

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



## Monthly Newsletter for January 2020

### Monthly Meeting Dates for 2020

12 January 2020 - 9 February 2020 – 8 March 2020  
 5 April 2020 - 3 May 2020 – 13 September 2020  
 18 October 2020– 22 November 2020 - 13 December 2020

### Annual Show

Saturday June 13, 2020

## Monthly Newsletter for January 2020

### 2020 Executive

**Keith Ritchie**  
 President

**Scott Millburn**  
 1st vice president

**Vacant**  
 2nd vice-president

**Gary Lenius**  
 Secretary/Treasurer

**Lorne Farr**  
 Past President

**Vacant**  
 Program Chairman

**Vacant**  
 Journal Editor

**Scott Dummitt**  
 Annual Show Chairman

**Scott Dummitt**  
 Newsletter Editor/ Media  
 Officer

**Dave Norman**  
 Facebook Page Manager

**Frank MacKay**  
 Calendar Co-ordinator

**Jeff Duncan**  
 Club Table & Donations

**OMSS Archivist**  
 Ian Pearson

Next meeting...

**Sunday, 12 January 2020**

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

### **The Making of the Movie "Zulu" with Andy Traverse**

The epic story of the defense of Rorke's Drift, the story of the making of the movie is an epic in itself. Andy is an avid collector of Anglo-Zulu war memorabilia and has been captivated by the movie for the past 56 years, even before he finally had an opportunity to view it in 1970. Many factors made Zulu the great success it has become and the Society invites everyone to attend on 12th January 2020, the 141st anniversary of the Crossing of the Buffalo River which marked the first day of the Zulu war in 1879.



### Letter from the President

nearly 20 years.

I would like to welcome everyone back, and hope that they and their families had a safe and happy holidays. It is a new year and a new decade, and a new president. But in this it may seem like a bit of *déjà vu*. This is not the first time that you have had a president who is a Ritchie, and you survived the first one. Also, while I have not been a club member for all that long, I have known a fair number of you for

I am glad to take on the responsibility of being club president, and hope that I, the executive and the team can serve you well. I want to thank Lorne for his example last year, as I think that he and the team provided a steady hand while we also had a very successful – and engaging – series of meeting, speakers, and a very successful show. For this, it is not just the executive, but the regulars, like Scott, John, Jim, Jeff, Gary, Frank, Brendan, who provide their guidance and experience. And to all who volunteer – at the show, with talks, etc.

And I do not forget Guy, who regales us with his history lessons. He is a retired history teacher only in the sense that he doesn't do it every school day and get full-time pay from the Board of Education.

From a personal perspective, I think that we were successful last year. Not only was the show successful, excepting the floor issues (again), I also think that we had a good set of speakers, and a good mix of topics related to both history and to the hobby. I would like to keep this going. I would like to keep on this same course.

However, we must recognize that there are changes and challenges.

... Continued on page 2

## President's Message continued from page 1

First, we have some positions open – or becoming open. While Scott will be the Show Chairman for 2020, he has given notice that this will be his last year. No one can criticize Scott for this – he has done it selflessly for a number of years, and has given a lot of time to ensuring the success each year.

Brendan Hogan is going to be deployed overseas next year, and so we need someone else to fill his shoes to produce the Annual Journal.

We have two positions on the Executive that are vacant. These are Second Vice-President and Program Chairman. We want to fill these roles, both for now and the future. And, even from my brief experiences with the club, it is not that one shoulders a lot alone. As I have seen, it is through having the team of the executive and the other positions, working together collaboratively, that we have been able to have been successful all of these years. We want to continue this.

I also recognize challenges in the hobby. There are fewer manufacturers, and there are fewer and fewer releases (and at increasingly higher prices). There are fewer shows. We are one of the lucky ones, and I think that our format – a mix of vendors, competitions and displays, and now with the dinner, and with the contributions from the Ottawa chapter – are a large part of this. We also have good relations with the Osens, from William Britain Limited, and with the Garfields, from the Chicago Toy Soldier Show.

So we have a good base that I hope can continue. Let us “soldier on” in 2020.

***Keith Ritchie*** OMSS President 2020

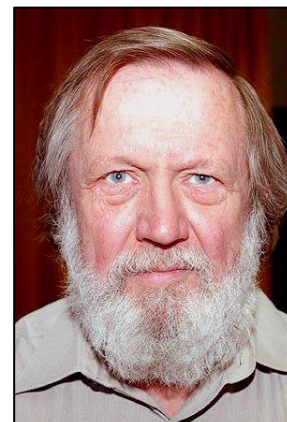
## Passings

**Les Eslary** passed away suddenly on 2nd January 2020. As well as being a member of the OMSS, he was for decades an avid collector of and expert on militaria particularly medals and badges. He was a Life Member of the Canadian Society of Military Medals and Insignia. At the annual OMSS Show, Les would set up spectacular toy soldier displays sparing no effort to ensure as much detail as possible notwithstanding the effects of the limitations that resulted from a stroke a number of years ago. The result was that he deservedly won Best Of Show awards on a number of occasions. His displays included a Victorian England Scene, the Sudan 1885, Foreign Legion on campaign and a WW2 North Africa battle among other great creations. He will be greatly missed by his many friends at both the OMSS and CSMML. *(Thanks to Andy Traverse for passing us the news.)*

We just recently learned that **Tom Abler** passed away September 4, 2019. Tom was our second longest serving member at 51 years although we had not seen him for some time. He retired to Nova Scotia after a long academic career. Tom was an anthropology professor at the University of Waterloo, where he specialized as an ethno historian. He authored numerous books, chapters, and papers in professional journals.. Tom was an active painter for many years and won many awards at our annual competitions.



