



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

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**F**irst and foremost I must congratulate the organizers of Course 2000 our annual training course held last July at the Royal Military College of Canada. The tireless efforts of Ross Mackenzie, Jack Pike, Alana Lewis and Vern Hayes and our volunteers Peter and Betty Pym-Hember, Martine Pilon and WO Biggs certainly paid-off. The attendance was the highest in our history and the course itself one of the most interesting. Your executive committee along with the RMC organizing team have worked long and hard to ensure that your comments and suggestions from last year's Course Critique were incorporated into this year's course. The results speak for themselves, as you will read in the Executive Director's report.

Again many thanks to all those involved for their tremendous effort in making this course such a success.

**T**he sudden and tragic death of my dear friend Peter Pym-Hember on the last day of the course saddened us all. While details of his life are reported elsewhere in this issue I must express my own grief at his passing. You see it was I as Commanding Officer of the Camerons who was responsible for bringing Peter into the Cameron family and the beginning of what was to be a life time association with the Regimental Museum. His untiring enthusiasm for the

Regiment coupled with the endless hours both he and Betty put into the museum is unsurpassed. As President of the OMMC Inc. I was honored at this year's dinner to present Peter and Betty with Certificates of Appreciation for their incredible efforts on behalf of our organization. To Betty my heartfelt sympathy. Indeed all of us have lost a true friend. "Oh proudly they walk tho' each Cameron knows he may tread on the heather no more".

**Y**ou may recall the presence of two American colleagues from the US Centre for Military History Dr. Charles Cureton and Mr. Steve Bavisotto. They have since reported in their Bulletin that they liked what they saw. I am delighted therefore to confirm that our 35<sup>th</sup> annual course for the year 2001 will be a joint US/Canada affair to be held in Quebec City from 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September 2001. A draft program is included for your information. As you can see this promises to be an interesting and worthwhile course. I strongly urge all of our membership to make a special effort to be there.

**I**n closing I would like to personally thank my Executive Director LCol Don Carrington (Ret'd), our Membership Services Officer Paulette Potvin and the DHH representative to our board Mr. Dan Potvin for their

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support, hard work and dedication this past year. To my executive Committee- VP BGen Jeff Brace, Secretary Vince Brown and outgoing treasurer Keith Inches I thank you for your time and effort on behalf of the organization. To all the members of the Board I wish to express my appreciation for your support, wise council and interest for the past year.

As this holiday season approaches let me wish you and yours all the Season's best. See you in Quebec City.

## MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

D'abord et avant tout, je me dois de féliciter les organisateurs du Cours 2000, notre cours annuel de formation tenu au Collège militaire royal du Canada. Les efforts sans relâche de Ross Mackenzie, Jack Pike, Alana Lewis et vern Hayes ainsi que nos bénévoles Peter et Betty Pym-Hember, Martine Pilon et adj Biggs ont certainement rapporté des dividendes. Le taux de participation a été le plus élevé de notre histoire et le cours lui-même, l'un des plus intéressants. Votre conseil exécutif de concert avec l'équipe d'organiseurs du CMR ont travaillé d'arrache-pied pour s'assurer que vos commentaires et suggestions de la critique du cours de l'an dernier soient incorporés au cours de formation de cette année. Les résultats parlent par eux-mêmes comme vous le constaterez lors de la lecture du rapport du Directeur exécutif. Encore une fois, plusieurs mercis à tous ceux qui ont été impliqués par leur énorme effort à faire de ce cours un tel succès.

Le décès subit et tragique de mon cher ami Peter Pym-Hember au dernier jour du cours, nous a tous attristé. Bien que les détails de sa vie soient rapportés dans un autre segment de ce bulletin, je me dois d'exprimer ma propre

douleur au sujet de sa mort. Voyez-vous, c'était moi en tant que Commandant des Cameron qui était responsable d'introduire Peter dans la grande famille des Cameron et le début de ce qui devait être une association à vie avec le musée régimentaire. Son enthousiasme infatigable envers le régiment associé au nombres d'heures sans bornes que lui et Betty ont consacré au musée et sans pareil. En tant que Président de l'OMMC Inc, j'ai eu l'honneur, cette année, au cours du banquet officiel, de présenter à Peter et Betty des certificats d'appréciation pour leurs efforts incroyables au nom de notre organisation. A Betty, je transmets mes plus sincères condoléances. En effets. Nous avons tous perdu un véritable ami. "Oh, ils marchent fièrement, ohé!" chaque Cameron sait qu'il ne peut plus marcher sur la bruyère désormais.

