

THE / LE BULLETIN



Message from the President

By Stuart Beaton, President OMMC

As you all may be aware, OMMC has been having a problem with the CRA Charities Directorate concerning our registration. We have had to go back to the year 2007 and resubmit for the years 2008 to 2012. This has required a lot of digging but our secretary, David Stinson, has replied to their latest request of 9 October and sent the all the corrected information in as much detail as possible. We expect that we will not have a positive answer before Christmas.

This situation has left us in a slightly awkward position concerning the dates for for our Annual Course and Conference. We have tentatively booked the hotel in Kingston for the 15th to the 20th of June, and as well we have to wait for DHH's backing for the course. These tend to be trying times for OMMC but keep the faith, we are not down yet.

On a happier note, we still live in the best country and I would wish all of our members a very Merry Christmas and God bless you all.

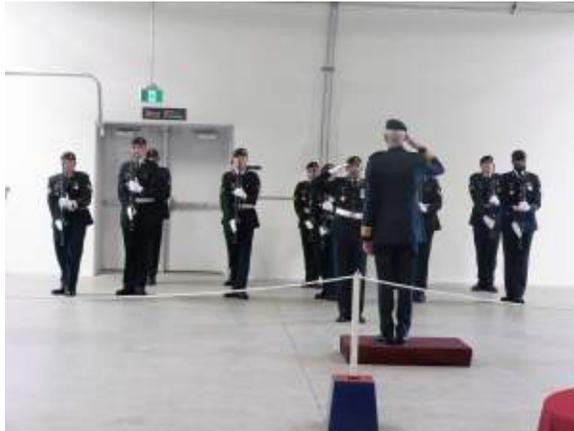
Stuart Beaton

Morrison Artillery Park Grand Opening

By Melissa Kehoe, Curator, Bytown Gunners' Firepower Museum



The last few weeks have been very busy with the installation of pictures and setting up of The Bytown Gunners' Fire Power Museum. The compound as a whole is now a living museum and our visitors were impressed and amazed by what we had to show.



Col-Comdt receiving Salute from the Quarter Guard. When the troops dropped in the Museum later in the evening, there were a lot of eager members wishing to contribute to helping build up the Museum. There is always a story out there, whether it is personal or involving other unit members. Pictures and their stories will always be appreciated and shared with future generations.



The cutting of the ribbon. From Left to right: Col Comdt – LGen (Retd) Mike Jeffery; 33 Bde SM - CWO Mitchell Hepburn; 33 Bde DComd, LCol Robert Foster; Comd CJOC - LGen Beare; Senior Serving Gunner, RSM - MWO Guyon; HCol Nanji; and CO - LCol Mullally.



Two of the Museum Staff: MWO(Ret'd) Melissa Kehoe, Curator and Nicole Hood, Researcher. The Camerons have provided us with a cannon ball that they have had found in the sewers when doing construction at Cartier Square about 17 years ago. They decided it would be more appropriate with our Museum. Eager to discover the story behind it, Nicole Hood will be hot on its trail.



Maxwell Toms and LCol (Ret'd) Terry Honour build this cabinet and made the projectiles for the Museum. WO Jack Moloughney also assisted in the building and sourcing of shells.

Morrison Artillery Park Grand Opening continued...



is the 9Pdr which is still used for Regimental Dinners and Fortissimo every year.



Our 4 – C3 Guns which are in constant use. .



Unit Trophies which are presented at our Annual Regimental Dinners



Items from Boer War to WWII, along with items from the 30th Fd Band which was disbanded in 1964.

Surplus Military Periodicals Available

The Saskatchewan Military Museum has a number of issues of 'Canadian Army Journal' and 'Sentinel' that are available to your museums. If there are any specific issues that you require or for more information, please contact Keith Inches at keithinches@sasktel.net.

Ouverture officielle du Parc d'artillerie Morrison

Par Melissa Kehoe, Conservatrice, Musée de la Puissance de feu des Artilleurs de Bytown
Traduit par Normand Roberge



Les dernières semaines ont été très occupées avec l'installation des photos et cadres et la mise en place du Musée de la Puissance de feu des Artilleurs de Bytown. Le complexe, dans son ensemble est maintenant un musée vivant et nos visiteurs ont été impressionnés et surpris par ce qui y est exposé.



