

# THE / LE BULLETIN



## From the President

I want to share with you some of my philosophy about military museums; these thoughts are not new, I have spoken about them before. I fervently believe that well-run and ethical military museums cannot and do not glorify war. War is an abomination and people who visit our museums must realize that by the time their visits are over. I know that we exhibit many big and shiny or small and deadly looking artifacts that can stir peoples' imaginations but our visitors must appreciate that most of the items we exhibit were designed to inflict harm on fellow human beings or to support such efforts.

I ask visitors to my museum to think of us as they would a museum of firefighters; to realize how destructive fires are but to glorify the heroic efforts and sacrifices of firefighters. There is no glory in war except the glory of self-sacrifice for the greater good.

What has made me think about the subjects are the troubles that the Canadian Museum of Human Rights is undergoing. This museum is dedicated to educating us of the horrors that we have inflicted upon each other, horrors brought on by prejudices and an inability to view others as equals. It has been accused of promoting these exact issues, admittedly on a much smaller scale, among its personnel. One can only wonder how much this unfortunate episode will taint its ability to get its message across to people.

Military museums have to be careful that their message is not likewise diluted or skewed by unintended bias in their presentations. I think we can all remember the controversies at the Canadian War Museum over their exhibits about the Somalia affair and the WWII bombing campaign.

I apologize if this is a bit dis-jointed but I'm trying to get across the message that these days, most visitors expect and deserve more from a visit to a military museum than just a pile of uniforms and weapons. Our messages have become social and historical, not just military.

Léon

## Du président

Je veux partager avec vous une partie de ma philosophie sur les musées militaires; ces pensées ne sont pas nouvelles, j'en ai déjà parlé. Je crois fermement que les musées militaires bien gérés et éthiques ne peuvent pas glorifier la guerre. La guerre est une abomination et les gens qui visitent nos musées doivent s'en rendre compte par la fin de leurs visites. Je sais que nous exposons de nombreux artefacts grands et brillants ou petits et mortels qui peuvent éveiller l'imagination des gens, mais nos visiteurs doivent comprendre que la plupart des objets que nous exposons ont été conçus pour nuire à d'autres êtres humains ou pour soutenir de tels efforts.

Je demande aux visiteurs de mon musée de penser à nous comme ils le feraient à un musée des pompiers; pour réaliser à quel point les incendies sont destructeurs, et pour glorifier les efforts héroïques et les sacrifices des pompiers. Il n'y a de gloire dans la guerre que la gloire du sacrifice de soi pour le plus grand bien.

Ce qui m'a fait réfléchir sur ces sujets, ce sont les troubles qu'éprouve le Musée canadien des droits de la personne. Ce musée se consacre à nous éduquer sur les horreurs que nous nous sommes infligées les uns aux autres, les horreurs provoquées par les préjugés et l'incapacité à voir les autres comme des égaux. Il a été accusé de promouvoir ces questions exactes, certes à une échelle beaucoup plus petite, parmi son personnel. On ne peut que se demander à quel point cet épisode malheureux entachera sa capacité à faire passer son message aux gens.

Les musées militaires doivent veiller à ce que leur message ne soit pas dilué ou faussé de la même manière par un biais involontaire dans leurs présentations. Je pense que nous pouvons tous nous souvenir des controverses au Musée canadien de la guerre au sujet de leurs expositions sur l'affaire de la Somalie et la campagne de bombardement de la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Je m'excuse si cela est un peu désarticulé, mais j'essaie de faire passer le message que de nos jours, la plupart des visiteurs attendent et méritent plus d'une visite dans un musée militaire qu'une simple pile d'uniformes et d'armes. Nos messages sont devenus sociaux et historiques, pas seulement militaires.

Léon

## How a Digital Recruit Helped a CAF Museum During COVID-19

By Jeremy Neal Blowers, Ontario Regiment RCAC Museum

I would like to introduce you to the latest member of our museum team; MCpl Lana. She isn't any ordinary recruit. Lana is an animated virtual assistant. Powered by artificial intelligence (AI), she's poised to change the way we track, manage and welcome our staff and volunteers and change the way visitors experience our museum.