Vous vous souvenez de la présence de deux collègues américains du Centre de l'histoire militaires des États-Unis, le LCol Charles Cureton, et M. Steve Bavisotto. Ils ont depuis fait rapport dans leur bulletin et ils ont aimé ce qu'ils ont vu. Je suis ravi par conséquent de confirmer une participation des États-Unis à notre 35e cours annuel en 2001 qui se déroulera à Québec, du 5 au 9 septembre 2001. L'ébauche du programme est incluse pour votre gouverne. Vous serez à même de constater que le cours promet d'être à la fois intéressant et valorisant. J'encourage tous nos membres à faire un effort spécial pour être là.

En terminant, j'aimerais remercier personnellement mon Directeur exécutif. Le LCol Don Carrington (retraité), notre Officer des services aux membres, Paulette Potvin et le représentant du DHP à notre comité, M. Dan Potvin pour leur soutien, leur travail acharné et leur dévouement lors de la dernière année. Au vice-président du comité exécutif, le BGen Jeff Brace, au secrétaire Vince Brown et au trésorier sortant Keith Inches, je transmets mes remerciements pour leur temps et leur effort, au

nom de l'organisation. A tous les membres du comité, je souhaite exprimer mon appréciation pour leur soutien, leur précieux conseil et leur intérêt durant la dernière année.

Puisque la saison des fêtes approche, permettez-moi de vous souhaiter à vous et à vos proches, les meilleurs voeux de la saison. Au plaisirs de vous revoir à Québec.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### *Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal*

OMMC have been asked by DND to assist in making the information regarding the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal (CPSM) available to our members. So in that regard, please be advised that OMMC Inc. has the necessary applications available, and will send them to you on request.

You are advised, however, that certain restrictions apply to eligibility for this medal. You should be aware that if you served on the following peacekeeping missions at the times shown you are NOT eligible for the CPSM:

- Service in Korea from 27 Jun 50 to 27 Jul 53
- Service in the Arabian Gulf from 2 Aug 90 to 27 Jun 91
- Somalia Operation DELIVERANCE from 16 Nov 92 to 30 Jun 93
- Humanitarian missions described in A-AD-200-000/AG-00 1999-01-04
- NATO air strikes - Operation ALLIED FORCE carried out against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from 24 Mar 99 to 10 Jun 99
- INTERFET- Operation TOUCAN East Timor from 15 Sep 99 to 20 Feb 00.

If you served outside Canada for a minimum

of 30 days (not necessarily consecutively) either on strength of a unit of the Canadian Forces deployed on a peacekeeping or observer mission, or in direct support of any such mission, your service will be recognized. This includes RCMP, other police officers or civilians, and will be awarded to next-of-kin of those who have died, either on service or after release from government service.

The medal must be presented to you at a formal ceremony, therefore it would be advisable to designate a Royal Canadian Legion branch or other Veteran's service organization in your area as the place where you wish to receive the medal.

### ***Memorial Contributions to Bursary Fund***

In response to a number of queries regarding an appropriate means of honouring departed members for their sometimes long and devoted service to OMMC, the Executive determined there really was no adequate way to ensure such recognition is uniformly provided.

Still desirous, however, of providing a means whereby survivors and friends of departed members could memorialize them, it has been decided that contributions to the Bursary Fund, made in memory of a particular person, will be entertained. Such contributions will be added to the Bursary Fund and treated as an endowment; ie, only the interest will be used in providing the annual awards.

It is anticipated that a page in the OMMC web site will devoted to listing persons so honoured. The listing will provide a short memorial to the individual.

### ***Contributions commémoratives au fond boursier***

Suite à de nombreuses questions relatives au moyen approprié de rendre hommage à des membres disparus pour leur service dévoué et quelquefois prolongé auprès de l'OMMC, le conseil exécutif a conclu qu'il n'y avait pas vraiment une manière adéquate de s'assurer qu'une telle reconnaissance soit fournie uniformément.

