



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the last issue of the "Bulletin" I announced a number of personnel changes in the OMMC Inc. Executive effective 1 January 2000. These changes I am pleased to say have taken place with minimal disruption to the normal operation of our organization. To this end I would like to personally thank Dick Malott and Dan Potvin for their invaluable assistance during the period of transition.

While our new Executive Director Don Carrington will report on his activities elsewhere in this issue I would like to take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge Don's accomplishments to date. As both our Executive Director and Project Manager for the Millennium Project Don has great deal on his plate. Nevertheless, he has in a short period of time successfully established an OMMC Inc. office, hired staff, implemented a new administrative procedures, revised our financial reports and returns, and is actively involved in the work of our Provincial Coordinators for the Millennium Project. With all this going on I don't know how he keeps smiling! My sincere thanks Don.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of our new Membership Services Officer Paulette Potvin. Paulette has worked tirelessly to establish a fully automated membership service system which will

respond to our membership needs in a timely and accurate manner. We are already experiencing the fruits of her labor. A new membership database is now in place and you all will have received your membership renewal letters membership cards and course registration forms by now. Thanks again Paulette for all your efforts on our behalf.

In April the Executive Committee met to discuss among other things this year's Training Course scheduled for July in Kingston. I am sure you will agree with me that the course program enclosed successfully addresses the comments and suggestions you made in last year's course critique. This is due in no small part to the efforts of our hosts Jack Pike and Ross McKenzie. Thanks Jack and Ross. I strongly encourage everybody to attend the RMC Course.

Speaking of our training course... In keeping with past practice your executive has approved attendance by three of our members at Military museum training courses in the United States this past March. Ms. Jodi Ann Eskritt represented OMMC Inc. at the Annual Air Force Conference in Washington. One week later

ORGANIZATION OF MILITARY MUSEUMS OF CANADA,
(OMMC)

MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 323
Ottawa (Gloucester), Ontario
K1C 1S7
(613) 737-3223 Fax : (613) 737-0821

**Executive Committee
President**

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

Vice-President

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

Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

Directors

Jodi Ann Eskritt
(204) 765-3000 ext 3531

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

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

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

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

Executive Director

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

DND Liaison Officer
Mr. Dan Potvin
(613) 998-7053 Fax: (613) 841-9810

Special Advisor
Maj Dick Malott, CD (Ret'd)
(613) 829-0280 Fax: (613) 829-7673

Membership Services Officer

Paulette Potvin
(613) 841-7503 Fax: (613) 841-5724 Cellular (613) 293-9180

Captain Wendy McKenzie and Captain Marce Richard (Ret'd) represented us at the 5th Annual U.S. Army Museum Training Course in Washington. Wendy and Jodi Ann's reports are included in this issue.

Following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Canadian Museum Association last year I will be attending their Annual Conference in Charlottetown as your representative in May.

The Bursary Program is alive and well and currently being reviewed by Jack Pike. He will give us a progress report this summer. Pending the implementation of the Bursary Program the executive approved financial support for a number of other youth related programs. We will be sponsoring a Canadian student to participate in the Battle of Normandy Foundation Course this summer in France and assist student presenters at the Canadian Military History Conference in May.

Last but not least I also attended the Annual United States Army Training Course in Washington. During the course I had the opportunity to speak at length regarding a future joint meeting with Mr. Jeb Bennett Jr. the Chief Curator of the Army in the United States Army Museum System. On my return home I tabled our discussion for the Board Meeting in April. Following my presentation and discussion the Board agreed. I am pleased therefore to announce that OMMC Inc. will host a joint Training Course in Quebec City from the 5th to the 9th September 2001.

Plans are already being developed for this course. I will make an interim report to you at our Training Course in Kingston this summer. For those who remember the last joint meeting some 15 years ago, you will recall what a success it was. OMMC Inc. will clearly benefit from the interaction of our membership with our

American counterparts both formally and informally. As well we will have the opportunity to hear American presenters and learn from their experiences.

