

THE/LE BULLETIN



President's Comments By Léon Chamois, President OMMC

Commentaires du président Par Léon Chamois, président de l'OMMC

I am writing this article on Tuesday the 4th of September, two days after possibly the blackest day in the history of modern day museology. On Sunday the National Museum of Natural History in Rio de Janeiro Brazil was destroyed by fire; an estimated 20 million artifacts were destroyed. Let me write that again: 20 million.

Stalin once said that the death of a few thousand people was a tragedy, but the death of millions was just a statistic. I wish somebody else had said that, but I think the concept is unfortunately all too real; at a certain level of destruction our brains have difficulty in conceptualizing the enormity of the event.

For all intents and purposes Brazil has lost its material culture heritage. If a country is judged by its accomplishments and its history, Brazil is no more. If a country is judged by its ability to explore its place in the past and to use that knowledge to strive for a better future, Brazil is no more. If a country is judged by its ability and willingness to explore its place in the cosmos and how it fits into the greater human and natural world, Brazil is no more.

My judgment is perhaps a bit skewed but I cannot even begin to fathom the grief and anguish of those who can appreciate the enormity of the loss that Brazil and the world has suffered.

The news reports all agree that the Museum was woefully unprepared for such a calamity; it did not even have a fire suppression system in place. One commentator said that the cost of such a sprinkler system would have been less than one year's salary for a Brazilian Supreme Court judge.

OMMC has always preached that disaster preparedness is of paramount importance. If any good comes of this tragedy let it be that more of us take this thought seriously.

J'écris cet article mardi le 4 septembre, deux jours après le jour le plus noir de l'histoire de la muséologie moderne. Ce dimanche, le Musée national d'histoire naturelle de Rio de Janeiro, au Brésil, a été détruit par un incendie; environ 20 millions d'artefacts ont été détruits. Permettez-moi d'écrire à nouveau: 20 millions.

Staline a dit un jour que la mort de quelques milliers de personnes était une tragédie, mais la mort de millions de personnes n'était qu'une statistique. Je souhaite que quelqu'un d'autre ait dit cela, mais je pense que le concept est malheureusement trop réel; à un certain niveau de destruction, nos cerveaux ont du mal à conceptualiser l'énormité de l'événement.

À toutes fins utiles, le Brésil a perdu son héritage culturel matériel. Si un pays est jugé sur ses exploits et son histoire, le Brésil n'est plus. Si un pays est jugé sur sa capacité à explorer sa place dans le passé et à utiliser ces connaissances pour s'efforcer d'avoir un avenir meilleur, le Brésil n'est plus. Si un pays est jugé sur sa capacité et sa volonté d'explorer sa place dans le cosmos et sa place dans le monde humain et naturel, le Brésil n'est plus.

Mon jugement est peut-être un peu biaisé, mais je ne peux même pas commencer à comprendre le chagrin et l'angoisse de ceux qui peuvent apprécier l'énormité de la perte subie par le Brésil et le monde.

Les journaux sont tous d'accord pour dire que le Musée n'était absolument pas préparé à une telle catastrophe: il n'y avait même pas de système d'extinction d'incendie en place. Un commentateur a déclaré que le coût d'un tel système d'arrosage aurait été inférieur à un an de salaire pour un juge de la Cour suprême du Brésil.

L'OMMC a toujours prêché que la préparation aux catastrophes est d'une importance primordiale. S'il y a du bien à cette tragédie, il faut que plus d'entre nous prennent cette pensée au sérieux.

New Exhibit on Vietnam War in Calgary

By J. Neven-Pugh, PPCLI Museum

Beginning this autumn, visitors to The Military Museums (TMM) in Calgary will have the chance to see an exhibition highlighting an under-recognized period in Canadian history.

Tour of Duty: Canadians and the Vietnam War tells the story of the war from multiple perspectives, discussing the Americans, South Vietnamese, and Canadians who served there.

It may surprise many to learn that Canada was involved in the Vietnam War as attention is usually focused on the United States, with both the conflict in the field and the protests as major parts of history throughout the 1960s and early 1970s. However, around 40,000 Canadians volunteered to serve in the US Army during this conflict; this is in comparison to about 30,000 Americans who refused duty (commonly known as Draft Dodgers). In addition, Canadian Peacekeepers were deployed with the Canadian Forces after the armistices in 1954 and 1973.

