

Proceedings - OMMC 2014 Kingston, 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Museums Studies Course

72 OMMC members, other representatives of member institutions, two members of the museum staff of Directorate of History and Heritage (DHH) at National Defence Headquarters, Ottawa, and an observer from 9 Wing Gander, NL, gathered Sunday, 15 June, 2014 at the Holiday Inn Waterfront, Kingston, for this annual event. With the largest number of attendees in recent years, the growing crowd was very heartening to see.

16 June

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

- The meeting opened with an explanation that OMMC had regained its former status as a registered charity in Canada and would not be wound up – this was welcome news, indeed. Issuing of receipts for income tax purposes for membership fees and for other donations in cash or kind started 16 June 2014.

- Articles of Continuance and new Bylaws were approved by members to move OMMC governance from the old rules of the *Canada Corporations Act, Part II*, in effect since our incorporation in 1992, to the new rules of the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act* now in force. The Articles and Bylaws were forwarded to the Directorate of Corporations, Industry Canada, shortly after the AGM for consideration for approval.

- Finances. The audited financial statements for 2013 were accepted by the members. OMMC is in stable condition financially, although we are not rich by any means. An accepted financial goal is the creation and sustainment of allocated reserves to support annual education grants and to ensure that the course can be conducted for at least one year in the event that normal funding support is not available.

- Auditor. The firm of L. Zinman and Company of Ottawa was appointed as the OMMC auditor/public accountant for 2014.

- Head Office and Administration. The head office of OMMC is now firmly established at Sidney, BC. The administrative office at Winnipeg was closed in August 2013. The OMMC web-site at [www.ommcinc.ca](http://www.ommcinc.ca) has been re-built and re-opened, with [www.ommcinc.com](http://www.ommcinc.com) as an alternate address. Web-site renovations will continue for some time; additional material is being added to the site regularly. One aim of this project is that the web-site will be fully bilingual.

- Elections of Directors. Andrew Nellestyn was elected by acclamation to be a Director with appointment as Vice President. David Stinson was elected by acclamation to be a Director with appointment as Secretary. Greg Gallant was elected to a second term as a Director at Large; Dale Murray and Bruce Tascona were elected as Directors at Large. There were no nominations from the floor. The Board now includes 11 Directors, an increase of two, in anticipation of approval of the new Articles which call for a minimum of nine directors and a maximum of 11. OMMC Directors for 2014-15 are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Term Ends at Close of AGM</u>
Stuart Beaton	President and a Director	2015
Andrew Nellestyn	Vice President and a Director	2017
David L. Stinson	Secretary and a Director	2017
Richard E. Ruggle	Treasurer and a Director	2016
Bethany Aitchison	Director at Large	2015
Léon Chamois	Director at Large	2016
Rory Cory	Director at Large	2016
Greg Gallant	Director at Large	2017
Dale Murray	Director at Large	2017
Eric Ruel	Director at Large	2015
Bruce Tascona	Director at Large	2017

Donald Manley, a Director at Large since 2003, retired from that position at the conclusion of the AGM with the warm thanks of all members present for his contributions to OMMC.

The balance of the morning was taken up by the annual museum safety lecture given by Sean Hunter of the DHH staff and a welcome presentation by Michel Litalien, the DHH Program Manager for Military Museums and Archaeology. Michel's remarks included the following statements:

- there is no intent of any kind at DHH or anywhere else in National Defence Headquarters to force Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Museums to transfer any artifact(s) to another museum;
- the requirement for military museums within the CAF to maintain a valued inventory of artifacts under the rules for the CAF Non-Public Funds (NPF) is for insurance purposes only. The CAF NPF agency, known within the military as CAF Morale and Welfare Services (CFMWS), maintains the insurance policy for all non-public property under CAF control - that policy can only provide satisfactory coverage if the value of the material it covers, including all museum artifacts which are in fact non-public property (ie, not loaned to a museum by a person or another institution), is accurately known;
- the CAF NPF staff have no authority to direct any aspects of CAF Museum operations, although they may, quite reasonably, have guidance to offer about the financial operations of gift shops in CAF Museums. Michel reiterated that it is the Museum Directors themselves who have complete charge of their Museums, fully accountable to their respective Commanding Officers;
- a revision of CFP 266, CF Museums Operations Manual, is progressing well. No date for its issue was available; and
- a new museum artifact accounting and management software system, based on available commercial products, will be introduced in the near future to replace the Canadian Forces Asset Management System, now nearing the end of its useful life.

