



ORGANIZATION OF MILITARY
MUSEUMS OF CANADA

OMMC 2025
Conference Success
in Hamilton

1866 FENIAN MEDAL
Donated to NB Military
History Museum

THE

Bulletin

Joan Bamford- Fletcher MBE

a little newspaper clipping
with a big story

Legacies of Hiroshima

**80th Anniversary of the
Liberation of Canadian
POWs in Japan**

**Harry Peglar's
Skeleton**

**SOLIDARITY
OVER SILENCE
MEMORIAL**



THE Bulletin

ORGANIZATION OF MILITARY MUSEUMS OF CANADA

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Hamilton: OMMC 2025 Conference Success!

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Our Story

The Organization of Military Museums of Canada (OMMC) was founded in 1967, with the encouragement of the Canadian War Museum, to serve as a national forum and support network for military museums across the country. Its creation provided a "meeting and learning place" for museum staff working within the Canadian Armed Forces, helping to coordinate training, share resources, and foster collaboration. Initially supported by the Department of National Defence, the OMMC organized annual training sessions at military bases across Canada, strengthening the capacity of military museums from coast to coast.

By the late 1980s, growing concerns over the condition and care of military museum collections prompted the formation of the federal Task Force on Military Museum Collections in 1990. The Task Force, which included input from multiple government departments, recommended formalizing the OMMC's structure to better fulfill its mission. As a result, the OMMC was officially incorporated in 1992 as a federally registered,

charitable, non-profit organization. This step enhanced its ability to secure funding and support the preservation and promotion of Canada's military history through its network of over 100 institutional and individual members.

Mission

The Organization of Military Museums of Canada supports, promotes, and advances Canada's Military Museums through advocacy, education, collaboration, and engagement.

Vision

To be a leading network of Museums and Institutions, supporting and inspiring a deeper understanding and appreciation of Canada's Military History and Heritage.

Accountability

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

Message from the President

OMMC LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE!



I consider it an honour to address the OMMC membership as President. I thank the membership for allowing me to serve on the Board for another term, and the Board of Directors for their confidence in me in electing me to this position.

I am stepping into large shoes (figuratively speaking), as Anne Lindsay, now Past-President, has made great strides in redefining the board and its responsibilities, and has laid a solid foundation for how it will continue to operate to serve the OMMC membership. Anne will also continue her role as Course Director for the annual course, the planning of which is well underway for 2026.

I also thank Laura Imrie for accepting the position of Secretary and Membership Director, a key position in the operation of OMMC. I do not doubt that she will continue the process of improving the way we communicate with the membership and carry out our mandate.

Our board is a volunteer board, and so, to Kevin Windsor our treasurer, Kent Griffiths chair of the Honours and Recognition committee, Sandra Johnson Penny chair of the Education Committee, Kelsey Lonie, chair of the communications committee, Glenn

Miller, Chair of the Fund Development committee, and a returning board member George Romick, we appreciate the time and effort you give in carrying out our duties.

We are all looking forward to an exciting and productive year. By the time you read this, the new OMMC website will have been launched, highlighting the rebranding we have done over the past two years. This includes our revamped OMMC Bulletin, which you will have noticed has taken on a new and exciting format.

We all look forward to the challenges and opportunities of the coming year. I intend to continue the great work that we have undertaken since OMMC was founded in 1967, and to ensure OMMC serves as a professional organization, an educational resource, and an advocate for military museums in Canada.

**BRADLEY S. FROGGATT, CD MA
President**

**We're excited to announce the official launch of the new OMMC website! You can explore it here:
<https://ommc.ca/>**

This launch marks a significant milestone in our rebranding efforts, which the Board has been diligently working on over the past year. The updated site features a fresh look, improved navigation, and streamlined access to information about OMMC.

Please note: the new website does not include a members-only section. All essential content has been integrated into the public site for ease of access. Any material deemed for members only – such as specific policies – will be shared through SharePoint once updates are finalized.

We invite you to take a look around, and we welcome your feedback as we continue to improve how we communicate and serve our members.

**Warm regards,
The OMMC Board**



1866 FENIAN RAID MEDAL

Donated to NB Military History Museum

A rare military medal belonging to a New Brunswick militiaman who served on the front lines of the 1866 Fenian Raids was donated to the NB Military History Museum on Wednesday, January 29, 2025. The FREE public event also included a short presentation on the Fenian Raid by historian, Bob Dallison, author of "Turning Back The Fenians" (Goose Lane 2011).

David Hughes is the Manager of the NB Military History Museum. He says the Fenian Raids are a little known, but important, part of New Brunswick's military heritage. "The Fenians were American-based Irish nationalists fighting for the freedom of Ireland," says Hughes. "They ultimately failed in

their attempts to ransom Campobello Island but they sparked a revitalization of the New Brunswick Militia including that of Charlotte County. Their legacy was the union of New Brunswick, Upper and Lower Canada in Canadian Confederation in 1867."

