



Newsletter for April 2025

The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962



Next Toronto chapter meeting Sunday, April 13th, 2025

Doors open at 11:00 am, meeting starts at
12:30pm

Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion
110 Jutland Road Etobicoke

April's speaker will be Gregory Loughton—Curator Emeritus of the Royal Canadian Military Institute
Gregory will speak about the history of the RCMI Museum and important aspects of the collection including Lt. Govenors Hal Jackman's toy soldier collection



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 Ottawa chapter meeting Tuesday April 29, 2025 @ 7pm

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



Next OMSS Virtual meeting Tuesday April 15, 2025 @ 7pm

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

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



BMSS Monthly Virtual meeting Friday May 16th, 2025 @ 7pm GMT (that's 2pm for most of us in Ontario)

The topic will be "Military Pageant"

for those interested in attending;

Contact James Opie at jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk





President's Message

Happy Easter to all.

Our March meeting was enhanced by an audio and video presentation by David Dorward on the 45th Rattray's Sikhs, which regiment still exists in the Indian Army and whose original founder and CO had a most unusual recruiting method.

The annual Heritage.con show took place at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton on March 23, 2025, and happily was well attended by members of our Society. An absolute mecca for WW2 plastic model kit enthusiasts and an abundance of painting and modelling supplies. Large numbers of books as well, again mostly on Second and First world war topics. The over \$20.00 admission fee was worth it for those whose interests run even slightly in that direction. To say it was well attended does not adequately describe the event: it more closely resembled the evacuation of Saigon.

We are down to just over the last two months before our annual show and look forward to its success.

Also looking forward to seeing everyone at the April meeting.

All the best,
Duncan Johnstone

Get working on your competition entries.

June isn't very far away!

For more details about the show and competition visit the Society's website for the latest information.

WWW.OMSS.CA



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
Show contact: Jim Qualtrough 416-543-0873
email omss@bell.net

Toronto Chapter's March Meeting



David Dorward delivered an engaging and interesting presentation on a very unique topic; In 1856, Captain Thomas Rattray of the British Indian Army, raised the 45th Rattrays Sikhs Battalion by wrestling village champions in the Punjab and because of the connection of the Rattrays, a Perthshire Clan and the battalion which has the oldest or one of the oldest Sikh pipe bands, Tradition of London has created a model soldier set of the band drummers.

If you are interested in learning more check out the following YouTube video; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tv58TwKRzmQ>



SRI Dasmesh Pipes and Drums performing in Perthshire Scotland home of the Rattray clan



Tradition of London set of 45th Rattray drummers. Still available at **Scott J Dummit Presents**



During Show and Tell, **Jeff Duncan** showed his recent acquisition of the OMSS limited edition "Jacob the Goose, which a few are still available from **Replica Metal Soldiers and Models**.



John Hambly did an interesting talk on different possibilities to display a model soldier



Ottawa Chapter's March Meeting



Photos are from February meeting

The room at the Barley Mow was full with around 16 enthusiastic attendees

The chair/host was Alan MacDonald and the show and tell topic was *"Tanks and Armoured Vehicles"*.

The following updates were shared with attendees;

OMSS Zoom Meetings – Bob still needs help to run the OMSS Zoom meetings

– Julian has volunteered to lend an hand



Ottawa Attendees at On Parade – June 07 – This year we are on our own to find hotel accommodations. We're looking for a volunteer who could research local accommodations, and secure a block of rooms for OMSS participants. (Each participant would still be required to reserve and pay for their room directly with the hotel.)
– Any volunteers?

Ottawa Chapter Help – Bob is still Looking for volunteers to help organize OMSS Ottawa Meetings, and other aspects of running the Ottawa Chapter. We need to establish a roster of Meeting Hosts (Julian and John Shives volunteered to help)
Any further volunteers?



Photos are from February meeting

Hobby News— **U.S. Boycott - Buy Canadian?** - Lots of discussion about what is new. The situation is becoming more critical.

OMSS Ottawa Special Projects – 4 potential special projects are on the go – each needs a volunteer to champion the project

1. Dave Waddell mini show concept
2. Juan's Summer Open House
3. OMSS Online auction? (volunteer?)
4. Spring Trunk Sale (volunteer?)

UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:

- Prescott 2nd Annual Model Train Show – Saturday 12 April - Doug C & John S will be vendors
- Ottawa Military Heritage Show – Nepean Sportsplex – Saturday 26 April – Michael C, Bob T & Steve A vendors
- Aylmer Hobby Show – 26 and 27 April – note conflict with show above - OMSS Ottawa, Vendors & Exhibitors??
- OMSS Ottawa Monthly Meeting – Tuesday 29 April Volunteer Host?
- London Toy Soldier and Historical Figures Show- London, England 10 May
- Cangames (Gaming Convention) - May 16-18 – Ottawa Curling Club - Bob & Morley are vendors
- OMSS On Parade – Toronto – 7 June
- Military Hobby Show – Walkley Road Armoury – Tentative Date: Sunday June 15 – (Bob to speak on OMSS involvement in this Show)
- Chicagoland Toy Soldier Show – 28 September
- Ottawa Nostalgia Show – 19 October



Long time OMSS member **Norm Cuthbert** shared with us a tour he recently made of a artist who specializes in military art and dioramas.

Greetings fellow members, I hope you are all well. There are four members of the South Carolina Military Miniature Society here in Charlotte. Little did we know there was a man in the city that has been not only a military artist but makes dioramas on a grand scale. This came to light as a result of an article last fall in the Toy Soldier Collector and we made arrangements to tour his collection a couple of weeks ago.

Wow is putting it mildly. We visited his two sites and many rooms full of military art and dioramas. I will write a more detailed article for the Journal later but here is an example of what there is to see.



Dan Nance is his name. He said that if an appointment is made he will gladly give a tour. Look him up on his website at;
<https://www.dannance.com/>

Finally, I just want to give members a heads up that I have an article in the latest edition of Old Toy Soldier magazine. It is a first of a couple on Marching Formations for Military Bands. This one focuses on Great Britain and the Commonwealth. Great for the display of bands and parades.

On April 9, 2025, The Royal Canadian Legion's 1,350 Branches will lower their flags to half-mast in remembrance of those who fell during the **Battle of Vimy Ridge**.



This marks the 108th anniversary of the pivotal 1917 battle, where more than 3,500 Canadians lost their lives and nearly 7,000 were wounded. The victory at Vimy Ridge was a significant turning point in the First World War.

The Canadian National Vimy Memorial, which stands on land ceded to Canada by France in 1922, now serves as a place of solemn reflection and gratitude for all who served in the First World War.

To learn more go to; <https://vimyfoundation.ca/>

The Origins of the Music for O Canada *(submitted by Norm Cuthbert)*

A French Canadian whose name was Calixa Lavallee was a musician and composer. He was born in Vercheres Quebec on December 28, 1842. As a young boy he studied music and became an accomplished pianist and travelled the West Indies and Latin America with his musical talent.

Calixa travelled to Providence Rhode Island where on September 7, 1861 he signed with the 4th Rhode Island infantry Regiment. Being musical he served in the regimental band. He was discharged at Antietam Maryland because of a leg wound received during the battle.

Returning to Montreal he recovered and at the end of the Civil War he began to use his musical talents by playing in many United States cities.

He married Josephine Gentry in 1867 in Lowell Massachusetts. Some time was spent on Boston before moving to France. He eventually returned to Montreal where on June 24, 1880 he wrote the music to O Canada and it was first played on this date. It was a great success in French Canada. The French lyrics were written by Adolphe-Basile Routhier in 1880 and English lyrics were written in 1901 by Robert Stanley Weir. Lavallee went on many musical tours and it was on one of these in Boston that he passed away on January 22, 1891 at the age of 46.



The Newsletter and Journal needs your Help!



Many of the Society's members are unable to attend meetings in person. The club's newsletter and magazine are often their only way to stay up informed about club and hobby related activities.

We need your stories to keep the newsletter and Journal magazine interesting and keep our members connected with the club and the model soldier community.

Write about anything hobby related, just a few paragraphs or a few pages whatever you wish to contribute.

We need stories such as;

- Hobby techniques, tips and tricks; painting and cleaning model soldiers, building displays and dioramas
- 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.



The Quartermaster's Store



OMSS member Brian Ellis sent along the following;



Britains Collection for Sale : I am looking to find new homes for nearly 1000 model soldier figures collected in the 1980's and 1990's. The collection is primarily Britains figures in pristine condition from their Collectors Club, Limited Editions, and Special Collectors Edition box sets. I will retain a few of the boxed sets that are dear to me, but want the rest to be sold to those collectors who would appreciate them. I have inventoried the collection for OMSS members reference sake who may be interested. Please feel free to reach out to me for the sale details.



You can reach out to Brian at beellis@shaw.ca

In case you missed the inaugural on-line meeting, remember to check out;



The **International Toy Soldier Club** is an online club run by fans, for fans, and operates as a not-for-profit organisation.

<https://www.internationaltoysoldier.club/>



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



the last word

"If you listen, you learn; if you talk, you don't"

John Hurt (actor)

The newsletter is edited by Scott Milburn.

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