



# Newsletter for March 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

**Steve Alexander**  
Ottawa Chapter Chair

**Jim Qualtrough**  
Annual Show Chair

**Andy Traverse**  
Program Chair

**VACANT**  
Technical Committee Chair

### Next Toronto chapter meeting

**Sunday, March 9th, 2025**

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



This month's speaker is Andy Traverse who will be speaking about his recent European trip and tours of Colditz Castle Prison and Dambusters sites postponed from the February meeting.

### Next Ottawa chapter meeting

**Tuesday March 25, 2025 @ 7pm**

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



### Next OMSS Virtual meeting

**Tuesday March 18, 2025 @ 7pm**

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



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

### BMSS Monthly Virtual meeting

**Friday March 7th, 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](mailto:jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk)  
for an email invitation to the meeting or more details.



### Time is running out 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](mailto:treasurer@omss.ca)
- PayPal: send it to the club email address: [omss@bell.net](mailto:omss@bell.net)



## President's Message

Greetings to all as we bid a relieved farewell to February and its repeated blasts of winter, with the probably vain hope that March will be any less brutal.

As ever we look forward to our annual show in June and to the displays, the competition, the vendors and, speaking for myself, all the new figures that Britains will no doubt have on display, new offerings for the Revolution, U.S. Civil War and Second World War.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the February meeting because I was on a cruise in the Caribbean. One of the stops was at Old San Juan, Puerto Rico where sadly I was only able to see one of two massive Spanish-built forts; Fort San Felipe del Morro (in English, St. Philip of Snout Bluff) and Fort San Cristobal. On arrival at St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands I found the 1672-Danish-built Fort Christian, a compact, casemated, four-bastioned square fort ( more recently repurposed as the island's only jail ). It was not on the cruise ship's shore excursions itinerary, although as is the case with all cruise lines, considerable effort is made to connect travellers with high-end duty-free jewelry and art. No model soldier stores, sadly, but I did find a very nice bookstore with some interesting books on Caribbean history.

Anyway, after one week in the warm Caribbean sun here we are back in the frozen north.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the March meeting!

Warmest regards,  
Duncan Johnstone  
OMSS President 2025

I was saddened to see a notice in the Army Historical Research Journal (Number 411) of the death of Rene Chartrand. Rene worked for many years for Parks Canada and wrote over fifty books, many of them on Canadian Military Uniforms. He was a good fellow and always replied to my inquiries about uniforms. It is hard to replace people like Rene.

Thank you!

Jill Shakley for James Shakley

# ON PARADE 2025

*presented by the*  
**Ontario Model Soldier Society**

**Saturday June 7, 2025**

9 am to 3 pm

Admission \$10  
(children under 12 free)

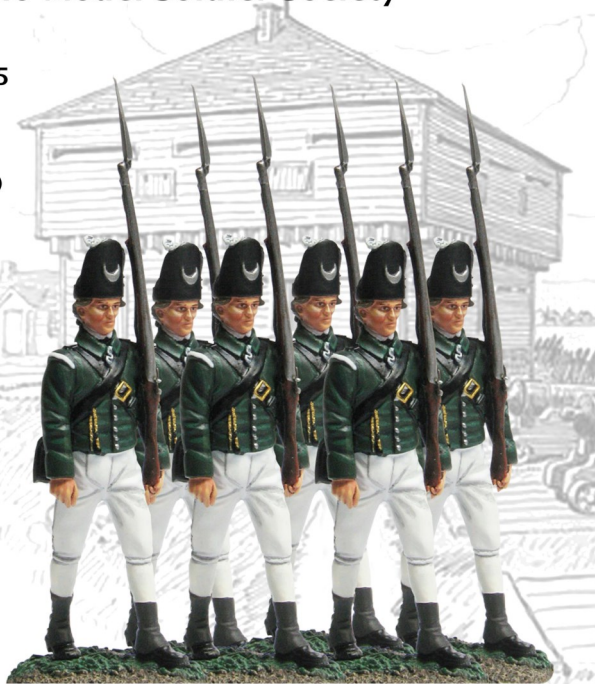
**Massed displays of  
Model Soldiers in  
Military Parades,  
Bands and  
Dioramas**

Highly detailed  
connoisseur figures

1/6 scale action  
figures

Large vendor area

Show includes our  
open modelling  
competition.



***Canada's Largest Model Soldier Show***

**Franklin Horner Community Centre  
432 Horner Avenue, Toronto (Etobicoke)  
M8W 2B2**

Show details at [www.omss.ca](http://www.omss.ca)  
Show contact: Jim Qualtrough 416-543-0873  
email [omss@bell.net](mailto:omss@bell.net)

## Toronto Chapter's February Meeting

A report from a hearty soul who through snow, sleet, gao! force winds made it to the meeting. (Jeff Duncan).