Michel's remarks were welcomed warmly as they dispelled a number of concerns which had been growing among the CAF Museums and some of the military collections over the past several years. He closed his presentation by introducing Captain Lynn Mills and MCpl Ryan O'Sullivan, two recent, and very welcome, additions to the DHH 5 staff in the C.P. Stacey Building at Holly Lane, Ottawa.

The afternoon included gatherings of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and Canadian Army museum groups, always useful sessions for collaboration. The assembly then moved to Currie Hall at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMCC). Ross McKenzie, Director of the RMCC Museum, explained the history of Currie Hall, its decorations and plaques, all of particular significance in that the Hall is named for General Sir Arthur Currie, the first Canadian Commander of the Canadian Corps in France in the First World War and that 2014 is the year of the centenary of the beginning of that conflict, a major formative event in Canada's becoming a nation. The OMMC 2014 history presentation was given by Dr. Brian Osborne, now Professor Emeritus, Queen's University, Kingston, speaking on the co-memorizing of the First World War "What made World War I "the Great War"". His talk was highly informative – the members were much impressed. A short memorial service followed on the steps of the Mackenzie Building. Nico Lambertucci, late of the Museum of the Royal Montreal Regiment and Larry Watkins, late Director of the Museum of 12 Service Battalion, Richmond, BC, were both remembered during this service. Control then passed to Brad Lowe, the College Photographer, Royal Military College of Canada, for the course photograph – see the opening page of the OMMC web-site for the excellent results of his direction and expertise. Course members then moved to the RMCC Museum at Point Frederick for a thorough examination of all that can be displayed in that particular Martello tower – it is always well worth the tour. Then on to the beautiful RMCC Senior Staff Mess for the annual meet and greet function. The senior guest was Major General Alain Tremblay, OMM, CD, Commander, Canadian Defence Academy.

17 June

Tour Day – National Air Force Museum, Trenton, 8 Wing Trenton, the Regimental Museum of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment, Belleville, and the Regimental Museum of the Princess of Wales Own Regiment, Kingston. At Trenton, the course was briefed on the role of 8 Wing and its lodger units. At the National Air Force Museum, the curator, Kevin Windsor, spoke about curatorial matters, and the executive director, Chris Colton, spoke about the financial operation of the museum, its sources of income, its good experience with Non Public Funds, the support it receives from 8 Wing, and its interactions with the local community. The course then divided into two: half touring the museum's indoor and outdoor exhibits, and the other half going to the flight line to climb into 424 Transport and Rescue Squadron's CC-130 Hercules and 429 Squadron's CC-177 Globemaster III. The Wing Commander, Colonel David Lowthian, joined us for lunch, and showed an appreciation

for the concerns of his museum companions. The course was photographed in front of the museum's showpiece, the unique restored Halifax bomber, for an article in the base newspaper.

From Trenton, the course moved by bus to the Belleville Armory, where John Sherry and some of his volunteers showed off the collection of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment Museum, newly moved to the main floor of the Armory. On returning to Kingston, those who still had the energy toured the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment Museum under the guidance of Stuart MacDonald, while the bus took the more exhausted members back to the hotel.

Sod Turning, RCEME Museum. Stuart Beaton, OMMC President, and Andrew Nellestyn, newly elected OMMC Vice President, attended the sod-turning for the Museum of the Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RCEME). Andrew is also interim Executive Director of the Museum. The Museum, now in an informal state at the RCEME School at CFB Borden, will occupy the extension to the Military Communications and Electronics Museum at Kingston now under construction until its permanent home across Craftsman Boulevard is completed. See the Summer 2014 edition of the OMMC Bulletin for a clear description of the sod-turning ceremony. And why Kingston? McNaughton Barracks, the northern half of CFB Kingston, was home to the RCEME School from the birth of the Corps in May 1944 (it had been the Engineering Branch of the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps) until it was moved to CFB Borden in the late 1960's. The creation of the RCEME Museum at Kingston is a "return to the roots".

