

# THE/LE BULLETIN



## Message from the President

By Andrew Nellestyn, President OMMC

The OMMC will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2017. This is a significant milestone of achievement and purpose in OMMC's history. It is in this context that I would like to share some thoughts on our mission, achievements, challenges, opportunities, where we have been and where we are going to position the OMMC for the 50 years which follow to bring us to our centennial anniversary.

The OMMC continues to make remarkable and significant strides in promoting its member military museums, advancing their interests, providing professional counsel and services and acting as a communications bridge between the military history and heritage community at large and among its constituent members. The 2015 OMMC AMM and Military Museology Courses event held in Ottawa this June past testifies to the OMMC's acclaimed ability and success in adding value through its delivery of topical and responsive thematic courses and workshops and as an effective focal point of national assembly. Additionally, its partnerships with the Canadian Museum Association, post secondary educational institutions, and, more recently, the Canadian War Museum, as well as its relationships with foundations, the corporate and public sectors and individuals of like interest and purpose, are immeasurably and mutually beneficial in advancing Canadian military history and heritage. Our relations with DND's Directorate of History and Heritage continues to be strong, enduring and progressive and of positive purpose.

It is the intent of the OMMC BOD to continue to expand our partnership programs, increase our membership, add further value and breadth through our military museology courses, offer a wider range of communication capabilities, extend our fundraising activities and seek multi year contractual arrangements in areas such as the development and delivery of military museum courses.

On behalf of all our members and the BOD, I would like to thank Stu Beaton for his contributions both as an OMMC member and as your recent President. Thanks are due to the many people who contributed to the success of the 2015 OMMC AMM and Museology Courses and Workshops as well as those member museums who so graciously and generously hosted functions and provided tours of their museums. We are, as always, greatly indebted to David Stinson, Richard Ruggle and Bethany Aitchison for their exceptional and unflinching dedication to the OMMC. Our appreciation is proffered also to DHH for their support and guidance and partnership in promoting and making accessible Canadian military history and heritage to Canadians from coast to coast.

I hope that you are enjoying this summer and applaud your support in our shared mission. See you in Calgary for the 2016 AMM and courses which will be hosted by The Military Museums of Calgary.

Andrew Nellestyn OStJ PhD PEng CD

## Proceedings - OMMC 2015 Ottawa, 49th Annual Meeting and Museums Studies Course, 15-19 June 2015

77 OMMC members, other representatives of member institutions, the head of the museum staff of Directorate of History and Heritage (DHH) at National Defence Headquarters, Ottawa, and an observer from Army HQ 1 Heritage staff, gathered Sunday, 14 June, 2015, at the Residence of the Woodroffe Campus of Algonquin College, Ottawa, for this annual event. Total attendance was up just a bit from that of 2014, always a good sign.

### **15 June**

#### **Annual Meeting of Members (AMM - new name for the annual general meeting)**

- **Governance.** The Articles of Continuance and new Bylaws agreed by members in June 2014 to move OMMC governance from the rules of the Canada Corporations Act, Part II to the new rules of the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act were approved by the Director of Corporations, Industry Canada, effective 24 June 2014. No proposals were brought to the AMM for amendment to the 2014 Articles or Bylaws. OMMC policies on membership, education grants, protection of personal information and financial management have been completed, translated and have been posted to the OMMC internet web-site. The policies implement the Articles and Bylaws.

- **Charity Status.** OMMC had passed through a complete annual charitable institution cycle with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) without problems of any kind. Issuing of receipts for income tax purposes for membership fees and for other donations in cash or kind, begun in June 2014, continued unchanged. OMMC became a registered charity in Québec, again, in 2014.

- **Membership.** Total membership in June 2014 was 135; in June 2015, it stood at 157 - good news.