Rory Cory, Project Manager and Lead Curator for the exhibit, as well as the Senior Curator for TMM, says that now is a pivotal time for telling these stories.

“Veterans of the conflict are aging and already starting to pass away. Since we started this project actively, we’ve already lost two veterans,” he reflected recently, “We wanted to ensure that we bring their stories to light and try to achieve a measure of proper recognition for them before it’s too late.”

This year marks the 50th anniversary of two of the most well-known points on the Vietnam War timeline – the Tet Offensive and the battle of Khe Sanh. In addition, thanks to a detailed series by PBS, public interest in the war has peaked since last year. With a team of several volunteers actively assisting with development, including Ken Raychert, Bob MacDuff and James Baldwin, Cory has been working on the exhibit for just over ten years, stating that he began to work “more in earnest” four years ago. Throughout this time, he says, the exhibit has evolved.

“The exhibit has grown organically as we’ve worked with the various veterans’ groups and as word has spread about the project. We were worried initially that we wouldn’t have enough artefacts to mount it. Now we have enough to almost fill the entire gallery.”

Alongside more than 150 tangible items, an exhibit of protest posters of the time period will be on display, curated by the University of Calgary. In addition, there will also be a half scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial of Washington, D.C., called “The Moving Wall”, which has the names of all those killed in Vietnam on it, including some Canadians. The wall will be on display in the open field onsite from October 6 - 14.

In the end, though, the intangible will be the main focus, and Cory stresses the importance of preserving memory and fostering new understanding.

“We hope people will come to appreciate this group of veterans better, that the veterans themselves will feel more valued, that people will understand Canada’s role in the conflict better, and that generally there will be some healing, understanding, and historical perspective on a conflict that has been misunderstood and a group of veterans who served honourably but have even been reviled for their efforts. Hopefully this is possible after several decades.”

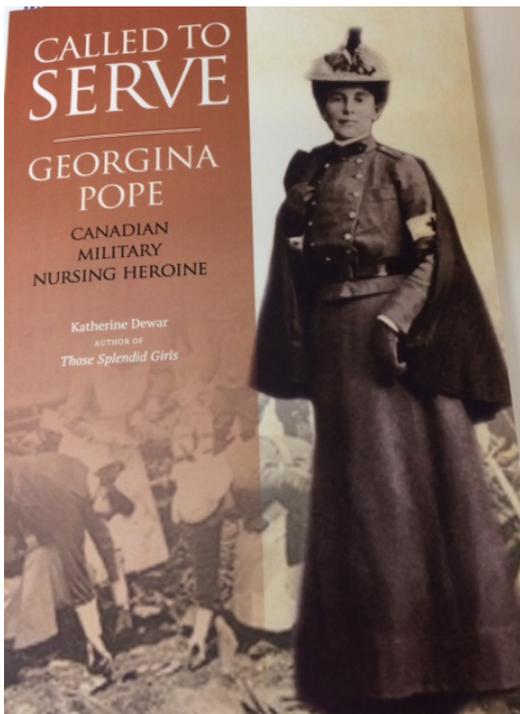
The exhibit will open 27 September 2018 and run until 6 January 2019 in the Founders Gallery. Please note that photography will not be permitted. Admission is included in The Military Museums’ general admission, with the Gallery open daily 9:00 - 17:00.



New Book on Canadian Nursing Heroine

Called to Serve is the title of a new book by Katherine Dewar (pictured at right) of Charlottetown. The book tells the story of Canadian Military Nursing Heroine Georgina Pope. Pope is one of 14 Valiant's whose bronze bust at Confederation Square, Ottawa is viewed by thousands of people every day. The Canadian Mint issued a \$5 coin bearing her image. How does his young woman, born in 1862 into privilege circumstances in Prince Edward Island, rise to the top echelon of Canadian Military nursing leadership and become a national hero? This book will take you to the battle fields of South Africa to the First war and home.

This book signed by the author is available from the PEI Regiment Museum. Cost \$28.00 plus shipping. Contact Greg Gallant at greggallant@pei.sympatico.ca



Matron Georgina Fane Pope RRC

Born 1 January 1862 at Ardgowan in Charlottetown into a prominent, influential family, Georgina Pope was the daughter of William Henry Pope, Father of Confederation, journalist, politician, Colonial Secretary and judge. Her mother, Helen Desbrisay was also of a prominent first family. Capt. Pope's maternal grandfather Thomas Desbrisay was the first Lt. Governor.

