



Newsletter for January 2025

The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962



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

2025 Executive

Duncan Johnstone
President

David Dorward
1st Vice-President

Janet MacKay
2nd Vice-President

Gary Lenius
Secretary/Treasurer

Andy Traverse
Past President

Scott Paget
Ottawa Chapter Chair

Jim Qualtrough
Annual Show Chair

Andy Traverse
Program Chair

VACANT
Technical Committee Chair

Next Toronto chapter meeting

Sunday, January 12th, 2025

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

This months speaker is David Dorward and his topic will be Baron von Richthofen
(aka the Red Baron)



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 January 21, 2025 @ 7pm

Virtual meetings are open to all OMSS and BMSS members.
The show and tell topic is TBA.



contact Bob Thompson at thompson_robert@rogers.com
for an email invitation to the meeting or more details

British Model Soldier Society's

Monthly Virtual meeting

Friday January 17th, 2025 @ 7pm GMT

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

for those interested in attending;

Contact James Opie at jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk



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
- Mail a cheque to : **OMSS at 43 Saugeen Cres., Toronto ON, M1K 3M8**
- ETransfer: Send it to the email address: treasurer@omss.ca
- PayPal: send it to the club email address: omss@bell.net



President's Message

In my first message as the new President of the OMSS for 2025 I wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope that everyone's festive season was not marred by too much excess.

The December AGM and Christmas lunch was well attended and successful, and we even came out a little ahead. The new constitution and bylaws were approved. Many thanks and congratulations to those who helped to organize the event.

Many thanks also to outgoing President Andy Traverse and the 2024 executive who took us through a year marked by many changes for our Society. As was said by Jefferson of Franklin, "I merely succeed him, I cannot replace him."

We look forward to our annual show in June at the Franklin Horner Community Centre, which will be our second at that location, and we anticipate that it will be as great or an even greater success as it was last year under the capable direction of our 'On Parade' chair, Jim Qualtrough,

We also look forward to our first two guest speakers for 2025: in January David Dorward, our new first Vice-President will give a presentation on the Red Baron; and in February outgoing president Andy Traverse will share his experiences with the Dam Busters, the inmates of Colditz and the denizens of the flak towers. We also anticipate that Eric Shaw will produce another informative and entertaining presentation in 2025.

Your executive committee would like to hear from anyone who is willing to take on the roles of: Chair of the Technical Committee; as Tom Wright has had to step down for personal reasons, and also: Program Director, currently being filled by Andy Traverse on a pro. tem. basis. We also extend a warm welcome to our new Second Vice-President, Janet Mackay who we anticipate will be a real asset.

Best wishes to you all and see you at the meeting.

Duncan Johnstone, OMSS President



Past President's report for 2024

As I begin to pass the torch to my good friend and OMSS Executive colleague Duncan Johnstone, my thoughts are focused on the progress made in 2024 by our Society. For that reason, it is necessary to summarize the achievements. It was a banner year beginning with a packed speakers line up for the monthly meetings. We proved that within the OMSS, there continues to be a wealth of knowledge and that members are very willing to step up and present first-class lectures. I use the term lectures as it reflects the consistent depth of quality material and preparedness.

The Ontario Not-For Profit Act registration and compliance, together with a new Constitution and By-law, involved a lengthy process and was completed in good order with unanimous support from the general membership.

On Parade was a resounding success and now we seem to have a new venue for future annual shows.

I wish Duncan the best of luck as our new President.

Andy Traverse, OMSS Past President

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 continue to receive timely information from us





The Annual General meeting
of the Ontario Model Soldier Society
was held on Sunday December 15, 2024

and the following will be your executive committee members for 2025

2024 Executive Committee

President - Duncan Johnstone



Executive Committee Officers

- 1st Vice-President – David Dorward
- 2nd Vice President – Janet MacKay
- Secretary/Treasurer – Gary Lenius
- Past President – Andy Traverse

At large executive committee members

- Ottawa Chapter Chair – Scott Paget
- Annual Show Chair – Jim Qualtrough
- Programme Chair – Andy Traverse
- Technology Committee Chair – VACANT

Key Club Positions

- Chief Competition Judge – Keith Ritchie
- Club Table and Donations – Jeff Duncan
- Annual Calendar Manager – Frank MacKay
- Club Archivist – Ian Pearson
- Facebook Manager – Dave Norman

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)**

Toronto Chapter's December Meeting — OMSS Annual General Meeting and Christmas Luncheon

It was certainly a busy gathering on December 15 with a great turnout and lots of happenings. In addition to some great deals at the vendors tables prior to the start of the official meeting, voting at the Annual General meeting (which included Proxy votes sent in by members unable to attend in person) took place and approved the Society's revised by-laws and constitution. Andy thanked past president Scott Milburn for initiating the review in 2023 and Lorne Farr for his hard work over the past 12 months gathering input and updating the document. Andy reminded members that it has been over a decade since the document was last revised and is intended to be a 'living' document' which will continue to be updated occasionally as needed to remain current to meet the need's of the OMSS and it's members. A vote was also held to elect the 2025 executive committee which was also passed. Thank you to all those that stepped up to help out the Society. Following the AGM, the annual Christmas luncheon was held with over 40 members and their better halves in attendance. A large number of gifts were raffled off that included a couple of gift cards and gifts donated by Ed Tansley, a long time member who sadly passed away in 2024.