- **Finances.** The audited financial statements for 2014 were accepted by the members. OMMC remained in stable condition financially, although not well off by any means. Restoration in 2014 of registered charity status effective February 2010 enabled retrieval from the CRA of a total of \$14,000 in GST/HST rebates for 2010, 2011 and 2012. The GST/HST rebate of \$6,000 for 2013 was achieved in the usual manner. \$8,000 was received from Revenu Québec in a QST rebate related to purchases in Montreal for OMMC 2012. There was no Department of National Defence (DND) grant to support conduct of course OMMC 2014. OMMC responded in May 2015 to a Request for Proposal issued by DND/DHH for conduct of OMMC 2015. The bid was successful. The contract value was \$48,530. Contracting for course conduct, rather than grants, will be the norm in the future. To strengthen OMMC ability to support members' education through assistance grants, members agreed to increase the target value of the allocated OMMC Education Reserve to \$100,000.

- **Auditor.** Ms. Sandy Vanier, of the firm of L. Zinman and Company of Ottawa, declined to accept the contract as OMMC public accountant (new term for auditor) for 2015. Members agreed to empower the Board to appoint a new public accountant. Ms. Vanier was the OMMC book-keeper, accountant and auditor, in succession, for 20 years - her support was always clear, accurate and much appreciated by the Executive.

- **Head Office and Administration.** The head office of OMMC continued operations at Sidney, BC, without problem. Administrative procedures are kept to the minimum necessary for proper conduct of business as a not-for-profit corporation. The OMMC web site at [www.ommcinc.ca](http://www.ommcinc.ca) continues to grow.

- Elections of Directors. Stuart Beaton stepped down as a Director and as President of OMMC at the end of the AMM. Stu deserves much credit for yeoman service on the Board since 2003. Andrew Nellestyn became the President and Léon Chamois became Vice President. Jim Whitham, Director of Collections of the Canadian War Museum, was elected as a director. Bethany Aitchison and Eric Ruel were both elected for a second term as a director. There were no nominations from the floor. OMMC Directors and Officers for 2015-16 are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Term Ends at Close of AGM</u>
Andrew Nellestyn	President	2017
Léon Chamois	Vice President	2016
David L. Stinson	Secretary	2017
Richard E. Ruggle	Treasurer	2016
Bethany Aitchison	Director at Large	2018
Rory Cory	Director at Large	2016
Greg Gallant	Director at Large	2017
Dale Murray	Director at Large	2017
Eric Ruel	Director at Large	2018
Bruce Tascona	Director at Large	2017
Jim Whitham	Director at Large	2018

- Location for OMMC 2016. The Military Museums will host OMMC 2016 at Calgary in June 2016.

- Education Grants, 2014. The grants program, a mandated activity in our Articles of Incorporation, is managed by the OMMC Education Committee. Expenditure in 2014 was \$2,464. 2014 grant recipients were: Chris Colton (National Air Force Museum); Bethany Aitchison (CAF Museum of Aerospace Defence); Georgiana Stanciu (The RCR Museum); Walter Brooks (The Military Museums, Calgary); and Dennis Puranen and Randy Iwanic (Royal Winnipeg Rifles). Rory Cory, Chair of the Committee, noted that the grants are available to any member of OMMC and that applications for 2015 were lacking!;

- Non-Director Member, nominations committee, elections of directors, OMMC AMM 2016 - Sandra Johnson Penney.

- Stuart Beaton presented Jim Whitham with the OMMC membership certificate for the Canadian War Museum, noting that a former Director of the CWM was the founder of OMMC in 1967 and that the CWM had been the Organizations "home" for many years - re-establishing the connection is a truly welcome development;

- David Stinson drew course members' attention to the framed Letters Patent for the Grant of Arms to OMMC by the Chancellery of Heraldry in 1999. He warmly thanked Dan MacKay, a former President of OMMC, for his care of the Letters Patent for many years when the Organization had no "home" for this beautiful illustrated document. A suitable resting place for the Letters Patent will be found. [Secretary Note: The Letters Patent document has been donated to the Canadian War Museum.]