Le Col-cmdt recevant le salut de la Garde de caserne. Lorsque les troupes se sont présentées dans la soirée au musée, plusieurs membres enthousiastes ont manifesté le désir de contribuer à l'amélioration des expositions et présentations. Il y a toujours une histoire qu'elle soit personnelle ou concernant d'autres membres de l'unité, supportée par des images ou anecdotes qui sauront captiver l'intérêt des générations futures.



L'inauguration, de gauche à droite: le Col cmdt, le Lgén (Retraité) Mike Jeffery, le SM de la 33e Bde l'Adjuc Mitchell Hepburn, Le cmdt-A 33e Bde le Lcol Robert Foster, Le Cmdt COIC le Lgén S. Beare, artilleur principal en service, le SMR 30 RAC L'adjum L Guyon, le Col(h) Nanji et le cmdt 30 RAC le Lcol F. Mullally.



L'Adjum (retraîtée) Melissa Kehoe, conservatrice et Nicole Hood, chercheuse, membre du personnel du musée. Les Cameron d'Ottawa nous ont remis un boulet de canon qu'ils ont trouvé dans les égouts lors de travaux de construction effectués au manège Place Cartier il y a environ 17 ans. Ils ont décidé qu'il serait plus approprié avec notre Musée. Nicole Hood sera acharnée à découvrir les faits historiques derrière ce boulet.



Nos bénévoles; Maxwell Toms, le Lcol (retraité) Terry Honour et l'Adj Jack Moloughney ont construit ce cabinet et les projectiles.

Ouverture officielle du Parc d'artillerie Morrison...



Notre canon rayé à chargement par la bouche de 9 livres encore utilisé lors de cérémonies et Fortissimo chaque année.



Nos 4 obusiers C3.



Les trophées régimentaires présentés annuellement lors du dîner régimentaire.



Des objets de la guerre des Boers à la Seconde Guerre mondiale, avec des artefacts de la fanfare du 30e qui fut dissoute en 1964.

When Walls Can Talk

By MWO Normand Marion, 16 Wing Borden

The Air Annex of the Base Borden Military Museum is home to a collection of treasures that, each in its own way, contributes to the preservation of our country's Air Force heritage. In addition to the expected displays of aircraft, engines, propellers and uniforms, one can find an interesting mural that was salvaged from the old Base Hospital buildings before their demolition in 1994. The artwork is made of eight large panels on which are depicted the experiences of an aircrew from the time of being shot-down over Europe, followed by the rescue, hospitalisation, convalescence, rehabilitation and return to normal life. At the time of its acquisition by the Borden Museum, the conditions under which the mural had been completed and the full identity of the artist were unknown. Fortunately, these questions have since been answered.



RCAF Station Rockliffe, 1943, the artist works on the mural at the Base Hospital (Photo via Pouliot family)

Some time after the publication of an article in the Maple Leaf, the museum was contacted by a person whose relative, named André Pouliot, had enrolled in the RCAF during the war, and had pursued a career as an artist after the war. Soon, photos provided by relatives showed André Pouliot working on the exact same mural that hangs today inside the Borden Museum. With photos to prove it, it has been established that our mural was not originally painted in Borden, but at RCAF Station Rockliffe's hospital in Ottawa, in 1943. It was likely moved to the Borden hospital at the time of the closure of the Rockliffe hospital.



André Pouliot's mural is now on display at the Air Annex of the Base Borden Military Museum (Photo by Sgt Kev Parle, 16 Wing)

As for the artist himself, he was born in Québec and studied literature and arts at the University of Ottawa and at the Pratt Institute of Art in New York. He enlisted as pilot in the RCAF during the Second World War, but served mostly in general duties, his talent quickly put to good use. According to a 1945 report from Veterans Affairs, "During his service career he completed a number of excellent murals in canteens, and in the hospital at RCAF Station Rockliffe, Ont. There is no doubt but that his ability lies in painting, and it is considered that this should be encouraged."

After the war, André Pouliot pursued a career as a sculptor and painter, and wrote many works of prose and poetry. He passed away in 1953 at the age of 33.