The Fenian Raid medal was one of only 47 given to members of the Third Battalion, Charlotte County Militia. The medal belonged to Private John Almond Newman, (18 April 1843-30 November 1927) of Wilsons Beach, Campobello Island, NB. It was purchased by the Friends of the NB

Military History Museum, a non-profit, charitable organization that supports the museum.

The Third Battalion covered the islands in Passamaquoddy Bay and was headquartered on Deer Island. Newman was on duty from 17 April to 17 June 1866, where an attack had been expected from the hundreds of

Fenians gathered

along the Maine border between Eastport and Calais, Maine. Their plan was to capture Campobello Island and hold it as part of a ransom for the freedom of Ireland.

Despite the presence of some small Royal Navy vessels in the area, the Fenians raided Indian Island, northwest of Campobello, on 15 April and captured a customs office flag. Two days later, HMS Duncan with 700 British Regulars arrived in the area. They reinforced the New Brunswick militia units that had already been called out. The enhanced presence of the Royal Navy, the British regulars and the New Brunswick militia discouraged any serious attack. Meanwhile, the United States increased its efforts to enforce neutrality. Despite this, the Fenians made another raid on Indian Island on 20 April and burned four buildings. Otherwise, the Fenians found themselves caught between the British and American forces and so they had mostly dispersed by the end of May.

Following the raids in New Brunswick, Upper Canada and Lower Canada, the British provinces sought a closer union. Mutual defence was a major concern. From this, Confederation was born in 1867. 🍁

The New Brunswick Military History Museum is located at 119 Walnut Street, Building A-5 at 5th Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown, in Oromocto, NB. The museum is open to the public Monday to Friday, from 10 am to 4 pm. Admission is free. • www.nbhm-mhmnbc.ca

“ *They (The Fenians) ultimately failed in their attempts to ransom Campobello Island but they sparked a revitalization of the New Brunswick Militia including that of Charlotte County. Their legacy was the union of New Brunswick, Upper and Lower Canada in Canadian Confederation in 1867.*

80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Canadian POWs in Japan

Marked at NB Military History Museum

The New Brunswick Military History Museum marked the 80th anniversary of the Liberation of Canadian POWs in Japan and the end of the Second World War with a talk and exhibit by Andy Flanagan, author of *The Endless Battle: The Fall of Hong Kong and Canadians POWs in Imperial Japan*.



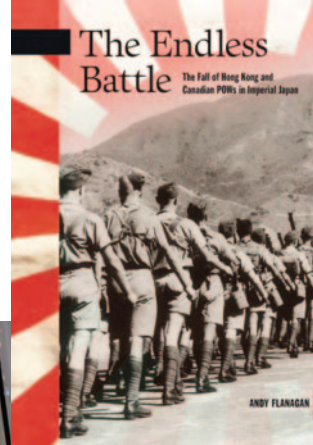
This free event was held from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Thursday, August 28, and the public was invited to attend.

The Endless Battle gave a moving account of the Prisoner of War experience of Andy Flanagan's father, James Andrew "Ando" Flanagan, and the lingering effects of trauma suffered by Canadian POWs in Japan.

A collection of Andrew's letters, documents, and artefacts related to his imprisonment was on display along with an extensive archive belonging to Joseph "Joe" Charles Frenette of Glen Levit, near Campbellton, NB. Andrew and Joe had been together in Japan, and their shared suffering was evident in their letters and diaries.

Joe Frenette's daughter, Mona Thornton, and his son, Ed Frenette, recently donated their father's entire collection to the museum. The nearly 100 letters were being transcribed and were expected to be made available online. Also on display were letters from fellow POW, Bernard Duplessis of Milltown, NB.

Originally from Jacquet River, Andrew Flanagan was taken prisoner at Hong Kong on Christmas Day, 1941, along with



nearly 2,000 other Canadians – 200 of whom were from northern New Brunswick – including Joe Frenette. Andrew and Joe had signed up with the Royal Rifles of Canada in nearby Quebec and had no idea their ultimate destination would be the defense of Hong Kong, China. More than 500 never returned, having died in the initial attack or in captivity.

Surviving Canadian POWs endured 3 ½ years of starvation, disease, brutal beatings, and forced labour until they were liberated in the wake of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 80 years ago, on August 6 and 9, 1945. Their sworn testimony was later used in postwar trials to bring their captors to justice. 🍁

The New Brunswick Military History Museum • www.nbmhm-mhmnbc.ca

Joan Bamford-Fletcher MBE

By Kelsey Lonie

On display in the corner of the Saskatchewan Military Museum is a little newspaper clipping with a big story. It tells of a woman who did what few thought possible – liberated 1,700 prisoners of war, deep in the jungles of Sumatra. Her name was Joan Bamford-Fletcher, a 30-year-old woman from Regina, Saskatchewan.

In the fall of 1945, V-J Day marked victory for the Allies – but not for the prisoners still interned by the Japanese at Bangkinang Camp, hidden in the jungle interior of Sumatra.

