



Newsletter for October 2024

The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962



Brig. Gen. Darrell Dean (Ret'd)
Honorary President

2024 Executive

Andy Traverse
President

Duncan Johnstone
1st Vice-President

David Dorward
2nd Vice-President

Scott Paget
Ottawa Chapter Chair

Gary Lenius
Secretary/Treasurer

Mark Silverthorn
Social Media and
Program Chair

Jim Qualtrough
Annual Show Chair

Tom Wright
Technical Committee Chair

Scott Milburn
Past President

Next Toronto chapter meeting

Sunday, October 6th, 2024

Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion, 110 Jutland Road, Etobicoke
Doors open at 11:00 am, **meeting starts at 12:30pm**

This month's guest speaker is Andrew Dobbins, owner of Dobbies Hobbies and his topic will be the Winter War between Finland and the Soviet Union



Next Ottawa chapter meeting Tuesday October 22, 2024 @ 7pm

at The Barley Mow, 1541 Merivale Road.
The Show and Tell topic will be announced later



Next OMSS Virtual meeting Tuesday October 15, 2024 @ 7pm

Virtual meetings are open to all OMSS and BMSS members.

The meeting topic is three parted:

What got you started?

What is your oldest piece?

What is your most valued piece?

Contact Bob Thompson at Thompson_robert@rogers.com
for an email invitation to the next meeting or more details



OMSS members are cordially invited to attend

British Model Soldier Society's Monthly Virtual meeting Friday October 18, 2024 @ 7pm GMT *(that's 2pm for most of us in Ontario)*

for those interested in attending;

Contact James Opie of the BMSS at jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk

Mark your calendar:

OMSS Annual General Meeting
and members only Auction
Sunday November 3rd, 2024

Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion, 110 Jutland Road, Etobicoke





President's Message

I begin by mentioning some unsung heroes of the OMSS who have worked tirelessly and with passion. Firstly, I wish to acknowledge our Club Table and Donations volunteer, Jeff Duncan. The income produced from the sale of hobby-related items, all of which have been generously donated by Society members and individuals from the general public, has made a difference between increasing or holding the membership dues. Jeff provides regular and detailed reports to the Executive and the numbers speak for themselves.

Next, Frank Mackay's continuous hard work to promote the Society where possible and his dedication to ensuring that we have an annual calendar should not be taken for granted. Like so many, he is a pillar in the Society and is supported by an equally dedicated wife in Janet.

Lastly in my acknowledgements, Mark Silverthorn, a relatively new Society member deserves an honorable mention in recognition of his enthusiasm and creativity regarding toy soldiers YouTube projects and developing a new Society website. I thank you all for everything you do for the Society.

All the members will soon receive copies of the new OMSS Constitution and By-Laws which require ratification at the November 3, 2024, Annual General Meeting. Proxies will be sent approximately three to four weeks ahead of the AGM. And remember, that will be the same day as the OMSS Annual Auction. It will be a very eventful day and attendance in person, while not mandatory, would be very appreciated by the Society. I have to say that the quality of auctioned items is high and there is always a bargain.

The October general meeting will be presided by Duncan Johnstone in my absence as I shall be spending a day in Col-ditz castle and Stalag Luft III among other places.

Andy Traverse, OMSS President



Anniversary Book Update

We are now ready to publish 60 Years of Getting the Lead Out! A History of the Ontario Model Soldier Society 1962-2022 by Ian Pearson.



This comprehensive history, which in addition to recording the history of the OMSS in a clear and entertaining way, lists all past and present members up until 2022, along with a thumb nail sketch of all former Presidents.

We are publishing this on what is known as a subscription basis. Each copy will be numbered and copies will be limited to paid up subscribers. This is strictly a not for profit venture to ensure the history of our society is not lost.

To become a subscriber we will need a deposit of \$40 sent to Gary Lenius, our long suffering Treasurer, at gary_lenius@sympatico.ca via e transfer, or give him cash, indicating it is for the OMSS history book, at any OMSS meeting up to January 2, 2025. **January 2, 2025 is a "hard" cutoff date for orders** so we can get the final printing numbers into the publisher and "crack on" with completing this worthy project.

Please note that this is being published at cost, and depending on the number of orders, the cost may be more or less than the \$40 indicated, which is simply a "guesstimate". If the cost is more, we will charge you for the difference, if less, we will refund the difference. Please note that we are not in a position to accept order cancellations and there are no refunds for cancelled orders. Postage is also extra if you are unable to pick up the book at an upcoming OMSS meeting or show. The society is looking at ways to get the books to Toronto via society members to minimize costs as shipping is expensive these days!

It would also be helpful if you could indicate if you would prefer a soft cover or hard cover version. That option may not be available, it depends on publishing costs and the numbers ordered.

Thank you to Ian Pearson for your hard work in getting this history to the finish line and your many years of dedicated work as our OMSS Archivist.

David Dorwood, 2nd Vice-President

Toronto Chapter's September Meeting

Toronto's meeting was well attended with all the available tables filled with items for sale prior to the start of the regular meeting and the speakers presentation.