Toutefois, nous sommes toujours désireux de fournir un moyen par lequel les survivants et les amis de nos membres disparus puissent le commémorer. La décision a été prise de considérer les contributions au fond boursier faites à la mémoire d'une personne en particulier. De telles contributions seront ajoutées au fond boursier et seront traitées à titre de donations; c'est-à-dire seulement les intérêts seront utilisés pour fournir les différentes attributions annuelles.

Nous anticipons la consécration d'une page à notre site Web pour donner la liste des personnes auxquelles nous rendrons hommage. La présentation donnera une brève commémoration à l'individu.

### ***Partners in Motion***

A Saskatchewan film and video production company has been commissioned by History Television to produce over 4 hours of Canadian war documentary film. Seven Canadian recipients of the Victoria Cross will be profiled, as well as veteran's stories of their experiences serving in the Second World War. These two documentaries are to be broadcast nationally during History TV's Remembrance Week line-up this fall.

The stories in 'Men of Valour- Heroes of the Victoria Cross' describe the valiant actions of Richardson 1900; Keable, 1918; Osbourne 1941; Foote & Merritt, 1942 and Mynarski and Smith 1944. These seven representative

Canadian Victoria Cross recipients will be featured with their incredible stories; included is an interview with "Smoky Smith" the only Canadian Victoria Cross recipient still living.

'*Voices of War*' contains over three hours of in-depth interviews with veterans of the Second World War, recounting their diverse experiences: from enlistment to basic training, to fighting and surviving war, to coming home. This compelling documentary chronicles their memories and experiences when as young men and women they joined the Canadian Forces serving their country in the Army, Navy or Air Force.

We have received outstanding support from the Department of National Defence, Veterans Affairs Canada, Royal Canadian Legion, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Museum and other military associations and museums across the country, drawing on their expertise and materials in our research and re-enactment's for this documentary.

*Partners in Motion* is most grateful to all who have assisted in helping to ensure the historical accuracy of our production.

'*Men of Valour - Heroes of the Victoria Cross*' and '*Voices of War*' are scheduled to air on History Television's Remembrance Week 2000.

For more information, please contact Paul Millar, Producer, *Partners in Motion* toll free at 1-877-302-4333 ext 8 or e-mail: [paulmillar@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:paulmillar@sk.sympatico.ca)

### ***Millennium Project***

Just a few words on the progress of the Millennium Project. We have well over 700 memorials recorded thus far and we are in the process of negotiating with STEM-net to get the monuments they have already recorded on

their web site. This will add another 5-600 to the total. More are coming in every week from the Provincial Coordination Centers, so we are not yet certain just how many we will have. We will be keeping the project open on a reduced scale after 1 Jan 01 so that any late records may be added, and any new memorials recorded.

Because of the amount of data we have accumulated, DND have agreed to host the *Inventory of Canadian Military Memorials* on their web site. This will reduce the strain on us immensely, and will ensure the data is treated with the care and discretion it is due.

We have also been advised by Veterans Affairs Canada that we may continue to occupy office space in their Commemorative Division for another year so that we may expand research into the larger memorials.

We are also monitoring the challenge we set for all Military Museums at Course 2000 this summer. So far the response has NOT been overwhelming. If you will recall, we challenged every Military Museum to send in a photograph and completed questionnaire for just 3 memorials in their area. That should be very easy to accomplish, if you don't limit your search to monuments. Think of fountains, dedicated stained glass windows in churches, Honour Rolls in the town's civic buildings or elsewhere. And remember the smaller towns where there may not be a Legion to take up the challenge.

### ***Travelling Art Exhibit***

OMMC has been advised that an artist in British Columbia, Mr William Perry, has a quantity of art reproductions available for sale through your museums. "Peacekeeping" is the general subject of the artwork, which has been carried out by Mr. Perry in various

operational areas. Examples of his work and details of the plan described below may be seen at:

<http://www.coastnet.com/~willsusie/peacekeepingart.html>

**M**r. Perry advises that 50% of the profits from the sale of the artwork will go to Military Family Resource Centres across Canada and overseas. He reports he has the support of several senior officers and the Lester B. Pearson Peacekeeping Centre for this plan. Artwork would be supplied on consignment, so no purchase up front is required. Museums who participate would receive 20% of the sale price and a number of framed, limited edition, prints for their collection

**T**o advertise this plan, and his art, Mr. Perry has a ready-made art exhibit of original artwork available for display in museums. If you have the space and the desire to mount a display of this type, you could benefit from increased PR which would surround the opening, and the possible attendance of LGen Dallaire or MGen MacKenzie. Please advise the Executive Director if you have an interest in mounting a Peacekeeping Art exhibit in 2001, or if you wish more information on the plan.