18 and 19 June

Operation DISTINCTION. Lieutenant Colonel Robert Foster, GGFG, now a senior staff officer in the headquarters of Canada Joint Operations Command, Ottawa, gave a thorough 30 minute presentation 18 June on OP DISTINCTION, the Canadian Forces contributions to the Government of Canada program of commemoration which began in 2012 and will extend to 2018 and possibly beyond.

Museum Education. These sessions were led by Terry Quinlan, Professor of Museology at Algonquin College, Ottawa. The theme was storage. The first day program, 18 June, was primarily lectures given by Terry; the second day program, 19 June, was primarily hands-on sessions taught by three of Terry's associates – Michelle Gingras, James Hare and Scott McCreary, with a summary session led by Terry. The Algonquin presentations overall were much appreciated.

Free Flow Session. This was an hour-long open forum in the evening of 18 June facilitated by David Stinson, the Course Director. Attendance was voluntary. The intent was to provide an opportunity to make suggestions as to where participants thought OMMC could or should go in the future. Comments were recorded, with no names attached. The comments will be compiled and circulated to the Directors as a reference for future organizational development and course planning.

Manitoba Military History Society (MMHS). Bruce Tascona gave a 30 minute presentation 19 June on the museum operated by the Society in Legion House in Winnipeg. The museum is obviously a labour of love, all given by dedicated volunteers. MMHS is a long-time institutional member of OMMC. Bruce is the first leader of an institutional member institution to sit as an OMMC Director in many years.

Hill 70 Meeting. Members with an interest in the battle for Hill 70, a First World War action in the vicinity of the city of Lens in August 1917 and the first battle in which Lt-Gen Currie led the Canadian Corps into battle, met 19 June with a representative of a group in the Department of History, Queen's University, which is conducting a detailed study of this battle.

Formal Dinner. This dinner was held at the RMCC Senior Staff Mess on a truly beautiful evening. The guest of honour was Major General Alain Tremblay, OMM, CD, Commander, Canadian Defence Academy. The dinner was a large success.

20 June

Museums, Wall of Remembrance Project, Course Closing. Morning activities all took place in the beautiful Military Communications and Electronics Museum (MCEM) at CFB Kingston. The morning opened with a 30 minute presentation by Mike DeNoble, Director of the MCEM and Andrew Nellestyn, interim Executive Director of the RCEME Museum. Mike and Andrew explained how the RCEME Museum will first develop in the extension of the MCEM now being put in place and how it is intended, in time, for it to move to a purpose-built facility in the immediate neighbourhood of the MCEM, the two museums eventually jointly demonstrating the impact of various branches of technology on warfare, its communications and its sustainment. The assembly then toured the MCEM, all the impressive parts of it – displays, workshops, storage and gift shop. The group then re-

assembled for a 30 minute presentation by Ms. Cathy Sharpe on the Wall of Remembrance Project, a work which will assemble in one place the entire set of military casualty lists for Canada from its inception as a country to the mission in Afghanistan. The remembrance monument for the project will be erected next to the MCEM, the lists will be accessible on-line in the Museum. A very interesting project, indeed. As a final act of the course itself, the assembly reviewed and completed the course critique, bringing back to use what will hopefully prove to be a helpful assessment tool. The Course closed with lunch in the historic CFB Kingston Vimy Officers' Mess overlooking the Saint Lawrence River.

The Directors wish to publically thank Ross McKenzie of the RMCC Museum, Chris Colton of the National Air Force Museum, Mike Denoble of the MCEM, John Sherry of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment Museum, Terry Quinlan of Algonquin College, Erin Cookman of the Holiday Inn Waterfront, Kingston, and all members of their staffs – they, collectively, truly made OMMC 2014 Kingston work as well as it, indeed, did.