



# 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

# Newsletter for December 2024

## Next Toronto chapter meeting

**Sunday, December 15th, 2024**

The meeting starts at noon for the **Annual General Meeting** followed by the **Christmas Luncheon** will begin being served at 12:30pm

Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion, 110 Jutland Road, Etobicoke  
Doors open at 11:00 am



## Next Ottawa chapter meeting

**Tuesday January 28, 2025 @ 7pm**

at The Barley Mow, 1541 Merivale Road.  
The meeting topic is to be announced



## Next OMSS Virtual meeting

**Tuesday December 17, 2024 @ 7pm**

Virtual meetings are open to all OMSS and BMSS members.  
The show and tell topic will be 'Christmas'.

contact Bob Thompson at [thompson\\_robert@rogers.com](mailto:thompson_robert@rogers.com)  
for an email invitation to the meeting or more details



## British Model Soldier Society's

### Monthly Virtual meeting

**Friday December 20th, 2024 @ 7pm GMT**

*(that's 2pm for most of us in Ontario)*

for those interested in attending;

Contact James Opie at [jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk)



## Toronto Chapter Annual Christmas Luncheon

Toronto chapter will be holding their annual Christmas luncheon on **Sunday December 15, 2024 at Noon** at the Legion.

As in previous years, we will be ordering Swiss Chalet and the Legion bar will be open for cold refreshments.

The cost is \$25.00 per meal. If you missed the November meeting, you can still do an e-Transfer to [omss@bell.net](mailto:omss@bell.net).

**The last date to order a meal is Tuesday December 10th**

The club will provide coffee and tea at no charge. Members are encouraged to bring a dessert item to share amongst fellow club members at the luncheon.



## Greetings to the Members of the OMSS

Darrell M Dean CD  
Brigadier General [ret'd] & Honorary President OMSS



Much has transpired over the year in the Toy Soldier & Miniatures world and now 2024 is quickly approaching the final few months. For me, I continue to collect and flesh out my collection at shows and online purchases. Periodically my wife raises her eye brow and volunteers the suggestion, “at 83 years of age haven’t you got enough of those things?”

In reality she knows that this collecting fetish has been a lifetime enjoyment which has greatly expanded my knowledge of history, battles, hero’s on both sides and detailed regimental history’s. It has also introduced me to collectors worldwide and some becoming dear friends. Speaking of dear friends and OMSS members, Jeff Duncan and Stuart Hessney come to mind of this years activities. Stuart I met many years ago at the toy soldier show in Texas and Jeff through his family connection with my regiment, the Royal Canadian Dragoons. Stuart has added articles I submitted to Toy Soldier Collector & Historical Figures which included the Dragoons. In June of this year the Dragoons celebrated the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Association and what an opportunity to provide an invitation to both friends. I must also add that Jeff’s grandfather served with the Dragoons during WWII and was present in all the regiments actions from Italy to Northwest Europe. What a weekend celebration with a meet and greet [regular members of the regiment, regimental retirees and wives, an opportunity to drive tracked and wheeled reconnaissance vehicles, attend a regimental dinner and a departure breakfast. Two special guests were General’s Hiller and Natynczyk, both former Chiefs of Defence Staff and Dragoons. During the regimental dinner Stuart and Jeff were presented leather bound regimental histories by the Association President Major General Dean Milner for their connection to the regiment. It was a wonderful opportunity to introduce two avid OMSS collectors of toy soldiers to the regiment. Keep collecting and all the very best.





## President's Message

As my year in office as your President is drawing to a close, I look back at the progress the OMSS has made in terms of updating and properly establishing our status under the Ontario Not-For-Profit Act, and the work carried out to present a new Constitution and By-laws. In the end it was pretty straight forward and the assistance given by members is much appreciated.

Our involvement and reliance on the digital age required a new approach regarding matters such as our website and social media presence. Great strides have been made thanks to Mark Silverthorne's efforts to put us on the Youtube map. Progress on a new OMSS website is slow but the process must be thorough and it will likely take a while before the Executive approves any changes. For this we need assistance. Is there anyone out there i.e. a knowledgeable volunteer to take the reins?

We had a banner year in terms of On Parade and the Annual Auction was the best with something for everyone. My thanks for these two successful events go to Jim Qualtrough, Gary Lenius and our auctioneer Frank MacKay along with everyone else whose help was invaluable.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed my time in office and have met more members than I would have otherwise if not the President. The Zoom Executive meetings are now the standard and with this format, so much more is achieved in terms of discussions, presentations, reporting and ultimately, progress.