### DHH Presentations

The balance of the morning was taken up by the annual museum safety lecture given by Sean Hunter of the DHH 5 staff (it gets better every year), a welcome presentation by Michel Litalien, the DHH Program Manager for Military Museums and Archaeology and a short talk by Rafael Sandoval of DHH 5 staff re the new museum asset management software (The Museum System (TMS)) being procured by DND with implementation beginning before the end of 2015, all going well.

Michel's remarks included the following:

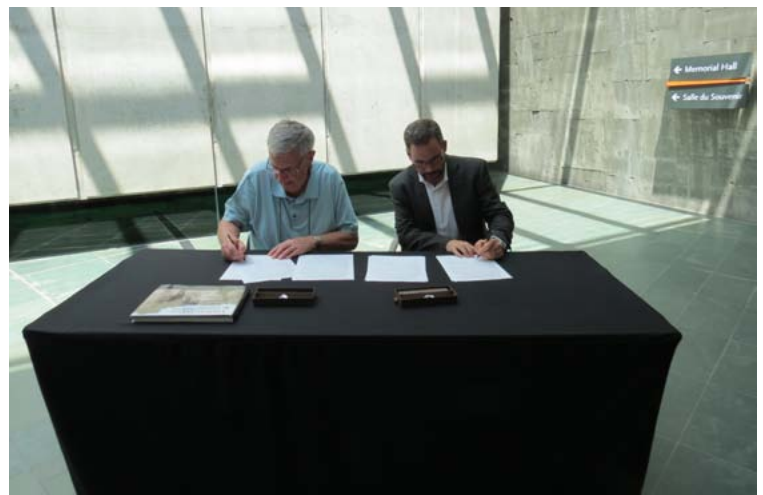
- The official openings of the largely renovated R22eR Museum at Quebec and the NB Military History Museum were recently completed - both of these facilities are beautiful;
- 31 Service Battalion Museum at Hamilton has been accredited as a CAF Museum;
- Museum Development Funding (MDF). All CAF Museums with unspent allocations of museum development funding from past years were encouraged to make good use of the money at their earliest opportunity. CAF Museums interested in an MDF allocation in financial year 2016-17 were encouraged to apply early!;
- Capital funding of \$10M value is being sought for construction of the RCME Museum at Kingston and replacement of the Logistics Museum at Montreal;
- The travelling exhibit portraying the CAF operations in Afghanistan has been approved for development - the allocated funding is \$800K;
- The new Defence Administrative Order and Directive (DAOD) on military Museums, replacing CAF Administrative Order 27-5, is in the final stages of production; and
- The 17 Wing Winnipeg Museum is closed and the assets are available for disposal - members were advised to speak with Gord Crossley for details. The 15 Wing Moose Jaw Museum is also closed - asset disposal details will be advised.

#### Afternoon and Evening Activity

The afternoon included gatherings of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and Canadian Army museum groups, always useful sessions for collaboration. The course then moved to the Canadian War Museum. The course was welcomed to the CWM by James Whitham, CWM Director of Collections. Andrew Nellestyn, the new OMMC President, spoke of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) developed in Spring 2015 between OMMC and the CWM with the intent of strengthening the relationship between the CWM and the broader military museum community in Canada, many members of which are part of the OMMC. Jim and Andrew then signed the MOU. It will be posted on the OMMC web site.

Major General Derek Joyce, Deputy Commander, Military Personnel Command, CAF, then addressed the gathering. DHH is part of Military Personnel Command.

He stated that the annual national military museum development courses are an on-going, critical and valuable component in DND's maintenance and expansion of a viable national military museum community and network. MGen Joyce further noted that OMMC has been and continues to be instrumental in working closely with DND to deliver excellent courses. He applauded OMMC efforts to promote Canadian military history and heritage and to work with military museums across Canada to collect, conserve, preserve and exhibit military artifacts as well as serving as a national communications point and clearing house for military museum information.