Canvas Shoes of the Canadian Expeditionary Force: A Very Common Rare Artefact

By Bruce Tascona, Legion House Museum



Soldiers of the 44th Battalion at Sewell Camp 1915.

As a museum worker how many discover that the hardest items to acquire are the footwear issued to a serviceman regardless of War. The simple reason was that the servicemen took their discharge; went home took off his uniform and reentered civilian life. He joined the workforce and integrated himself into his new life—the chances that he wore his boots/shoes to work every day until they disappeared would have been quite high.

Recently I attended a country auction in western Manitoba—among the items up for auction were a pair of canvas shoes resembling what was issued to the Canadian Expeditionary Force. I purchased them on my hunch that they were what they appeared to be. When I got home I began digging through my files and found several photographs in my collection of soldiers wearing the Canvas Shoes.

After researching the artefact I am strongly convinced that what I found are a pair of canvas shoes issued to members of the CEF. They can be seen in the Manitoba WWI Museum in Pilot Mound Manitoba.

Each soldier in the Canadian Expeditionary Force was issued one pair of canvas shoes along with their leather boots. They were to be worn when they were off-duty, in garrison, for athletic purposes and in hospital. They also could be worn when drying your wet boots. They have no C Broad Arrow markings but most boots do not have markings.



Top view of the canvas shoes.



Ankle Patch—"Northern Rubber Company Guelph Ont".

Are they rare? I am not too sure but I do know the Canadian War Museum does not have a pair in their collection—yet they have many Victoria Crosses. Monetary value should not be a concern—they are just some worn out sneakers.

One last note to leave with you—for those of us who retain their uniform from our glory years in some closet—how many still retain a pair of those awful canvas running shoes issued to us in the 60's and 70's? I rest my point on the rarity issue. Priceless!

The PPCLI in Achterveld (Part 1)

By Karen Storwick, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

The village of Achterveld is a small Catholic enclave in the Dutch province of Utrecht. The Neo Roman church masterpiece designed by Dutch architect Hendrik Valk was the heart and soul of the town in April of 1945. From the church tower, miles of countryside could be observed and as such was an ideal command post for the German Forces as they prepared for the advance of the Allied Army in the final days of the Second World War.



April 18, 1945

Victory was within sight in early April and the Canadian Corps drove into Holland, liberating 70 miles of terrain within a week. The 1st Canadian Infantry Division was tasked with clearing northeast Holland and crossing the IJssel River to trap and defeat the remaining German troops in Southern Holland. The PPCLI had the distinction of leading the division across the IJssel in amphibious Buffalo landing crafts. This was the Regiment's first action in northwest Europe.

After successfully establishing the bridgehead, the Patricias moved out two days later and advanced rapidly through the countryside liberating village after village. As ragged and starving civilians embraced the Canadians with tears, the enemy surrendered in droves but there were still German soldiers in occupied villages ready to obey Hitler's orders and fight to the last man.



Negotiations, April 30, 1945

On April 17, the advance came to a standstill as Allied and Nazi high command entered negotiations. Achterveld found itself in no-man's land between fronts as Allied and Nazi patrols crept through the town. With constant shellfire and artillery barrage from both sides, many villagers sought refuge in the warmth of the church basement.

On the afternoon of April 19, there was an unusual quiet. Some civilians of the town ventured out of hiding and noticed the Germans were wiring their Church with dynamite. According to documented accounts from Dutch archives local villagers saw seven Germans entering the tower with dynamite. One brave villager hopped on his bike and rode 6km with the distress message to Canadian headquarters at Barneveld.

At about that same time, Rudy Deutsch, a medic serving with Capt Sydney Frost's D company was in the Regimental Aid Post near Barneveld. Rudy recalls the actions of that day vividly: "There was a German that was wounded quite badly and I was taking care of him, he was bleeding badly and I was trying to put a field dressing on him to stop the bleeding. He said, 'If you save my life. I'll tell you what's going to happen.' So I put a tourniquet on him and I stopped the bleeding and he came through. He told us the Germans are going to blow up the church. The big church in Achterveld was wired with dynamite and ready to be blown. So I ran over to where Sydney Frost was and I told him what the German officer had told me."

