



Newsletter for May 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



Toronto chapter meeting Sunday, May 11th, 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 will be Andy Traverse
Andy will speak about the history of the Air War in Europe during World War II and his recent tour of related sites



Ottawa chapter meeting Tuesday May 27, 2025 @ 7pm

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



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;

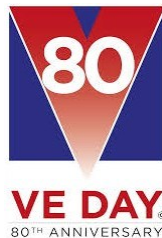


Contact James Opie at jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk



International Toy Soldier Club Virtual Meeting Saturday May 17th, @ 7pm (GMT)

(that's 2pm for most of us in Ontario)
The topic will be "Film Related Toy Soldiers and Figures"
for more information go to; www.internationaltoysoldier.club



OMSS Virtual meeting Tuesday May 20, 2025 @ 7pm

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



Happy Mother's Day to all our Mom's





President's Message

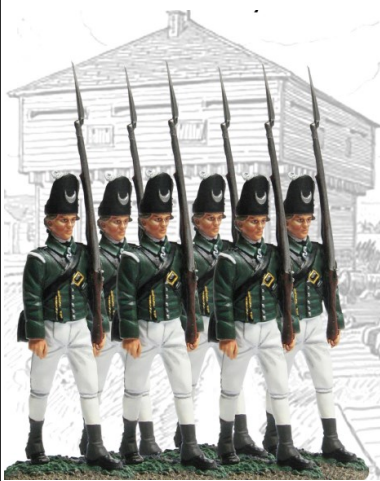
Now that we are into May and we are (hopefully) well and truly into Spring (and the endless excitement and hype over the election is apparently behind us, not that the times are going to become any less interesting), the push is on to get our submissions ready for the competition at, and our displays for the Annual Show on June 7.

I expect we will have plenty to show off, as I am certain that all of us have been working on our projects, large or small, over the winter. It is, after all, our major public event of the year, and if we want people to be interested and attract members of the public to the hobby, we should try, as we usually do, to put our best foot forward. This year we are planning to put some vendors in part of the space we had earmarked for display last year, as last year we found ourselves with some display space that was a bit underutilized. However, last year was our first at Horner Community Centre, so we had to adjust to having quite a bit more space than was the case at the Legion.

Many thanks to Gregory Loughton for his interesting, interactive and informative presentation on the Royal Canadian Military Institute Museum at the April meeting. The links between the OMSS and the RCMI go back many years and it was a great experience to be reminded of them.

I look forward to seeing you all at the May meeting, as well as my monthly opportunity to scrounge some more treasures for my own collection.

All the best,



On Parade Saturday June 7th update—*from Jim Qualtrough On Parade chair*

Helpers are needed 3pm until 6pm at the Franklin Horner Community Centre, 432 Horner Ave on Friday June 6th to help setup tables and assist vendors.

Helpers are required again 7am until 9am on Saturday to assist with final setup and vendors.

All Displays and competition entries must be setup by 12 noon on Saturday.

William Britains will be running their workshop again and will have a table in the vendor hall.

Toy Soldier Club from Quebec City will be attending in addition to many other vendors.

Scott Dummitt Presents will be holding his annual open house on Sunday June 8th for those travelling east from the show and looking for a rest stop. Details will be in the June newsletter.

We look forward to another successful show and it will be great to see everyone.

For those attending **On Parade 2025 and looking for overnight accommodations.**

Bob Thompson has arranged an OMSS group reservation for the On Parade weekend at the Stay Inn. A number of us have stayed here for the previous 2 years during On Parade weekends and found the accommodations quite good and the hotel is conveniently located close to the Franklin Horner Community Centre where On Parade is being held.

We have set aside a block of 10 rooms for OMSS members and you must book before May 24 to receive the reduced rate.

The group rate for OMSS members is \$209 plus taxes per night for a single King bed room, or \$219 plus taxes per night for a double Queen (2 beds) room. To book a room, contact the Stay Inn directly at the number below, and mention the O.M.S.S. group booking reservation. Reservations and payment are the responsibility of individuals, not the OMSS.