Then came Joan Fletcher, trained as a transport driver with the Canadian Red Cross, and a member of Britain's First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANYs). She had paid her own way to Britain to join the war effort, driven ambulances in Scotland with the Polish Army, and volunteered for one of the toughest jobs in Southeast Asia: post-war prisoner evacuation in Japanese-occupied zones.

In the spring of 1945 she was posted to Southeast Asia as a Lieutenant. In October 1945, she landed on Sumatra and drove into Bangkinang Camp in a jeep. Joan negotiated with Japanese officers, secured trucks, and – most incredibly – recruited 70 Japanese soldiers as drivers and guards.

Miss Fletcher later dismissed the exploit with a laugh. "It was quite fun - I enjoyed it," she said. "I was most polite, and the Japanese were most courteous. Finally I got the trucks."

Through 280 miles of hostile jungle, past armed roadblocks and growing insurgent threats, she led convoy after convoy of freed prisoners to Padang, a coastal city under Allied control.

The journey was perilous. Convoys were harassed. Fletcher had a truck fitted with steel bumpers to plow through roadblocks.

She was nearly killed when a truck caught her on the back of her heel and threw her between two vehicles, leaving her with a four-inch head wound. The wound was patched up by a Japanese doctor and tended to again at Padang by a British doctor.

Through it all, she continued – evacuating prisoners for three weeks before Allied forces arrived.

According to regulation, she should've handed the job over from there. "I should never have been allowed to continue if it hadn't been for Brig-Gen Peter Hutchinson, who was in charge of the troops," she recalled. "He told me to keep at it if I wanted to, and he would cover up for me. But General Chambers, the OC at Padang must not find out."

Her efforts didn't go unnoticed. One Japanese commander, moved by her leadership, presented her with his 300-year-old





family sword as a token of respect. It's believed no other Western woman ever received such an honor. Joan was also awarded the Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE).

Miss Fletcher contracted "swamp fever" during her exploits, but she didn't feel its effects until after completing her mission. The illness struck while she was on leave in Singapore. Though she recovered enough in hospital there to return to England in 1946, the fever flared up again, this time attacking her jawbone. Surgeons removed the infected bone and rebuilt it through plastic surgery. Once healed, she returned to Canada following her discharge from the FANYS.

With her she brought the 300-year-old Japanese sword and other souvenirs of her exploits. She settled down briefly, but she wasn't ready to stay still. When asked what came next, she replied with a glint in her eye: "I think perhaps I'll take a post in Poland or Russia with the British Embassy. That's where the powder keg is, you know."

Joan died in British Columbia in 1979. Her sword and war medals are now part of the Canadian War Museum's collection, and her remarkable bravery was highlighted in the 2001 documentary *Rescue from Sumatra: The Story of Joan Bamford Fletcher*. And this Regina girl has not been forgotten at the Saskatchewan Military Museum. 🍁

2



“Her efforts didn't go unnoticed. One Japanese commander, moved by her leadership, presented her with his 300-year-old family sword as a token of respect. It's believed no other Western woman ever received such an honor.

*Saskatchewan Military Museum
1600 Elphinstone Street, Regina, SK S4T 3N1
www.saskatchewanmilitarymuseum.com*

*1. Joan Bamford Fletcher holding a 300-year-old Japanese sword, a souvenir of her thrilling exploits in Sumatra"Montreal Standard, November 16, 1946, 8.
2. Joan Bamford Fletcher's Sword, Artifact number 19800177-001, CWM.*

THE DEDICATION OF THE

SOLIDARITY OVER SILENCE MEMORIAL

Suicide.

It's a word that, along with PTSD and other operational stress injuries, people often shy away from discussing.

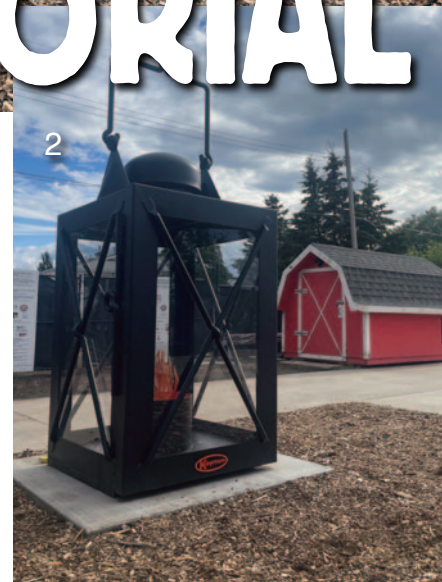


Doris Guertte

While it's not the most popular topic in the world, 28 people still attended our dedication ceremony – a testament to the importance of breaking the silence.

Paul 'Trapper' Cane and Xavier Remillard were special guests at the unveiling of the S.O.S. Memorial. Paul rode out from New Brunswick, while Xavier ended his family vacation in Winnipeg a few days early and headed home to Montreal afterward. Xavier's presence held special significance – his father, MCpl Pierre Victor Remillard, was a member of the Canadian Army Veterans Motorcycle Units who took his own life.