Defending the Country: Prince Edward Island and the War of 1812

By Greg Gallant, PEI Regimental Museum

The Prince Edward Island Regiment, in partnership with the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation launches a display to commemorate the bicentennial of the War of 1812. This display will tell Prince Edward Islands roll in this very important conflict in Canadian history.

Prince Edward Island was a British Colony in 1812, and had British regular troops station here, and local militia. Georges Battery and Barracks were located not far from where the museum is located.

Shortly after the United States declared war on Britain in June of 1812, the Lieutenant Governor J.F.W. DesBarres sought permission to raise a Fencible Corps of 500 men for defence of the colony. He was refused.

In September 1812, a recruiter from the newly formed Glengarry Light Infantry arrived. At least 45 Island residents served with the Glengarry's. Over 100 Islanders saw service with the 104th (New Brunswick) Regiment of Foot who were also station on PEI. Some of these Islanders left PEI for the famed winter march of the regiment in the winter of 1813.

This display will tell the story of some the men who took part in this War. The display also talks about what was going on here on PEI before and after the War. Also on display is, two period uniforms. They belong to John Frederick Holland who was the Adjutant General of Prince Edward Island, and his sons uniform Lt Samuel Holland who served with the 49th Regiment of Foot of the Regular British Army.

This display will remain at the Armouries until 2014. The museum is opened to the public from Monday to Friday from 0830 am to 430 pm, also Thursday nights from 7 to 9. Also on display is the military history of Prince Edward Island. The museum has artifacts from the early 1800's to present day. There is no admission.

We also have available a book by Winston Johnston call" The Glengarry Light Infantry". This book covers the history of the Glengarry's, who were they and where did they fight. This book is available at the museum for \$30.00.



LCol Glenn Moriarity Museum Director, Gail Shea MP, And yours truly Pte Greg Gallant of the 104th New Brunswick Regiment of Foot

A Surprise Treasure at the National Air Force Museum of Canada

By Kevin Windsor, Curator, NAFMC

The call came in a few months ago. A woman asked if I would like her father's uniform for the Museum. It's a call that we get several times a week. We try to keep 5 of every type and every rank but we have a few gaps in the collection so we try to gather as much information as we can about the person. Additionally, if there is something significant on a national level we will accept their uniforms into the collection. When I asked the woman to tell me about her Father, I almost fell over in my chair when she said who it was! "My Father's name was Keith Ogilvie, but people knew him as 'Skeets'". I was speechless... I have been preparing a new exhibit on the "Great Escape" from STALAG Luft III, and had remembered some of the names.

On the night of the 24th of March 1944, the tunnel known as Harry was completed and the Prisoners were ready to escape. Once the first head was out of the tunnel, they realized that the tunnel was too short. The escapers would have to wait for the "all clear" before leaving the tunnel. As a result, the 200 initially set to leave would not make it and it would have to be whittled down to 100. At almost 5 am on the morning of the 25th the 77th man leaving the tunnel as spotted. He immediately stood up to surrender and gave time for the other 76 to escape. Skeets was the last person to escape from STALAG Luft III as part of the "Great Escape".

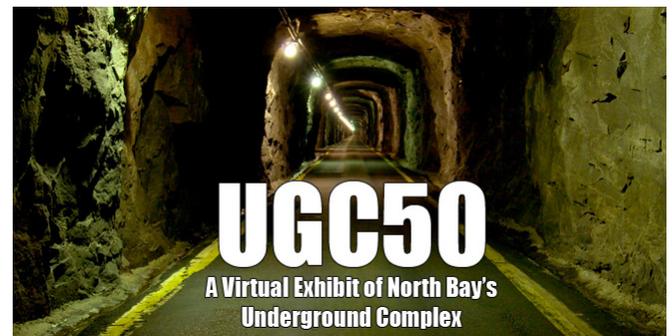
Skeets uniform is Post Second World War as he was promoted to Squadron Leader on 1 January 1953, but it is still a wonderful example of the many fascinating stories we hold in our Museums.