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MGen Joyce particularly cited the strong and enduring relationship between OMMC and DHH; a joint effort which he and the Commander Military Personnel Command actively support. He congratulated the CWM and OMMC for entering into a MOU to work jointly together to promote Canadian military museology. He closed his remarks by wishing the OMMC and course attendees every success in their course work, visits and workshops whilst in Ottawa and thanking them for their considerable efforts in promoting Canada's military history and heritage. The course then broke into its five student groups and moved off for a comprehensive tour of the "back-stage" of the CWM - the restoration garage and technical equipment room, the art vault, the arms vault, the dress and insignia workshop and the military history research centre. At the end of the tours, the course re-assembled and moved to the roof of the CWM for a group photograph. The group then returned to Algonquin College. A strong "Well Done" goes to all members of the CWM staff who made the visit memorable.

After a brief pause to change, find medals, etc, the course moved to Morrison Artillery Park, on the former Uplands site, now the home of 30th Field Regiment RCA and the Bytown Gunners Firepower Museum, an OMMC CAF Museum member, for the annual Meet and Greet function and memorial service. The evening was a rousing success. Special thanks go to Dave Brown, Museum Chair, Melissa Kehoe, and all of the members of the Firepower Museum staff who assisted - it was well done in all respects. The 2015 course photograph is excellent.



### 16 June

- This was the first academic day of the course. The academic theme for OMMC 2015 was archives. The lead instructor was Terry Quinlan, Professor of Museology, Algonquin College. Terry engaged experts from various archives in the Ottawa area to present on topics listed in the course specification. The presenter on 16 June in the morning was Paul Henry, Archivist from the City of Ottawa, speaking on "What is an archives; what purposes do archives serve; what is their organization in Canada; what laws and rules govern their operations; and what special conditions of governance which apply to archives. The afternoon presenter was Tanya Anderson, Copyright Officer, Canadian Museum of History, speaking on copyright in the broad sense, the specific rules regarding copyright as they relate to acquisitions and exhibits in museums and copyright vs licensing.

- The final event of the day was the annual OMMC history quiz, led this year by Léon Chamois, using the usual incredible questions prepared by Don Manley, the long-time quizmaster who was unable to attend this year. Léon ran the quiz with much style and great humour, guaranteeing his selection for the task in future years!

### 17 June

- This was a day of seeing the “back-stage” of Library and Archives Canada (LAC) at its preservation centre at Gatineau and a counterpart facility in the restoration hangar of the Canadian Aviation and Space Museum (CASM) at Rockcliffe. The Gatineau facility is huge, with a massive storage area for art, documents and related artifacts and a whole large floor dedicated to the preservation and restoration of all kinds of archival materials. 30 course members (maximum group size) toured this facility in the morning and 30 saw it in the afternoon. The LAC tour organizer was Suzanne Pagé-Dazé - blessings on her for a truly literate tour of an amazing facility. While the



morning group was at LAC, the rest of the course was out at CASM for a tour of the main collection and a guided tour of the restoration hanger. CASM was particularly busy that day, but Stephen Quick's great organization still absorbed all of us on our tours with grace and expertise. While the afternoon group headed for LAC, those course members who could not be included in the LAC tours went off to the Canadian Museum of History to see the special Magna Carta exhibit. Special thanks go to Laurent-Claude Laliberté for suggesting viewing the Magna Carta (very rarely on tour) and to Jo-Anne Gilliland Power for a cell-phone connection with one of the bus drivers which kept the transportation that day moving generally as intended.

- The one course evening session included presentations by Dennis Puranen on display lighting and the value of courses offered by the Canadian Conservation Institute, by Chris Colton on the results of a study conducted at the National Air Force Museum, Trenton, on how to best raise the attractiveness of the institution to get more people in the door and a discussion led by Gord Crossley on closure of the 17 Wing Winnipeg Museum.

