

### Upcoming Dates

- May 31—deadline for nominations for OMMC Honours and Awards
- June 6—80th Anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy
- June 17—21 OMMC Annual Museum Studies Program in Regina, Saskatchewan

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# The Bulletin



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May 2024

## Message from the President, Anne Lindsay-MacLeod

Good day fellow OMMC members,

I am pleased to present to you the latest edition of the OMMC Bulletin. My sincere thanks go to Seana Jones, who recently took on the role of Communications Director.

Becoming a board member isn't just about taking on a role and a title. It's about rolling up your shirt sleeves, and getting stuck in. As an all volunteer organization, we all (or most of us have) full time jobs and families to take care of.

The volunteer work often takes a back seat to these other very vital responsibilities. Work still has to get done, so you will often find us burning the midnight oil and spending weekends in front of our computer screens.

To current and past board members – thank you for all that you do and the sacrifices you have made – we couldn't do it without you. I am certain the membership will echo my sentiments.

For those of you interested in becoming a board member, please consider a nomination. If you are interested, but would like to know more, feel free to contact any current board member for “the skinny”.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the annual course this year. I realize that funding has been rolled back, and for many of us the pocketbook is thin, but I hope you will try your utmost to attend – as always it will be a great week!

## Harvey Dreaver: Recognizing Indigenous Veterans on D-Day 80

By: Kelsey Lonie, Military Historian, Royal Regina Rifles Trust

Eighty years ago, the Regina Rifles landed on the beaches of Normandy as part of the largest amphibious invasion in military history. To commemorate the sacrifices of these citizen-soldiers from Saskatchewan, the Royal Regina Rifles (RRR) Trust has undergone an eighteen-month fundraising campaign to erect an eight-foot bronze statue in their memory at Bretteville-sur-Mer, France, on 5 June 2024.

The Regina Rifles were nicknamed the “Farmer Johns,” but

they were not all farmers; many were young men from cities across the province, and approximately twenty percent of the Regiment were Indigenous. For years, Indigenous veterans of the Second World War have been overlooked. In Saskatchewan, the RRR Trust is working with Indigenous family members, knowledge keepers, and bands to remedy this. Before heading to Normandy, the statue will make a stop on the Peepeekisis First Nation in southern Saskatchewan for a ceremonial blessing.

Among the countless acts of bravery by Indigenous veterans both in Saskatchewan and Canada, I have chosen to highlight the life of Harvey Dreaver. Dreaver was an Indigenous man from the Mistawasis First Nation who stormed Juno Beach and pushed inland during the Normandy campaign.

Harvey Dreaver was born on 29 November 1914 on the Mistawasis reserve, 70 kilometres west of Prince Albert. Growing up, he was a skilled athlete, and, in 1934, he graduated as a auto-mechanic. Nota-

## Harvey Dreaver cont...



**Harvey  
Dreaver,  
Regina Rifles  
1914-1944**

bly, Harvey was the great-great grandson of Chief Mistawasis who signed Treaty No. 6 at Fort Carlton in 1876.

When Harvey enlisted with the Regina Rifles Regiment in June 1940, he indicated on his service record that he wanted to “do his part.” Harvey was from a family of war veterans. His father, Chief Joe Dreaver was awarded the Military Medal during the First World War and he re-enlisted in the Second World War as a Sergeant in the Veterans’ Guard of Canada. His uncle, Private Frank Nicol Dreaver, was killed in action at Vimy Ridge.

When the Second World War broke out, Chief Dreaver drove all of the fourteen men of military age in his band to Saskatoon to enlist. Harvey, two of his brothers and his father signed up that day. Two of his sisters enlisted with the CWAC.

Harvey joined the Regina Rifles and quickly moved up the ranks from Rifleman to Lieutenant to Sergeant. He was made Section Leader of D Company when the Regina Rifles landed in Normandy on D-Day.

During the invasion, his men were pinned down by fortifications in front of Courseulles-sur-Mer and of the 120 men in

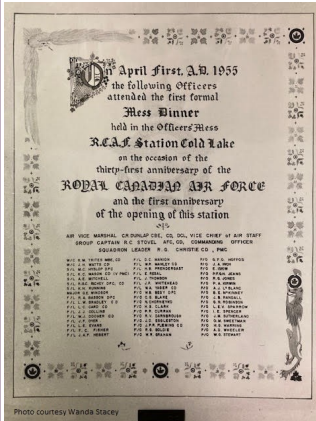
D Company, only 49 made it to shore.