All in all it has been both a busy and challenging time for your executive. I would like to thank them for their time and effort on your behalf. I look forward to seeing you at Kingston this summer.

COMMENTAIRES DU PRÉSIDENT

Dans le dernier numéro du bulletin, je vous annonçais un certain nombre de changements apportés au personnel de l'exécutif de l'OMMC Inc. en vigueur depuis le 1^{er} janvier 2000. Je constate avec satisfaction que les changements apportés ont pu s'effectuer avec un minimum d'interruption du cours normal des activités de notre organisation. À ce sujet, j'aimerais remercier personnellement Dick Malott et Dan Potvin pour leur soutien indispensable pendant la période de transition.

Bien que notre nouveau directeur exécutif, Don Carrington, soumettra son rapport sur ses activités plus loin dans ce numéro, j'aimerais profiter de cette occasion pour souligner ses accomplissements jusqu'à ce jour. En tant que directeur exécutif et gestionnaire du projet du millénaire, Don possède un menu très chargé. Néanmoins, il a accompli dans un court laps de temps plusieurs tâches avec succès dont l'établissement d'un bureau de l'OMMC Inc., la mise en branle de nouvelles procédures administratives, la revue de nos rapports financiers, et la participation active dans le travail des coordonnateurs provinciaux pour le projet du millénaire. Avec tous ces événements, je ne sais pas comment il peut arriver à sourire!. Tu as toute ma gratitude Don.

J'aimerais aussi reconnaître les efforts de notre nouvel officier des services aux membres, Paulette Potvin. Paulette a travaillé sans relâche à l'établissement d'un système complètement

automatisé de services aux membres qui nous permettra de répondre aux besoins de nos membres de manière opportune et précise. Nous récoltons déjà les fruits de son travail. Une nouvelle banque de données sur les membres est maintenant en place et vous aurez tous reçu vos lettres de renouvellement pour votre carte de membre et les formulaires d'inscription à l'heure qu'il est. Merci Paulette encore une fois pour tous vos efforts de notre part.

En avril, le conseil exécutif s'est réuni pour discuter, entre autres choses, du cours de formation prévu pour juillet à Kingston. Je suis sûr que vous serez d'accord avec moi que le programme inclus dans votre envoi postal répond avec succès aux commentaires et suggestions que vous nous avez formulé l'année dernière lors de la critique du cours. Cela est attribuable en grande partie aux efforts de nos hôtes Jack Pike et Ross McKenzie. Merci à Jack et Ross. J'encourage fortement la participation de tous au cours du RMC.

Puisque nous parlons de cours de formation... En accord avec la pratique habituelle votre exécutif a approuvé la participation de trois membres aux Cours de formation de muséologie militaire aux États-Unis en mars dernier. Ms. Jodi Ann Eskritt a représenté l'OMMC Inc. à la conférence annuelle de l'Aviation à Washington. Une semaine plus tard la capitaine Wendy McKenzie et le capitaine Marcel Richard (à la retraite) nous ont représenté au 5^e cours de formation en muséologie de l'armée américaine à Washington. Leurs rapports sont inclus dans ce numéro.

Suite à la signature d'un protocole d'entente avec l'association des musées canadiens l'an dernier, je participerai à leur Conférence annuelle à Charlottetown en mai à titre de représentant de l'OMMC Inc.

Le programme de bourse est en bonne forme et est présentement revu par Jack Pike. Il nous donnera un compte-rendu cet été. En attendant le programme de bourse, l'exécutif a approuvé le soutien financier pour un certain nombre de programmes reliés à la jeunesse. Nous allons commanditer un étudiant canadien pour qu'il participe au Cours de la Fondation de la bataille de la Normandie cet été en France et nous appuierons les étudiants présentateurs à la Conférence sur l'histoire de la DHP en mai.