OMSS club president, Andy Traverse provided members with updates regarding what the club's executive has been working on behind the scenes. Work is completed on updating the club's constitution and bylaws which will be presented to all members for review and to vote on it's acceptance at November's general meeting or for those unable to attend in person, alternative voting options will be provided and shared with members soon.

Andy also advised everyone that work is now completed to make the OMSS compliant with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA). Going forward, this will require the annual submission of budgetary documentation to the Ontario government to ensure continued compliancy.

Jeff Duncan provided an update regarding the club member sales, which thanks to many generous donations, continue to be brisk and very beneficial to the club finances.

Frank Mackay provided an update on the printing of the 2025 calendar. He is trying to get it out early to ensure members receive them on a more timely basis. Frank also mentioned that postage is the greatest cost to the printing and distribution of the calendars, so please arrange to have your copy picked up whenever possible.



Eric Shaw made a lively and engaging presentation on the evolution of men's and civilian clothing. Later in the newsletter are a few photos from the Youtube video Eric and his family created on this topic and presented at the meeting .



Ottawa Chapter news

Unfortunately Septembers in person meeting was cancelled due to the meeting venue being unavailable.



On Saturday September 14, Ottawa held a "Trunk Swap meet" for area members to buy, sell and get together in the parking lot of the Barley Mow which was followed up with a club social in the pub afterwards.



OMSS September Zoom Meeting

Contributed by Brendan Hogan

This month's meeting topic was the "French Foreign Legion" as selected by the attendees of the August OMSS Zoom meeting. Bob T. initiated the meeting with a cry for help. Specifically, Bob is looking for people to assist with hosting the OMSS Zoom meetings. He's also having issues with cloud storage capacity that has implications for the storage of photos and videos that can be used in productions for the OMSS YouTube channel. David D. provided an update on a forthcoming book on the history of the OMSS. He's exploring options for publication including publishing on demand, hardcover vs. softcover, or an electronic version. The cost of publication is to be determined.

Bob then mentioned upcoming club events and the Chicagoland Toy Soldier Show (22 September 2024). Several attendees expressed a desire to attend the show but had concerns about the travel distances and costs. The next major event occurring in the Ottawa area is the militaria show that is held in October at the Nepean Sportsplex. It's not a toy soldier show per se, but toy soldiers can be found there. Eric S. filled the Ottawa area members in on the September OMSS meeting in Toronto. By all accounts, Eric's presentation on men's fashions for civilian clothing and military uniforms was well received. Bob also shared photos from the OMSS Ottawa Trunk Swap Meet held at the Merivale Rd. Barley Mow on 14 September 2024. As per usual, Bob walked away with more than what he came with.

Few collectors had French Foreign Legion figures to share with the group, but Eric, Eduardo M., and Bob all gave interesting presentations on various aspects of the Legion's uniforms and history. Eric's fort diorama was a great representation of the forts featured in famous films about the Legion like Beau Geste and March or Die. Bob also offered some wares for sale including W. Britain's Anglo-Zulu War pieces and various Hougomont sets. Bob has a plethora of retired W. Britain's for sale at very reasonable prices and can provide lists of offerings to interested collectors. The meeting concluded with a vote on the topic for next month which is three parted:

- What got you started?
- What is your oldest piece?
- What is your most valued piece?



What's New in the Hobby—Will return next month



Checkout the future OMSS website

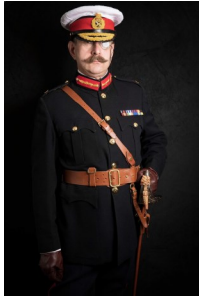


Mark Silverthorn has been working hard over the past several months building a new updated website for the OMSS.

It is still a work in progress as Mark adds new features and applies finishing touches, but members can get a sneak peak of the club's future website by going to the following link;

www.omss.blog

We ask everyone to take a few minutes to check it out and provide feedback to Mark. We are aiming to have the new website rolled out and replace the current club site at www.omss.ca sometime this fall.



HUZZAH! OMSS MEMBER STRIKES BMSS GOLD

by Andrew Stevenson 'OMSS UK correspondent'

Editors note: author supplied photo which we suspect is not a real likeness of the author!

NEWS FLASH

If you were too busy to travel to the BMSS Inter-Branch competition on September 7th, I decided to throw caution to the wind and travelled from sunny Lincolnshire to Knowle (halfway between Birmingham and Coventry).

For those of you in the know, I was travelling with Chris Bartlett, longtime BSS member and former "Soldier Pac" owner, to see what was happening at the competition and to gauge what the BMSS is up to as summer draws to a close.

As usual the entries in the competition were varied, from Flats to Glossies, Tanks to Busts! (Of the military variety of course). In the interests of disclosure, I was also a judge for several of the competition categories and was very impressed by this entry which won in the 54mm Vehicle category. The artist did a phenomenal job on this WW2 French Army figure, from the spokes on the wheels, the details of the motor and uniform, to the weary, defeated expression of the rider - I thought it was one of the best at the show and well deserving of its award.