Harvey fought in many of the major battles in Normandy, pushing inland until he was killed in action during the battle of the Leopold Canal on 6 October 1944 at the age of 28. He left behind a wife and young daughter on the Mistawasis reserve. His courage and valour earned him many military medals, including the Belgian Croix de Guerre.

Harvey is buried at the Adegem Canadian War Cemetery in Belgium, where many of the men who died during the operation at Leopold Canal have been laid to rest.

## Cold Lake Air Force Museum celebrates RCAF100

Wanda Stacey, Curator, CLAFM



**RCAF Stn Cold  
Lake First Mess  
Dinner Attendees  
1 April 1955**

On April 6, 2024, the museum held a free RCAF100 Open House to celebrate the centennial year of the of the RCAF, which was formed on April 1, 1924.

We had over 45 volunteers from 4 Wing Cold Lake on hand in most of our exhibits, acting as Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) for their units and squadrons. In addition, we had a recruiting table for the RCAF.

Approximately ¾ of the volunteers had not had previously visited the museum, so it was a great opportunity for everyone to learn.

Artist Jim Belliveau of Belliveau Art & Design was on hand to interpret our Cruise Missile exhibit which he designed and

installed in 2022. In addition, the Cold Lake Air Force Museum has an exhibit on all the CF -188 Demonstration jets tied to Cold Lake squadrons that were designed and painted by Mr. Belliveau. It was a great chance to meet the artist and ask questions about his experiences.

The Cold Lake Air Force Museum also unveiled two new exhibits for 2024. The first is an exhibit celebrating the RCAF Centennial through the display of several artifacts that will be featured in a book entitled, *100 Artifacts for 100 Years: A History for the Royal Canadian Air Force Centennial*.

This book has been published online and is available through

the links at the end of this article.

Our exhibit contains a timeline of key events in RCAF history, with emphasis on several Cold Lake contributions. Notable artifacts include a proof copy of the *Regulations for the Canadian Air Force and The Air Board Act (1920)*, and a list of officers who attended the first formal mess dinner at RCAF Station Cold Lake on April 1, 1955.

The second new exhibit at the museum for 2024 features the history of 11 MP Flight at 4 Wing Cold Lake. We were fortunate to acquire a functional light bar from a Cold Lake MP cruiser.

Our sincere thanks to Mr. Gord Crossley, Heritage Of-

ficer of 17 Wing Winnipeg, who was able to help us with a replacement blue light cover for this artifact. This exhibit also includes a special tribute to Capt. Cletus Cheng, a former CO.

We are also happy to assist and support 4 Wing in various activities occurring at 4 Wing during RCAF Week, from May 22-25, 2024 to celebrate the RCAF Centennial, and to have a booth at the 2024 Cold Lake Air Show taking place on July 20-21, 2024.



WO Brad Norman and the 11 MP Flight exhibit at Cold Lake Air Force Museum, April 6, 2024. Photo courtesy WO Jonathan McArthur.

### WO Brad Norman of 1 MP Sqn

## Thoughtful Reading for Military Museum Personnel

Sandra Johnson Penney, Canadian Military Engineers Museum

Every year, the OMMC makes the opportunity to remember those of our members who have passed since our last assembly. The tradition comes from our military heritage of remembering the fallen, but there is much more to losing a colleague than just the remembrance of them. There are the complex reactions and ongoing needs of those left behind, both in their family and amongst the museum team.

In 2023, this befell the CME Museum with the loss of Sgt Jean Maillet. So many of you were quick to reach out to me and offer condolences and support. That was very appreciated by those of us in the office and by the family when I told Jean's wife about the outpouring of sympathy from his colleagues in the Canadian Military Museums. During the time of Jean's illness and after his passing, I also had the won-

derful safety net of the military community around me, including a command team that is aware, compassionate, and involved. For all of these I was thankful and appreciative.

Revisiting that experience with the release of this article opened by eyes to the need to extend the culture of remembrance to include our colleagues and to the need for Museum team leaders to be aware of how the loss of a colleague changes the dynamic and needs of that team at the individual level.

