

The
**Ontario
 Model
 Soldier
 Society**
 Founded 1962
 www.omss.ca



Monthly Newsletter for January 2018

Monthly Meeting Dates for 2018

14 January 2018 - 11 February 2018 – 11 March 2018
 8 April 2018 - 6 May 2018 – 9 September 2018
 14 October 2018– 18 November 2018 - 16 December 2018

Annual Show

Saturday June 16, 2018

Monthly Newsletter for January 2018

2018 Executive

John Hambly
 President

Lorne Farr
 1st vice president

Dave Norman
 2nd vice-president

Gary Lenius
 Secretary/Treasurer

Jim Qualtrough
 Past President

Eric Clarke
 Program Chairman

Brendan Hogan
 Journal Editor

Norm White
 Annual Show Chairman

Scott Dummitt
 Newsletter Editor/ Media
 Officer

Dave Norman
 Facebook Page Manager

Frank MacKay
 Calendar Co-ordinator

Jeff Duncan
 Club Table & Donations

Next meeting...

Sunday, 14 January, 2018

Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion 110 Jutland Road Toronto
 Meeting starts at 1:00 pm. Doors open 11:00 am

Letter from the President



I hope all members of the OMSS had a great Christmas and are looking forward to a happy and healthy new year. I would like to say thanks again to Jim Qualtrough and his Executive for a great 2017 year. The year was one filled with great events one of them being our annual show at Humber College our new venue. As your new President I look forward to working with our Executive and making 2018 a great year as well. If you were at the Christmas luncheon you would remember me putting out a challenge to all our members,

and that was for each member to bring in a new young or older person to become a new member of our club. Members let see if we can all work hard at this challenge and make the OMSS a big success. Also as your new President I ask that any member of the OMSS feel free to contact me or any of the Executive with a concern or suggestion they would like to see improve the club, this has always been a open door policy club. This was the first year of the returning mini competition put on by Frank MacKay and it proved to be a success even though it was small in numbers it was great in content. Hats off to all that took part in it and let see if we can make this grow next year. Thanks to all the judges and Frank for your work on this.

I once again look forward to 2018 along with my executive in making this a great and fun year for the club and I will see you all at our January meeting. Happy collecting!

Your new President

John Hambly

ON PARADE 2018 VENDORS

Each month starting in January 2018 we will be publishing the names of vendors who have signed up and paid for their spot at "ON PARADE" 2018. This gives those attending a chance to approach or contact these vendors prior to the show and make arrangements for picking up certain items. In addition this section will indicate who plans on setting up on 15 June for room trading at Humber College. Room trading will take place between 6 pm & 8:30 pm. Want to be included in the list? Just print off the 2018 vendor's form on the OMSS web site and get your cheque into Gary Lenius as soon as possible.

Vendors

John Brown – Vintage Toy Soldiers, home castings and Militaria – (905) 275-2446 – Email: johnev@sympatico.ca.

SCOTT J. DUMMITT PRESENTS – W. Britain Ltd, John Jenkins Designs, Thomas Gunn Miniatures, Del Prado, Armies in Plastic, Pride of the Nation and More. www.gijoeCanada.com – (705) 939-1028 – Email: gijoe@kos.net - Room Trader

Tommy & Kirk Thompson – Vintage hollow cast William Britain Figures – (705) 252-0990 or Kirk (647) 500-7795.

Ed Tansley – Ducal Toy Soldiers – (416) 695-0609 – Email: edtansley@hotmail.com.

Les Eslary - A variety of Metal Toy Soldiers & Publications – (905) 627-5893 – Email: leslary@cogeco.ca

OMSS President Visits Ottawa Chapter: by Jim Qualtrough

On the 28th of November I went up to Ottawa and participated in the OMSS Ottawa chapter's monthly meeting. I felt very welcomed by the 12 members who were present. Bob Thompson hosted and ran the meeting. Bob handed out an agenda to all participants.