### 18 June

This was the second day of the academic program. The morning presenter was John Lund from the City of Ottawa Archives on the topic of digital production of archival materials - the specifications, the equipment and the costs - digital archives preservation, additional support services and where to find them, and training opportunities.

The afternoon archival presenter was Sylvia Kindl, again from the City of Ottawa Archives, speaking on storage of archival materials, unique preservation concerns, archival storage solutions, additional support services and how to access them and training opportunities. The last presenter of the day was Cynthia Jones, an OMMC member from the Museum and Archives of the Royal Highland Regiment (the Black Watch) of Canada, Montreal, speaking about the progress of development and maintenance of the archives of a storied Reserve unit in an historic armoury - there are challenges, indeed, in such places.

- The course members who attended LAC tours on 17 June all had their turn in the evening of 18 June to visit the Canadian Museum of History and, hopefully, to view the Magna Carta. Thanks and praise go to the staff of Bistro Boréal at the Museum for feeding an unusually large number of guests very well on very short notice - it was a bravura performance.

### 19 June

This was the day in the course for historical education, visits to member Museums and the course closing.

By bus to Cornwall in the morning in beautiful weather, to the Cornwall Armoury, home of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders of Canada reserve infantry unit and the SDG Highlanders Museum. The hosts were Léon Chamois, Curator of the Museum, and Isabel Chamois, display coordinator. After touring the museum, course members were treated to an excellent lunch in the Mess area of the Armoury, itself a historic building. Lunch was followed by a lecture by Donald Graves, a military historian of much experience, on the importance of the Battle of Crysler's Farm, which took place west of Cornwall in 1813. The Battles of Crysler's Farm and Chateauguy, both in the upper St Lawrence region in 1813, stopped cold an American army advancing on Montreal in an attempt to seize that city and begin the capture of Canada. Mr. Graves, author of the books *Field of Glory (Crysler's Farm)* and *Where Right and Glory Lead (Battle of Lundy's Lane, 1814)* (both published by Robin Brass Studio, Toronto) gave a clear presentation on the criticality of the fight. The course then moved off to the Battlefield Memorial at Morrisburg where Mr. Graves, using the excellent diorama facility in the Memorial, demonstrated how the battle unfolded over 9-10 November 1813. He received warm applause for his presentations. The course then returned to Algonquin College at Ottawa. Lesson learned - no school buses for our longer trips!



In the evening, the course moved to the Cartier Square Drill Hall on the Rideau Canal in downtown Ottawa. The presentations were opened by LCol (Ret'd) Dan MacKay, former President of OMMC and former Commanding Officer of the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa, who spoke on the historic significance of the Drill Hall, now a heritage building but still a very active armoury. Course members then had the opportunity to tour the museums of the Cameron Highlanders and the Governor General's Foot Guards (GGFG) and to visit the Officers Mess of the GGFG, the place where Sir Sam Hughes, then Minister of Militia, publically announced in 1914 that Canada was at war with Germany.

The final event of the day was the traditional formal dinner to close the course. It was held in the Rideau Junior Ranks Mess at Cartier Square and was a most pleasant occasion. Life Membership certificates were presented to Donald Carrington, a former Vice President, President and Executive Director of OMMC, to Keith Inches, an OMMC member of more than 30 years standing and a former OMMC Treasurer, and to Stuart Beaton, OMMC Vice President for many years and President from April 2013, now stepping down from the Executive. In his closing remarks, President Andrew Nellestyn stated that the members attending had once again been well served by those who organized and presented the course and that a high standard had, indeed, been set for The Military Museums of Calgary, the host for OMMC 2016.