En dernier lieu mais non le moindre, j'ai également participé au Cours annuel de formation de l'armée américaine à Washington. Pendant le cours j'ai eu l'opportunité de m'entretenir longuement au sujet d'une réunion interallié dans le futur, avec M. Jeb Bennett Jr., le conservateur en chef de l'armée dans le système des musées de l'armée américaine. À mon retour, j'ai ajourné notre discussion à la réunion du conseil du mois d'avril. Suite à ma présentation et discussion, le conseil a donné son aval. En conséquence, il me fait plaisir d'annoncer que l'OMMC Inc. sera l'hôte d'un cours interallié de formation à la ville de Québec du 5 au 9 septembre 2001.

Nous sommes déjà en train d'élaborer des plans pour ce cours. Je vais vous donner un rapport intérimaire lors du cours de formation à Kingston cet été. Pour ceux qui se rappellent la dernière rencontre il y a environ 15 ans, vous vous souviendrez à quel point ce fut un succès. L'OMMC Inc. va certainement bénéficier de l'interaction de ses membres avec nos confrères américains autant formellement que lors d'échanges personnels. Par la même occasion, nous pourrons entendre les présentateurs américains et apprendre de leurs expériences.

Tout considéré, votre exécutif a été occupé et mis au défi. Je voudrais les remercier en votre nom pour le temps et l'effort qu'ils ont consacré. J'ai hâte de vous revoir à Kingston cet été.

Millennium Project



A General and Four cups of coffee

If you haven't heard already, the OMMC Inc. is undertaking a massive project. The goal of this project is to document every military memorial in Canada. A few people have tried to accomplish this task previously, however, none have been successful.

The idea to document every military memorial had been floating around the members of the OMMC Inc. for quite some time. It all started over a cup of coffee at a local Second Cup, back in 1998. Four members of the OMMC Inc. LCol Don Carrington (Ret'd), LCol Daniel Mackay, Jack Pike and Dr. Serge Bernier were discussing what was said that day by Lt. Gen. Roméo Dallaire. He had mentioned that he was disappointed to find there wasn't any concrete information on the whereabouts of all Canadian military memorials. Thus, those four members of the OMMC Inc. decided to do something about it. With the help of Dan Potvin, who generously donated his time and effort to find the funding, and the curiosity and tenacity of those four members, the Millennium project officially got underway in January 2000.

The millennium project headquarters was set-up in an office in downtown Ottawa. Veterans Affairs generously donated two offices for our project. Based on past experience on a similar memorial project conducted by a University group, Stemnet, we identified why the project was not a success, and tailored our project along different lines. LCol Don Carrington, the

director of the project, assembled ten volunteers to act as Provincial Coordinators. These volunteers are in charge in their own province.

We put ourselves in their shoes and asked, “What would I need if I was a Provincial coordinator?”. We then began to collect as much information as we could and then sent it to the Provincial Coordinators to help them with their search. We believed that the more information we could give the Provincial Coordinators, the better off they will be.

At the moment, most Provincial Coordinators are in the initial phase of their search. It is too early to assess the situation. However, one thing is clear. The dedication and commitment from the Provincial Coordinators has given us hope that this project will be a success. To think, that this project, which will give Canadians access to every military memorial in Canada and will help keep Canadian military heritage alive, was conceived by a General and four cups of coffee.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Close of nominations

You are reminded that the closing date for nominations to the Board of Directors is 1 June 2000, for the three positions on the Board, which are up for re-election, i.e., Treasurer and 2 Directors.

On vous rapelle que la date de clôture pour les mises en candidatures aux postes du conseil d'administration est le 1er juin 2000 et ce, pour les trois postes du conseil qui sont ouverts pour une réélection soit celui de trésorier et de deux directeurs.



Development of web site “ommc.ca”

Our web site is in need of refurbishment, and must also be redesigned to make it interactive, and capable of accepting a new range of data such as; recording and responding to hits, taking kit shop orders, on line course registration, memberships, and of course, the huge amount of data that will result from our millennium project.

Do you know qualified web site designers who would be interested in submitting a proposal for this redesign? Are you aware of web site maintenance that would keep the site up to date? Naturally we hope to keep the cost of these activities as low as possible but we have to be able to budget for them as soon as possible. Please let us know if you have any names that you would recommend.