We met in a separated room at the Barley Mow Pub just in the south end of Ottawa. Good food, cold beer and pleasant atmosphere. Does it get any better than that for a meeting??

Some of the members set out some soldiers for sale and another table was set up for show and tell.

Bob Thompson ran the meeting and was super organized and kept the discussions rolling. We did a round table introduction and everyone participated in saying where they are from, what they collect and how they started in the hobby. It was extremely interesting and you get to find out a lot about different interests. It gives everyone a chance to chat and talk about the cross cultures between model soldiers, modelling, different collections etc...

I was given the floor and welcomed everyone and thanked them for allowing me to be a part of their evening. I thanked Bob Thompson for being the Team Leader of this Ottawa Chapter and that we appreciate the work he is doing in coordinating this satellite group of our club. I supported Bob's talk on being a member of the OMSS and the many benefits to being a member. Several of the participants are already members of the OMSS and I also signed up four new members for their 2018 memberships.



King & Country's Canadians

As a special reminder of the battle Hong Kong's own **King & Country** has designed and produced a special double set of **SIX** all-metal, hand-painted military miniatures depicting a squad of Canadian infantrymen in action as they would have appeared in those distant, dark days of December 1941.

On December 20, 1941, the day after Japanese troops landed on Hong Kong Island, **Company Sergeant Major John Osborn** of *The Winnipeg Grenadiers* and some of his men were defending a position on Mt. Butler (near the centre of the island). Japanese troops had surrounded the Canadians and were lobbing grenades into their position... CSM Osborn bravely picked up each grenade and threw them back at the enemy.

Finally, one grenade fell where CSM Osborn could not reach it in time to throw back... Shouting a warning to his men, Osborn threw himself on top of the live grenade which exploded killing him instantly.

His sacrifice saved the lives of countless others and for this brave action, he was awarded the British Commonwealth's highest gallantry medal... **The Victoria Cross**.

On Thursday 14 December 2017 Andy Neilson of King and Country was at the *Canadian Consulate* in Hong Kong to present **Consul General Jeff Nankivell** with the very first two sets of Canadian soldiers depicting **CSM Osborn** and some of his men in action.

"It was important that Canada's principal representative in Hong Kong should receive King & Country's tribute in miniature to the soldiers who fought and died trying to defend Hong Kong." Andy said.

As Consul General Nankivell said in reply, *"Every year at this time we honour the memory of the men who gave their lives defending Hong Kong in 1941. This is one of the many important bonds that bring Hong Kong and Canada together."*

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The figures themselves will go on display in a special area in the Consulate devoted to the Battle of Hong Kong and the Canadians who took part.

In 2018 King & Country will also present to the Consul General a specially designed diorama portraying *CSM Osborn* and his men defending their position on Mt. Butler.

Club Members Visit

Bren Furlong

Bren Furlong has been a long time member of the OMSS, a past President and the Chairman of “On Parade” for several years as well. Recently however we have not seen Bren at our meetings due to health reasons. Club President Jim Qualtrough has looked in on Bren several times and recently organized a visit from



OMSS Members pose with long time member Bren Furlong at his Mississauga Home.



Club President Jim Qualtrough, chats with Sharon and Bren Furlong while other OMSS members listen in.

approximately a dozen members who knew Bren. Bren along with his wife Sharon were the perfect hosts, showing off his extensive collection and serving up coffee and baked goods.

Along with his figures Bren has an impressive collection of militaria featuring regimental crests, head gear and cap badges.

Ian Pearson: OMSS Head Competition Judge

Our main speaker at the January Meeting will be Ian Pearson. Ian will be discussing some of the new rule changes for ON PARADE 2018. If you plan on entering the competition you won't want to miss this informative session. If you do miss it, make sure you contact Ian for any rule changes. Ian, along with Phil Andrews and Bruce Sundstrom, have been our main judges the past several years and with their experience and knowledge are continuously working to make the system better.

Great Turnout for the 2017 Christmas Luncheon

What a great Christmas Luncheon the OMSS had this year. Good Food, Good Friends, Good Cheer, you almost felt that they should have been filming a Christmas Special for TV at our meeting.

