKER

*Above: Bank of Canada vault located within the Diefenbunker.
Below left: John G. Diefenbaker, 13th prime minister of Canada,
from 1957 to 1963, namesake of the Diefenbunker.*

CANADA'S COLD WAR MUSEUM

By Jordan Vetter



The Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum is pleased to be a new member of the OMMC. As a museum inside a one-of-a-kind facility — a four-storey underground Cold War communications headquarters — the Diefenbunker is an immersive environment where you can journey through history and learn from the past.

2024 marks a significant anniversary for the Diefenbunker. 30 years ago, on June 5, 1994, the Diefenbunker was formally declared a national historic site, recognized for its importance as Canada's most significant Cold War artifact and for its unique underground construction. That same year, the site, then operating as Canadian Forces Station (CFS) Carp, was decommissioned, stripped of its contents, and sold to the local Township. Fortunately, a group of volunteers stepped forward to preserve the building and open it as a museum in 1998. Now operating as an independent charitable organization, the museum serves to safeguard important history and interpret Cold War stories and artifacts for visitors from all around the world.

Further to the national historic site anniversary, in May of this year, the Diefenbunker was thrilled to welcome its one-millionth visitor since first opening to the public 26 years ago.

This is a testament to the enduring significance of the Diefenbunker in our nation's history and its ongoing impact and relevance today. 🍁

Jordan Vetter is the Marketing and Communications Manager for The Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum.



1. Butler Hut Entrance – Interior.
2. Exterior.
3. Emergency Transmitter Room.
4. War Cabinet Room.
5. Diefenbunker Visitors.

HMCS ALBERNI Museum and Memorial

By James Derry

This year, the HMCS ALBERNI Museum & Memorial (HAMM) in Courtenay, British Columbia marked both its 25th anniversary and the 80th anniversary of the sinking of the corvette Alberni.

To commemorate these events, it opened the 2024 exhibit “59” and unveiled a new Memorial Wall. 59 is the story of the fifty-nine sailors who perished in 1944 when the corvette Alberni was sunk by U480 during the Battle of the Atlantic. The Wall names all sailors who served on the Alberni, as well as all the German submariners of U480 who torpedoed the Canadians but who perished a few months later not far from the same spot south of the Isle of Wight.

On 21 August the museum hosted a memorial event to mark the 80th anniversary of that sinking. This was attended by Captain (N) Samuel Patchell Deputy Commander Canadian Fleet Pacific, MP Gord Johns, MLA Ronna-Rae Leonard, the family of Captain Ian Bell, and other invited guests. Afterwards all were invited to see the exhibit and the unveiling of the new Memorial Wall.

Those new to the museum were able to tour the main facility and experience the stories told through its artefacts and displays. On the same date, across the Atlantic, HAMM Assistant Director Bob Sackett was attending a memorial service in the United Kingdom on the Isle of Wight in conjunction with HAMM.



Unveiling of the new Memorial Wall.

This was to inaugurate a memorial bench for the Alberni at the Peace Garden in St. Lawrence, within sight of where the ship went down in the English Channel. Diana McGrechan life member of The Alberni Project Society in London helped organize this commemoration with the

cooperation of the local church group. It was attended by Sam Twining OBE, the Lord Lt Susie Sheldon of the Isle of Wight, naval attache to the UK Canadian High Commission Captain Peschke, and many from the surrounding area on the island. 🍁



HAMM Assistant Director Bob Sackett attending a memorial service in the United Kingdom on the Isle of Wight to inaugurate a memorial bench for the Alberni at the Peace Garden in St. Lawrence.