## OMMC INC. MEMBER'S ACTIVITIES

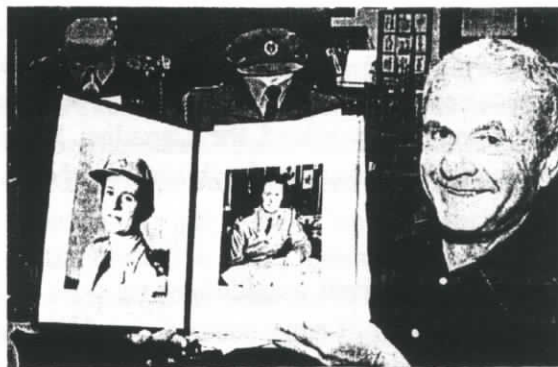
### *War Brides Wrap Up*

**T**he Vancouver Island War Brides Association performed its last official function on Saturday August 19, 2000 at the LGen E.C. Ashton Museum.

**T**he association wrapped up its long history of distinguished service when it presented its "boat lists" to museum staff. The lists contain the names of association members who came to Canada primarily in 1946-47.

**T**he last association reunion was held this June in Nanaimo.

## Saanich Museum honours women of Second World War



Derek Brown holds cherished photographs of Joan Kennedy at the Ashton Garrison Museum.

Joan Kennedy would have appreciated the way Maj Derek Brown tracked down her memorabilia.

**T**hat's because Kennedy was relentless herself in pursuit of her own goal Canadian Women serving as active members in the nation's army during the Second World War.

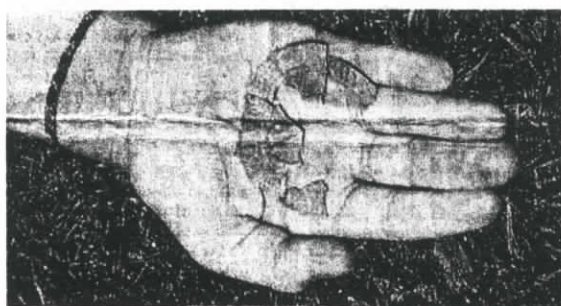
**K**ennedy, who attained the rank of lieutenant Colonel, was the founding commandant of the Canadian Women's Army Corps and the first officer appointed to the CWACs. The first Corps office was opened in 1941.

**D**erek is director of The LGen E.C. Ashton Museum in Saanich, which has the largest collection of women's military memorabilia in Canada. Two years ago he set out in dogged pursuit of personal artefacts of Kennedy, who died in Victoria and was buried with full military honours – the only women to be so honoured in Canada.

Derek's diligence was rewarded recently when a woman in Nanaimo, BC – Kennedy's niece – came up with a number of personal items including Kennedy's own career scrapbooks and her parchment commissioning scroll, signed by Lord Athlone.

If you wish to know more about this collection, Derek can be contacted at (250) 363-8346 or by fax (250) 363-8326

### *Campers dig discovering history*



A hand holds an official badge believed to have come from a War of 1812 bag

On the far side of FORT HENRY Hill, five rectangular areas ringed with bright orange fencing break the long expanse of lush, green grass. At a distance, these enclosures resemble abandoned animal pens, but closer inspection reveals small, small bent-over humans picking up dirt and rocks.

Two of the dirt pickers, eight year old Ben Babcock and 10 year-old Rachel Zylstra, made an exciting discovery when they found pieces of a bronze Royal Artillery badge that is believed to have come from a cartridge bag used in the War of 1812.

They also found a pewter button from the 43<sup>rd</sup> Regiment that was stationed at the fort around 1841.

These are the most historically significant discoveries made to date at the fifth annual Can You Dig It? Summer camp run by the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation.

This year campers are spending weeklong stints excavating the ruins of the old Fort Henry Garrison hospital compound. Built in the 1820s the hospital was used by the British military until it withdrew from the fort in the 1870s.