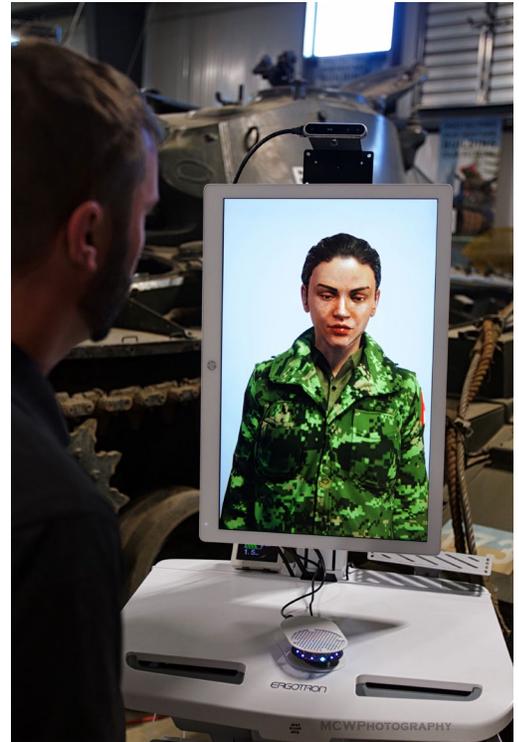
Integrating the technology into the museum's operations began back in 2019 as we were looking for a new and innovative way to welcome visitors, provide them with important information about our museum and speed up the admission process. As our attendance has grown and is centered around key annual events, we were looking for a new and faster way to process visitors, especially those with pre-paid passes and VIP tickets. This is how the adventure began and development was on-track for MCpl Lana's first deployment to the field for Aquino 2020. This was not to be, however, as the world changed dramatically in March, and Lana would have to wait to be introduced to the public.

During our closure and the pandemic, we were stuck in a dilemma; our vehicle section is full of living artifacts that need to be maintained, started, checked and moved to be protected. Unlike some institutions, we are unable to just turn our backs on the collection and lock the doors for six months. Just like your family car, sitting idle can be damaging to the components and much of this fleet is comprised of vintage systems that are both fragile and not easily replaced. After the first month, the decision was made that we needed to send in a small and specialized team to maintain and monitor the vehicle collection, and this is where MCpl Lana jumped in to help.

The COVID-19 pandemic allowed us to expand and pivot Lana's role, as she is now screening staff and volunteers and can provide health and safety guidance such as reminders on hand washing and social distancing. The daily COVID-19 screening required by the local authorities could be done on-site without a dedicated staff member and the results could be monitored and recorded. The solution even has a body scanning feature with fever screening protocol. This provides our staff with a seamless, contactless, and safe way to check in and out of the museum and providing the museum management a detailed record of results and staff hours on-site.

Today you can find MCpl Lana still fulfilling her role in staff screening and contact tracing for all staff at the museum, but again we are pivoting the technology to screen visitors to the museum as we re-open to the public.

Welcoming our visitors in an innovative way was the inspiration for the development of MCpl Lana, but, as with all AI, she was able to change and adapt to situations and find new roles that have helped our museum through a crisis. As we develop the technology further and add more and more to her role who knows what the future may hold for this AI museum assistant; will she be providing insight to visitors of an exhibit and answering their questions? Will she be a helpful guide through the museum and its collection? Maybe she will be welcoming visitors and processing them at the front desk as intended. The current global crisis has allowed us to re-think how Lana can be of service and pivot her role to one of protecting our visitors, our staff and ultimately our community. Regardless of her ever-changing role and how she will be utilized at the museum in the future, I bet MCpl Lana is shortly due for a promotion.