Life Membership  
Certificates presented to:  
Left: Don Carrington,  
former Vice President,  
President and Executive  
Director

Right: Keith Inches,  
member of more than  
30 years standing and a  
former OMMC Treasurer

Below: Stuart Beaton, Vice  
President for many years  
and President from April  
2013 - 2015



### Closing

The Directors wish to publically thank Terry Quinlan, Hollie Colville, Lisa Barker and Jennifer Thurston-Saunders of Algonquin College - the support given in academics, accommodation, facilities and food service was all that we asked for and more - we would come back again. Many thanks also go to Jim Whitham and the staff of the Canadian War Museum, to Suzanne Pagé-Dazé and all of her colleagues at Library and Archives Canada, to Stephen Quick and the staff of the Canadian Aviation and Space Museum and to the generosity of the staff of the Canadian Museum of History toward their OMMC colleagues, Course Director's special thanks go to Andrew Nellestyn and Melissa Kehoe for being organizers "on the ground" in Ottawa (some things are difficult to do across three time zones) and to Estelle and Marty Lane for making the course reception at Algonquin College go so smoothly.

On to Calgary!



## Exciting Discoveries at Juno Beach

By Brydie Huffman, Program and Development Co-Ordinator, Juno Beach Centre

The Juno Beach Centre, Canada's only museum and education centre on the D-Day landing beaches in Normandy, announced an exciting discovery made on the site last week by Canadian production company, Northern Sky for the television series War Junk (History Television Canada/Shaw Media). War Junk tells the story of war through artefacts found on battlefields, in this case a German Tobruk machine gun emplacement, long buried in the shifting sands of Juno Beach.



Series Host/Producer Wayne Abbott is thrilled by the discovery: "We were given the opportunity to search the area near the Juno Beach Centre for buried and lost remnants from the battle on D-Day. We had a number of targets we wanted to find but we had no idea if we would locate them. When we uncovered the German Tobruk in pristine condition, the way it looked nearly 70 years ago, it was an incredible moment. Finally uncovering it after so many years buried under the sand gives a haunting reminder of what Canadian troops faced when they landed here. It's a very significant remnant that truly tells the story of D-Day.'

Historian David O'Keefe noted that this Tobruk is an important historical discovery: "We know that a pillbox like this would have been devastating for the Canadians when they landed. Because of the way it was built it could fire in a 360 degree angle it meant that it could cover all areas of the beach. This pillbox made this part of the Juno Beach sector absolutely treacherous for the Canadians on D-Day."

Nathalie Worthington, the Director of the Juno Beach Centre, added: "This is fantastic. We live here and we have history under our feet but we don't necessarily know where. Uncovering this emplacement adds to the story. It adds to the experience of visitors from Canada and from all over the world when they come to Juno Beach. We are going to bring more information because this has its own story."

The Juno Beach Centre, a privately run museum and charity in Canada, is thrilled by this discovery and hopes to further develop the site to open it to the public in future, pending funding. The Juno episode of War Junk premieres in Canada on History Television in November 2015. See more at the Juno Beach Centre Website at: <http://www.junobeach.org/exciting-discoveries-in-juno-park/>

## CFAMS V3 Not So Bad

By Gary Bazowsky, Associate Curator, AKA Blunder Programmer

We all know that a new version of CFAMS is in the works and it will arrive someday!!!

Supposedly, CFAMS V3 will not work on anything newer than Windows XP. Well, when we upgraded our computer it came with Windows 8 and we did not want to have two computers - one to run CFAMS and one for everything else - so I used my extensive "Blunder Programming" skills to see what could be done.

I have been successful in loading and running CFAMS V3 from original disks onto both a Windows 7 and a Windows 8 PC. Once it was up and running (with no issues) I copied the database files onto the new computer and everything works as it did on the old PC.

Another annoying feature of CFAMS V3 was no scroll wheel capability like most programs have today. A little bit of researching and I came across a small utility called WizMouse from <https://antibody-software.com>. I downloaded and installed it and it is great. I have not encountered any issues to date and now using CFAMS is almost like any more modern program and is almost a pleasure to use.