In 1924, the abandoned hospital burned to the ground in a fire believed to have been caused by vagrants.

The cartridge and button found by Ben and Rachel were located just below the surface of the ground and immediately adjacent to an old limestone guardhouse that once formed part of the compound perimeter. The fully restored guardhouse is the only building that remains.

### **JOE GEURTZ TO HEAD WAR MUSEUM**

Joe Geurtz has moved from No. 2 spot at the Canadian Museum of Civilization to become the Director of the Canadian War Museum.

Mr. Geurtz has been the Chief Operating Officer of the Museum of Civilization since 1992 and has just completed a 15 month stint there as the acting President and Chief Executive Officer. He moved to the War Museum on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Geurtz replaced historian Dr. Jack Granetstein at the War Museum. Dr. Granetstein, in his two years as Director, managed to give the War Museum considerably more profile than it has enjoyed

in years and to repair some of the strained relationships between the museum and veterans.

**H**e will remain on contract to serve as an adviser from his home on Toronto.

**A**t the Museum of Civilization Mr. Geurtz was more involved with the administrative than the creative side of things and, at the War Museum, he will spend much of his five-year appointment involved with the construction of a new museum, which is scheduled for completion in 2004.

**M**ilitary, historical and exhibition advice will come from Dr. Granatstein and Dr. Roger Sarty, a naval historian who is being promoted to the position of Deputy Director of the War Museum from his current job as Director of Historical Research and Exhibit Development.

**D**r. Sarty's primary responsibility will be to develop exhibits and programs for the museum.

#### **MEMBERSHIP SERVICES OFFICER**

I am pleased to report that we have had a significant increase in our course registration and membership applications this year. Our new membership database is now up and running and membership files have been updated. The membership renewal invoices for 2001 will be issued in December along with your data information form. Please update your information form and send it along with your payment. If you are not renewing your membership please advise us accordingly.

#### **RECRUIT TO WIN CONTEST DON'T MISS OUT !!!!!!! IT ENDS 31 DEC 2000**

If you have sponsored two or more new members please advise us so you can qualify for the spring draw.

**M**any thanks to all those individuals who provided assistance with our course registration and smooth operation of the Kit Shop. The Pym-Hember's, Sean Hunter, Martine Pilon, Marilyn Gurney and WO Wilfred Biggs, who were always ready to lend a hand to make our course such a great success. Special thanks to Capt Wendy McKenzie in providing emergency in First Aid assistance.

**T**he sudden passing of Peter Pym-Hember on the last day of the course will leave a big void in my life and he will be sadly missed. Peter and Betty Pym-Hember were always available prior to and during the course with whatever assistance I required to meet deadlines. Betty promised to be back by my side again next year in Quebec City. I look forward to her help and camaraderie.

#### **New members**

**T**o our new members welcome:

- Maj Peter J. Appleton, 12 Service Battalion, Richmond BC
- Bruce J. Burnet, Meriton International, Stella ON
- MCpl Jean-Francois David, Regiment de Hull
- Vernon Hayes, Communications & Electronics Museum, Kingston ON
- Dough Hildebrand, Communications & Electronics Museum, Kingston ON
- Sgt Patricia Inouye, Rocky Mountain Rangers, Kamloops BC
- Norman J. Jarvis, Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, Hamilton ON
- Anne Lindsay, Petawawa Military

Museum, Petawawa ON

- Maj Jack Magilton, Communications & Electronics Museum, Kingston ON
- Francois Oswald, Royal Canadian Ordnance Museum, Montreal QC
- Jim Parker, Veterans Affairs PE
- Wayne Ramsay, Veterans Affairs PE
- Cpl Tamara Wally, Fort Garry Horse Museum, Winnipeg MB
- Col P.H. Sutton, Communications & Electronics Museum, Kingston ON
- Toni P. Craig, North Bay ON
- Warren Everett, Kingston ON
- Rachel Poirier, Canadian War Museum, Ottawa ON
- Capt Harlin Price, Comox Air Force Museum, Comox BC
- John Dalrymple, Toronto ON
- John Cameron, Ottawa ON
- William E. Bateman, Toronto ON
- Canadian Forces Museum of Aerospace Defence, North Bay ON
- Diefenbunker Canada's Cold War Museum, Carp ON
- PEI Military Sites Museum PE

### **Proceedings of the OMMC Inc. 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Museum Course**

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**W**e will be happy to mail out a copy of the proceedings if you are unable to access our website. Please call us at (613) 841-7503 or (613) 737-3223 or drop us a line.

