



Newsletter of the

# ONTARIO MODEL SOLDIER SOCIETY

Founded 1962

[www.omss.ca](http://www.omss.ca)

*Edited by Gary Lenius*



April 2011

*Next meeting*

**Sunday, April 10, 2011**

**Start time 1:00 pm**

Branch 210, Royal Canadian Legion  
110 Jutland Road, Toronto  
Doors open at 11:00 am

## Featured Speaker

**Ian Pearson**

**On**

**Canada's VC Winners**



Most of us know by now that member Ian Pearson is an accomplished historical researcher. For the April meeting Ian is going to give us a presentation on Canada's Victoria Cross Winners.

The Victoria Cross is the British Empire's highest military decoration for valor. Canadians have been winning them since before Confederation. Join us as Ian gives us his insights on Canada's VC winners.

P.S. Ian is looking for some expert help; see the item on page 4.

## Meeting Dates for 2011

March 20	September 11
April 10	October 16
May 15	November 13
June 11 (Annual Show)	December 11

## Fairburn Castings

The late Bob Fairburn was a prolific home caster. His family has donated some of his assorted parts and figures to the Society. These will be put out at the meeting for members to help themselves. We will do this after the formal part of the meeting so as not to disrupt the presentation.

## Wednesday Group Resumes in April

We didn't have a Wednesday get-together in March but one has been scheduled for April 27. John Brown will be hosting at his home in Mississauga.

These Wednesday gatherings are an informal get-together at a member's home where we can admire their collection and socialize over a light lunch and the odd liquid refreshment. They run from 11 am to about 2 pm.

If you're planning to come this month please let Jim Matresky know so we have an idea of numbers.  
[jim.matresky@rogers.com](mailto:jim.matresky@rogers.com)

## Show and Tell Suggestion

At the last meeting John Hambly proposed that, with the interest in the upcoming Royal wedding it would be fun to see some items in that vein out on the show and tell table at this meeting. Any takers?

## Figure Sale a Success

The special sale of figures and kits at the March meeting was a hit. These items were donated to the Society by former member Mike Niederman. There were also a few items given us by the family of the late Bob Fairburn. Together with the sale of books and magazines at the February meeting the club netted just over \$1500. Many thanks to Evelyn and John Brown, Jeff Duncan and Guy Elliott for organizing this sale.





## President's Column

*From our President Jim Matresky...*

The March meeting of the OMSS was alive and buzzing with activity. The figures donated by Mike Niederman were on sale before 10:30 and at least a dozen members were already there, seeking some great bargains! By the end of the sale all but a very few items had been sold with the Society making over \$1100.00 That, combined with the \$400.00 that the OMSS received from the book and magazine sale last month totaled over \$1500.00. Thanks again to Mike Niederman.

I announced at the meeting that the executor of the Paul Aitchison estate has donated all of Paul's modeling magazines, books, kits and 'unfinished projects' to the OMSS. The executor has also asked a number of Paul's friends to expedite the sale of all of Paul's 'finished' figures, with 20% of the sales going to the OMSS. When the estate is finally settled we will announce how the sale of these items will proceed.

It is always sad when one of our members passes away but I think Bob Fairburn would have been smiling fondly if he had been able to see our members going through Bob's 'junk boxes'. Bob's brother donated these boxes to the OMSS for our members to enjoy, and enjoy they did! Thank you to John and Evelyn Brown, Jeff Duncan and Guy Elliott for coordinating all of these sale activities.

Guy Elliott announced that he was looking for volunteers to serve on the Awards Selection Committees. Please see Guy if you are interested.

The Wednesday Group will resume activities on Wednesday, April 27 at the home of John Brown. Please let me know if you are able to attend so that John will know how much lunch to prepare.

Charles Buchanan did a fascinating presentation on the sculpting of models. It is amazing how much expertise goes into the formation of one of those tiny models which we admire so much.

There is lots happening! Scott Dummitt is working on the Web Page, Bren Furlong is planning the 50th Anniversary activities, including a possible dinner after the Show activities in June, 2012. Norm White is working hard on the planning for this year's show – with a theme of the American Civil War.

Please join us at the meeting in April and get involved in all the action!