## Mystery Artifact at the Ontario Regiment Museum

If anyone is able to help in identifying the helmet here, what it is, when was it used and who used it, please contact the Ontario Regiment Museum at [curator@ontrmuseum.ca](mailto:curator@ontrmuseum.ca).



## NovaMuse – A Glimpse Into Nova Scotia’s Community Museums’ Collections

By Gary Melville, The Army Museum and Karin Kierstead, ANSM Museum Advisor

After hearing of the many CFAMS woes, and speaking with a few of you about how we conduct collections management in community museums of Nova Scotia, I felt that it may be best to write a short article on our collections management database tool, Collective Access, and the internet portal to our collections, NovaMuse, that enables anyone to see our collections on-line.

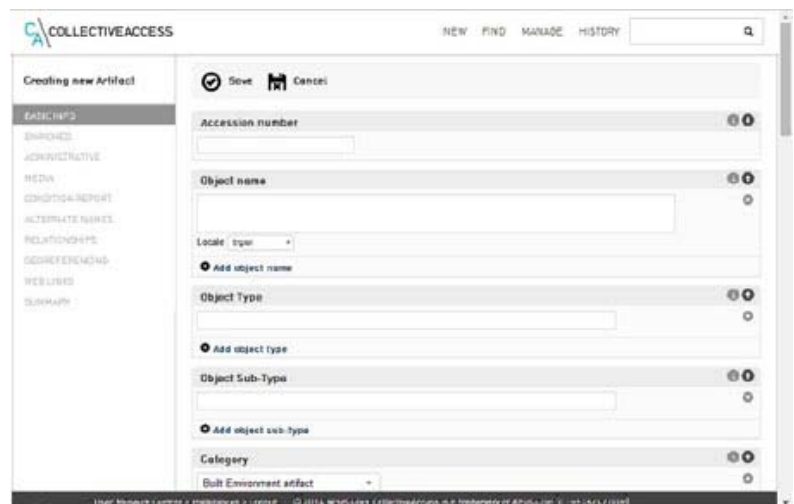
### How Did We Get Here?

In 2002, a group of 18 community museums got together and decided that it was time to standardize their practices, beginning with a collections database system. They started with a basic Microsoft Access system that was custom-built. Over the years this group of 18 grew to 50+ heritage organizations from one tip of the province to the other (literally). This experiment was called the Passage Project, and in 2006 received a Canadian Museums Association Award for Outstanding Achievement in Museum Management. Now known as the Association of Nova Scotia Museums (ANSM) Advisory Service, participating museums have recognized the value of cooperative work and responded to the many challenges we have put to them to improve their collections databases.

In 2010, when we realized it was time to move to a different database system and that CollectiveAccess was the logical choice, the museums were again ready to brave the unknown. The generic CollectiveAccess program was modified to meet the needs of the ANSM membership and allows museums multiple fields to input pertinent information in order to get the best use of the database. The opportunities of this new system made the decision to launch a Nova Scotia collections website an easy one, as the system includes a plug-in for online sharing. In September 2012, NovaMuse.ca was born.

### How does it work?

The CollectiveAccess database is a very user-friendly program (I can use it with ease) that is web-based with the data centrally saved on two servers in two locations for redundancy. Besides basic information, such as name, description, material, donor, date of use, photograph etc, the museum can set a toggle that either enables or blocks records from public viewing on the website. That way, sensitive items, such firearms, will not appear on a search of NovaMuse should the museum decide not to make the items accessible to the public.



The screenshot displays the 'COLLECTIVEACCESS' web interface. At the top, there are navigation links: 'NEW', 'FIND', 'MANAGE', 'HISTORY', and a search box. The main content area is titled 'Creating new Artifact' and features a sidebar with a tree view of categories: 'BASIC INFO', 'EMPLOYED', 'ADMINISTRATIVE', 'MEDIA', 'COGNITIVE REPORT', 'ALTERATE NAMES', 'RELATIONSHIPS', 'REFERENCES', 'WEB LINKS', and 'SUMMARY'. The main form area has a 'Save' button and a 'Cancel' button. It contains several input fields: 'Accession number', 'Object name', 'Locale type' (a dropdown menu), 'Object Type', 'Object Sub-Type', and 'Category'. Each of these fields has a small circular icon to its right, likely for adding or deleting items. Below the 'Category' field, there is a 'Built Environment object' dropdown menu. At the bottom of the page, there is a small footer with copyright information.