UGC50: A Virtual Exhibit of North Bay's Underground Complex

By Bethany Aitchison, Canadian Forces Museum of Aerospace Defence

Fifty years ago, on October 1, 1963, North Bay saw the opening of the most important defence establishment at the time. The Underground Complex (UGC), from which RCAF, USAF and civilian personnel worked together to maintain Canada's air sovereignty, began its proud 43-year service. The complex was 142,000 square feet, located 600 feet underground and was operational non-stop from 1963 until its closure in 2006.



Commemorating the history of the UGC, a new virtual exhibit, called 'UGC50' has been launched. Found at www.UGC50.com, it is a collection of historical photos and images of artifacts as well as a collection of memories from those who worked or even just visited the complex. We invite you to explore, spread the word, and share any memories you may have.

The Royal Canadian Regiment Museum at Wolseley Barracks

By Georgiana Stanciu, Curator, RCR Museum

The Royal Canadian Regiment Museum tells the story of Canada's first Infantry Regiment established within the permanent force. The museum is located at Wolseley Barracks, purpose-built military architecture in 1886-1888 by the Dominion Government to house the 'D' Company of the Infantry School Corps; the barracks are considered to date the home station of The Royal Canadian Regiment. The museum collection is vast and varied and includes medals, original art, weapons, military equipment, regimental memorials, uniforms, silverware, musical instruments and archives.



4RCR, The Royal Scots, the Canadian Great War Society ready to march at Wolseley Barracks.

On Saturday September 28, 2013, The Royal Canadian Regiment Museum held an opening ceremony following completion of the expansion/renovation project. The ceremony was attended by a large crowd, whose expectations were, we hope, exceeded by the 4th Battalion the Royal Canadian Regiment military parade, re-enactments (The Royal Scots and the Canadian Great War Society), military music and guest speaker Prof. Jonathan Vance.

The construction portion of the renovation project at Wolseley Barracks (west wing) was completed in 2012; this project included major upgrades to the over hundred-year building: barrier-free access, archway entrance transformed in museum foyer, expanded exhibit area, new gift shop, temporary exhibition gallery and restrooms. As a result, the museum available space doubled in size (from 6 323 sq' in 2009 to 11 598 sq' in 2012).

Supplementing the Permanent Gallery exhibits was the second major component of this expansion project. The interpretive plan followed the chronological sequence that has been adopted during an earlier exhibit assessment, adding an expanded Cold War/Peacekeeping Missions section, Afghanistan Conflict, Infantry Gallery and Militia and Reserve Heritage in Southwestern Ontario. Design and production of these exhibits was directed towards satisfying an increasing demand to introduce not only hands-on activities, interactive and multimedia technology, but also themes that pertain to more recent history, such as the Canadian participation in the ISAF.

The project was possible with major contribution from the Directorate of History and Heritage within DND. Other provincial agencies, such as Ontario Trillium Foundation, City of London and numerous private sponsors supported the museum's efforts to upgrade the building and the exhibits.



Observation Post (OP) in Afghanistan setting.



Interactive element in the Infantry Gallery.

Our First Year Behind Us...And The Future Looks Very Bright

By Pat Murphy, Vancouver Island Military Museums

The Nanaimo based Vancouver Island Military Museum completed its first year of operations in its new waterfront location on September 29, 2013. "The full year in our new location gave us the ability to help forecast visitor patterns for the future," said President Roger Bird. For the first time in our 27-year history we charged admission and we kept an accurate visitor tally and the noted where they have visited from by our guest book. The future looks bright and the Board of Directors is extremely confident in the museum's prospects.



As we are located on Nanaimo's waterfront, a good number of our visitors were American pleasure boaters. Many of our visitors walked across the street after tying up their boat, then drop into the museum and learn about our rich military history. On average 5,000 pleasure boaters visit Nanaimo each year. The cruise ship dock is also nearby and this year, Nanaimo hosted eight cruise ships. The cruise ships would tie up in the morning and drop several thousand people off to circulate through the city and discover what Nanaimo has to offer. Many found our museum and based on the comments that were made in the guest book, all were impressed with what they found or learned about Canada's military history.

Recently, the City of Nanaimo announced that a Chinese developer will be building a 21-story 5-star, luxury hotel at the west end of the park where the museum is located, about 100 yards from our front door. The developer will bring 70,000 Chinese visitors to Nanaimo each year on organized tours; the new hotel will feature an elevated walkway into the park that surrounds the museum. The other positive news is that a high speed ferry to Vancouver will likely be part of the hotel deal and that terminal will be just across the street as part of the marina that brings all the American boaters into our facility. To say that our Board of Directors is over the moon at all this good news would be an understatement.