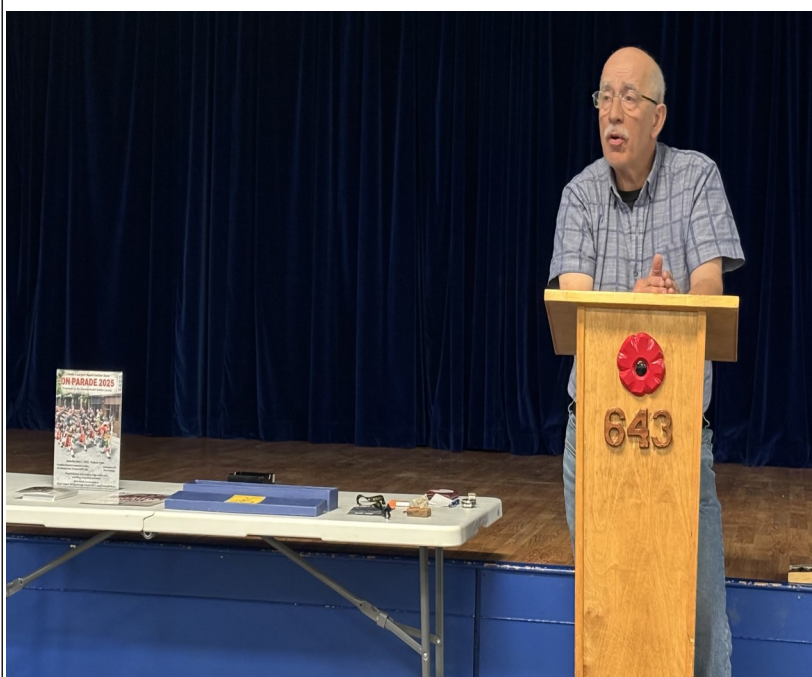
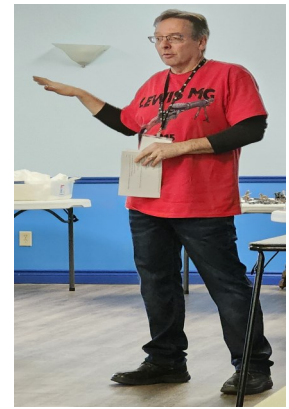
Driving home from the February 9th OMSS meeting, I heard on the radio that the snowfall the night before was the single largest one day snowfall in Toronto since March 2023. We had 15 dedicated souls that made it to the meeting. All of the usual far east and far west attendees did not show up due to the weather.

I am the fill-in for who wants to be the guest fill-in for the usual newsletter, editor, so any errors in admissions can be sent to me directly! The meeting was hosted by the vice president, David Dorward. Andy Traverse was going to be giving a presentation on his recent trips to Europe to do with the Allied air campaign during World War Two. It was decided to postpone that to enable more of our members to hear the presentation next month.

As a "teaser" we did speak a little bit about the great escape and some related items as Andy had recently visited the prison of war camp where that took place in Poland. Andy did do a very interesting talk on dentistry in the military, and how it became to be a standard arm of most armed services. This primarily in more modern times was due to the fact of how many British-enlisted men were out of action during the Boer war and the beginning of World War I.

Interestingly, at the beginning of World War I, Canada was further advanced and had a dedicated dental corps. Andy related that the British started the dental service during World War I when Alexander Haig required some dental work. To his surprise there was no one that could work on him and he had to actually go to Paris for his work to be completed.

You can check our website as Gary has completed the poster for our on parade show for 2025 and it looks fantastic. What I thought was a good touch was that the cover photo was actually of a toy soldier band that one of our members did and not just a mass produced standard item.



Andy also regaled us with some stories from his very recent trip to Argentina. As part of that trip, he met up with Roberto Lodoli, a toy soldier vendor that is located in Buenos Aries the capital of Argentina. Andy brought back the Hiriart toy soldier version of a tiger hunt set (see Page 4). It was really cool and I was really jealous! As well when you see Andy in March, you can ask him about his official use of his OMSS name tag to get him through a military checkpoint, a great yarn!

# It Was Spotted at the February Meeting.



Hiriart toy soldier version of a tiger hunt set.



1901 vintage Britains Ltd Dublin Fusiler Set 109 Boer War.



Britains Ltd Police Boat and 2 men.



Linoel made in Germany composition mounted and marching British troops with metal Union Jack vintage 1930's.



One of Andy's finds in Argentina.

## Jeff Duncan awarded King Charles III Coronation Medal!



Recognition – Town of Erin ward 9 councillor Jeff Duncan (second from right), was presented with a King Charles III Coronation Medal at a ceremony held at the Acton Town Hall Centre. Duncan was recognized for being a local community heritage advocate for over 20 years. From left: MPP Ted Arnott, Wellington County Warden Chris White, Jeff Duncan and MP Michael Chong.

### Press Release: Wellington County Councillor Jeff Duncan Receives King Charles III Coronation Medal

**Acton, Ont.-** Mr. Jeff Duncan, Wellington County Councillor for Ward 9, was presented with a King Charles III Coronation Medal from The Honourable Michael Chong, Member of Parliament for Wellington-Halton Hills, at a ceremony held at the Acton Town Hall Centre.

The Coronation Medal, a Canadian honour, commemorates the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III as King of Canada. To be an eligible candidate, one must have made a significant contribution to Canada or to a particular province, territory, region, or community of Canada, or have made an outstanding achievement abroad that brings credit to Canada.

