

The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962
www.omss.ca



2023 Executive

Scott Milburn
President

Andy Traverse
1st vice president

Duncan Johnstone
2nd vice-president

Gary Lenius
Secretary/Treasurer

Keith Ritchie
Past President

Mark Silverthorn
Program Chairman

Brendan Hogan
Journal Editor

Scott Dummitt
Annual Show Chairman

Scott Milburn
Newsletter Editor

Dave Norman
Facebook Page Manager

Frank MacKay
Calendar Co-ordinator

Jeff Duncan
Club Table & Donations

OMSS Archivist
Ian Pearson

Newsletter for January 2023

Next Toronto meeting Sunday, January 15th, 2023

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

OMSS Ottawa meetings have resumed in person gatherings with continued Meet and Greet and Swap Meets by Zoom which are open to all OMSS members. For an invite and link or more information, please contact Bob Thompson at Thompson_robert@rogers.com.

January's Speaker – The Royal Newfoundland Regiment



The War of 1812 was a defining moment in Canada's History.

It determined whether the British North American Colonies that had remained loyal to the Crown would continue to be part of the British Empire, or would they be swallowed up by the young growing nation to their south, the United States of America.

Britain was engaged once again in a life & death war with Napoleon's France and so the major part of her Navy and Army were concentrated in mainland Europe. America could not have found a more opportune time to declare war on Britain. All that stood between an American victory and a British defeat were 5000 British regulars, an unreliable militia and a force of Indigenous warriors from a confederacy of tribes under the leadership of Shawnee Chief Tecumseh.

One of the more prominent Regiments of the Line that fought against the Americans was the Fencible regiment, the Royal Newfoundland Regiment of Fencible Infantry. Members of this regiment that was raised in the British colony of Newfoundland saw action at almost every major battle, as well as the smaller skirmishes and at sea with the Provincial Marine. The regiment's campaign history during the War of 1812, was extremely impressive.

Scott Dummitt will talk about the regiment's 1812 history, its uniform, and what is available in miniature or how to make miniatures of the regiment. Scott's military background and his Military Miniature Business have assisted him greatly when it comes to looking at historical backgrounds of military units and you won't want to miss his informative talk.

Time to renew your membership and support your club

The cost remains the same as last year: \$40 for regular members and only \$25 for family or junior members.

Gary has made it easy to renew and offers several methods of payment;

- Pay in person at the monthly meeting
- Send a cheque to: OMSS at 43 Saugeen Cres., Toronto ON, M1K 3M8
- ETransfer: Send it to the email treasurer@omss.ca
- PayPal: send it to the address omss@bell.net



President's Message – January 2023

Happy New Year

January brings us to a time to look forward to what the New Year will bring and for the OMSS, the New Year also brings changes.

But first, on behalf of the entire membership, I must thank Keith Ritchie for his willingness to serve as our president for 3 consecutive terms providing a much needed steady hand during the last 3 years and guiding us through a very unique period of history, one that I am sure all of us hope won't be repeated.

The New Year brings a new executive committee who assume their positions as noted in the sidebar. I want to thank the members that are returning and continuing to volunteer on the committee but also welcome Mark Silverthorn and Duncan Johnstone who have stepped up to volunteer and accept positions on the executive.

This year thanks to the efforts of our new Program Director Mark Silverthorn, we can look forward to an engaging and interesting series of presentations from a variety of speakers at our monthly meetings.

A new, trial agenda item for each meeting will be '*Get to know your fellow club member*'. Mark will be inviting one member each month to give a brief talk of 10 minutes about what they collect and what attracts them to the hobby and our club. More details on this initiative will be provided at the meeting.

Of course our popular 'Show and Tell' portion of the agenda will continue. I encourage everyone to participate and bring in their latest acquisition or item of interest to share with the members.

I look forward to the opportunities the New Year brings our club. I am confident with the resumption of regular monthly meetings and speakers, attendance to our meetings will improve. An increase in attendees will offer more opportunities to learn from others, share new ideas, new conversations and build new friendships which is what membership in the OMSS is all about.

Toronto Monthly Meetings for 2023

January 15
February 12
March 12
April 16
May 14



September 17
October 15
November 19
December 10

'On Parade' Annual Show - Sunday June 10, 2023

Annual Christmas Luncheon

By Jeff Duncan

After a few years of a Covid break the OMSS on December 11th celebrated a return to our in person Christmas lunch and awards. The weather was a challenge for those members from further afield but we had a good turnout of about 30 members. We were set up on the larger stage side of the Legion hall that allowed for vender participation and the Club Table to provide lots of Christmas shopping opportunities.