Fellow Canadian Army Veterans Motorcycle Units member Lise Charron was the founder and driving force behind the Soldiers of Suicide memorial created at our national military cemetery, Beechwood, in Ottawa. Because of her hard work, 22 families have allowed the



names and stories of their loved ones to be shared with others, hoping to provide support for families whose loved ones' battles didn't end when their service was done.

Other than the Grande Prairie winds blowing at what felt like Mach nine, the day was beautiful.

As the names of the fallen were read, a picture bearing their image was placed inside the large memorial lantern built by



1. Chip Kerr Highway Sign, Paul 'Trapper' Cane M.S.M., C.D., KCStG and Robert Stegmeier and his wife.
 2, 5. The Lantern - a 6' tall World War One Trench Lamp meant to chase the darkness away.
 The Mini Lanterns that people placed inside of the large lantern - each representing a soldier who died by their own hand.
 3-4. The Bell tent exterior and interior - used as a safe place with counsellors in case someone needed support.

“Trapper has had firsthand experience with those experiencing extreme anguish – he even had a soldier he was attempting to help take his own life while on the phone with him. This man has seen and experienced things no one should have to endure.”

Kaymor Industrial Solutions. The Grande Prairie Pipes & Drums Band played during this solemn ceremony. Victim Services sent representatives with brochures and support resources to speak with anyone who needed assistance.

The bell tent from Open Roads Adventures served its purpose well, providing people with a safe place to sit and simply be.

After the ceremony, five vehicles headed out to Blueberry Mountain to visit the VMG & IC museum display there and then stopped at the Chip Kerr Memorial Highway Sign before returning to Veterans Memorial Gardens.

Our summer students, Lachlan and Michael, who had just passed their food safety courses, served a beautiful steak barbecue.

Trapper, as always, was eloquent as he spoke of the need to embrace these soldiers and their families. As founding president of the Canadian Army Veterans Motorcycle Units, Trapper has had

Solidarity Over Silence	
<p>Solidarity Over Silence Memorial Chasing the Darkness Away</p> <p>This trench lamp memorial honors all Canadian Armed Forces soldiers lost to suicide and embraces the families who carry their love forward.</p> <p>Each flame represents a precious life, a family whose love endures, and our unwavering commitment to breaking the silence together.</p> <p>Breaking the Silence, Defeating Stigma Like trench lamps that guided soldiers safely through war's darkest nights, this memorial offers light to those facing their own battles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are not alone. Seeking help takes tremendous courage. Your story matters. <p>Solidarity Over Silence This eternal flame reminds us:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no soldier fights alone, no family grieves without support, and every story deserves to be honored. <p>In darkness, we choose to shine light. In loss, we discover deeper purpose. In memory, we find unbreakable strength.</p> <p>With profound gratitude to Lise Charon of the Canadian Army Veterans Motorcycle Units for her tireless commitment to honoring soldiers of suicide at Beechwood Cemetery and forever transforming how we remember our Canadian Forces family.</p> <p>Memorial lovingly crafted by Kaymor Industrial Solutions, Clairmont and installed by JDA Grande Prairie</p>	<p>Mémorial Solidarité plutôt que Silence Chasser les ténèbres</p> <p>Ce mémorial de lampe de tranchée honore tous les soldats des Forces armées canadiennes perdus par suicide et embrasse les familles qui continuent à porter leur amour.</p> <p>Chaque flamme représente une vie précieuse, une famille dont l'amour perdure, et notre engagement inébranlable à briser le silence ensemble.</p> <p>Briser le silence, vaincre la stigmatisation Comme les lampes de tranchée qui guidaient les soldats en sécurité dans les nuits les plus noires de la guerre, ce mémorial offre de la lumière à ceux qui font face à leurs propres batailles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vous êtes pas tout seuls. Demander de l'aide, ça prend un courage énorme. Votre histoire compte. <p>Solidarité plutôt que Silence Cette flamme éternelle nous rappelle :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> aucun soldat se bat tout seul, aucune famille vit son deuil sans soutien, et chaque histoire mérite d'être honorée. <p>Dans la noirceur, on choisit de faire briller la lumière. Dans la perte, on découvre un but plus profond. Dans la mémoire, on trouve une force indestructible.</p> <p>Avec une gratitude profonde envers Lise Charon des Unités motocyclistes des vétérans de l'Armée canadienne pour son engagement infatigable à honorer les soldats du suicide au Cimetière Beechwood et pour avoir transformé à jamais comment on se souvient de notre famille des Forces canadiennes.</p> <p>Mémorial créé avec amour par Kaymor Industrial Solutions, Clairmont et installé par JDA Grande Prairie</p>

firsthand experience with those experiencing extreme anguish – he even had a soldier he was attempting to help take his own life while on the phone with him. This man has seen and experienced things no one should have to endure.

In all, while this is one of the hardest topics to address, this ceremony marked the start of something we hope will grow.

The families of these soldiers who served our country deserve the same love and consideration as any other military family that has lost a loved one.

