



**50th Anniversary Year
1962 - 2012**

2012 Executive

Guy Elliott
President

Scott Dummitt
1st vice president

Norman White
2nd vice-president

Gary Lenius
Secretary/Treasurer

Jim Matresky
Past President

Gail Stone
Member at Large

Eric Clarke
Program Chairman

Frank MacKay
Journal editor

Ian Pearson
Membership Chairman

Norman White
Annual Show Chairman

Scott Dummitt
50th Anniversary Chairman

2012 Meeting Dates

January 8
February 12
March 11
April 15
May 6
June 10
October 14
November 18
December 9

Annual Show
Saturday September 8

Monthly Newsletter for May 2012

Next meeting:

Sunday, May 6, 2012

Branch 210 Royal Canadian Legion 110 Jutland Rd. Toronto

Meeting starts at 1:00 pm Doors open 11:00 am

For our April meeting we had a last minute monkey-wrench thrown into our planned program. We had been looking forward to **Steve Bailey** giving us a presentation on Canada's aboriginal warriors. However on the Saturday before the meeting Steve was up in Ottawa doing some research at the War Museum. He got caught up in Air Canada's labour troubles and his flight home was cancelled at the last minute. So he wasn't able to make it back in time for our Sunday meeting. He sends his apologies and we will reschedule him for a future meeting.

Norm White stepped into the breach and gave us an impromptu talk on his recent visit to New Orleans and the site of the 1815 battle. Thanks, Norm.

For this coming meeting we have... Oops! Our program director **Eric Clarke** has been travelling and as of press time he hadn't let me know what he has lined up for us this month. But I'm sure there's something interesting in store for us.

Annual Dinner Tickets

Our 50th Anniversary Chairman **Scott Dummitt** has been working very hard to get the Annual Dinner organized and it's shaping up to be a great event to celebrate the Society's milestone year.

We have already sold 59 dinner tickets. Our maximum capacity is 100, so if you're planning to attend you need to get your money in soon. Send in the form that was mailed out last month or see **Gary Lenius** at the meeting.

For those who have already sent in paid orders, some of you will have received your tickets with this newsletter. For those on email distribution we will be handing out your tickets at the meeting Sunday. Those not present will get them in the mail next week.

Welcome to Some New Members

We've picked up a nice crop of new recruits over the past few months:

Robert Bonnette of Mississauga

Richard Evans of Toronto

Steve Bailey of Uxbridge

Wiggy Lawson of Burlington

Scott Ryan of Trenton

Douglas Gagel of London (Ont.)

William Leary of Derby, New York

Lorne Farr of Richmond Hill

Phillip Heath of Waterdown

Bruce MacOdrum of Toronto

Welcome to them all. And a welcome back to Sheila and Hugh McLachlan who have rejoined after a couple of years off.

On a sad note our old friend Bill Ewbank has had to give up his membership due to declining health.

The newsletter is edited by Gary Lenius.

News items and notices can be submitted at omss@bell.net or 416-261-6494.

OMSS website: www.omss.ca



President's Column

From our President Guy Elliott...

What turnouts we've had this last while! March had more attendees than I've seen in a long while, but I expected low numbers in April. I thought to myself: "Folks down south, the Don Valley Parkway closed and its raining – hardly anyone will be there". Wrong again, there quite a number. All our vendors were there, some 'downsizers' were there, the Browns had Don Melhuish's stuff for sale and Keith Demmery's wife dropped in unexpectedly to sell off some of his estate. There was lots of good stuff available.

But that brings us to a complex and knotty problem that the Executive has been working on for more than a year. As our Society ages more and more stuff is going to become available for sale at our meetings. This 'stuff' comes in three general categories. The first is down-sizing. Frank Barrett and Hugh McLachlan will often bring stuff from home to sell – to make more room at home (for more soldiers?) Many individuals will do this on occasion: I know I have. Even Ron Hutchison, who makes and vends his own stuff is also trying to make room at home.

All of these do a service to our members. They give all of us a crack at a great range of stuff at really good prices. Now and then the Society gets donated material. Carl McTaggart donated a bunch for the March meeting. You may remember about a year ago we had a very large donation from Mike Niederman. He'd planned to open a hobby shop, bought all his stock, changed his mind and donated it all to us. Donations like those are also a service to the Society: good stuff at good prices and the money earned all goes back to the Society for our benefit. (Think subsidized 50th. Anniversary Dinner.)