## Link of the Month [angloboerwarmuseum.com](http://angloboerwarmuseum.com)

Thanks to Tom Elliot for this one. It's a website dedicated to Canada's role in the Boer War. There's a huge amount of content including tons of photos and artwork, coverage of all the battles the Canadian contingents were involved in, even videos and vintage music. There's lots of material on the equipment of the period, including artifacts recovered from the battle sites. Great for researching period uniforms and equipment or just historical information on a part of Canada's military history that's not that well known.

## New OMSS Brochure

We have needed to update our membership flyer for some time and we have given it a major upgrade. Gary Lenius has designed a full colour 6 panel glossy brochure for us (shown at left). For the first time we actually have pictures of model soldiers on our key promotional handout! Lots of colour to really make an impression. We will have the new brochures at the meeting.

Using the same printer that does our show postcards, we have laid in a large supply of these flyers at a reasonable price. We now need to get them out there, so we will be looking for help getting them out to hobby shops and other suitable spots.

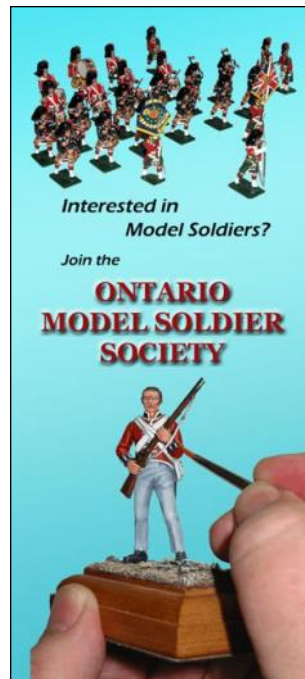
## The Missing Piece

Our Journal Editor Fran MacKay needs a piece of your mind. He needs your articles to fill out upcoming issues of our Society Journal. He's looking for kit reviews, show reports technique tips, anything that might interest

your fellow members. You don't have to be a professional author, Frank will help you whip your ideas into shape. Give your submissions to Frank at a meeting or email him at [frank\\_mackay@hotmail.com](mailto:frank_mackay@hotmail.com)

## Welcome Back Ron Lawes

Ron Lawes of Peterborough has rejoined the Society. He was previously a member from 1985 through 1990.



### 2011 Executive Committee

<i>President</i> Jim Matresky	<i>Member at Large</i> Gail Stone
<i>1st Vice President</i> Guy Elliott	<i>Journal Editor</i> Frank MacKay
<i>2nd Vice President</i> Scott Dummitt	<i>Program Chairman</i> Eric Clarke
<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i> Gary Lenius	<i>Membership Chairman</i> Ian Pearson
<i>Past President</i> John Murdock	<i>Show Chairman</i> Norm White
	<i>50th Anniversary Chairman</i> Bren Furlong

## OMSS Annual Show— Saturday June 11

It's coming up fast. We hope you're all busily working on your displays and competition entries. We will keep you up to date with show plans on this page for the next few newsletters.

### Venue: Fort York

We will be back at Fort York again this year in our usual locations: the Junior Officers' Barracks and the adjacent blockhouse.

### Theme: American Civil War

We have picked a theme for this year, the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. So we hope to see lots of ACW figures and displays out this year. But you're certainly not limited to that period; all displays are welcome.

### Show Promotion

We have done a postcard again to help promote this year's show. It was designed by **Gary Lenius** and we will have them at the meeting. We need help to get these out to hobby shops and other suitable spots where they will be

seen. We also have some larger 8.5 by 11 in posters. See Gary at the meeting.

We will also be advertising the show in Toy Soldier and Model Figure magazine and in Esprit de Corps.

### Vendor Tables

Table rental in our vendor area has been held to \$45 (for an 8 foot table). Vendor packages will be



going out within the next week to all our past vendors. Get your bookings in soon to get your space reserved.

### Annual Competition

For the Annual Competition this year we have decided to simplify the mechanics for our entrants. We are going to dispense with the formal categories and just have one big competition. However we will still be giving awards for all the same type of entries as before, as quality warrants. New entry cards will be designed to go with the new system.

We will still be using the same trophies featuring the OMSS Queen's Ranger figure in gold, silver and bronze finishes.