She has a unique and significant place in Prince Edward Island and Canadian Military History.

1899: Led the Canadian eight-nurse contingent to the Boer War.

1902: Led the second Canadian eight-nurse contingent to the Boer War.

1901: Presented the South African Medal by the Duke of Cornwall at Halifax.

1903: Awarded the RRC (Royal Red Cross) by the King of England for her services in the Boer War, the first Canadian nurse to receive that honour.

1904: Appointed to the Canadian Army Medical Corps reserve.

1906: Appointed from the reserve to the PAMC (Permanent Army Medical Corps).

1908: Became the first Matron of the CAMC, with the rank of Captain, a position she held until 1914.

1917: Transferred overseas to England.

1917: Appointed Matron of No. 15 CGH (Canadian General Hospital) at Taplow England. December 1917 she was transferred overseas to France.

1917– August 1918: Matron of No. 2 CSH (Canadian Stationary Hospital) at Outreau France.

1918: Invalided to England August 1918. And later in the year was invalided to Canada.

1918: Brought to the Notice of Secretary of State for War for valuable services rendered in France. 26/11/18.

In 1919 she was discharged from the army. She died in 1938 and lay in state in the Provincial Legislature of P.E.I. Her funeral was with full military honours and she is buried in Charlottetown.

Le Musée de l'Arme et du Bronze

By Pierre Gravel, Curator

Le Musée de l'Arme et du Bronze, in Granby, near Montréal, conserves and showcases civilian and military firearms. It holds the required permits necessary to acquire, manipulate and possess all types of functional prohibit and military firearms.

This having been said, the museum doesn't purchase firearms. All firearms are donated to the museum in exchange of an income tax receipt for its just value. All firearms are evaluated by experts in US dollars and when the donator is Canadian, the amount is converted in Canadian funds on the tax receipt.

When visiting the museum, visitors are able to see over 1260 functional firearms, most of which are of military nature.

As is the case for all museums, the mission of the « Musée de l'Arme et du Bronze » is to conserve and protect its artefacts for the benefit of future generations. In exchange of a tax receipt, the museum gives people the opportunity of donating their prohibited firearms rather than having them destroyed or neutralized.



ARMES À FEU

Vous désirez vous départir légalement et en toute sécurité de vos armes à feu antiques, modernes ou militaires (enregistrées ou non) en accord avec la Loi sur les armes à feu, nous vous suggérons de les remettre à notre musée afin que nous puissions les évaluer en USD à leur juste valeur et vous émettre en retour un reçu applicable sur votre prochain rapport d'impôt. Notre musée possède tous les permis requis par la GRC et la Sûreté du Québec permettant ainsi à son conservateur de prendre possession à votre résidence de vos armes à feu prohibées, à autorisation restreinte et sans restriction. Ce geste de votre part vous évitera de remettre vos armes en circulation ou de les faire détruire par la police. Nous effectuerons soigneusement le transfert de vos certificats d'enregistrement au Centre canadien des armes à feu à Miramichi. Un service d'évaluation est disponible pour les successions.



Le Musée canadien de l'arme et du bronze est

MAINTENANT OUVERT!

Du lundi au vendredi : sur rendez-vous seulement
Horaire d'été, du 1er mai 2017 au 31 octobre 2017
Samedi et dimanche : 10h00 à 16h30

53-1 rue Dufferin, Granby | bell@museemab.com | 450 531-7008 | 450 405-4585

New Exhibit for NORAD's 60th Anniversary

By Bethany Aitchison, Curatorial Assistant

NORAD, the North American Aerospace Defence Command, celebrated its 60th anniversary in May, 2018. This bilateral agreement is a proud union between Canada and the United States for mutual air defence. 22 Wing/CFB North Bay is home to the Canadian Air Defence Sector, which is responsible for monitoring all of the air traffic in and around Canada, and responding to any situations that may arise. As a symbol of the fully co-operative nature of the agreement, there is a contingent of United States Air Force members serving alongside the RCAF at North Bay.