The final area is estate sales when our members pass on. This is a difficult area for us. We'd like to help out the family but there are legal, contractual difficulties. Last year

the Executive decided that the Society couldn't become involved in the sale of that material. Instead, when we find out about stuff available from an estate, we facilitate the family by placing notification and contact numbers in the Newsletter so any of you who are interested can make your own contacts with the family. But helping members' families in those difficult times is also a good thing. So, even if the Society cannot be selling estate materials, individual members certainly can. The most recent example (April meeting) was Evelyn and John Brown and Bren Furlong looking after the estate of Don Mellhuish. On their own, they looked after it all.

Can the Society at least facilitate their worthy effort? Sure we can. The details were put in the Newsletter by Gary Lenius and we set up all the tables they needed for the sale at the meeting. This was another service: to the family and to all of us. Gary tells me that oddly enough, he also gets requests for us to help in estate sales from people who were never even in the Society. Those we just post in the Newsletter – or not, depending Gary's sense of what is actually going on. The Executive supports him and lets him use his best judgment in those cases.

There is one last complication: our poor vendors. They bring their material faithfully month after month but when a whole bunch of other 'donated' or 'downsizing' or 'estate' stuff arrives for sale at a meeting it rather overloads the meeting and the clearance prices offered by this other stuff makes it hard for the vendors to turn a profit and may make them wonder why they bother. On the other hand . . . mentioning in the Newsletter that there would be 'stuff' for sale in March and April may be why those meetings had such large turnouts – and even more potential customers for the vendors. Nonetheless, the Executive is going to continue to work with the vendors on this.

I've been a bit long-winded this month, but I wanted you to be fully aware of this issue and to know that your Executive continues to strive to do what is best for the whole Society.

Journal Contributions Needed

Our Journal Editor Frank MacKay is appealing for contributions for future issues of the Journal. We don't reprint material from other publications; all our articles are written by our own members. He would particularly like to get more how-to pieces. They can be short tips or tell us about a project you've recently completed. If it interests you chances are your fellow members will be interested. Letters to the editor would be nice too; let's hear what you've got to say. You don't have to be a professional writer; Frank can help you present your material. Send your contributions to Frank at frank_mackay@hotmail.com.

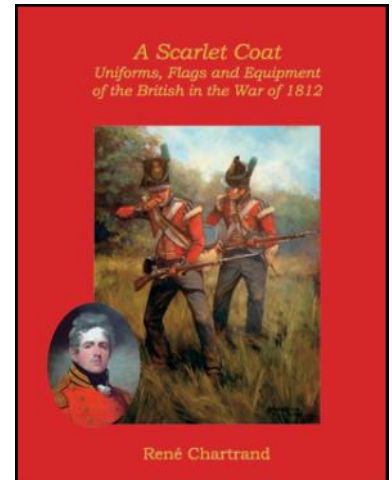
Editor Seeks Successor

By the end of this year Frank will have been editing the Journal for 10 years. He would like to pass on the torch to a new editor. Anybody game? All you need is some creative juices and some computer savvy. A chance to make a contribution to your Society.



Harold's Corner - News items from Harold Morrison

Rene Chartrand recently published a book entitled, "A Scarlet Coat, Uniforms, Flags and Equipment of the British in the War of 1812." The book is hard cover, has 228 pages and 380 illustrations. Only 500 copies have been printed. The price is \$69.95, plus shipping and the inevitable HST. It can be ordered on line at www.servicepub.com or by phone at 613-820-7350 (evenings).



Mark that date...

Saturday September 8, 2012 the OMSS Annual Show
celebrating the Society's 50th Anniversary

The Ontario Model Soldier Society
ON PARADE
Canada's Largest
Model Soldier Show
Saturday September 8, 2012
10 am to 3:30 pm
Historic Fort York
Toronto

**** OUR 50th YEAR ****

Massed displays of toy soldiers
Bands and military parades
Connoisseur figures
Dioramas, vehicles, artillery
1/6 scale action figures
Open modelling competition

25+ vendor tables offering
a wide variety of hobby products

Admission to the show is included
with regular Fort York admission
(\$8 adult; \$4 senior or youth)

This Year's Theme:
The War of 1812

Fort York Historic Site - 250 Fort York Blvd., Toronto Ontario M5V 3K9
For maps and directions see the Fort York website www.fortyork.ca
Show contact: Norman White 416-285-5600 or email omss@bell.net
Show details at www.omss.ca

Original figure by Peter Twist, painted by Mike Smolski

Annual Show Update

September 8 is approaching fast. We hope everyone is working on displays and entries for the annual competition.

