



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Next Year's Course

Based on your comments from the course critiques it would appear that most of you were satisfied with the program presented in Winnipeg. I say this with some reservations because only twenty-five critiques were received. Be that as it may, I am confident that these critiques plus your suggestions from the end of the course review session will ensure that we (Dan Potvin, Dick Malott, Dan Mackay, Marce Richard) and myself will be able to put together an excellent program for 1999.

Once again we plan to balance classroom presentations with field trips. In order to gain full benefit from our trips we have arranged for guest speakers to give us the background on the various museums we are scheduled to visit. And what field trips they will be! Our day in Saint John for example will feature the recently opened NB Museum which is located in a downtown mall (if you haven't seen Ted Brother's example in Nanaimo, here's your chance to see a biggie!) Similarly our trip to King's Landing will be a behind the scenes look at their operation presented by expert staff.

We will have lecturers from foreign shores and

from close to home and we expect to cover everything from "how to set a 3 Ton Lorry on a pad" to "how to work that digital camera to get pictures on your collection record". We will be quartered in the new officers' barracks and I can guarantee they are really comfortable. The VP tells me we are going to have an "army" formal dining-in to counteract the "air force" flavour at the '98 course. I don't know quite what he means.

A number of you (about 20) could not be accommodated at the conference in Winnipeg, and for this we are sorry. We are making different arrangements for future courses so that this situation does not happen again. However, if you don't get your registration in on time, don't be mad at us. We have a cut-off date for a very good reason.

The Millennium Project

We sent out more than 30 letters across Canada to two levels of government and all veterans, cadets, Girl Guides and Scouting organizations to let them know what we are thinking and when we plan to start. We have had very positive responses from more than 24 of the addressees so far and we are very hopeful for the future.

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Regrettably, our chief supporter in DND, LGen Dallaire, has been sent on sick leave for an indefinite period, so we are going it alone at this point. We hope he gets well soon and returns to give us his needed guidance and support. We are investigating

various sources of revenue and other partnership support, but at this point I cannot be more specific about how it will all turn out. Keep tuned for the next Bulletin.

The Future for Military Museums

Working on a recommendation for the Strategic Business Plan, the following Directors have agreed to act as the regional representatives for the area shown:

Marce Richard - The Atlantic Region

Denis Lavoie - Québec, Ontario (Ottawa to North Bay)

Ross Mackenzie - East, South & West Ontario

Jodi Ann Eskritt - The Lakehead & Manitoba

Keith Inches - Saskatchewan & Alberta

Joel Clarkston - British Columbia

Their duties will include contact with as many of our member museums as possible during the year, either personally or by telephone, to see if there is any way the OMMC Inc. can be of assistance with problems, whether the museum can provide articles for the Bulletin, whether the museum can provide a speaker for the Course and whether the OMMC Inc. can publicize the museum's activities. The regional reps will also be a contact point for members who may wish to have the benefit of OMMC Inc's expertise or advice on any museum related matter. A small operating allowance for these tasks will be provided to the rep.

Other Thoughts

The art work for our Coat of Arms has been completed and will be delivered to us this week. We have already gathered some preliminary costs for the production of lapel and tie pins and cufflinks using designs based on part of the overall design. In the next Bulletin we hope to have pictures of the designs and final costs for these items based on minimum quantity runs. You may want to be thinking of other ways to use the official coat of arms of the OMMC Inc.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Third Annual US Army Museum Training Course

The Third Annual US Army Museum Training Course was held in St. Louis, Missouri from 26 April to 1 May 1998. The course, hosted by the U.S. Army Engineer Museum based at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, is advertised as the world's largest annual professional military museum Training Course. Like our own course their course consists of lectures, demonstrations, seminars and workshops. It is designed to accommodate several disciplines in the museum profession and to facilitate the exchange of information regarding their museum policies and procedures. Nearly one quarter of the participants come from outside of the Army and the federal government. This includes a group of foreign military museum representatives as well as some unique attendees such as the local owner of Planet Hollywood which incorporates in its restaurant motif, movie memorabilia some of which is military.

Generally speaking their course is the primary training resource for museum professionals employed in any military museum. Featured topics focus on important Army (and other) service museum problems, needs and changes.

The course is taught by museum specialists, eg. curators, archivists, law professors, conservators and collections specialists from the Department of Defence and the private sector.