## Valour Canada Updates

By Aaron Curtis, Valour Canada



**CONNECTING  
CANADIANS  
TO THEIR MILITARY  
HERITAGE**

Valour Canada has been busy despite July and August being normally a quiet time for us. We brought aboard two student employees for the summer and over the past few months our team has been developing new educational resources – all of which will be digitally accessible on [ValourCanada.ca](http://ValourCanada.ca).

Youth Education Program for Museums: Autumn presentations have been cancelled.

Valour Canada's Character of Canadian Military History (CCMH) program has been cancelled for the autumn. Looking ahead to the spring of 2021, assuming that Canada is back to some semblance of normal by then, we intend to be available for free presentations to students, cadets, guides/scouts, etc., in the following locations:

British Columbia:	February 28 (Sunday) – March 6 (Saturday)
Manitoba:	March 14 (Sunday) – March 20 (Saturday)
Alberta:	March 31 (Wednesday) – April 22 (Thursday)
Ontario:	May 2 (Sunday) – May 15 (Saturday)

Please email us if you'd like to discuss this opportunity.

### Valour Canada History & Heritage Scholarship

The aim of Valour Canada's History and Heritage Scholarship (VCHHS) is to support Canadian high-school students in their college or university pursuits by providing an engaging, thought-provoking, and memorable scholarship contest. Our inaugural VCHHS competition finished in mid-July. We are proud to announce our 2020 winner, G.E. Small, Barrie, ON, and our runner-up, Sophia Andia, Ottawa, ON. The VCHHS will be presented annually to the student who creates the best essay and video response to a provided question.



To help us continue educating young Canadians about Canada's military history, please consider becoming a member or making a donation. Connect with us at: [contact@valourcanada.ca](mailto:contact@valourcanada.ca).

## Weathering the Pandemic Storm on Juno Beach

By Alicia Dotiwalla, Juno Beach Centre

*Editor's Note: This article contains hyperlinks to additional content. Click on underlined sections to launch.*

As Canada's Second World War museum and cultural centre in Normandy, France, in a "typical" year, the Juno Beach Centre (JBC) welcomes visitors from around the world, notably from Canada, France, the UK and the Netherlands. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the unprecedented closure of the museum from mid-March to early June, in line with the measures and timeline implemented by the French government. During that time, with the exception of the Canadian student guides, staff in France and Canada continued to work from home on a variety of projects, including seeking new, virtual ways to engage with our audience and to mark commemorative anniversaries. Once museum staff were permitted back on site, a plan for the reopening was established, and all necessary sanitary protections were installed.

The JBC re-opened to the public on June 6, the 76th anniversary of D-Day, following an intimate commemorative ceremony. Over the summer months, increasing numbers of visitors came to discover the museum and the guided tours, and to experience a "Canadian welcome" by a team of young, enthusiastic Canadian guides. Implementing sanitary protocols necessitated an "all hands on deck" approach, as well as alternative means of safely adapting or limiting access to popular interactive features, including the "Explore Juno as a Family" youth circuit with educational games on tactile screens. Guided visits of Juno Park and remains of the Atlantic Wall continued, with smaller numbers of visitors permitted per tour.

In early 2020, the museum launched a QR code-based "Webb Visit" app (named after veteran and JBC founder, Garth Webb). The chief aim of the app is to provide translations to content in Dutch and German, which proved fortuitous this year as, in addition to the French public, visitors from the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany were among the most frequent. The app also allowed us to offer digital access to interactive contents which were removed out of precaution. In general, the pandemic period has encouraged – at times forced – the JBC teams in Canada and France to reflect on new strategies and priorities in all areas of operations, development, and communications, whether digital or otherwise.



During the summer months, we felt the absence of Canadian visitors. Most years, the museum welcomes thousands of Canadians, many of whom seek to pay homage to family members who fought during the Second World War. Given the travel restrictions and uncertainties, understandably, few Canadian visitors made the trip to Juno Beach this year. The JBC typically also has the honour of welcoming Second World War veterans, mainly Canadian and British, but this was not the case during the summer of 2020.