Notre site web a besoin de rénovation et doit être conçu de façon à le rendre interactif et capable de recevoir une nouvelle gamme de données telles que: l'enregistrement des visites et la réponse à celles-ci, la réception de commandes électroniques pour la boutique, l'enregistrement au cours, les demandes d'adhésion et bien sûr la quantité énorme de données résultant de notre projet du millénaire.

Connaissez-vous des concepteurs de site web qui seraient intéressés à soumettre une proposition pour cette rénovation? Connaissez-vous des gens qui feraient l'entretien du site pour le garder à jour? Naturellement nous espérons de garder le coût de ces activités le plus bas possible. Veuillez nous communiquer les noms des personnes que vous nous recommanderiez.

"Sale"ing Under false colours

It has been brought to our attention that an American collector, in an effort to help out a supposed Canadian Curator, has been taken for about \$4,000. worth of artefacts. The Canadian trading on his knowledge of collectors, contacted the American and indicated he was putting on a display for the Queen's Own Rifles Museum in Bowmanville, Ontario. The American agreed to help by providing some pre-war artefacts for which the Canadian indicated he would trade some other artefacts. Seems like a normal deal except the Canadian, after receiving the goods from the American, never sent off his part of the deal. Watch out for a **Richard Armstrong** purporting to represent the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

Wake Up the Troops!

If you are speaking to Royal Canadian Legion or Korea Association members ask them what their Branch is doing about the OMMC Millennium Project. Are they involved in searching out and photographing the memorials in their town? Have they heard anything from the cadets or the Scouts in their town about looking for the memorials in buildings and parks? Talk it up and urge them to talk it up the branch. The veterans are the centre of this project, and we are not sure they have yet been motivated to put their considerable talents and support behind the project.

Mannequins for Sale

The first rush is over. And thank you to those who were so quick off the mark. We purchased 50 mannequins at bankrupt sale prices and now have only 11 left. These are all torso models, which are excellent for displaying jackets. We have 4 male and 1 female, with stand @175.00, and 6 male with no arms at \$140.00. Please let us know how many you would like and where to send them.

Unique Exhibit



Derek Brown reports, in a number of local newspapers, that the E.C. Ashton Garrison Museum has a new and unique exhibit mounted. The "Do you know" qualified web site designers who exhibit chronicles the history of United Nations peacekeepers from 1945 to the present. This exhibit has taken the museum 18 months to prepare and consists of medals, uniforms, equipment, and of course dioramas depicting service in everything from trenches in Korea to modern day minefields.

Congratulations Derek, good publicity makes a good exhibit even better!

OMMC Inc. Member's Activities

Mutual concerns of Air and Space Museums Seminar (Jodi Ann Eskritt)

From March 19th to 22nd I had the opportunity to attend the Mutual Concerns of Air and Space Museums Seminar in Washington, DC and sponsored by the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum and the American Association of Museums. Consisting of a dedicated group of air museum staff, the seminar was consisted of three and a half days of presentations covering museum collections, institutional development and museum audiences. The overwhelming impression was one of having entered another realm. Our American colleagues represented at the seminar, work with budgets of several millions (if not tens of millions) of dollars and put together displays that at first seem to have more in common with Disneyland than military museums in Canada. However, many of the attendees had become very ingenious at finding "cheap" solutions in a competitive market, which made the one on one discussion particularly interesting. One complaint I did hear among the attendees (excluding the food poisoning some picked up from Tuesday's chicken) was the lack of participatory segments or site visits provided within the seminar schedule itself. Apparently even this focussed group would have appreciated a break from the continual lecture format.

Overall, the seminar was a very interesting introduction to the world of aviation museums and concerns. I had the opportunity to meet American, British, and Canadian Colleagues from some important air heritage institutions and to spread the word about the OMMC Inc. and its goals.

Fifth Annual US Army Training Course, Washington, DC (Capt Wendy McKenzie)

I would like to thank the OMMC Inc. the CMA and The Rocky Mountain Rangers for facilitating the opportunity for me to attend the Fifth Annual US Army Museum Training Course in Washington, DC 26-31 March 2000. The experience was unique as it gave me the opportunity to not only learn some new skills and to network with our "American" counterparts, but also have a first hand opportunity to compare the Canadian and American conferences.

