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

### 2015 Executive

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Tom Elliot  
1st vice president

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Eric Clarke  
Program Chairman

Frank MacKay  
Journal editor

Tom Elliot  
Annual Show Chairman

### Meeting Dates

- 2015 -  
January 11  
February 8  
March 8  
April 12  
June 14  
September 13  
October 11  
November 8  
December 13

**Annual Show**  
**Saturday May 2**  
**2015**

## Monthly Newsletter for February 2015

*Next meeting:*

**Sunday, February 8, 2015**

Branch 210 Royal Canadian Legion 110 Jutland Rd. Toronto

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

Hope we're all avoiding the February blahs and surviving the recent blasts of winter.

I believe we're scheduled for a talk from **Guy Elliott** this month but I didn't get word of the topic. No matter, it's sure to be interesting and Guy always manages to make it lively.

### Highlights of our January Meeting

**Jeff Duncan** held a special sale of donated books in place of the monthly draw. Lots of military and historical stuff at knock-down prices. We took in \$330 for the Society. Thanks to Jeff for organizing this. For you gambling fiends, the draw will be back this month.

**Phil Andrews** was presented with the Society print (Queen's Ranger) for his services to the club. Phil wasn't able to be at the December meeting.

Journal editor **Frank MacKay** talked to the executive and to the members at the meeting about a project he's wanted to pursue for some time - an OMSS calendar. See the article on page 2.

**Neil McGavock** was our featured speaker. He gave us a presentation on the history and development of the Warplane Heritage Museum and its collection of restored military aircraft. This is a great facility just down the road in Hamilton and worth a visit by any history or aviation buffs.

### 2015 Membership Dues—Same Low Price

Membership fees for 2015 are now due. Gary Lenius will be glad to take your money at the meeting.

We have held the dues to the same level again this year: \$35 for Regular membership; \$20 for Junior or Family members.

### Journal Content Needed

Our Journal editor **Frank MacKay** reports that the cupboard is bare as far as new content goes so he is appealing once again for contributions from the members. Articles, book and figure reviews, show reports, letters to the editor, etc.... All are needed to fill up the next issue.

You can send him your input at [frank\\_mackay@hotmail.com](mailto:frank_mackay@hotmail.com)

2015 Meeting Dates have been added to the masthead on the left.

The newsletter is edited by Gary Lenius.

News items and notices can be submitted at [omss@bell.net](mailto:omss@bell.net) or 416-261-6494.



## President's Column

*From the pen of our president Gail Stone*

Thanks to the 2 gentleman who have taken over the Coffee & Donuts. I really appreciate this.

I had the honour at the January meeting of presenting Phil Andrews with the Society print. Phil was unable to attend the Dec meeting. Thanks Phil for all your contributions to the OMSS.

A very interesting slide show presentation and talk about the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum was given by OMSS member Neil McGavock. Thanks Neil for this. The museum is located at the Hamilton Airport. If you haven't been there it is well worth a trip. I have been a couple of times and have also attended the Air Show there which is usually in June.

## The Calendar Project

Journal editor Frank MacKay has proposed that the Society produce an annual calendar starting in 2016. It would be produced in December in place of one issue of the Journal. We are looking to produce it in full colour if feasible. The calendar would feature photos of model seen at our Annual Show or in the collections of our members. It would highlight dates of model shows and significant dates in Canadian military history. The OMSS executive has endorsed the project and charged Frank with getting the ball rolling. He's going to need lots of help.

Frank would like to convene a meeting of all those interested in compiling the 2016 OMSS calendar. There was great interest when the idea was discussed at the last meeting, now it's time to step up and do the work.

We will need: photographers, editors to compile all significant dates in Canadian military history, editors to compile all model soldier show dates for 2016, proofreaders and fact checkers, etc.

Most of all, we will need figures and toy soldier collections worthy of being published in a calendar. Hopefully these will all be supplied at our annual show--the work of OUR members only.

The meeting will likely be held after the February meeting adjourns and will not be lengthy.

Frank can be contacted at [frank\\_mackay@hotmail.com](mailto:frank_mackay@hotmail.com) or 416-283-3472

Things are progressing quite well for our Annual Show and Competition at Fort York. I think that there will be some new faces there thanks to Frank MacKay. I hope everyone is thinking about what they can do to help with OUR SHOW whether it be an entry for the competition, a display, helping with security or answering questions people have.