### **YOUR MEMBERSHIP SERVICES OFFICER LEAVES YOU WITH A THOUGHT!**

### **DO NOT PROTECT YOURSELF BY A FENCE, BUT RATHER BY YOUR FRIENDS.**

Sometimes, when we're struggling with a problem or wrestling with a sorrow, we close ourselves in, shutting the door to the world. But whether we're worried or disappointed or grieving a loss, when we reach out to our friends for comfort they gather around, shielding us like an extra wall of love. And that added strength gives us the courage to open the door – renewed and ready to meet the world again. (Czech proverb)

Museum, Petawawa ON

- Maj Jack Magilton, Communications & Electronics Museum, Kingston ON
- Francois Oswald, Royal Canadian Ordnance Museum, Montreal QC
- Jim Parker, Veterans Affairs PE
- Wayne Ramsay, Veterans Affairs PE
- Cpl Tamara Wally, Fort Garry Horse Museum, Winnipeg MB
- Col P.H. Sutton, Communications & Electronics Museum, Kingston ON
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# L'OMMC bien en vie



**L'histoire c'est nous.** Après une journée de travail apparemment satisfaisante, sur les terrains du CMR, le lcol Daniel MacKay, président de l'OMMC, le lcol (retraité) Don Carrington, secrétaire-exécutif, Dan Potvin, conseiller du MDN pour l'OMMC et le lgen (ret) Jeffrey Brace, vice-président (de g. à d.).

**We're history:** (left to right) LCol Daniel MacKay, OMMC President, LCol (Ret) Don Carrington, OMMC Executive Secretary, Dan Potvin, DND Advisor to OMMC, and BGen Jeffrey Brace, OMMC Vice-President on the grounds of Royal Military College in Kingston.

## Studying the past has a future

By Aline Dubois

The Organization of Military Museums of Canada (OMMC) is more active than ever.

The proof came from a meeting that brought together some 150 of its members at the OMMC's 14th Annual Museology Course, held from July 17 to 21 at Kingston's Royal Military College.

They came from across the country to take part in the training, attend meetings, exchange information, and get briefed on the latest technological methods. All this was interspersed with visits to local museums.

OMMC President Lieutenant-Colonel Daniel MacKay, considers the meeting a success: "It's the first time since the organization's founding that so many members responded to the call. As well, all of them have indicated their satisfaction with the activities."

This meeting also gave members the opportunity to be brought up to date on areas of current interest. "For example, many wanted to know the status of the rationalization and evaluation study of the 61 CF museums under the command of Vice Chief of the Defence Staff Vice-Admiral Gary Garnett, and delivered to the History and

Heritage Council in May. Others complained about insufficient funding and the obsolescence of facilities.

One of the main problems relates to continuity. Those who launched the museums in the 1960s and 1970s are progressively retiring, and it is difficult to find volunteers in the new generation. "It must be recognized that 90 percent of those looking after museums are volunteers," said LCol MacKay.

Despite such difficulties, OMMC members are working relentlessly toward the realization of their common dream: the preservation and restoration of Canadian military heritage, and presenting it to a public that responds better and better to the organization's publicity campaigns.

"Over the last four years, the number of visitors has doubled, above all in the major museums," said LCol MacKay. "I believe people are coming in such numbers in part due to the remarkable work that our soldiers currently accomplish in many countries. The public feels close to them and is developing a growing interest in things military."

"It is not only the two World Wars that are represented in our museums, many artifacts are gifts from former military personnel who served as peacekeepers. Displaying these artifacts contributes to the growth in the number of visitors, especially among those in the younger generation."

The OMMC, which has also charged itself with the mission of encouraging the opening and operation of military museums, includes museums established on DND bases, regimental museums, Parks Canada historic sites, as well as other naval and aviation military museums, both provincial and private.