Councillor Duncan has been a local community heritage advocate for over 20 years. By engaging and providing leadership with local volunteers, municipal staff, elected officials and the broader community, Councillor Duncan's advocacy will ensure that local heritage can continue to be appreciated for future generations.

“On behalf of County Council, our staff, and the residents of Wellington County, I extend my sincere congratulations to Councillor Jeff Duncan,” said County Warden Chris White. “This distinguished honour recognizes your dedication, unwavering commitment and the profound impact you have made on your community and the County.”

***Congratulations Jeff from your all your friends at the OMSS.  
It is a well deserved honour!***





## What's New in the Hobby

By Scott Dummitt will be discontinued. **Thank you Scott** for providing the latest updates about the industry for many years.

### Visit to **Batoche** Saskatchewan

By Alex Monsour

Last September, while visiting our daughter in Saskatoon, we drove up to Batoche, the National Park of the battlefield site. It was here that the Metis under the leadership of Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont fought against Canadian government forces under Major-General Middleton in May 1885. The site is well maintained and considered a place of tribute by the Metis peoples of today. At the time, Batoche was an important trading station and ferry depot along the TransCanada highway that went from Fort Garry in Manitoba to Fort Edmonton. It was interesting to learn that the Metis farms had been set up as long strips along the Saskatchewan river based on the New France settlements. This layout clashed with the Ottawa bureaucrats that had carved the prairies into squares for settlement. The Metis were considered to be squatters by the Federal government and had to be removed. Although the Metis held out for 4 days they were badly outnumbered and outgunned. Riel was hanged for his involvement. Dumont escaped to work in Buffalo Bill's Wild West show and eventually actually pardoned. As we know, both are now considered heroes especially in Saskatchewan.



Behind me were the Metis positions during the battle.



Saint Antoine de Padoue Church

The church and the rectory are the only buildings remaining from 1885. The priest surrendered both immediately to Middleton upon his arrival and they were spared in the battle.

The gravesite of the 8 Metis killed in the battle. Descendants of those who were involved may also request burial in the cemetery.





This is the old TransCanada highway with the ferry crossing just ahead. To the right are foundations of the some of the businesses that existed in 1885. Further along you can still see the ruts from the wagons that traveled the highway.



In the visitor centre, I was surprised to see this display. It is a diorama of the last day of the battle made up of toy soldiers. High quality matte figures not some amateurish glossy types. (Jeff!)



## Toronto Meeting Vendors Reminder

**Vendors at the Toronto monthly meetings are limited to two tables maximum.**

This is in order to accommodate as many members as possible who want a table and so that we do not run out of tables or space. Some vendors travel a great distance to make their products available to the members, as a result we encourage all vendors to treat each other with consideration.

Also, it is suggested that the prices of the items be displayed.

The monthly meeting flea market is one of the highlights of our meetings and for many, a significant part of their collections is made up of treasures obtained from fellow Society members at these sales.



**Advertise your business  
in the  
Journal or the Newsletter**

**Advertising space is now available!**

**Reach members of the Toy soldier collecting community by  
advertising in an OMSS publication**

We can accommodate virtually any size of advertisement up to a full page

Contact the newsletter editor for pricing and more information

**[scottm33@live.ca](mailto:scottm33@live.ca)**





# The Quartermaster's Store

Nothing this month.



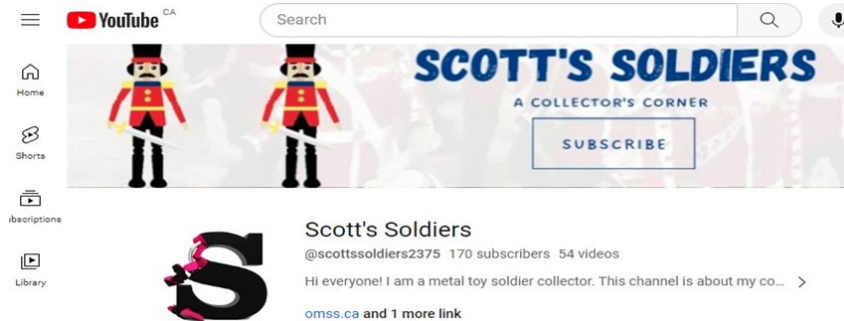
On February 22nd, several Club members participated in an online meeting with a newly formed group **International Toy Soldier Club** which is being facilitated by Andrew Stevenson of Replica's Miniatures in the UK. This is a more informal group with the ability to post comments and photos on their website [www.internationaltoysoldier.club](http://www.internationaltoysoldier.club). There were Brits, Yanks and Canucks on it with some good humourous discussions . My camera and mic died during the meeting which really limits one's participation (new one on order now). But still great to see a new initiative in our global hobby.

Alex Monsour



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

**If you like watching videos, don't forget to check out; Scott's Soldiers on YouTube hosted by our very own Scott Paget (OMSS Ottawa)**



The newsletter is normally edited by Scott Milburn. He is off on a well deserved vacation and cruise. This month is brought to you by Alex Monsour who hopes he did not "gloss" over any important topics.

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.



the last word

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.