The Legion on Jutland is the perfect venue for our monthly meetings and the staff have always been most accommodating and welcoming towards us. I ask that those who are not Legion members consider joining the organization which is a very rewarding experience and the Legion magazine is first class with numerous features on historical matters.

The last meeting of the OMSS will involve the Annual General Meeting and the Christmas luncheon. I hope to see you all there and if I do not, have a Merry Christmas and may all your toy soldier related dreams come true.

Andy Traverse, OMSS President



## Reminder — Order Your OMSS Anniversary Book before it is too late!

As announced last month, we are ready to publish 60 Years of Getting the Lead Out! A History of the Ontario Model Soldier Society 1962-2022 by Ian Pearson.

We are publishing this on 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 club is not lost.

To order a copy, submit a deposit of \$40 to Gary Lenius, our long suffering Treasurer, at [gary\\_lenius@sympatico.ca](mailto:gary_lenius@sympatico.ca) via e transfer, or cash, indicating it is for the OMSS history book, or at an OMSS meeting prior to **January 2, 2025**, which is a "hard" cutoff date for orders so we can get the final printing numbers to the printers. Please indicate if you would prefer a soft cover or hard cover version. This option may not be available; it depends on publishing costs and the number of copies ordered.

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 "guestimate". 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.

Please 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.



## Toronto Chapter happenings

### November Meeting — Club's Annual Auction



Toronto members had another successful auction with a record number of items up for sale. Over 100 items consisting of both complete sets and individual pieces changed hands to the delight of both sellers and buyers.

It was wonderful to see so many members come from far and wide for the event. David Myles travelled all the way from Amherst Nova Scotia for the sale and had to buy an extra suitcase to take home all the items he acquired.



Scott Milburn chats with David Myles as David adds to his list of items to bid on

## OMSS is at the Wellington County/Guelph Modelers show



Thanks to Jeff Duncan for attending the show and submitting this report

Our OMSS presence at the Wellington County/Guelph Modelers Exhibition show went great! We were a last minute fill in for the organizers being 4th on a cancellation list...they really appreciated our efforts in getting out last minute and we had two 6 foot tables for the price of one table when Jeff Duncan showed up extra early the morning of the show.

The show is similar in scale to OMSS On Parade. There were 40 vendor tables and about the same number of competition entries. Lots of folks travelled from the GTA, Kitchener/Cambridge area, some from Windsor and a sole yank from Detroit attended the show. In addition, Jeff garnered a Silver Medal for a competition piece he submitted. Congrats Jeff!

We also blew the socks off on OMSS fundraising...Jeff is happy to report we grossed \$445 minus the table cost of \$35 netted out \$410 for the club!

## OMSS attends the Peterborough Militaria Show and Sale



Keith Ritchie, Jim Qualtrough and Ian Pearson at the OMSS table. (absent from photo, Scott Dummitt and Scott Milburn)

Several club members volunteered to set up some of their personal collections and answer questions from interested and curious show attendees about the club and our hobby. The show was well attended with some previous members and friends dropping by to say hello and were glad to see us at there with a display. The OMSS table was quite busy with a lot of curious and inquisitive visitors.

Thanks to **W. Britain Ltd.** for the donation of **Deetail Plastic Soldiers** for us to hand out to children who dropped by the club table.



# Ottawa Chapter's November Meeting

Contributed by Doug Cope



Ottawa's November meeting was well attended with 17 attendees.



Scott P provided an update from the clubs executive meeting.

Bob T. is still looking for help to run the Zoom meetings and the Ottawa chapter meetings to organize a roster of rotating meeting hosts and other volunteers to ensure consistent monthly planning and reporting.

This months topic was 'Calvary' and below are a few photos of pieces from attendees collections.

Additional details on the meeting events are covered in the separate meeting minutes document emailed with the newsletter .





## What's New in the Hobby – December 2024

By Scott Dummitt



Well with the Canada Post strike unresolved at the time of this writing, it may be a rather bleak Christmas for collectors hoping to get things in. At this time my business has switched to FedEx for the determined shopper, no word back if Toy Soldier Club was doing the same.