The program for this five day course was a mix of lectures/presentations and field trips. Following opening remarks by MGen Flowers, Commanding General, U.S. Army Engineer Centre and Fort Leonard Wood and by BGen Mountcastle, the Chief of Military History, representatives from foreign museums were given the opportunity to make a brief presentation. It was at this time that I gave an overview of OMMC Inc. and invited any interested museums or individuals to join us and given the exchange rate it was quite a bargain!

The day one program was a series of lectures, which concentrated on philosophical and conceptual issues pertaining to museums and exhibit design in the 21st Century. Topics covered included, Conceptualization and Exhibit Design, Conservation Issues in Exhibit Design, Interactive Exhibits, Commercial Exhibit Design and Exhibits for large/diverse audiences.

Day two began with two lectures focusing on the technical aspects of exhibit design. The first session on lighting techniques provided in-depth information on traditional, contemporary, and future trends and techniques in museum lighting. The second session dealt with labelling techniques and showed us how we might use existing equipment to develop desktop publishing programs, thus allowing enhanced in-house ability to improve their role in signage, publications, and didactic labelling.

The major field trip of the course was made to Fort Leonard Wood on day three. Like our trip to Shilo, this was a two hour drive to the home of the

US Army Engineers. Our visit included a tour of their state of the art museum which featured as an annex a collection of restored WWII barrack blocks.

The focus for day four was on conservation and accessions. We had a fascinating presentation by the owner of Planet Hollywood who showed how he combined exhibits of Hollywood memorabilia with the restaurant business. We looked at his use of space and exhibit design.

This presentation was followed by a demonstration of the new Army Museum Information System (AMIS). This in turn led into a session which provided attendees with an overview of the virtual museum and web page design.

The next three sessions concerned materiel culture. Presentations were made by experts on air and ground macro-artifacts and finally a session in micro-artifacts.

The last day of the course featured an all day tour of various city museums. This tour ran concurrently with their Army Museum Certification Team Training (their museums only).

All in all this was a well organized and run course. The presentations were excellent and the tours and museum visits complimented the lessons learned. I strongly recommend OMMC Inc. continue our association with the Centre of US Army Military History and participate in their annual Museum Training Course.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Please note that the Executive Director has a cellular phone for OMMC Inc. use. The number is (613) 293-9180. This number will be the 1999

course emergency phone number. The OMMC Inc. telephone number is still (613) 829-0280 and the Fax number is (613) 829-7673.

Membership Dues

Paid membership dues for 1998 totalled 266. In addition we have 23 Honorary Members and 37 complimentary recipients of *The Bulletin*. Membership renewal forms for the 1999 dues are included in this news package. Dues are still \$35.00 for the year. Your receipt number for 1999 will be your membership number for 1999. The receipt may be used for income tax purposes for your 1999 tax return. Dues must be paid before your application to attend the 1999 military museum course is processed. Prompt payment by cheque or VISA would be appreciated.

New Members

Since the last issue of *The Bulletin* (Volume 5, Number 1 - April 1998) we are pleased to welcome the following 16 new members:

William E. Bateman of Toronto, Ontario

Barry Bernard, Bernard Consulting Inc.,
Winnipeg, Manitoba

John C. Cassano, Jackson Point, Ontario

René Chartrand, Historian, Hull, PQ

LCol C. Culbreth, Ret'd, US Army Military
Historian, Kaufman, Texas

Dr. Jack L. Granastein, OC, PhD, FRSC, CEO &
Director, Canadian War Museum, Ottawa,
Ontario

Mrs Wendy Hoare, Proprietor of Jeffrey Hoare
Auctions Ltd., London, Ontario

Japanese Canadian National Museum & Archives Society, Vancouver, B.C.

John Keresman, Manufacturer of fine military & Heraldry plaques, Mission, B.C.

Ms Et van Lingen, Registrar, Canadian War Museum, Ottawa, Ontario

General Paul D. Manson, CMM, CD, Chairman of CWM Passing the Torch Campaign, Gloucester, Ontario

Peter Terence Milne, Papal Zouave Historian, Royal Oak, Michigan, U.S.A.