The conference was billed as the "largest annual professional military museum training course" and had two hundred and thirty one participants. It was held in a convention facility in a somewhat expensive downtown hotel in Washington DC (Someone actually paid \$22.00 American for a hamburger.) The aim of the conference was to examine the past so that we can provide strategies for the future. This aim was achieved by presenting lectures, demonstrations, roundtable discussions, and panels, practicums and workshops that were designated to enhance professionalism and create increased awareness in current museum trends within Armed Forces Museums.

I attended lectures such as "Changing Museum Audiences in the New Millennium", "Museum Planning for the 21st century", "Conservation's and Preservation in the New Millennium" and "Museum Policy". These were mostly general in nature and really applied a lot more to larger museum groups. However, it was interesting to discover that we have already recognized the changing face of museology in Canada and are already applying a lot of the same policy in our museums now.

The practical sessions in the conference centre were a bit hard to follow due to extremely large number of attendees. An example was the session presented on digitalization of photographic records. While presented well and

utilizing the latest in power point technology it lacked the hands on close knit ambience that we have all come to associate with our own course. None the less the presentation did stimulate some answers and a lot more questions within me.

The practicums and workshops were valuable as I was able to meet with the people who were "actually doing the work" so was able to learn first hand how they honestly dealt with their day to day challenges. Their history is extensive and field trips were overwhelming at times, specially seeing the Smithsonian Institute... I thought it was only one building...was I mistaken or what! The displays were incredible and it was exciting to see all the creativity at work! One thing for sure though they have a lot more money to spend than we do!

Renovations to Fort Frederick Tower at RMC



Those OMMC Inc. members who have attended Canadian Forces Museums meetings of the past several years may be relieved to know that RMC representatives will not be raising the question of the renovation of DND owned heritage buildings in the foreseeable future.

Major masonry restoration was carried out on the Martello Tower in Fort Frederick, which houses the primary exhibits of the RMC Museum, during the past autumn. The work involved a complete repointing of the structure as well a replacement of nearly one hundreds pieces of exterior stone. Also, a new roof covering of enamelled metal tiles was

installed. While further repair of the internal stonework and grouting remains to be addressed, the tower is once again well sealed against the elements and it is anticipated that the moisture problems of the past several years will have been relieved.

Fortunately, the decision to leave all the enclosed exhibits in place during the construction work has been justified. In spite of the large quantities of dust and other debris which accumulated within the tower, very little has penetrated the display cases; a strong testimony to the importance and value of ensuring that all exhibit enclosures are well sealed.

The staff of the RMC Museum looks forward to visits by OMMC Inc. members to the Fort Frederick Tower during the Year 2000 Course.

Membership Services Officer

New members

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

- The Bunker Military Museum, Cobalt, ON
- Prof. Dean Taylor, RMC Museum Assistant, Kingston, ON
- Mike Broxham, CFB Petawawa Museum, Petawawa, ON
- Charles Gruchy, Future Heritage Inc., North Gower, ON
- Fred Paoletti, Bunker Military Museum, Cobalt ON
- Capt Daniel Clattenburg, Bunker Military Museum, Cobalt, ON
- Capt Edward Caragher, Bunker Military Museum, Cobalt, On

- Musée de l'Arme et du Bronze, Granby, QC
- Andrea Cross, Ottawa, ON
- Mary Simpson, Toronto, ON



DON'T MISS THE BOAT

Registration space is rapidly filling up for this year's course to be held at RMC Kingston 16-20 July. Final registration date 15 June 2000, So don't miss the boat, send in your registration now.

Because of the cancellation of DND's service flights limited transportation to RMC will be available from Toronto and Ottawa on 16 July. Buses will depart both main terminals at 1600 hrs for RMC. **You must advise the MSO by 15 June 2000 if you require a seat.** Return transportation to be announced during the course