While we had planned to hold the luncheon in the front meeting area of the Legion, there was a mix-up and so a few of our members grabbed tables and chairs and got things set up in our usual meeting area in the large room at the back of the Legion. We also had an extremely large group of



Figure Competition Award Recipients: L – R; Scott Dummitt, Jeff Duncan, President Jim Qualtrough, Grand Prize – Jim Matresky and Frank MacKay

vendors present this year as well and so last minute Christmas gifts for the big boys were scooped up quite readily.

Past President Tom Elliot has taken over the reins of organizing the Luncheon menu and so had the Chicken meals from the local Swiss Chalet at the Legion in record time, ready to hand out to a hungry bunch. We had meals for 45 club members this year as well as our hard working Legion bartender. In addition there was a huge selection of deserts, enough to keep everyone filled and happy for the holidays. Thank you to those who helped fill the pot-luck desert table.

Frank MacKay had re-introduced an old OMSS Christmas tradition with an in-house mini painting competition this year and there was a good array of displays. Eunice Matresky entered Jim this year, although he was not aware. Jim Matresky has continuously put out some wonderful displays at ON PARADE but would not enter them in the competition. This year Eunice entered him in the mini competition and to his surprise and the delight of the crowd Jim won.

Jeff Duncan headed up the annual Christmas draw table, and we want to thank him for his continuous work with our draws, John Hambly for his canvassing of Home Depot for gifts and to Steve Rollason for his toy soldier gift donations this year.

We had a bit of our own Christmas Miracle this year as Neil McGavock walked, although it was with the aid of a walker, into the meeting for the first time in several months. It was a bit of an emotional moment when Neil thanked the many well wishers for their support as he works on recovering from the injuries he received in a car accident earlier in the year.

Our Christmas luncheon is also the time of year that we honour special members of the society for the work they have done throughout the year(s). Tommy Thompson was awarded the Life Time Membership Award this year, and while he wasn't able to be present, his Son Kirk accepted it for him. The Bryon Gibbons Award was presented to our youngest member this year, Brendan Hogan. Brendan is our new JOURNAL editor and writes a column for our monthly Newsletter. He wasn't able to pick up his award as he is a Lieutenant with the Royal Canadian Artillery, serving at CFB Gagetown in New Brunswick, but has expressed his delight with the news of his award. You will see him at "ON PARADE" 2018.

OMSS Quartermaster Stores

Wanted to buy: Britain's Jane Seymour (40244) from the Historic Royal Palaces series, and Blenheim's Queen Elizabeth on the coronation throne. Contact Bill Wyatt if you have either of these for sale at: [wyattwi@hotmail.com](mailto:w Wyattwi@hotmail.com) or 519 471 5029.

For Sale: 60mm Captain Roy Brown, Canadian Ace and the Pilot who shot down the Red Baron (There are no Australian revisionist here). Figure made by John Jenkins Designs and now sold out. Asking \$30.00 Cdn for figure with box. Contact David Smith at: (306) 586-3205 or Email: beverlydavidsmith@sasktel.net.

New Regimental Photo of The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders of Canada (Princess Louise's)



Regimental Sergeant Major Grant Lawson, CD, is indicated by the arrow above.



Jim Qualtrough and Brendan Hogan

Brendan Hogan Receives Bryon Gibbons Award

As the last official act as OMSS President for 2017, Jim Qualtrough presented OMSS Journal Editor Brendan Hogan with the accompanying medallion as the 2017 Bryon Gibbons Award recipient. The award is given to the OMSS member who best exemplifies the spirit of the society by his involvement in the club during the year. Brendan was on leave from CFB Gagetown for the Christmas Holidays and was available to meet with member Jim Qualtrough and Scott Dummitt.

**The newsletter is edited by
Scott Dummitt.**

**News items and notices can be submitted to
gijoe@kos.net or phone: 705-939-1028
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