The next meeting of the OMMC will be held next year in Québec City jointly with the U.S. Army Center of Military History (U.S. Army Museums). Half of the expected 350 participants will be Americans.

par Aline Dubois

L'organisation des musées militaires du Canada (OMMC) est plus vivante que jamais. À preuve la rencontre qui a réuni environ 150 de ses membres du 17 au 21 juillet dernier, au Collège militaire royal du Canada à Kingston, à l'occasion du 34<sup>e</sup> cours annuel de muséologie de l'organisme.

Ils sont venus de partout au pays pour suivre des séances de formation, assister à des conférences, échanger de l'information, s'informer à propos des nouvelles méthodes technologiques, le tout entrecoupé de visites dans les musées environnants. Le président de l'OMMC, le lcol Daniel MacKay, qualifie la rencontre de succès: «C'est la première fois depuis la fondation de l'Organisation qu'autant de membres répondent à l'appel. De plus, tous se sont dits satisfaits des activités».

Cette rencontre a également fourni l'occasion aux membres de faire le point sur des dossiers en cours: «Par exemple, certains voulaient savoir ce qu'il est advenu de l'étude de rationalisation et d'évaluation des 61 musées des FC, commandée par le vice-chef d'état-major à la Défense, le vice-amiral Garnett, et déposée le 24 mai dernier au Conseil d'histoire et du patrimoine. D'autres se sont plaints de l'insuffisance des fonds ou encore de la vétusté des installations. Toutefois, un des problèmes dominants soulevés concerne la relève. Les gens qui ont mis les musées sur pied durant les années 60 et 70 se retirent progressivement et on a du mal à trouver des volontaires parmi les générations montantes. Il faut savoir que 90 % des gens qui s'occupent des musées sont des bénévoles», a déclaré le président de l'OMMC, le lcol Daniel MacKay.

Quoiqu'il en soit, en dépit des difficultés, les membres de l'OMMC travaillent d'arrache-pied à la réalisation de leur rêve commun: préserver et restaurer le patrimoine militaire canadien, et le mettre à la disposition d'un public qui répond de mieux en mieux aux campagnes publicitaires de l'organisme.

«Depuis 4 ans, le nombre de visiteurs a doublé, surtout dans les musées les plus importants. Je crois que si les gens viennent aussi nombreux, c'est en partie parce que nos soldats accomplissent un travail remarquable actuellement, dans beaucoup de pays. Le public se sent près d'eux et développe un intérêt croissant pour la chose militaire. Il n'y a pas que les deux guerres mondiales qui sont représentées dans les musées. Beaucoup d'artefacts proviennent de dons faits par d'anciens militaires qui

ont servi en maintien de la paix. Exposer ces artefacts contribue à augmenter le nombre de visiteurs, surtout parmi les jeunes générations», a affirmé le lcol Daniel MacKay.

L'OMMC, qui s'est également donné pour mission d'encourager l'ouverture et l'exploitation de musées militaires, comprend des musées établis sur les bases et des musées régimentaires du MDN, les lieux historiques de Parcs Canada et plusieurs autres musées militaires maritimes et de l'aviation provinciaux et privés.

La prochaine conférence de l'Organisation aura lieu l'an prochain à Québec avec le U. S. Army Center of Military History (U.S. Army Museums). On attend 350 participants, dont la moitié seront Américains.

Do you want to join the OMMC? Perhaps you'd like to make a gift to the organization? How about operating a military museum? If so, write: Director General, OMMC Inc., PO Box 323, Gloucester ON K1C 1S7.

Vous voulez devenir membre de l'OMMC? Ou encore faire un don à l'organisme? Ou peut-être songez-vous à exploiter un musée militaire?

Dans ce cas, n'hésitez pas à communiquer avec le directeur général, OMMC, Inc. C.P. 323, Gloucester ON K1C 1S7.



## OBITUARY • PETER PYM-HEMBER

## Cameron Highlanders lose beloved curator

BY BUZZ BOURDON

For Peter Pym-Hember of Ottawa, the only thing more important than the Cameron Highlanders was his family.

For 21 years, he was the much-loved and respected curator of the Cameron Highlanders museum, building a national reputation as a collector, historian and award-winning military model builder.