The Solidarity Over Silence Memorial stands as a beautiful sentinel for all who need a beacon of hope. 🍁

*Veterans Memorial Gardens & Interpretive Centre
 10121-93 St. Grande Prairie, Alberta
www.veteransmemorialgardens.com*



LEGACIES OF HIROSHIMA:

A Survivor's Gift

By Stefan Hiratsuka

Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum

In recognition of the 80th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Stefan Hiratsuka, Collections Coordinator at Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum in Ottawa shares his grandmother's story as a survivor of the tragic events.

August 6, 1945

Grandma was nine years old, a month away from her tenth birthday, when the bomb fell on Hiroshima. By that point in the war, firebombings on urban centres were common. Like many Japanese children, she had been evacuated to the hills north of the city. Her grandmother's country estate offered a temporary refuge. Families did what they could, though many had no such place to flee.

That morning, she was playing in the yard with her younger brother before school, when she saw the flash.

A light brighter than anything she'd ever seen. The shockwave soon followed.

For the rest of her life, lightning storms and fireworks would take her back to that terrifying moment.

At 8:15 a.m. on August 6, 1945, a 15-kiloton atomic bomb detonated over the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The device, nicknamed *Little Boy*, exploded about 600 metres above the Shima Hospital, unleashing a blinding flash, a wave of intense heat, and a powerful shockwave. In seconds, tens of thousands were killed, buildings were flattened, and the city was engulfed in

1. The surface of gray clay tiles of the type used in Hiroshima, whose melting point is 1,300° C., had dissolved at six hundred yards [from the blast center]. Credit: 2013.001.001, Diefenbunker Museum Collections.

2. Haruko Hiratsuka (née Ogawa) pictured right, with siblings and mother. Credit: Photo courtesy of Stefan Hiratsuka.



flames. Above it all, a towering, mushroom-shaped cloud began to rise.

The Aftermath

In the hours that followed, as the looming cloud dissolved into a smoky haze, survivors staggered through flattened streets, burned and disoriented, as black rain began to fall. News was scarce, but those outside the blast zone began making their way toward the city, desperate to find loved ones.

Grandma and her best friend from school, descended into the city, searching through the ruins for family and friends. She never said what she saw that day. But it stayed with her.

The sight of heavily bleached or badly heat-damaged hair on young people could trigger a visceral response. I didn't understand why until much later, when I learned that one of the effects of an atomic explosion on the human body was the burning and chemical alteration

“ *The sight of heavily bleached or badly heat-damaged hair on young people could trigger a visceral response. I didn't understand why until much later, when I learned that one of the effects of an atomic explosion on the human body was the burning and chemical alteration of hair. It was often left fried and bleached, faded, ghostlike. A transformation both literal and symbolic, seen in those who had been too close to the blast.*

of hair. It was often left fried and bleached, faded, ghostlike. A transformation both literal and symbolic, seen in those who had been too close to the blast.

Her father, my great-grandfather, a doctor, did what he could to help the injured, but in the wake of the devastation with no supplies and facilities, there was little he could do to save them from physical wounds, infections, and radiation poisoning.

The days and months that followed brought no relief. I remember her once saying, “Crickets are tasty, but the legs get stuck in your teeth.” That’s how I learned about starvation, through the quiet resilience of someone I loved so deeply, surviving in the aftermath of the bomb.

In Japan, survivors of the bombings were known as Hibakusha, a word that literally means “bomb-affected person.” Though it sounds neutral, the title came with deep social stigma. Many Hibakusha were viewed with fear, suspected of being contagious, or considered genetically damaged. Grandma was told her womb was poisoned. That she would never give birth to anything but monstrosities. She cried for days after my father was born, tears of joy and happiness.

But she never let the bomb define her. Grandma was not a victim. She was a survivor. She was a builder of family, community, and culture.

Legacy

After immigrating to Canada in 1963 when my father was three years old, she became a pillar of the Japanese-Canadian community, eventually settling in Edmonton, Alberta. She raised her children with compassion and strength. She supported new immigrants as they built lives of dignity and belonging, anchored in both heritage and hope, while forging a new Canadian identity for themselves. When I remember her, I don’t think of Hiroshima. I think of her quiet strength. Her smile. Her satisfaction at every meal, surrounded by her family, healthy, happy, and well-fed. She was tiny, physically, but her presence wrapped you in warmth.



3. Haruko Hiratsuka (née Ogawa) pictured with husband on wedding day. Credit: Photo courtesy of Stefan Hiratsuka.

4. Haruko Hiratsuka (née Ogawa) pictured with grandchild, Stefan Hiratsuka. Credit: Photo courtesy of Stefan Hiratsuka.

From 1945 to Now

In the Diefenbunker’s collections, we hold two ceramic tiles salvaged from Hiroshima, fragments from that day. Their surfaces are blackened, blistered, and bubbled; disfigured not by time, but by the bomb’s flash. I think of many things when I see them. They bring me back to that morning in 1945, to that incredible force, created by humanity and then unleashed upon it in a single, irreversible moment. I think of the act that marked the true beginning of the Cold War, and ultimately led to the construction of the bunker where I now work.