The lunch was catered by Swiss Chalet with the "Festive Special" and everyone seemed to enjoy the meal by the amount of chicken bones scattered around and messy dipping sauce on our faces. Desert was a selection of homemade goodies along with a few store bought dishes.

After our lunch the almost President for life Keith Ritchie took to the floor to give a recap of the last few years and the challenges and the positive outcomes for the Society due to Covid for both the Executive and the Society as a whole. Keith served three full years at the helm and saw us through times not always in our control. Thanks Keith. He thanked the Executive and members who had stepped up. A couple of the positives was the Ottawa Chapter coordinating OMSS Zoom and Swap Meet meetings and the introduction of the OMSS Underground Railway (O.U.R.) that has shuttled our hobby purchases and materials along from member to member all over the Province free of charge.



President Ritchie then awarded the Bryan Gibbons Award to member and Treasurer Gary Lenius. The **Bryan Gibbons Award** is given to the **OMSS** member who exemplifies the spirit of the society with their efforts throughout the year(s). This was in recognition of Gary's Covid years of assistance to the Society.

Gary, was hounded for a speech and was gracious in his words and mentioned taking an active role in the Society has kept him interested in it and knowing and meeting so many people over the years has been rewarding.

Several membership awards were presented with Jeff Duncan receiving his 25 year OMSS Gold Pin.

After all the formalities were completed we had a draw for about a dozen gifts generously donated by Ed Tansley and three gift cards from the Club Table. In the spirit of Christmas we put into the draw those that could not make it due to the weather and several of them won a gift to resounding groans from those present.



It was a good time and a reminder that the things we do with our time outside of work and family can be very rewarding and a reason to keep you active in spirit and mind. All the best everyone for 2023 and good luck to Scott Milburn our new President.

What's New in the Hobby, January 2023

By Scott Dummitt

I have found some really interesting sets that have been released or are coming out in the future for this issue. First off little known manufacture London Gothic Collectibles has release a series of figures based on our late Queen's funeral. The centre piece is the gun carriage with royal standard draped coffin, and a Royal Navy ratings crew of 8 ratings and two Officers with reversed swords. In addition other figures that can be purchased include the Gentlemen at Arms, the Beefeaters, the Grenadier Guard coffin bearers, the Royal Company of Archers escort, and

Queen's Herald. The Carriage set with crew sell for appx. \$385.00 cdn, with single figures selling for appx. \$38.00 - \$40.00 cdn and the Carriage without crew for \$140.00 cdn.



London Gothic Collectibles' unique Royal Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II Gun Carriage with Coffin and Navy

John Jenkins Designs has just released prototype photos of their soon to be released North West Mounted Police. These figures will depict the force from its formation in 1873 when a force of 150 troopers and officers were dispatched from eastern Canada to bring law and order to the Canadian western frontier. In addition to the pictured figure of Walsh & Sitting Bull, other figures will include mounted and dismounted NWMP constables wearing the early uniform with pill box cap and



**Superintendent James Morrow Wals with Sitting Bull
To be released by John Jenkins Design in the spring of 2023**

Colonel George French, the forces first senior officer, wearing foreign service pattern helmet and the famous Scout, Jeremiah "Jerry" Potts. The planned trading post fort that Jenkins is working on will make a wonderful depot fort for these early Mounties. Prices are to be announced.

William Britain Limited has released a new series, "The Village Green". So far it includes various civilian figures from the early 19th Century, both Civilian and Military. My favourite is "The King's Shilling" depicting a British recruiting Sergeant in all his finery with a Regimental Drummer in bearskin. The set sells for appx. \$130.00 cdn



The Quartermaster's Store

If you are not a vendor and have something hobby related you are looking to sell or if you are hunting for that hard to find missing piece for your collection, members can list it here at no cost and space permitting.

Simply send your request to the newsletter editor at scottm33@live.ca

Find the OMSS on Facebook!



Check out our Facebook group maintained by Dave Norman.
There are lots of news and interesting postings.

www.facebook.com/groups/577999975631964/

A separate dedicated Ottawa Chapter Facebook page can be found here;

www.facebook.com/groups/651838872296984/



“In the end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years”.
Abraham Lincoln

The newsletter is edited by Scott Milburn.
News items and notices can be submitted to scottm33@live.ca.

Articles must be submitted no later than 14 days before monthly meetings. Due to postal costs the newsletter is limited to 6 pages maximum. Articles that cannot be accommodated will be forwarded to the Journal Editor.