***Les Eslary***



***Tom Abler***

## **2019 Bryan Gibbons Award Recipient**



Well sometimes things get out of order but we correct our oversights. The Bryan Gibbons Award is given to the OMSS member who by their actions goes above and beyond towards contributing towards the betterment of the society. It is awarded at the annual Christmas Luncheon in December, however due to an oversight it was not mentioned at this year's Luncheon. Not to be forgotten however, it has been awarded to a member who most deservingly has earned it.

Just over a year ago, one of our Ottawa members approached the Executive with a suggestion to start a second OMSS chapter based in Ottawa. Bob Thompson has worked tirelessly to get that chapter going and his efforts have been most successful. Bob has for several years recruited membership at Ottawa based shows and has participated at our Annual Show in Toronto for many years. He has written articles for the JOURNAL and is a regular contributor to the monthly Newsletter. His work with the National Capital Chapter of the OMSS has increased our membership and introduced us to several new members participating at ON PARADE.

Bob is a deserving recipient of this award and we congratulate him on receiving it. We hope to present Bob with his medallion, if we can keep him in one place for a while, and the plaque (sorry Bob but you only get to keep the medallion) with his name engraved on it at a later meeting this year or at ON PARADE.

### **ON PARADE 2020 VENDORS**

Each month starting in January 2020 we will be publishing the names of vendors who have signed up and paid for their spot at 'ON PARADE' 2020. 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 12 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 2020 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](mailto:johnev@sympatico.ca).

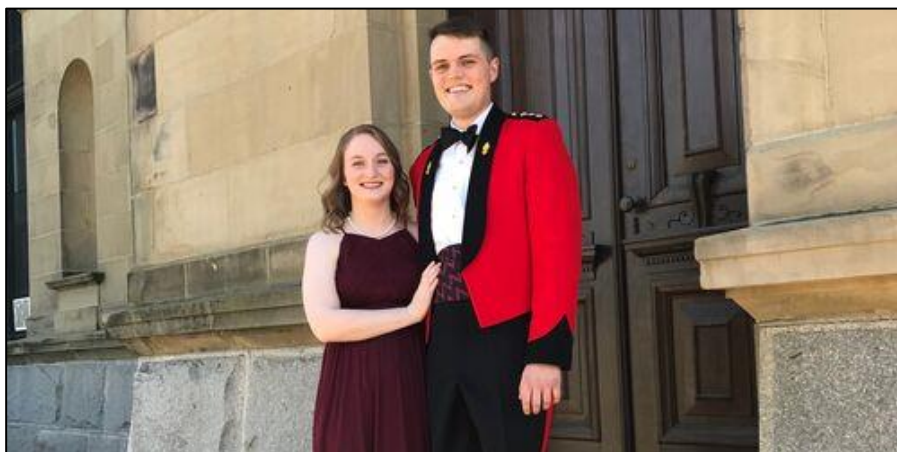
**Dennis DeRusha** – Assorted toy soldiers, vehicles, etc. (613) 592-5692 [kanatad2@rogers.com](mailto:kanatad2@rogers.com)

**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](http://www.gijoeCanada.com) – (705) 939-1028 – Email: [gijoe@kos.net](mailto:gijoe@kos.net) - Room Trader

**Ed Tansley** – Ducal Toy Soldiers, Queen Victoria Miniatures, Gord Dumbleton figures, Norm Cuthbert figures, Old & New Britains, Marlborough and more. – (416) 695-0609 – Email: [edtansley@hotmail.com](mailto:edtansley@hotmail.com).

### **The Upcoming Wedding of the Year!**

The Ontario Model Soldier Society wishes to congratulate OMSS member Brendan Hogan on the announcement of his upcoming marriage to Abigail Pierce this coming October. Brendan has been our JOURNAL editor the last couple of years and due to his commitments in the Canadian Army has had to step down but not before getting an issue out to us in December. Brendan is currently stationed at CFB Gagetown in Oromocto NB and serves with the Royal Canadian Artillery.



#### **On Facebook?**

Make sure and check out our Facebook group maintained by Dave Norman. There are lots of interesting postings. [www.facebook.com/groups/577999975631964/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/577999975631964/)

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

**News items and notices can be submitted to [gijoe@kos.net](mailto:gijoe@kos.net) or 705-939-1028**

**Articles must be submitted no later than 14 days before monthly meetings.**

**Articles submitted must be original as due to copyright law we cannot reproduce any published article without permission of the publication in question**

**AS OF JUNE 2020 I WILL BE STEPPING DOWN FROM DOING THE NEWSLETTER. WE STILL HAVE HAD NO ONE OFFER TO TAKE OVER WHICH MAY RESULT IN NO FUTURE MONTHLY PUBLICATION!**

#### **OMSS 2020 Calendar**

The club's 2020 calendar should be available for pick-up on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January. If you can't make the meeting and you know someone who can pick your calendar up for you please make arrangements to do so. It helps cut down on operating cost for the OMSS as postage is quite expensive.