In order to continue to meaningfully engage with our international audience, including those Canadians who were not able to be with us on Juno Beach, the JBC maintained a strong presence online via social media, and with online exhibits and activities for kids and families.

Two exciting opportunities to support the museum were launched in 2020: the opportunity to sponsor a Canadian flag that flew on Juno Beach, and the Virtual Remembrance Run in Support of the JBC, a virtual fundraising event whereby participants register to run or walk a distance that is symbolic to the Canadian experience on D-Day (between September 1 and November 28, 2020). These projects contribute to the JBC's mission and commitment to remember and encourage visitors and supporters to join us in in these commemorative endeavours.

## The Kingston Cup

By Andrew Oakden, RCA Museum



The Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA) Museum has on display an old ice hockey trophy. To this day, the Commanding Officer of the 1st Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (1 RCHA) presents the cup to the winner of the annual hockey game between A and B Batteries. A businessman in Kingston, Ontario, Wallie Cusick, commissioned the trophy in 1927. The presentation of the Kingston Cup is a Canadian Artillery tradition that originates from the 1930s. They play each year, when not deployed overseas, in honour of St. Barbara, the patron Saint of Gunners.

The game of ice hockey has a long history in the British Army that predates the founding of the National Hockey League in 1917 and the Canadian Confederation in 1867. British Regulars, on occasion, played an early form of ice hockey in North America since the early 1800s. They learned the game back in England and then brought it with them. In 1843, British soldiers played in Kingston, Ontario, noted by Sir Arthur Freeling, a British Lieutenant stationed in Kingston.

The Canadian military also has a long tradition of playing hockey. Soldiers have traditionally placed a high value on sport to instill qualities such as leadership, teamwork, and toughness. After the founding of A Battery in 1871, the garrison troops played an early form of the game. After the winter freeze, they played on the icy barrack square and on Lake Ontario. In fact, Canadian Gunners were pioneers of hockey in Canada.

While hockey was not a Canadian invention, they did help develop the game to its modern form. The first organized Canadian amateur hockey game occurred in Montreal in 1875, and they likely used rules from the local garrison troops. The first Canadian published rules came in 1877. Canadians modernized the game in the 1880s. For example, they reduced the number of players on each side from nine to six.

In 1886, Canadians formed the Amateur Hockey Association of Canada, which lasted twelve years. In 1893, they started competing for the Stanley Cup. In 1911, they started the National Hockey Association, which later became the National Hockey League in 1917. Without a doubt, the Kingston Cup represents part of this uniquely Canadian story.

## RCRM Digital

By Georgiana Stanciu, Royal Canadian Regiment Museum

*Editor's Note: This article contains hyperlinks to additional content. Click on underlined sections to launch.*

RCRM Digital is a free membership for all, designed to engage with our public in London, Ontario, across Canada and ... world-wide!

Since March 2020, the Royal Canadian Regiment Museum (RCRM) has gained new followers and loyal patrons through social media, website or other platforms hosting the digital content produced by staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We welcome everyone, from everywhere. Subscribers will receive monthly updates about the museum activities and its most recent digital content. As the museum is preparing to reopen for visitors, hopefully soon, we are ready to launch RCRM Digital. The museum is not charging membership fees, but financial donations are appreciated (email or call 519-660-5275 ext 5015 for details).

Stay connected and become a subscriber by clicking [here](#).



[Stories from the Collection](#) highlights artifacts in our holdings, as well as the fascinating stories they bring to light. Most of these artefacts are preserved in storage, but some may also be seen on display. Browse through the various stories to see archives and objects up close. A new story is published every two month.

Interested in Canadian history? The RCRM Speakers Series features Canadian history topics or events that changed the face of the world, and their impact on our community. A series of public talks premiere on the [RCRM's YouTube](#) channel every third Thursday of the month. A podcast episode is also issued on [Simplecast](#), three weeks after the premiere.