The Canadian Forces Museum of Aerospace Defence wanted to showcase the fascinating history of NORAD, while simultaneously showcasing North Bay's history. Opening in May and running until the end of the year, the museum has a special exhibit entitled "Below! NORAD's Underground Fortresses". This exhibit explores the history of both North Bay's famous Underground Complex (UGC) as well as the Cheyenne Mountain Complex in Colorado.

With great assistance from the Peterson Air and Space Museum at Peterson Air Force Base, as well as historians and staff from the former NORAD Headquarters building, Cheyenne Mountain was able to be included in the exhibit as equally as the Canadian site. The aim was to showcase just how connected the two countries are in NORAD, by highlighting a shared, but ultimately very individual, history.



The fascinating history is complemented by artifacts from both sites, and has artifacts on loan from the Peterson Air and Space Museum, as well as the Base Borden Military Museum. When the exhibit has completed its run in North Bay, the graphic panels will be made available to rent by other museums, so that the story of NORAD's underground fortresses can be shared with communities around the country.

Blast from the Past

Photo submitted by Colin Stevens



OMMC Borden, 1984

Please e-mail Bethany.Aitchison@live.ca if you would like a high resolution copy

Front Row, left to right:

1. John Tough
2. Prof. Roy Hancock
3. Gordon Harrigan
4. Guthrie Woods
5. Bruce Beatty
6. Ludwig Kosche
7. N.A. Buckingham
8. Capt. F.K. Brown
9. Stu Maitland
10. Barry Agnew
11. Lt. Jack Bradford
12. Martin Hamilton
13. Roy Oglesby
14. Jean Oglesby
15. Ed Harrington
16. LCol Lucien Turcotte
17. Jim Caldwell
18. Lea Gault
19. M.H. Mann
20. LCol Tony Tremblay
21. LCol Paul DeFoy
22. LCol Pierre Couture

Second Row:

1. Pierre Prévost
2. Capt. W.F. Schultz
3. Bill Hornsby
4. Peter Clapham
5. Capt. Katherine Spencer
6. Dorothy Murray
7. L. F. Murray
8. Ernie Colwell
9. Sgt. Joe Evans
10. Carol Whitfield
11. Mary Poechman
12. Col. A.J. Bauer
13. Col. Wilf Unverricht
14. Donna Caldwell
15. Major Stewart Bull
16. Marilyn Smith
17. Brenda Brownlee
18. Jean Boyle
19. Alex Young
20. Major Dennis Harwood

Third Row:

1. Betty Yost
2. Brig. Jack Summers
3. LCol. George Horwood
4. Capt. Earl Hewison
5. Hilda Fell
6. Alan Fell
7. Grace Wake
8. Maj. Vic Stevenson
9. Warren Carroll
10. LCol. Cameron Fraser
11. Horce Holmes
12. John Hamelin
13. Nick Mandyrk
14. A. Poechman
15. Fred Bremner
16. Bill Elms
17. Paul Butler
18. Chuck Bainbridge
19. Dorothy Malott
20. Dick Malott
21. Major Vince Brown
22. Capt. Vince Bezeau
23. Tom Patridge

Fourth Row:

1. Brig. Gen. Bill Yost
2. Prof. David Ruddy
3. Howard Langstaff
4. Ron Dale
5. René Chartrand
6. Bill Wilson
7. Capt. Goodman Thompson
8. Col. Gary Lockwood
9. Maj. Jerry Vernon
10. Frank Dunbar
11. Dr. Jack Arnell
12. Celia Arnell
13. Colin Stevens
14. Tony Parkhouse
15. Malcolm Wake
16. Ian MacDonald
17. Capt. Vernon Murray
18. Barry Gillis
19. John Grenville
20. Maj. H.F. Elliott
21. Steve Mecredy
22. Ross Wilson
23. Bruce Ellis
24. Don Carrington
25. Capt. R. D. Bradford
26. Warren Almond

Mug Shot!

Greg Gallant, PEI Regiment Museum, shows off his OMMC mug that he was awarded for having the most-viewed OMMC Facebook post of 2018.

This and other custom items are available on the OMMC store, "The Supply Depot", at www.cafepress.ca/thesupplydepot.

Greg Gallant, du PEI Regiment Museum, est fier de la chope qu'il a reçu de l'OMMC en tant que l'auteur de l'article Facebook OMMC le plus consulté en 2018.

Cette chope, et autres articles personnalisés, sont disponibles au magasin OMMC à www.cafepress.ca/thesupplydepot.



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