Working in a nuclear shelter means living every day with



the remnants and revenants of the very thing she lived through. In museums, our most important work lies in tracing the threads: from stories to objects, from objects to people, and from people back to the stories that shape our shared past. For many Canadians, the threat of atomic warfare was hypothetical. For Grandma, it was history. Personal history.

The cancer that eventually took Grandma’s life, non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, was a fate shared by many Hibakusha. Her friend, who had entered the ruins with her under that black rain, would pass away from Parkinsonism – possibly related to the same exposure. Their story is echoed in that of

continued on page 13

HARRY PEGLAR'S SKELETON

THE "LOST" FRANKLIN EXPEDITION AND 1RCR IN THE ARCTIC (1973)

By Dr. Georgiana Stanciu

This note features *Northern Quest 1973* fonds in the RCRM collection. The fonds was assembled by Robert Walsh and William Norman, serving at the time with the 1st Battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment (1RCR).

It presents as a scrapbook including a diary of the expedition, one copy of an info booklet intended for participants (*Ex Northern Quest. Historical Aide Memoire. Area King William Isle*), two maps, seven black and white photographs, two drawings, two letters, and several newspaper clippings of articles published here and there following the team's return. Exonyms

1. *Northern Quest Exercise, team members before departing from Crumlin Rd Airport, London, ON, on 10 July 1973.*

2. *Map of the areas explored during Exercise Northern Quest. Based at Gladman Point, the group split in four, one team at the base for communications, a second team exploring in the Simpson Strait (including Adelaide Peninsula), a third going north to Terror Bay, and a fourth south, to Tulloch Point.*



such as "Eskimo" show up in this document as it was produced before the colonial-imposed name had been replaced with the term preferred by the inhabitants of the Arctic, Inuit.

Twenty-three members of 1RCR left London, ON, in a CC-130 Hercules aircraft, travelling to King William's Island and Adelaide Peninsula (NU) between 10 and 26 July 1973; in addition, two other team members were from the Defence Civil Institute of Environmental Medicine (for research activities unknown to us). The team was led by William Bentley (a Captain in

1RCR at the time) and had a two-folded goal: to practice skills in extreme conditions and to attempt finding the logbooks of the lost ships, HMS Terror and HMS Erebus.

It is unlikely for infantry personnel to make archeological digs, but this training led to the discovery of human remains, connected to the famous 1845 Franklin Expedition. According to the Canadian Museum of History records,¹ their location is unknown today. While no additional information has surfaced on the topic, the circumstances of discovering, and collecting the skeleton on King William Island (NU),

are well documented as is the subsequent re-direction of the skeleton to the “National Museum of Man for identification and safekeeping.”²

In 2022, Dr. Douglas Stenton published a detailed analysis of the sources referring to the so-called “Harry Peglar Skeleton” and corroborated the conclusions with site research, which led to dismissing the identity as well as to correcting the location where the skeleton was found. Dr Stenton concluded that the skeleton belonged to an unidentified member of the 1845 Franklin expedition, unknowingly found by members of 1RCR in 1973 at the site identified as NdLe-16, south of Gladman Point, King William Island (NU); in doing so, Stenton also revealed a mapping error placing the skeleton location to the north.

According to the *Aide Memoire in the Northern Quest 1973*, 1RCR team was not aware of previous findings at Gladman Point; it seems they knew that a cairn had been discovered there in 1859 “without record.” But,

on 16 July 1973, close to “map reference 5511”, they found “bones protruding from the ground” and “a quick check showed this to be the bones of a large man; too large for an Eskimo.” The skull could not be found, but the jaw bone was with the other remains under “several inches of moss and rocks.” Next day, the team returned with a “sheet of plywood”, on which they transferred the skeleton for further transportation.

More on the topic can be found by listening to the RCRM Speakers Series Podcast on Spotify. All photographs are from the *Northern Quest 1973 fonds*, RCRM Archives Collection.

The Franklin expedition was part of the

attempts to find a shorter route to the Pacific through the Arctic in the mid-19th century. It included two ships departing Britain in 1845, HMS Erebus and HMS Terror, which were abandoned in the ice bank two years later. The search for the lost ships and crew ended in 2014 and respectively 2016, when Parks Canada and their Underwater Archeology Team detected the former in Wilmot and Crampton Bay (Adelaide Peninsula) and the latter in Terror Bay (King William Island).³ 🍁

3. Skeleton as found on 16 July 1973. Animal bones, several artefacts, and other debris were mixed also present.

4. Skeleton transferred to a plywood board for transportation.



1. Stenton DR. Finding “Harry Peglar”: Re-examining the discovery of a Franklin expedition sailor’s skeleton by the 1859 McClintock search expedition. *Polar Record* 58(e25): 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0032247422000237>.
2. *Northern Quest 1973 Fonds*, p. 11, letter dated 5 Nov 1973, from BGen J.A. Fulton, Commander North Region, to Commanding Officer 1RCR.
3. <https://parks.canada.ca/lhn-nhs/nu/epaveswrecks>.retrieved on 27 August 2025.