Whether it is an online guided tour, a live broadcast on social media or digital activities via the website, we like to engage with our subscribers on a regular basis. Check in on [Facebook](#) for Drop-in Wednesday at 11:30am (EST). Contact the Public Programmer ([programmer@thercrmmuseum.ca](mailto:programmer@thercrmmuseum.ca)) to book an online guided tour. Our [website](#) offers interactive activities, online or printable games. Lessons for elementary and secondary levels are also available.

## New Memorial to 52nd (New Ontario) Battalion in Thunder Bay

By George Romick, Thunder Bay Military Museum

The idea of the 52nd (New Ontario) Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force Memorial was that of the Senate of the Lake Superior Scottish Regiment. It was to create a new war memorial in remembering and recognizing those volunteers from Northwestern Ontario and their impact on our history and culture.

The 52nd (New Ontario) Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force was an infantry unit that was raised in Port Arthur, Ontario, which is now Thunder Bay, for the First World War. Mobilized at the end of March 1915, it recruited over 1,000 officers and men from all regions of Northwestern Ontario, including Port Arthur, Fort William, and



regional towns like Nipigon, Fort Frances, and Dryden. The 52nd Battalion was a diverse group of soldiers, including a large group of Indigenous soldiers, and, as replacements from other parts of Canada were received, roughly 30 Japanese-Canadians soldiers were added to the Battalion. The contribution of this one unit is an important example of our region's legacy where multiple groups of different backgrounds came together in a huge undertaking at great personal sacrifice. The story of the First World War is a pivotal one in our history and our culture. This monument will help to preserve that story and educate future generations of Canadians.

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During the First World War, the 52nd Battalion suffered so greatly and were reinforced so often that by the end of the war, about 4,100 officers and men had passed through its ranks, of which 743 died overseas. The 52nd Battalion was awarded eighteen Battle Honours, which include experiences at Ypres, Mount Sorrel, the Somme, Arras, Vimy, Hill 70, Passchendaele, Amiens, and more. The 52nd Battalion was awarded 380 gallantry awards including one Victoria Cross, along with numerous Distinguished Service Orders, Military Crosses, Orders of the British Empire, Distinguished Conduct Medals, Military Medals, Meritorious Service Medals, Mentioned in Despatches and even a handful of French medals. The 52nd (New Ontario) Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force perpetuates the Lake Superior Regiment (Motor), Second World War, and the Lake Superior Scottish Regiment, present day.

The new memorial was built to recognize Northwestern Ontario's First World War volunteers on Thunder Bay's north during the summer of 2019, will serve as overdue recognition for Northwestern Ontario's volunteers in the First World War, say those behind the project.

The memorial was built in Current River Park, just off Cumberland Street North, and specifically focuses on the 52nd (New Ontario) Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, said Tim Groulx of the Lake Superior Scottish Regiment (LSSR) Senate, the civilian organization working on the project.

But the memorial itself is about much more than the 52nd Battalion alone, said Groulx. This Battalion is our role model for remembering all of the people who went to the First World War from Northwestern Ontario. "Right now, other than the Port Arthur Cenotaph and the Fort William Cenotaph, there is no memorial specifically for the veterans of the First World War".

"We want to remember the people that served, and who lost their lives," said Cliff Friesen, Honorary Colonel, LSSR. "It's also very important from the perspective that we need to have our young people understand what has taken place in the past, and how they've made it possible for ourselves, and of course the young people today, to enjoy the freedom that they have."



HMCS Regina and USNS Henry J. Kaiser conduct a Replenishment at Sea (RAS) as USS Chafee breaks away after completing her RAS on August 16, 2020.

Photo: MS Dan Bard, Canadian Forces Combat Camera, Canadian Armed Forces Photo

Le NCSM Regina et l'USNS Henry J. Kaiser effectuent un ravitaillement en mer (REM), et l'USS Chafee s'éloigne après avoir terminé le sien, le 16 août 2020.

Photo : Matc Dan Bard, Caméra de combat des Forces canadiennes, Forces armées canadiennes

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