Wayne Ramsay representing the Commemoration Division, Veterans Affairs Canada, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Dr Roger Sarty, Chief Historian, Canadian War Museum, Ottawa, Ontario

Robert Taylor, Public Relations Specialist, Ottawa, Ontario

Jack Templeman, Police Museum & Historical Society, Winnipeg, Manitoba

OMMC Inc. Members' Activities

BGen Pierre Sénécal, Curator of the Royal 22nd Regiment Museum, Québec City, has announced his retirement from that position as of 31 March 1999. Pierre extends his sincere thanks for the help he has received from the OMMC Inc. members over the years. He and his wife will reside in Ottawa.

The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) has presented a Victoria Cross display in their museum located in the Bay Street Armoury, 9-15 November 1998. To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of the First World War, six VC groups of soldiers associated with the Regiment were exhibited. Congratulations to all

associated with this outstanding exhibit. (See the enclosed news announcement concerning the event)

The Canadian War Museum has been in the national news a lot in the past few months. This time the Federal Government announced the allocation of land at the old RCAF Rockcliffe Air Base for the construction of a 70 million dollar edifice. The catch is that the Government at present does not plan to contribute any money. Private and commercial contributions will be solicited.

Congratulations are extended to the Director of the Elgin Military Museum, Ian Raven, who opened on 7 November 1998, a new 1100 square foot addition named and dedicated to the memory of George E. Thorman. (See the enclosed news announcement concerning the event)

Congratulations are also extended to Major Derek Brown and the LGen E.C. Ashton Garrison Museum for the receipt of a Heritage Society of British Columbia Award on 2 October 1998 for the production of the development of a military history resource centre and museum.

Included in this packet are several brochures from member museums. If you wish to advertise your museum in the future send me 500 of your brochures for a complimentary mailing. Curriculum vitae of qualified military historians, museologists, archivists, etc will be distributed also as a service to those seeking employment at a military museum.

Member Mary Mackie of Pender Island, B.C. sent me data on the Canadian Museum located at Heulendonk 21, 9991 Adegem, Maldegem, Belgium. The curator, Alex J.H. Martens is a member of the OMMC Inc. If any of our members can help fill his military insignia voids please do so. He is doing a great job promoting

the service of our Second World War soldiers in Belgium. (See the enclosed list of his requirements)

The name of the OMMC Inc. and its activities are travelling to distant lands. Queries for information have been received from England, South Africa, and now Israel through the

Canadian Ambassador in Tel Aviv. Mr. Dror Doron, Hazeitim 12 St., Rosh Pinna 12000, Israel (tel/Fax 972-6-6934588), is seeking a Canadian museum that would be interested in developing a small but high quality model museum. He has provided a great deal of detail to develop such a Smithsonian-type model museum. If anyone is interested in receiving the data sent to the OMMC Inc. for perusal, please contact me. A large collection of photographs is also included to show the calibre of his work. (See the enclosed letter from Mr. Doron dated 24 September 1998)

Member Arthur Bishop has written another excellent military aviation book entitled, *Destruction at Dawn: The Air-Raid Coded "Badenplatte" Luftwaffe vs. The Allies, New Year's Day, 1945*. If you are looking for an exciting book for a Christmas gift for a friend or yourself, contact Arthur at 9 Bryce Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4V 2B3 (tel: (416) 929-0277) for a source. The book priced at \$34.99 is published by McGraw-Hill Ryerson Limited, 300 Water Street, Whitby, Ontario, L1N 9B6

Our past Vice-President, LCdr Frank Dunbar is back in hospital at the Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital for further cancer radiation treatment. He would be pleased to hear from any of his OMMC Inc. colleagues. Since he is moving from one hospital to another correspondence or cards should be sent to his new home address at 211-1260 Marlborough Court, Oakville, Ontario, L6H 3H5 (tel: (905) 844-9569). If Frank is to be in the hospital for the Christmas season he certainly needs some cheery cards and letters. He

also asked to be kept in our thoughts and prayers. Thanks for your support in this matter.

Professor Jack Pike, our Past President, has been appointed to head the 1999 nominating committee for the selection of candidates for several positions on the OMMC Inc. Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. Positions to be filled are President, Vice-President, Secretary, and three Board Members. Incumbents may run again for the positions. Any member of the OMMC Inc. in good standing may submit a nomination in writing, along with the signed agreement of the nominee to stand for election at the next Annual General Meeting at CFB Gagetown in August 1999. Nominations should be mailed to Professor John G. Pike, 150 MacDonnell Street, Kingston, Ontario, K7B 4B8 (Tel: (613) 546-9187) to arrive at Jack's home no later than 1 March 1999. A brief biography and a head & shoulders black and white photograph for each nominee is required with the submission.