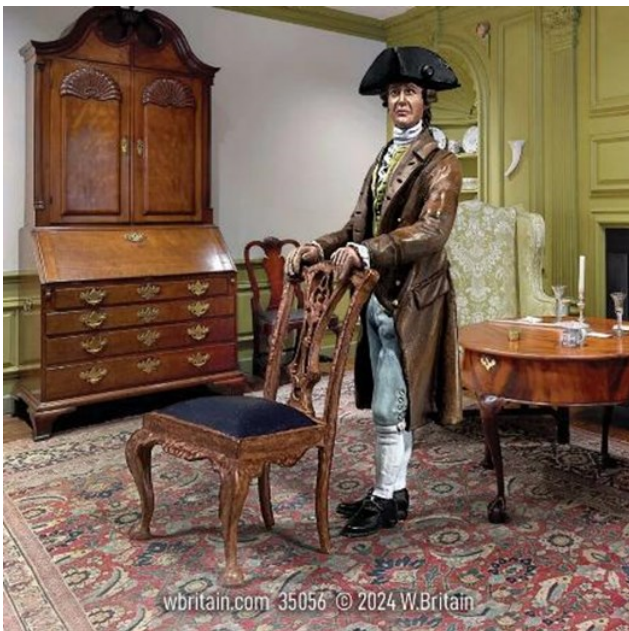
King & Country Miniatures has released a nice version of Santa with a sledge full of toys this year. Each year King & Country releases a unique set for the Christmas period and this Coca Cola style Santa is a real eye pleaser. It is selling for approximately \$175.00 Cdn.



King & Country's "Santa and his Sledge"

William Britain Limited has just released several more figures to their "Campaign Miniatures" series including General James Wolfe, the Marquis de Montcalm, Princess Elizabeth and King Charles I, however the figure that caught my eye is new to their "Village Green" series. "A Gentleman Listens" depicts a 18<sup>th</sup> Century civilian male standing behind a chair as if listening to someone. The figure sells for approximately \$79.00 Cdn. Hopefully Britains will add few more figures that will go along with this time period. Another recently released figure in the Village Green series is entitled: "Fiddlin Away". This late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century character would fit in with a farming community locale or even as a vittler with a military unit in the field. This figure retails for approximately \$73.00 Cdn. I won't delve into the newly announced figures based on Toy Soldier Collector Editor Stuart Hessney and Toy Soldier historian James Opie as they have been covered elsewhere in this newsletter.

Issue 119 of Toy Soldier Collector magazine features our annual show "ON PARADE 2024". Issue 120 has been released but again due to the Postal Strike I can't say when it will be available. Merry Christmas everyone.



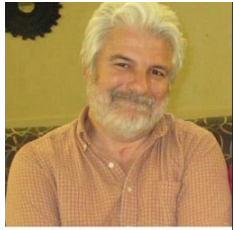
"A Gentleman Listens" by W. Britain Ltd.



William Britain Limited's "Fiddlin Away"

## Exciting news from W. Britian

It was recently announced by **W. Britain Ltd.** that a couple of gentlemen well known to OMSS members will be honoured with a toy soldier produced in their likeness.



**Stuart Hessney**, editor to **Toy Soldier Collector and Historical Figures Magazine** and a long time OMSS member is the model for W. Britain's new **'Union Light Infantry Driver 1861-1865'** figure.

Stuart's figure came about after an innocent conversation with Ken Olsen of W. Britain regarding Stuart and his wife Sally's visit to the battlefields in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Despite several previous tours of the area, they discovered a memorial honouring the Union Army's Battery B, 1st New York Light Artillery, Artillery Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps. It was mustered into service August 31, 1861, and participated in 78 days of battle before it was mustered out of service on June 18, 1865. Despite both being students of history, Stuart and Sally had never heard of this unit and were very surprised to learn it was raised in Onondaga County in Baldwinsville: Sally's hometown! Shortly after their conversation, Ken asked Stuart for 360-degree headshots of himself. Before he knew it, Ken had sculpted and painted a standing figure of Stuart portraying a bearded Union light artillery driver holding a saddle with a valise on it along with a horse blanket draped over his arm. The **'Union Light Artillery Driver 1861-1865'** wears a leg guard too.



W. Britains artwork of Union Light Infantry Driver

**James Opie** is also well known to OMSS members. James is an executive member of the British Model Soldier Society and host of BMSS Zoom meetings, author of 'Talking Toy Soldiers' articles in TSC&HF magazine, in addition to preparing catalogues for toy soldier auctions for over 45 years, was the model for Britain's new **'Village Peddler 1805-1820'** which will be part of **W Britain's 'Village Green'** collection.

The idea of Britain's producing a figure of James occurred after James invited Ken and Ericka Osen of W. Britain and OMSS member Scott Paget to tea at his home following the 2023 London Toy Soldier and Historical Figures show. During the visit the Osen's asked James to write an article on the Queen Mary's Dolls House toy soldiers for *The Standard*, the exclusive journal of the W. Britain Collectors' Club. James related, "They also honoured me by letting me choose a character to play in their 'Village Green' collection. I chose to be the 'Peddler'." The 'Village Green' collection features figures of civilians and scenic items inspired by the Regency and Federal eras (1790-1818) as well as mid-nineteenth century around the times of the Crimean War and the American Civil War. The stylish and smiling 'Village Peddler 1805-1820' figure modelled after James wears a top hat and holds a tray full of goods including what else but toys.