Show publicity

This year's show postcard has been designed and is shown at left. We will also have an 8.5x11 poster version available at the meeting. We need members to take these and get them put up at local hobby stores and other likely spots.

Vendors

The vendor package will be updated shortly and sent out to those who had tables at our past shows. We are holding the price at \$45 for an 8 foot table, a bargain compared to most shows. The vendor forms will also be posted on our website.

Displays Needed

We really need your participation to make the show a success. We need members to bring out displays of all aspects of the hobby. It's not too early to let Norm White know what display space you can fill.

Show Chairman

Norm White 416-285-5600

email norman.white@utoronto.ca

Still waiting for your postman to brave hail, sleet and snow to deliver your paper copy of the monthly newsletter? Let us send it to you by email. Avoid postal delays. Read the newsletter online in full colour by email. No more paper cuts! We send it out as an Adobe PDF file, a compressed format that won't swamp your mailbox or take ages to download.

Send an email to omss@bell.net to get yourself on the email distribution list.

Your editor (the guy who has to stuff envelopes every month) will thank you.



Seeking Kit from Melhuish Sale

James Hamilton is looking for a kit that was part of the sale of Don Melhuish's estate at the April meeting. It's a plastic kit of a large scale (8 inch?) US Marine or Army Infantryman from World War 2 that was in a plastic bag. If you could bear to part with it please contact James at 416 621 8977 or hhamilton@bell.net

Royal Marine Band for Sale *Price Reduced*

Mike Pidgeon has a 30 piece Royal Marine Band for sale (with boxes). Made by "All The Queen's Men". Price: \$200.00, O.B.O. Pictures available on request.

Contact Mike Pidgeon, 905-478-4724

Email: mpidgeon@rogers.com

Airborne!

Dragon Models British Airborne "Red Devils" Arnhem 1944 model, original box with great graphics, 1/16 Warrior Series, unbuilt, parts still in original plastic bags inside box, \$10 & great read hardcover book, Sgt. Don Malarkey with Bob Welch, Easy Company Soldier, "The Legendary Battles of a Sergeant from WW2's "Band of Brothers" \$10. These are plus shipping if you want them mailed. Contact David Dorward at 905-584-5838 or dkdorward@sympatico.ca

Seeking Grant's Royal Scot

Frank MacKay is looking for figure No. 2 in the series put out some years ago by the William Grant's Scotch Whiskey company. Preferably in the original packaging. If you have one to spare contact him at frank_mackay@hotmail.com

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 or 613-726-2999.



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

MFCA Show May 18-19, 2012

Miniature Figure Collectors of America show and mart, the granddaddy of North American connoisseur figure shows. At the Valley Forge Convention Center in King of Prussia, PA

See www.mfcashow.com

War of 1812 Bicentennial at Fort York June 8-24

As part of this year's Luminato Festival and to mark the 200th anniversary of the start of the War of 1812 a large scale art installation will take over the interior of the fort. Entitled "The Encampment" by artists Thomas & Guinevere it will include 200 tents, each detailing the stories and lives of civilians touched by the war.

14th Annual Marx Toy & Train Collectors Convention June 15-16

At the Kruger Street Toy & Train Museum, 144 Kruger Street, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

See www.toyandtrain.com/convention.htm

Toronto Military Show Saturday June 23

Medals, badges, all kinds of militaria, books, maybe even some toy soldiers. This show runs about 4 times a year around the GTA. This one's at the Etobicoke Olympium 590 Rathburn Road, Etobicoke 8:30 am to 2 pm Admission \$7

"On Parade" OMSS Annual Show September 8

It's our show dummy! See page 3

Chicago Toy Soldier Show September 20-23

The big one! The actual show's on the Sunday (23rd) but room trading starts from the Thursday. At the Hyatt Regency Woodfield 1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, IL 60173

See toysoldiershow.com

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

Moving? Send your change of address to: Gary Lenius 43 Saugeen Cres. Scarborough, Ont. M1K 3M8
or email: omss@bell.net Phone: 416 261-6494