Has anyone read a good book, watched a movie, or found a new store related to our hobby? If you have take the time to write about and send it to our Journal Editor. He would greatly appreciate it.

See you on Sunday Feb 8, 2015

Pres. Gail

*Note I have a new email:*

[gailestone71@gmail.com](mailto:gailestone71@gmail.com) 905-332-0653

## COBI Military Toys

*Jeff Duncan forwarded info on some interesting military toys:*

Hey Guys FYI,

Just found out about (never even heard of these guys before) an amazing toy manufacture based out of Central Europe called COBI, basically a "Lego" style toy that is actually 100% compatible with Lego (get the Lego lawyers on file!) !...but about 2/3 of their catalogue is military based whereas Lego will not do strictly military topics. Everything from Romans/Barbarians, Teutonic Knights, WW2 landing craft, Panzer, Tiger, Matilda, Sherman, T34 tanks, Russian rocket trucks, halftracks, 9 types of jeeps, planes, battleships etc, etc... They must have over 100 sets.

I picked up a few sets and the quality is first rate, similar priced or even a little more expensive than Lego but wow... if I did not already have a hobby I might of started in on this stuff...take a quick peek below.

Have Fun, Jeff

COBI World War II range:

<http://cobi.pl/en/toys/small-army-ww2/>

A couple of animated videos of the Cobi military sets in action:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pV6vH0uCtn0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGK7KPZwmE4>

Jeff didn't mention where he picked his up but I notice that [Amazon.ca](http://Amazon.ca) has a selection (they ship from the UK) and there a couple of dealers in Quebec.



## Harold's Corner

*Tidbits from Harold Morrison*

[aitchrwm@bell.net](mailto:aitchrwm@bell.net)

What's the connection between after-shave and the military? Eduoard Pinaud, a French producer of after shave and cologne, was founded in 1830.

It followed the 1810 introduction of after-shave and cologne for French Hussars. Pinaud was 20 when he arrived in Paris, immediately setting up a business that flourishes today.

Three writers ask the question, do war toys encourage violent behavior and make conflict more acceptable? Or do they offer genuine insights into military history and history itself. Title of the feature is 'More Than Child's Play?' The article, in the December 2014 of the UK magazine History Today, is an excellent survey of war toys in the 20th century. Reference is made to Saki's (H. H. Munro) short story entitled 'The Toys of Peace.' in this satirical story, children given 'peace' toys convert them to war toys. The story was published posthumously as Saki was killed in 1916 by a German sniper during the battle of the Somme.

For members who subscribe to the BMSS Bulletin, you will know that Shamus O. D. Wade passed away late last summer. There's a full-length obituary on the Internet. Shamus started out as an advertising copywriter and 'on the side' he operated a toy soldier stall on the weekends at Portobello Rd., London. He was, according to his obituary, the first person to start a full-time toy soldier international business by mail. He introduced a set of 100 'Nostalgia' sets done in the high-glass Britains fashion covering British Empire toy soldiers and related accessories from 1850 to the end of the Victorian era. Shamus was 86 when he took the last retreat in early September, 2014.

One of the rules of factual writing is don't jot down your assumptions, which are not always factual. Case in point: In the last e-mail column, I identified members Don and Keith Ritchie as father and son. Big oops! for me. They are brothers, and over the years others have made wrong assumptions. My apologies!

Another rule is the precise use of words. In the same column, I incorrectly wrote that QVE toy/model soldiers were made by James R. Shakley. The QVE figurines were from molds which were made by the late Ron Colbeck, Colin Cunningham, the late Alex Sim of North Yorkshire, Bill Purdon and others. To make matters better (note the positive spin) James has been painting and selling toy soldiers for more than 44 years, not 30. He is also a water-colourist of some note creating both military and non-military subjects.

Also in an earlier e-mail newsletter, I wrote up member Richard Evans. His correct military background was with The Essex and Kent Regiment (Canada) and the Cambridge University Rifle Volunteers (UK).