Over the past 25 years, Mr. Pym-Hember built hundreds of model soldiers for collectors all over the world. Many of his soldiers and dioramas are on display in Parks Canada museums as well as the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

As the curator of the Cameron's museum since 1979, Mr. Pym-Hember, who died suddenly in Kingston on July 21, aged 69, was the principal custodian of the Cameron's corporate identity, from hard-earned war medals to uniforms, pipe banners and silver shooting spoons.

In 1996, Mr. Pym-Hember was instrumental in reorganizing the Cameron's museum when it moved into the refurbished Cartier Square Drill Hall after an expensive, three-year renovation.

John Cameron worked as Mr. Pym-Hember's museum assistant for four years. "He had so much enthusiasm for it. He was the youngest 'old' man that out-

worked anybody half his age. Some of the fun will go out of (working) here."

Every Thursday evening during the Cameron's training season from September to May, Mr. Pym-Hember would hold court in the small museum, surrounded by irreplaceable artifacts illustrating Cameron history over the past 125 years.

Young Cameron officers, anxious to acquire the exact accoutrement for their uniforms, knew Mr. Pym-Hember would have it for them. If he didn't, he knew where to go to get it. Once or twice a year, he would also lecture Cameron recruits in regimental history.

Every soldier of the Camerons was welcome to bring him their medals to have them court-mounted for free. It was something he was happy to do for the Camerons' extensive family.

In 1998, Mr. Pym-Hember's love for his museum and his regiment was formally recognized by then Ottawa mayor Jacquelin Holzman when she named him that year's Cameron winner of the Mayor's Award for Outstanding Support to the Community. Mr. Pym-Hember's wife of 34 years, Elizabeth, shared the award.

Harry Martin of the Canadian War Museum knew Mr. Pym-Hember well for 20 years. "It's a loss for the military hobby community. He was a



Peter Pym-Hember, a Second World War veteran, won national recognition as a historian and builder of military models.

good man, an honest individual and very knowledgeable about military history.

Born in London on Jan. 23, 1931, Peter Pym-Hember was the younger son of a soldier who died at the Somme in 1916. In the Second World War, his

older brother, Edward, was a Swordfish pilot with the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm.

From 1948 to 1953, Mr. Pym-Hember served with the Royal Army Pay Corps of the British army, retiring as a lieutenant. He served in Palestine with the

17/21st Lancers just before the state of Israel was created in 1948. Mr. Pym-Hember liked to tell the story of how he narrowly avoided death while he was there.

One day, Mr. Pym-Hember recounted, he was about to leave for the day when his clerk asked him to stay a while longer to finish some paperwork.

"My clerk said, 'You can't leave now. You've got too much to do.' So I stayed a while and did paperwork. Suddenly, there was a huge explosion. The hotel where I had planned to drop in for a drink had been blown up! My clerk had saved my life!"

In 1957, Mr. Pym-Hember emigrated to Canada, ending up in Ottawa in 1977 where he worked for Canus Plastics for many years.

Mr. Pym-Hember's interests were not limited to collecting British military uniforms and medals of the late 19th century. He also volunteered as a community police officer in Barhaven, answering the telephone, doing paperwork and warning people of minor safety violations, such as leaving their garage doors open.

"He thought it was a great thing to do for his community," said Mrs. Pym-Hember. "He loved to help people. He was interested in life and people. Everything he touched he made interesting. He was

always interested in every and always remember everything about them."

On the last day of his life, Pym-Hember gave a lecture at the annual conference of the Organization of Military Museums of Canada. After he finished, he said he had trouble breathing. Mrs. Pym-Hember recounted.

"We put it down to humidity. He went to his room to lay down. (Soon afterwards we called the ambulance, took him to Kingston General Hospital and that was it," said Mrs. Pym-Hember.

Mr. Pym-Hember's sudden death came as a shock to a legion of friends. More than 200 people, including at least two dozen Cameron soldiers, attended his funeral Wednesday.

As a poignant tribute, the members of the Camerons were in uniform lined the way with their right hands still at the salute as six Cameron pipe bearers carried Mr. Pym-Hember from the chapel to the hearse. A piper played *Black Bear*, one of his favourite pipe tunes.

"He wanted a rousing departure and he got it," said Mrs. Pym-Hember. Her husband leaves his two sons, Perry Victoria and Robert of Calgary along with five grandsons: Jeremy, Ben, Jordan, Scott and Jamie.