I brought along a few of my 54mm glossy sets that I had done for my personal collection: Bugle Band of the Queen's Westminister's; Royal Fusilier officer 1900; Japanese Imperial Army 1904; and Wyvern Standard Knights, Crecy, and a large display of presentation of medals on the return from South Africa 1901. I entered these into the show competition on a whim, not knowing what to expect from judging panel. Lo and behold, I found out at the end of the day I picked up some flash for my efforts, Including a double Gold!!

I guess they passed the BMSS judges' sniff test:

- Japanese Imperial Guard 1904 (Commended, Toy Soldier Category)
- Wyvern Standard Knights, Crecy. (Commended, Toy Soldier Category)
- Bugle Band of Queen's Westminister (Bronze, Bands Category)
- Royal Fusilier officer (Gold, Britains Category)
- Presentation of Medals: Return from South Africa 1901 (Gold, Britains Category)

The complete show results can be viewed at the BMSS website.





The Quartermaster's Store



If you are a club member and have something hobby related you are looking to sell or if you are hunting for that hard to find missing piece to complete your collection, you can list it here at no cost and space permitting.

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

FOR SALE: Spincaster and mold maker. Here is a unique opportunity that doesn't come up very often, if you have been wanting to cast your own model soldiers. Joanne also has a large assortment of molds for sale.



Contact Joanne Ritchie at "j_ritchie@rogers.com"

Keep your contact information up to date

Please notify the club should your email address, phone number, or mailing address change to ensure you receive timely information from us.

You can email any changes to; omss@bell.net



the last word

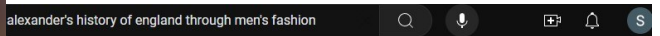
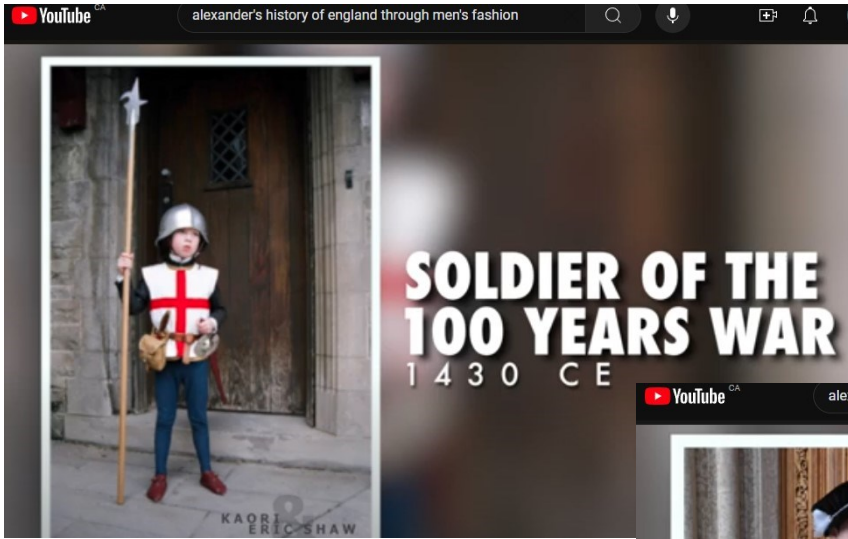
"Challenges make life interesting, however, overcoming them is what makes life meaningful"
Mark Twain

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

Articles must be submitted no later than 14 days before monthly meetings.
Articles that cannot be accommodated will be forwarded to the Journal Editor.

A few photos from Eric Shaw's Presentation

and YouTube video titled "Alexander's History of England Through Men's Fashion"



To check out Eric's presentation on YouTube in the search bar type; Alexander's history of England through men's fashion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

The OMSS will be at the Peterborough Militaria Show and sale



MILITARIA SHOW AND SALE

SATURDAY 26th October 2024

09:00am to 1:00pm

Peterborough Armoury

220 Murray Street, Peterborough, ON

Admission is \$5 per person or \$12 per family
in support of
The Peterborough Military Museum and
2762 Royal Canadian Army Cadets

Additional information at:

i.kyle321@nexicom.net

705 875 8938

Vendor's tables are \$30.00 each for a 6 X 2.5 foot table.

OMSS will have a display at the Peterborough Show and we are looking for volunteers to lend a hand.

We are looking for members to put out small displays at the table provided and to provide information on the Society. Admission is only \$5.00 per person and there is plenty to see. We will once again provide a William Britain Ltd Deetail toy soldier for Children 12 years of age and under. Everyone is also welcome to visit "SCOTT J. DUMMITT PRESENTS" toy soldier retail shop at 1754 Carmel Line in Bailieboro for a cold drink and snack after the show, which is just a short drive from Peterborough. The shop will be open by 2 pm."

More new OMSS videos are available on YouTube!

Mark Silverthorn continues producing more great YouTube videos for members to enjoy.



There are now over **51 videos** on a variety of topics for your interest

Simply go to YouTube and type in "Ontario Model Soldiers Society" or check out "Scott's Soldiers" (of OMSS Ottawa chapter) in the search bar to find the channel you are interested in.

Remember to click on **LIKE** and **SUBSCRIBE**; there is no cost to do so and it shows your support and encourages the making of more videos for your enjoyment.