**Ian Pearson** and **Phil Andrews** have stepped up to coordinate the judging at this year's competition. **Don Melhuish** will serve as elder statesman to provide guidance.

### Catering

An army travels on its stomach and toy soldier fanciers are no different. So it's good news that **Janet MacKay** has confirmed that her and her IODE cohorts will once again be catering for us on show day.

### Contact

Queries, ideas, volunteers—please contact our show chairman **Norm White** 416-285-5600 or email [nor-man.white@utoronto.ca](mailto:nor-man.white@utoronto.ca)

## OMSS at Hamilton Military Fair

The Society has been invited to participate in the Military Fair being held Saturday May 28th at the Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton (details on pg.4). **Gail Stone** will be coordinating our display at this show. We will have two tables to put on a display and promote the Society and our own upcoming show. She could use some help. If you can come out and help her man the table and/or provide some figures for display please contact her. 905-332-0653 [gstone4@cogeco.ca](mailto:gstone4@cogeco.ca)

## Website Revamp in the Works

We've felt for a while that our current website [www.omss.ca](http://www.omss.ca) is not doing as much for us as it could. The design is dated and there is a lot more content we could put up there that present a more effective public face for the Society. So the Executive has been discussing reworking the site and a new design is in the works. It should be ready for review shortly, so stay tuned.





### Information Needed

Harold Morrison would like information on the Grand Trunk Canadian Militia uniforms of the 1860s. The militia included artillery, engineering and infantry. Any information would be deeply appreciated. Contact Harold at 416-269-3522 or email him at [aitchrwm@istar.ca](mailto:aitchrwm@istar.ca)

### Book for Sale

David Dorward has for sale one copy of the book Gabriel Dumont by George Woodcock, printed 1975. Hardcover, 256 pages. This book on Dumont, who was a leader of the Northwest Rebellion, is long out of print. The book contains some fine pictures of the leading figures from the rebellion, including of course, Dumont. \$27. Contact David at 905-584-5838 or [dkdorward@sympatico.ca](mailto:dkdorward@sympatico.ca)

### Seeking Composition Figures

Hans Doring is looking for composition figures from such makers as Elastolin, Lineol and Hausser. You can contact Hans at 416-421-9951 in the evenings. Hans is also looking for someone who can do some repairs to composition figures for him.

### Looking for Painted Figures

Stanley Kershman is interested in buying painted connoisseur figures and flats. You can contact him at [stanley3211@hotmail.com](mailto:stanley3211@hotmail.com) or 613-726-2999.

### Kits and Figures for Sale

John Hoffman, a former member now living in Fergus, is interested in selling off his unpainted figures, including quite a few Historex kits. He also has several 30 mm Napoleonic vignettes by "Under Two Flags" and 3 Waterloo dioramas that won awards at OMSS shows.

You can contact him at [jhoffmann00@cogeco.ca](mailto:jhoffmann00@cogeco.ca) or 519-787-1020.

### Looking out for each other

Know of a member who's been ill or in hospital? Let Gail Stone know so that we can send them the Society's best wishes. Contact Gail at 905-332-0653 or by email at [gstone4@cogeco.ca](mailto:gstone4@cogeco.ca)

*If you know of an upcoming show that might interest our members, drop Gary a line.*

### 70th Annual MFCA Show and Mart April 29 & 30, 2011

North America's largest connoisseur figure show. 10am to 3pm at the Valley Forge Convention Center, 1160 First Avenue, King of Prussia, PA 19406  
Contact: Dennis Levy 856-665-8909  
Website: [www.mfca.com](http://www.mfca.com)

### Military Fair Saturday May 28, 2011

At the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton. 9 am to 4 pm. Military antiques, badges, uniforms, books and prints. Aircraft and vehicles on display. Living history groups.

Contact Richard Garcia 647-709-9733 [richardgarcia@sympatico.ca](mailto:richardgarcia@sympatico.ca) See [www.warplane.com](http://www.warplane.com) for museum info and directions.

### What's Mum Sitting On?

Ian Pearson is looking for some help identifying the large object in the photo below. No, not the young lady, that's Ian's mother. The picture was taken in 1940 in Regina. If you have an answer see Ian at a meeting or email him at [ivpear@idirect.com](mailto:ivpear@idirect.com)