James, Scott and Ken get together for tea

The stylish and smiling 'Village Peddler 1805-1820' figure modelled after James wears a top hat and holds a tray full of goods including what else but toys.



W. Britains artwork of Village Peddler

Thanks to **Toy Soldier Collector and Historical Figures magazine** and **Jeff Duncan** for sharing this exciting news to the OMSS newsletter editor.



## New Campaign Miniatures from W Britain



Submitted by Norm Cuthbert

I recently had the good fortune to attend the recent Toy Soldier show in Chicago. It was great to meet fellow members Keith Ritchie, Ian Pearson and Mark Silverthorn while there. I also had a long chat with Ken Olsen of Brit-



ains. **Britains** has a new line of figures coming out called **Campaign Miniatures**. They are cast in grey resin, cleaned of any flash, prepped and unpainted. I obtained three samples which I took to the local club for review and comment. Each figure comes in its own box. The label includes a colour photo of the figure and label identifying the figure enclosed. Each is enclosed in foam and a small plastic bag. The detail on each figure is very crisp and accurate. I test fit each part and they fit without any adjustment having to be made. Arms also have a small nodule to ensure each fits perfectly. Samples in this photo show General Parton, George Bush Sr, and general Wolfe. I'm really looking forward to painting each.



## Time to renew your membership and support your club

The cost remains the same as last year: \$40 for regular members and \$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: OMSS at 43 Saugeen Cres., Toronto ON, M1K 3M8
- e-Transfer: Send it to the email [treasurer@omss.ca](mailto:treasurer@omss.ca)
- PayPal: send it to the address [omss@bell.net](mailto:omss@bell.net)







## On Parade 2025 update

June 7th, 2025 is next years 'On Parade' Show and Competition at the Franklin Horner Community Centre in Etobicoke. I look forward to Chairing the event again and will strive to make it as good and even better than the past shows.

I am busy lining up the vendors and have several who are already committed to return. **W. Britain Ltd** has agreed to return for another year, and we are excited to see Ken and Erica Osen set up their workshops and a table that will be front and center in the vendor room.

We will enhance the speaker system so communication will be improved as well as larger and more clear signage to highlight and direct visitors to Britain's workshop location.

When marking your calendars for June 2025, please highlight Friday June 6th for set up which will be from 3pm until 6pm at the Franklin Horner Community Centre, 432 Horner Avenue, Toronto (Etobicoke) again as well as the On Parade Show on Saturday, June 7th set up starting at 7am and the show doors opening at 9am.

I challenge all members of the club to prepare your display and competition pieces to make 2025's competition an outstanding example of our club's talent.

Please contact me with any questions or to reserve your 2025 vendor tables at [jimqualtrough@gmail.com](mailto:jimqualtrough@gmail.com)

I wish you all a fabulous Holiday Season and hope to see you at the Christmas luncheon next week.

Jim Qualtrough, 'On Parade' Show Chair

## 2025 Toronto Chapter Meeting Dates

January 12  
February 9  
March 9  
April 13  
May 11



September 14  
October 5  
November 9  
December 14

**2025 "On Parade" is Saturday June 7  
9am-3pm  
Franklin Horner Community Centre  
432 Horner Avenue Toronto (Etobicoke)**

*When renewing your membership, remember to;*

### **Check that 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.





# The Quartermaster's Store



## Collection of W. Britains "The Standard" magazine available



David Smith is generously offering copies of W. Britain's Collectors Club 'Standard' magazine from 2012 – 2020 for free to anyone that wants them and simply cover the postage costs to ship them.



contact David @ [beverlydavidsmith@sasktel.net](mailto:beverlydavidsmith@sasktel.net)

**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](mailto:j_ritchie@rogers.com)"



Ian Person is looking for a way to convert 120mm decals to the following scales - 54mm, 35mm, 60mm. Any ideas or suggestions would be appreciated.

Email ian at [ianpearson560@gmail.com](mailto:ianpearson560@gmail.com)



the last word

*"It's not how much you give but how much we put into giving."*

Mother Teresa

The newsletter is edited by Scott Milburn.

News items, notices and upcoming events can be submitted to [scottm33@live.ca](mailto:scottm33@live.ca).  
Articles that cannot be accommodated in the newsletter will be forwarded to the Journal Editor.