The curse of those who collect plastic soldiers is the curved rifle. Mind you, the Wehrmacht had a rifle with a curved barrel for shooting around corners. (Honest!) At OMSS soldier sales I have sometimes noted figurines from the early 60s by Walter Merten, a now defunct German manufacturer. They made U.S. Army, Bundeswehr and Wehrmacht figures wearing steel helmets and field caps. (Separately, of course!) Their rifles could snap, but didn't bend. I had about 100 of these soldiers.

Speaking of curses, people who dig too deeply into the toy soldier industry often make discoveries about proposed soldiers which never came to market. Case in point: The Herald series of U.S. Civil war troops was to be followed by Zouaves. They never made it to store counters. When I visited the Airfix office in London, I was told by a design manager that First World War British Soldiers in soft officer-style head-dress were to be released soon. Not so.

Hey, this should be all about the fun of toy soldiers. Case in point: Have you ever seen a diorama of a courts martial, a firing squad and the poor s.o.b. at a post? That's my assumption, but I could be wrong...

*Editor's note:* Airfix did issue a set of WWI British infantry in Field Service Caps in HO scale. I still have some of them (see below). This would have been late 1960s sometime - at the time I had every set of theirs I could lay my hands on. They also put out sets of French infantry in Adrian helmets and U.S. Doughboys in Stetson-style hats. But no opposition—no WWI Germans or Turks, at least in those days. GL



## OMSS On Parade 2015

Show preparations are well underway and we hope you are all beavering away on your contributions (displays, competition entries).

The 2015 Show theme will be the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, which should be fertile ground for displays and competition figures. But, of course, you're not limited to the theme when it comes to subject and period. Start painting!

Food service will be on hand again courtesy of our IODE friends.

**Vendor tables** will be the same price as last year: \$50 for an eight foot table. The vendor info package and booking form are posted on our Society website [www.omss.ca](http://www.omss.ca)

Phil Andrews will be heading up the judging for the Annual Competition this year. He will be approaching some of you to lend a hand.

We have been in contact with the Radio Control Tank club and they are keen to come out and participate in our show. They would put on a display of their vehicles and do some demonstrations out on the fort grounds for us (weather permitting). Should be a great addition to the show.

If you're planning to bring out a **display** for the show please touch base with chairman Tom Elliot to discuss your space requirements.

Tom Elliot [telliott45@hotmail.com](mailto:telliott45@hotmail.com) 905-542-2393

## Stewart Saxe

We reported last month that former member Stewart Saxe had passed away in November.

An article on Stewart appeared in the Globe and Mail's "Lives Lived" column recently. It was written by his wife Dianne. You can read it at:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/facts-and-arguments/lives-lived-stewart-saxe-67/article22680133/>

Thanks to Stan Kershman for noticing this and passing it on.

## Looking for a Painter

We received a query from a retired RCAF type named Bob Connell. He is building a diorama of the battle of Fort York and is looking for someone who can paint his plastic figures in a toy soldier finish.

If interested you can contact him at [bobconnell@rogers.com](mailto:bobconnell@rogers.com)

## — UPCOMING SHOWS —

### Atlanta Model Figure Show, Feb 13-15, 2015

Major connoisseur figure show.

Atlanta Marriott Century Center. 2000 Century Boulevard N, Atlanta, GA 30345

[www.atlantafigures.org/show-information.html](http://www.atlantafigures.org/show-information.html)

### HeritageCon 2015, March 22, 2015

Model show and competition put on by the IPMS Hamilton group. 9 am to 4 pm, \$7 admission. At the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, Hamilton.

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

### Gettysburg Toy Soldier Show, April 26, 2015

10 am to 3 pm. \$6 admission. At the Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center, 2634 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg PA.

[www.toysoldiershowpromo.com/annual\\_gettysburg\\_show](http://www.toysoldiershowpromo.com/annual_gettysburg_show)

### On Parade 2015, May 2, 2015

Our own annual show.

### Napoleonic Historical Society Annual Conference

August 28-30 Toronto, Ontario Conference packed with excellent information on the Napoleonic Era.

Website <http://www.napoleonichistoricalsociety.com/Conferences/Index.htm>

## Other Collectible Shows

Check out [www.collectorshows.ca](http://www.collectorshows.ca) for some other locally hosted toy, train, and nostalgia shows.

## 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)

## On Facebook?

Make sure and check out our Facebook group maintained by Dave Norman.

[www.facebook.com/groups/577999975631964/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/577999975631964/)