The website above is a subscription-based newsletter and blog for Museum workers. It provides articles on a wide range of subjects about the reality of being a human who works in Museums with a view of maintaining our humanity. You do have to subscribe, but there is no cost involved

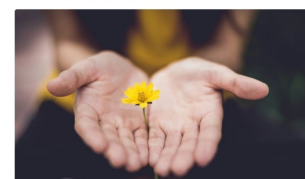
and the articles provide a wider perspective on our industry that we often encounter in our daily operations.

In this article Jen Holmes discusses the impact of the death of a colleague on her team and herself as a team leader. It is well worth the read whether we have a large work team or not. Most importantly, the lessons at the end of the article offer guidance and solace for those working on or leading a team that loses a member or colleague. It is a short article with six lessons that give insight into dealing with loss on the job.

Museum  
Human

When a Colleague Dies—a Guest Post by Jen Holmes

On being human at work; lessons on leading through the unimaginable



[www.museumhuman.com](http://www.museumhuman.com)

## Significant Donation of Rare NB Militia Weapons to NB Military History Museum

Melynda Jarratt, Museum Curator, New Brunswick Military History Museum

***“These are extraordinarily rare artefacts from a time when trained, volunteer militia units were raised to protect the province from a potential American invasion...”***

A significant collection of rare, pre-Confederation weapons marked to 18th and 19th century New Brunswick Militia units is coming to the NB Military History Museum in Oromocto.

Lance Howard, a collector from Bocabec, New Brunswick, donated five weapons, two swords and one bayonet to the NB Military History Museum where they can be professionally displayed and seen by the public.

"Having collected a number of antique weapons that demonstrate part of the military history of New Brunswick, I always thought they would be most appreciated by the descendants of those who actually used them. So, it seemed appropriate to donate these artifacts to the New Brunswick Military History Museum, where I believe they will long be available for all to enjoy," Howard says.

According to David Hughes, Manager of the NB Military History Museum at CFB Gagetown in Oromocto, the collection repre-

sents a significant chapter in the province's military and cultural heritage.

"These are extraordinarily rare artefacts from a time when trained, volunteer militia units were raised to protect the province from a potential American invasion following the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and, in the years preceding Confederation including the threat posed by the Fenian Raids," says Hughes.

Another rare piece is a British India Pattern Musket commonly known as a Brown Bess. The butt is marked "Sunbury Militia", which shows it was issued to the Sunbury Militia, established in 1770 by an Order in Council of the government of Nova Scotia.

Other weapons in the collection include:

- British Baker Rifle, one of the first weapons with a rifled barrel issued in the Napoleonic Wars.

- British 1853 Enfield Long Rifle.

- British Snider-Enfield Long Rifle Mark II 1862, one of the last pattern 1853 Enfields to be converted to breech loading. In 1868, 4750 of these rifles were distributed in NB of which half were destroyed in the Great Fire of Saint John in 1877. This rifle is one of the few that survived.

- British 1853 Enfield Long Rifle Socket bayonet and scabbard that goes with the 1853 Enfield Long Rifle.

- Victorian Infantry Officer pattern 1845 sword and scabbard. The "NB Militia" imprint appears on the waist belt buckle.

The public was invited to a special event on Monday, April 15, 2024 at the NB Military History Museum to view the weapons and meet the donor, Lance Howard. Located at Building A-5, 119 Walnut Street, CFB Gagetown in Oromocto, the NB Military History Museum is open to the public Monday to Friday, from 1000 to 1600 hrs.





ORGANIZATION OF  
MILITARY MUSEUMS  
OF CANADA

L'ORGANISATION DES  
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DU CANADA

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**A new website is in  
the works!**

## OMMC Board of Directors 2023—2024

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Bradley Froggatt	Secretary / Membership Director	Kevin Windsor	Treasurer/ Education Committee Chair

Léon Chamois—Past President

### Directors at Large

Sandra Johnson Penney	Grant Tyler	Kent Griffiths
Seana Jones		

## Communications Committee Needs Volunteers!

The Communications Committee is looking for volunteers.

Are you:

- Passionate about sharing museum news and ideas on social media?
- Have a creative flair and enjoy design work?
- Love to edit newsletter articles?
- Looking to improve your social media, website creation or editorial skills?

We have a job for you!

Please send all potential inquiries to the  
Chair of the Communications Committee:

[seana.jones@forces.gc.ca](mailto:seana.jones@forces.gc.ca)



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