HIROSHIMA *continued from page 11*

Sadako Sasaki, who developed leukemia as a child from the bomb’s radiation and folded origami cranes in hopes of reaching 1,000, following the Japanese legend that grants a wish to those who succeed. She never said her wish aloud, but every survivor understood it: not just to live, but to live in a world without war, where no other child would suffer as she had.

I often wonder how different things might have been if they had known more at that time about the dangers of radiation. If they’d had somewhere – anywhere – safe to go. If it would even have made a difference. Maybe even something as simple as a warning tape, like the one that still plays each day as I walk through the Diefenbunker’s Blast Tunnel, might have.

Grandma never asked for pity, though. She chose forgiveness. She chose joy. She chose love.

She always believed that regular people on both sides of the

war were far more similar than the political rhetoric had made them believe. That we can achieve so much more working together and loving each other than we could ever accomplish with acts of violence and bombs.

Eighty years later, as the world remembers that morning in Hiroshima, I find myself wondering how she would mark today, whether with prayer, a moment of silence, or simply the quiet joy of seeing her family safe, thriving, happy, and well-fed.

For me, I would commemorate the day by giving her a long hug, to show her how deeply she was loved, and to reassure her that things turned out okay. I wish more than anything that I could. 🍁

Diefenbunker: Canada’s Cold War Museum • 3929 Carp Road, Ottawa, ON, K0A 1L0
www.diefenbunker.ca



By Anne Lindsay MacLeod

*1. Participants in the course in front of the Hamilton Cenotaph.
2-5. OMMC Awards Dinner.*



HAMILTON

OMMC 2025 CONFERENCE SUCCESS!

Over 90 members came together for the 2025 annual museums training programme held at Mohawk College in Hamilton, Ontario from 09 to 14 June. It was the highest number of participants in years!

As usual we opened the course with a friendly history quiz, under the stern direction of Leon Chamios. The keynote on Monday morning was presented by Dr. Michael Egan, an associate professor of history at McMaster University in Hamilton, who presented the “History and Memory in the Last Days of the Spanish Civil War”.

As in the past few years, we try to hold all DHH and NPF presentations on Monday, the first day of our course. This allows non DND participants a free day to spend as they desire. The DHH Update was presented by Robert Newcombe, followed by Mary-Pier Touchette who presented the annual Radiation Safety Update. Following lunch, the Navy, Army and Air Force meetings were held. The Navy meeting was quick and without enthusiastic discussion, given that Brad Froggatt was the only RCN representative at the course! We were fortunate to have Jennifer Dunn join the roster of presenters this year. Jennifer is the OMMC’s expert on TMS, and she led a group of members through TMS basics. To close the day, we attended an NPF presentation on volunteer tools, training and the new CFMWS volunteer policy.

One of the highlights of the course was the presentation by Myron Groover, Archives and Rare Books Librarian at Mills Memorial Library at McMaster University. Myron gave a highly educational, passionate and engaging presentation on Canadian copyright basics. Tuesday presentations included a useful CFMWS presentation on sponsorship and donations, loan management by Colin Stevens, creating engaging and effective school programs by Aaron Curtis, and the museum spotlight was directed on Dr. Andrew Gregory and the Base Borden Hangar 11 redevelopment project.

We were fortunate to be offered the opportunity to visit the Argyll and Royal Hamilton Light Infantry Museums on Tuesday evening. The quality of the art and silver, especially in the Officer’s Mess of the Argylls was second to none, and well worth the visit. These tours, although not a part of the formal program, were well received and attended.

Wednesday saw presentations on Library and Archives Management by Jason Nisenson of the University of Calgary and a thorough talk on Hamilton’s Military Past by Richard Ruggle. In the afternoon we embarked on a trip to the 31 Service Battalion Museum and HMCS Haida.

On Thursday Kelsey Lonie, from the Royal Regina Rifles screened “Operation Calvados: The Documentary” as a follow-up to her presentation last year. This was followed by an in-depth presentation on the implementation of an on-line museum and archives by Vic Skaarup of the 5 (BC) Arty Regt RCA Museum & Archives.

After lunch we came together for the Annual Members Meeting. Officers of the organization gave their reports, and the following were elected or re-elected to the board: George Romick, Brad Froggatt, Kent Griffiths, and Kevin Windsor.

“One of the highlights of the course was the presentation by Myron Groover, Archives and Rare Books Librarian at Mills Memorial Library at McMaster University. Myron gave a highly educational, passionate and engaging presentation on Canadian copyright basics.”



6. 31 Service Battalion museum
7. Royal Hamilton Light Infantry Museum.
8. HMCS Star.
9. HMCS Haida.
10. Your OMMC Board.
11. OMMC Award of Excellence Brad Froggatt.
12. Major (Retired) Brian Tracey Volunteer Recognition Award.
13. Indian Head Museum OMMC award for project.