The Royal Canadian Legion has embarked on a "history project" to chronicle its history and to reclaim many of its early pins, badges and related artifacts. The Dominion Secretary, Duane Daly, has requested that the OMMC Inc. membership be advised of this project and to solicit assistance by donation of applicable items to the Royal Canadian Legion. Where necessary the RCL is prepared to purchase special items. If you can be of assistance please contact Don Baldwin, Project Officer, at (613) 235-4391. Thanks.

On Wednesday evening at the CWM, 2 December 1998, a new type of history book was launched in English and French, translated from the original Italian version written by Professor Saverio Di Tullio of Ortona, Italy. The book, prepared in coloured comic book fashion, is an unique method to educate the young about the ravages and sacrifices of war. The book entitled, 1943 LA VIA PER ORTONA/1943: THE ROAD TO ORTONA/1943: LA ROUTE VERS

ORTONA) is available from the publishers LEGAS, 68 Kamloops Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 6N5 (Tel: (613) 562-5217 or Fax (613) 562-5138). (See the enclosed flyer on this military history book)

It is with great pleasure we announce that Peter Pym-Hember of the Cameron Highlanders Museum, Ottawa, Ontario was selected as the 1998 recipient of the *Mayor's Award for Outstanding Support for the Community*. This award is presented annually to individuals who have supported and given back to the community and are deserving of recognition.

Support - Ortona Veterans

During Christmas Week 1943 units of the 1st Canadian Infantry Division supported by tanks of the Three Rivers Regiment fought the 1st German Parachute Division in Ortona on the Adriatic coast of Italy. The bloody week-long battle was the culmination of a Canadian thrust that began at the Moro River which resulted in 1375 Canadians killed. A public appeal is now in progress to allow a group of 30 veterans of the battle to return to Ortona where it is planned they will have a dinner of reconciliation with veterans of the 1st German Parachute Division on Christmas Eve. The dinner is planned to take place in the Church of Santa Maria di Constantinopoli where Canadian troops had Christmas dinner during the fighting fifty-five years ago.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and CTV have confirmed they will cover the dinner.

Donations may be sent postage-free to Peter Goldring, MP, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6, made payable to "Three Rivers Regiment Veterans Association". All donations will be acknowledged with grateful thanks. (P.S. As of 7 December 1998, \$170,000.00 had been raised to send the 30

veterans to Ortona and to construct a memorial in Ortona for the Canadian dead.)

COURSE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that for the second year in a row we have had a significant increase in course registration. Unfortunately once again this year I was unable to accommodate many of the late registration requests. Don't be disappointed next year, send in your basic \$50.00 registration fee to guarantee a spot on the course. If you do not receive your department's approval to attend, your registration fee will be returned.

Many thanks to all those who provided extra transportation during the Winnipeg Course. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Special thanks to the Pym-Hember's and Vince Brown for their pre and post course help.

For members who missed last year's course, I am pleased to provide you with a complete course synopsis prepared by our course reporter Dr. Ken Reynolds. Many thanks Ken on a job well done.

Next year's course is shaping up to be one of our most interesting ever. Many workshops are planned, such as, the use of digital cameras, exhibit display lighting, Web Page design and do's and don'ts of exhibit labelling. A special reception with the Lt Governor of New Brunswick, behind the scenes tour of the New Brunswick Museum in Saint John, and on site workshops at King's Landing capped off by special supper will end the course. These are just a few of the highlights, further details to follow in our spring Bulletin.

Accommodations in Gagetown will be in the new Officers' barracks. Rooms have single beds with ensuite bathrooms. Sorry no colour TV, no daily maid service. Bring your own towels,

clothes hangers and soap. A washer/dryer as well as a refrigerator is available in a common room attached to each group of six rooms. A very limited number of rooms (6) with double beds for couples will be made available on a first come basis.

Planning for the year 2000 has been confirmed. Our host base will be The Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston, Ontario in mid-July.

Holiday Greetings and Best Wishes to all OMMC Inc. members, friends and associates from the President, Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Executive Director and Course Coordinator!