## What's New in the Hobby?

January 2020

by Scott Dummitt

Well with the start of a new year, there is always something new for the military miniaturist to look at. This month we are going to look at some new items introduced by Thomas Gunn Club and William Britain Limited.

Thomas Gunn Club has introduced an interesting WWI selection of figures that features both British High Command and Australian Imperial Force members. King George V, Field Marshall Douglas Haig and Australian General John Monash all come with a medals presentation table and sell for \$59.00 Cdn. Four other figures depicted are Lt Albert Borella 26th Battalion AIF, Lt Percy Storkey 19th Battalion AIF, Cpl George Howell 1st Battalion AIF, and Cpl Walter Brown 20th Battalion AIF are priced at \$56.00 each. Howell and Brown have a later release date than the other figures.



TGC has also introduced a new WWII German Bunker set priced at approximately \$165.00 each. The set includes a detachable roof, light switch, fitted fire extinguisher, wall poster and even roof lights! It measures 23 cm wide (9.25 inches) by 14.5 cm (6 inches) long and there is an initial release of 100 planned. TGC also offers several accessory sets such as the table set or desk set.



Each year the The William Britain London Collector Event 2019 is eagerly looked forward to by UK collectors as it introduces a new show figure. This year's limited figure came straight out of the movie "Zulu" with Colour Sgt. Bourne reading the company roll call. There are a limited number of these figures being made available and are due to arrive at Britains in January 2020.

## **A CAPITAL REPORT** (from the OMSS Ottawa Chapter) by Bob Thompson

To bring us up to date I've reported on our latest meeting in December. But first ... we have just confirmed that all of our OMSS Ottawa meetings for 2020 will take place at 7pm on the last Tuesday of every month. (See the note at the end for our location information.)

The evening had a great turnout, and a packed agenda.

**Club Business** – Included among the updates on the various active OMSS Ottawa Chapter projects was:

- confirmation of 2020 Ottawa meeting dates for the last Tuesday of every month;
- further discussion on setting up an Ottawa Chapter 'library';
- 2020 OMSS Membership renewals;
- distribution plans for the "What I am Looking For" list;
- next steps for "Battle of Chrysler's Farm in Miniature" Project, with immediate plans to switch from a Facebook Page to a Facebook Group for online communication about the project;
- Further discussion on the "Raison D'etre" proposal from Francois Brisebois;
- beginning the "Green Army Men Painting Challenge" Project ... the first bags of soldiers were distributed. (I'll include a newsletter article on this next month.)

**Discussion on current hobby news** – What's New, upcoming shows, and reports on recent hobby related shows. Discussion included increased Ottawa Chapter member participation in the 2020 "OMSS On Parade" event.

### **Presentations:**

First, Francois Brisebois talked about his satisfaction, enjoyment, and appreciation of the work involved with our monthly meetings ... the sentiment was echoed by many.

Then Bob Thompson (me!) presented a "slide Show" on the big screen, including commentary from Denis DeRusha, of our recent road trip to the Toy Solder Museum, the Allentown Vintage Toy Show, and the Hackensack Toy Solder Show. (The presentation segment on the Hackensack Show was verbal only as for the 2 years in a row that I have attended the Hackensack Show I have been either too preoccupied or too pressed for time to take any pictures!)

The third presentation (also by me .... I do seem to talk a lot) was about reference books, including a review of "the Wargaming Compendium" book, OMSS member Ian Pearson's book "The Heritage of Canadian Military Music", and the importance of valuable information to be found in old mail order store catalogues, auction catalogues, and manufacturer's catalogues.

**"Show & Tell" Presentations:** - The topic for this month's "Show & Tell" was "Christmas Presents". We had lots of nice presentations and stories of gifts from Christmases past.

I was disappointed that due to my recent broken ankle I was not able to bring out my collection of Christmas related Toy Soldier dioramas for the Show & Tell.

The "Show & Tell" topic for the January 28 Ottawa meeting was decided to be "Winter".

After the adjournment of the meeting, there was the usual flurry of buying, selling, trading, and conversations! Everybody was in the holiday spirit, and this was certainly one of our better meetings.

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**Visiting the "Capital Region"?** Why not join us for one of the OMSS Ottawa Chapter Meetings? Contact Bob Thompson 613-291-1638 or Email: [thompson\\_robert@rogers.com](mailto:thompson_robert@rogers.com) for further info. *The OMSS Ottawa Chapter meets on the last*



*Tuesday of every month at 7pm in the private back room of the Barley Mow Restaurant (ok ... it's really a Pub) ... at 1541 Merivale Road (corner of Capilano Drive).*