“...this year we had the highest number of participants in many years, and the highest number of women attending the course. I find it interesting to note that normally the museum profession is considered a woman’s profession – certainly the military community bucks that trend.

After a short break we listened to Roberta Sealy of the Region of Waterloo Museums talk about preventative conservation in museums – a good reminder of the basic and often simple activities we can all undertake to ensure the preservation of our collections.

A wonderful dinner was held at the historic Scottish Rite Club on Thursday evening. OMMC awards were presented to Brad Froggatt (Award of Excellence for his work as OMMC secretary) and Ken Turpin (Project Award for the Indian Head Museum exhibit in partnership with 691 Hawk Squadron). CFMWS presented their Museum Volunteer Award to Brian Tracey for his work as curator of the Canadian Grenadier Guards Museum.

Friday morning saw us depart for Dundurn Castle and then the Warplane Heritage Museum in the afternoon. In spite of a late arrival at Dundurn, and an early departure from the Warplane Heritage Museum, everyone enjoyed their day and the opportunity to learn while relaxing away from formal presentations.

As mentioned, this year we had the highest number of participants in many years, and the highest number of women attending the course. I find it interesting to note that normally the museum profession is considered a woman’s profession – certainly the military community bucks that trend.

I want to thank a number of people for their assistance. Steve Waldron from 31 Service Battalion Museum who helped identify a number of the local speakers, the padre and the location of the formal dinner. Of course, I must recognize a number of the board members for their support and advice, including (but not limited to), Brad Froggatt, Kevin Windsor, Sandra Johnson Penney and Kent Griffiths. Last but not least, I want to thank all the presenters and museum hosts who stepped forward when the call went out for participants. While we say it often, we mean it: the course could not happen without you.

We are at work identifying a location for the 2026 course. At this time, we are considering either Victoria or Halifax. We are in communication and negotiation with representatives from the University of Victoria, Dalhousie University and Acadia University. We hope to be able to make an announcement shortly.

In the meantime, thank you all for your support, have a wonderful Fall, and see you all next year! 🍁





Fifth (BC) Field Regiment RCA Museum and Archives



Canada Day Celebrations at Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Site

Our outreach display was strategically located near the Park entrance and was seen by the over 3,000 members of the Public who attended.

Conservation Assessment Completed

A Conservation Assessment of the museum and archives was completed for us by an Athabasca Historical Resource Management student, David Shultz. The assessment was very thorough and will be very helpful to us as we work to improve our preservation and conservation practices.

The Currie Map Conservation Project Initiated

Using the results from the Conservation Assessment, we have initiated a project to conserve the "Currie Map".

1. The title of the map is "Allied Weekly Advances July 17 - November 11." The map shows the Western, Russian, Balkans and Middle East fronts, with the Western front taking up half of the display area.

2. Provenance – In Daniel G. Dancocks book "Sir Arthur Currie: A Biography", he notes in Chapter XXVII "In late September (1919), Currie embarked on a speaking tour of western Canada... he made five stops: Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary, Vancouver, and Victoria." The map was left with the Fifth by General Currie when he ended his tour in Victoria and has been stored in the Regimental Foundation Archives since then.
3. The map is composed of War Office Maps joined together to make a larger map – linen backing TBC. The map is dated 1913 and was printed by the Ordnance Survey Office 1913. Current condition (surface is flaking) is fragile and poor. Phase lines were applied to War Office Maps to show allied weekly advances July 17 to November 11, 1918.
4. Size of map (approximate): 3 m x 6 m (makes a circular loop).
5. The scale of the map is 1:750,000.

Organization and Inventory of Reference and Technical Library

Work continued on the organization and inventory update of our Reference and Technical Library. We expect to finish the physical organization of the technical materials by the end of the year. We currently have over 1,000 individual titles listed in our online system (<https://5rcaarchives.rediscoverysoftware.com>) and our goal is to complete system entry by the end of 2026. 🍁





ORGANIZATION OF MILITARY MUSEUMS OF CANADA

OMMC Modernizes Identity

We have reserved the key elements in the Coat of Arms that represent the organization's rich heritage while giving it a fresh, cohesive look.

Canadian Red is adopted as the primary colour, creating a unified representation across the branches of the military - Air Force, Navy, and Army. This colour choice strengthens the logo's connection to Canadian identity and pride.



The Crenellations

Represents the army, fortifications, and the preservation of military history.



The Key

Underscores the pivotal role of military museums in safeguarding Canadian military artifacts.



The Jets

Integrated into the design, enriching the logo's representation of the RCAF.



The Waves

Symbolizes naval heritage and their role in maritime security.



The Maple Leaf

Emphasizes the organization's nationwide reach.



The Motto

Centered and more visible. This Latin phrase means "Make accessible in preserving".



The Coat of Arms

The coat of arms for The Organization of Military Museums of Canada is rich in symbolism, designed to convey the organization's mission and heritage.

For more information, visit:
www.gg.ca/en/heraldry/public-register/project/785



THE Bulletin

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