It was wonderful to see so many members travel from far and wide for the AGM and luncheon including Mark Hilash who travelled from Ottawa and Eric Shaw who drove all the way from Chatham for the get-together.

Andy Traverse also presented the Bryan Gibbons award to Jim Qualtrough. In addition to being a past president of the OMSS and a voice of reason too many in the society, Jim was the new show chair for On Parade 2024 that saw a whole new venue to be managed for the show. Well deserved and congratulations to Jim.

Jim Qualtrough receiving the Bryan Gibbons plaque and medal from OMSS president, Andy Traverse.

History of the Bryan Gibbons Award

The Bryan Gibbons Award is presented to the OMSS member who by their actions goes above and beyond contributing towards the betterment of the Society. Bry-an Gibbins is a former president (1969) who proposed the award and donated the plaque. The current president selects the annual recipient of this prestigious award which is presented at the Societies annual Christmas Luncheon.

Past Recipients of the Bryan Gibbons Award

2013 - Harold Morrison
2014 - Gail Stone
2015 - Tom Elliot
2016 - Scott Dummitt
2017 - Brendan Hogan

2018 - Jeff Duncan
2019 - Robert Thompson
2020-2022 - Gary Lenius
2023—Ian Pearson



Ottawa Chapter's December Meeting

There was no in person meeting in December for the Ottawa Chapter due to the overlap with Christmas holidays. In person meetings will resume on Tuesday January 21.

December's Virtual Meeting

On Tuesday December 17 a well attended Zoom meeting was chaired by Bob Thompson. OMSS members from far and wide joined in, including OMSS member Andrew Stevenson who kept everyone laughing from 'over the pond' despite being past midnight in England. In addition to the latest club news, hobby updates, buy and sell, the Show and Tell topic was "Christmas". Several attendees showed their Christmas related figures and diorama's as well as other interesting projects they are presently working on.



A small sample of Steve A's Christmas Diorama of 54mm figures



'Santa on a Sherman' assembled and painted model kit



Santa on a motorbike. Previously released and now retired from King and Country



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

Jim Qualtrough , 'On Parade' Show Chair

From the Calendar Committee

The Calendar Committee is proud to announce that the 2025 OMSS Calendar will be available for pickup at the January meeting.



All members are urged to pick up their copy early in order to save the club the high cost of postage. If you live near someone who will not be attending, please collect their copy and deliver it to them, it will save the club a lot of money, which helps keep your membership costs low.

The Committee will be stood down until April, at which time we will be ramping up for the 2026 edition and signing on new recruits--if you'd like to be involved, we have a job for you!

Frank MacKay

You've gotta check this out!



Ian Pearson shared this great website for old photos and information of uniforms from the past for your next project.

A Virtual Museum of Victorian-Era British Military Photographs & Associated Research

<https://www.soldiersofthequeen.com/>

The Newsletter and Journal need your Help!



We need your stories to keep the newsletter and Journal magazine interesting and engaging for our members.

Write about anything hobby related, just a few sentences or a few pages, whatever you wish.

We are interested in stories and photos such as;

- Hobby related techniques, tips and tricks; painting and cleaning model soldiers, building displays and dioramas, etc.
- New hobby products and tools on the market
- Historical events and related model soldiers
- Personal historical trips or museum visits
- What's happening news ,upcoming events, events you attended,

Everyone has a story to tell: Contact the newsletter editor Scott Milburn at scottm33@live.ca or

Ian Pearson, Journal editor at Ian.Pearson560@gmail.com if you wish to contribute an article.



For the latest Society and hobby news and information;
Follow the Ontario Model Soldier Society on Facebook



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



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



LAST CHANCE — 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, OMSS Treasurer, at gary_lenius@sympatico.ca via e transfer, or cash, indicating it is for the OMSS history book prior to **January 8, 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.



the last word

"Don't Find Fault, Find a Remedy; Anybody can complain"

Henry Ford

The newsletter is edited by Scott Milburn.

News items, notices and upcoming events can be submitted to scottm33@live.ca.