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Each museum's copy of CollectiveAccess feeds the website. At the end of every day a refresh will run, updating the website with any additions/corrections/changes made during the day. There is a quality control filter that will help maintain the professionalism of the website and also give the museums some suggestions on how to fix their data. There are also placeholder images for any items without an associated image. Images are probably the biggest weakness with the system as most museums have worked to transcribe paper records to the database and are playing catch up with images. The database and the website are still works in progress. There are over 220,000 records in the databases right now with 95,000 images, so there is a lot of photographing and scanning to do. Each museum chooses which records get shown online, item by item. Some are opening up their entire collection, while others are being selective.

The NovaMuse website is fairly simple to use. Visitors can find specific objects, browse through different themes, look at a certain museum's collection or, for museum professionals, check out categories from Nomenclature 3.0. Search results can be refined by using a number of filters. If an individual is conducting research, or just wants to save some of favourite records for future reference, the lightbox feature enables records to be saved. The best thing is that, with NovaMuse, you are able to view the artefacts that are in museum's storage rooms as most institutions have limited display areas but large collections.



ANSM and the contributing museums also want this to be a dialogue with the public. Institutions don't know everything about every single item in their collections. Once an account on NovaMuse has been created, the user can login and go back to those favourites time and again. The associated museum will be alerted to these comments and answer questions or add the information to their collection records. As a result, unknown people and places are being identified in photographs, scientific instruments are being explained by experts, and misidentifications are being corrected. It is not necessary to have an account to use the website; only if you want to save your favourite items or submit comments and tags.

The website has garnered both national and international attention with it receiving Canadian Museums Association Award for Outstanding Achievement in Museum Management in 2013 and the ANSM Museum Advisor being invited to various international events to speak on NovaMuse. It continues to be a work in progress with NovaMuse being continually modified to eliminate flaws, ease use and add features. Please visit the site at <http://www.novamuse.ca> and have a look at some of the collections of the museums in Nova Scotia.

## Remembering John McCrae at the Soldiers' Tower and Hart House, University of Toronto

Kathy Parks, Administrator, Soldiers' Tower

On May 3, 1915, during the Second Battle of Ypres during the Great War, Lieutenant John McCrae wrote "In Flanders Fields". Members of the University of Toronto community gathered together on May 3, 2015, on the 100th anniversary, to commemorate this remarkable alumnus and Canada's most famous poem. The event was co-sponsored by the Soldiers' Tower Committee of the U of T Alumni Association, and the Department of Alumni Relations. Photos by Cody Gagnon.



Jeffrey Ball and C. J. Bourassa, of Zeta Psi Fraternity, John McCrae's fraternity, in Hart House



Members of Zeta Psi Fraternity in front of the Memorial Wall



C. J. Bourassa of Zeta Psi Fraternity with a memorial wreath



Soldiers' Tower war memorial

## The Editor Asks...

### What was your favourite part about the OMMC Museum Studies Program 2015 in Ottawa?

The best part of the OMMC session in Ottawa was the opportunity to see behind the scenes at the LAC Preservation site. Not only was it fantastic to be able to see such a state of the art facility and to be able to talk to some of the best in their fields in Canada, but it took on a very personal aspect when we were in the room where they were scanning the Great War military records. As we left the room, I saw the boxes waiting for scanning. The next on the rack was the one after the number containing my grandfather's records.

-Sandra Johnson Penney, Canadian Military Engineers Museum

## The Organization of Military Museums of Canada

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