In summary, we have had a good year in our spacious new location, we've exceeded expectations and the future looks very bright.

Giving a Voice to the Artifact

By Peter Moogk, Curator, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA, Museum
Adapted from a presentation at OMMC Museum Studies Programme, 2013, London

With little money for purchasing display items, our museum depends on donations to build up our collection. As a consequence, most of what we have is the result of chance rather than choice. In three years I have learned, the hard way, to have a clear acquisitions policy and to be willing to refuse some gifts. Our acquisitions policy grows out of the museum's mission statement which is to tell the story of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment and the story of units that formerly occupied our home, the Bessborough Armoury. We are the only institution that will do this and this modest ambition helps us introduce the regiment's history to new recruits as well as to civilian visitors.

The challenge of preparing displays or exhibits is to draw a clear and coherent narrative with the odds and ends that have been given to the museum. We have an advantage over local history museums because our focus is already confined to our specific military history. As a rule, displayed items should be kept to a minimum and should have a concise explanation of their significance. 'Fewer artifacts and better interpretation' is my mantra for exhibits, but I have not followed this principle strictly. The weeding out process will always leave a few rare and exotic items on display.

There are also displayed artifacts, justifiably included, whose informative potential was not exploited. Interpretation should provide context and meaning for each object. Our museum tended to assume that the visitors were military experts who understood the significance of each item without a written explanation. The objective is not to baffle or intimidate the visitor. Occupational jargon is an unfriendly barrier to understanding.

One particular case of enhancing interpretation is with a gunner's riding crop from the pre-1930 period. It was in our First World War display case and simply labelled "RIDING CROP, CN 985.168.118." This modest object was an opportunity to discuss the essential role of horses as draft animals and mounts in Canada's pre-1930 army. The revised label now reads "LEATHER RIDING CROP – In the First World War artillery pieces and wagons were towed by horses and gunners had to be capable riders. They used the crop to urge horses to go on." I also added a photograph of three Canadian horse gunners with their riding crops. This is what I mean by "giving context and meaning to the object." The crop's inclusion in the First World War exhibit is explained and justified as a meaningful object that fits into a larger narrative.

Each viewer looking at display objects has an unspoken question in the back of his or her mind of, "so what?" We have to justify the inclusion of each item and explain how it fits into "the big picture." If we fail to identify the item's significance – to answer the "so what?" question, then we have failed as a museum.



Special Guests: Two Museums Welcome VIPs



Princess Anne visited CFB Borden at the end of October, in part to bestow her Royal Banner to the Royal Canadian Medical Service for their work in Afghanistan. LCol (ret.) Stuart Beaton, Director of the Base Borden Military Museum, had the honour of meeting the Princess in a reception held on the Base.

Pastry chef Anna Olson, known for her cookbooks, Food Network show 'Sugar' and her spokespersonship with Home Hardware, visited the Canadian Forces Museum of Aerospace Defence after a cooking demonstration at the local college, whose President is an Honorary Colonel of 22 Wing/CFB North Bay. Maj Chris Horner, Museum Chair, expressed his gratitude for her chocolate chip cookie recipe - he used it while in Afghanistan to bring some cheer to his troops during long and stressful shifts.



The Organization of Military Museums of Canada

Executive

Stuart Beaton: President

Dave Stinson: Secretary

Richard Ruggle: Treasurer

stuart.beaton@forces.gc.ca

davelach@telus.net

shepherd@kw.igs.net

Directors

Bethany Aitchison

Léon Chamois

Rory Cory

Greg Gallant

Don Manley

Eric Ruel

bethany.aitchison@live.ca

leon.chamois@forces.gc.ca

Mor-curator@telusplanet.net

greggallant@pei.sympatico.ca

maridon31@gmail.com

eric.ruel@cfsj.qc.ca

'The Bulletin' is the official publication of the Organization of Military Museums of Canada. The editor is Bethany Aitchison. Articles can be submitted to bethany.aitchison@live.ca.