Stay Inn

560 Evans Avenue, Toronto, ON M8W 2W1

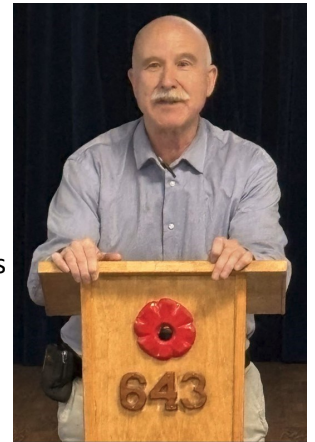
Telephone: 416-259-7899

Toronto Chapter's April Meeting Report



Front entrance of the Royal Canadian Military Institute

Gregory Loughton, curator emeritus of the Royal Canadian Military Institute's museum gave an interesting peek into the rich history of the RCMi as well as the history of its home. Gregory discussed why the RCMi was founded and by whom, its evolution, and club amenities available to members such as the club room, card room, library and overnight accommodations at greatly reduced rates (for the GTA).

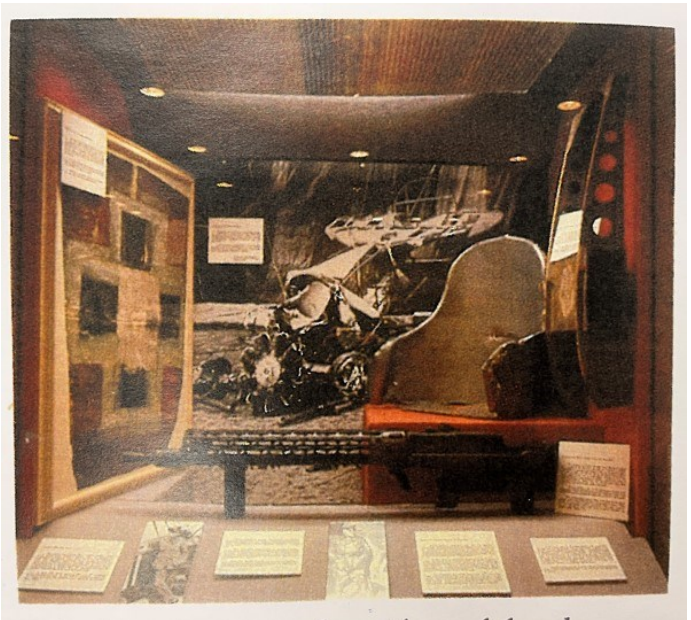


Gregory Loughton

Gregory also spoke about the vast archives and collections of the RCMi museum which includes features such as Lt. Governor Hal Jackman's toy soldier collection and parts from the Red Baron's plane he last flew and crash landed.



Lt. Governor Hal Jackman's Toy Soldier Collection



Display of the seat and parts from the Red Baron's

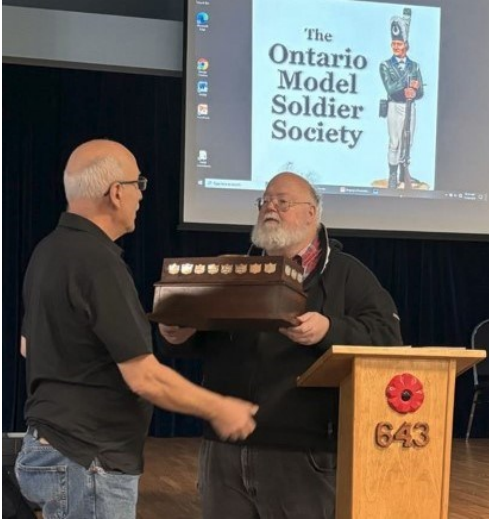


Norm White is presented with his 25 year pin by Gary Lenius and Duncan Johnstone



Vendors tables were busy with great deals offered by members like Steve Rollins

Toronto Chapter's April meeting report (conclusion)



Past President Andy Traverse hands over the OMSS Kukri, the Society's ceremonial symbol of presidential authority to our current president Duncan Johnstone. *(This was the first opportunity this year both were able to attend the same meeting at the same time).* To learn more about the history of the Society's Kukri, look for the story later in this newsletter.

Past President Andy Traverse is presented with the 'Presidential Print' by Gary Lenius and Duncan Johnstone on behalf of the Society's membership in appreciation of his service as club president.

By tradition, at the conclusion of their term in office, each President is given a limited-edition print of the Society's figure painted by the late Jim Risk. This is an honour reserved only for presidents of the OMSS as a humble but richly deserved thanks for their efforts.

The Society Print was first created in 1974. A Private of the Queen's Rangers was selected as the Society's logo. Peter Twist did the first rendering for position and stance of the figure. Jim Risk, another artist/member did the final rendering which became the official logo of OMSS.



Thanks to generous donations from members and the continuing hard work of Jeff Duncan, 'Club Table' sales were brisk with the proceeds going towards the Society's expenses.



Thanks to Elsie, the Legion's always smiling and helpful bartender keeps the meetings more enjoyable with refreshments.

The story behind the OMSS Presidential Kukri *(compiled by Ian Pearson)*

The Ontario Model Soldier Society is unique in the use of a KUKRI as a gavel to open and close our general meetings.



In 1974, Don Melhuish was presented with a genuine Gurkha kukri during an OMSS meeting at the Royal Canadian Military Institute. Colonel Heard (Curator of the RCMI museum) suggested using it as a gavel. That's how the presidential kukri came into being.

A beautiful wooden chest was made to hold the kukri and Colonel Heard made a knock plate from the wooden gun carriage of the two cannons that were outside the RCMI for years. The guns were made in 1854 so that piece of wood adds to the historic value. Frank MacKay, enlarged the chest to facilitate more name plaques of each past president.

Since that day, the kukri has been the insignia of the President, theirs to wield and keep order at our often-boisterous meetings. Handing it over to their successor is a president's last duty. It is a unique item that the OMSS possesses and we are very proud to carry on this tradition.

The Honour of the Kukri

The revered kukri is to Nepal and the Gurkhas what the Sword of Honor is to Britain and such military institutions as Sandhurst (where the Sword of Honor is awarded to top graduates). It is a symbol of great respect and high public regard for those fighting men who have passed with battlefield honors and special distinction in the military service of their regiments and country. For this reason the kukri has been adopted as the officer classes are distinguished in rank by differently graded kukris, and where a kukri is used to symbolize the King's presence.

For a soldier, to have a kukri, or to wear it in the form of an emblem, he must achieve more than other soldiers by getting into and distinguishing himself in the Gurkhas. He must be deserving of that honor and prove himself worthy of his kukri, from which in Nepal, he must never be parted, and he is under a moral obligation to use his kukri bravely in times of war.

The kukri is, in many respects, is the Gurkha soldier's honors degree. the kukri is such an honorable emblem or distinction through its legendary history that it is the stuff of legend and popular mythology, as well as a military distinction, and the spell that it casts is psychological. It is bigger than the man, representing much more than an all-purpose tool and military weapon.

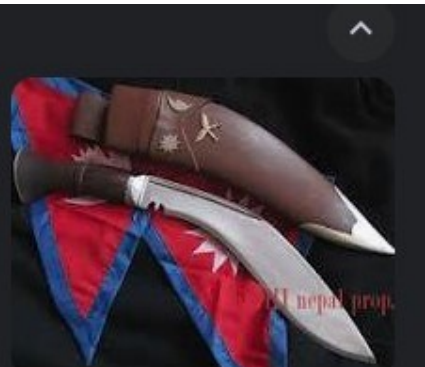
When the King's kukri is placed on his throne by his ministers or members of his family, the knife is transformed from a weapon of war into an emblem of peace and enchantment.

The spelling has been disputed (Kukri, Khukuri, Kukuri, Khukri, Kookuri etc) since someone first tried to describe this knife.

To learn more about the history of the Kukri , check out; <https://www.thekhukurihouse.com/the-honor-of-the-kukri>

What does the kukri knife symbolize?

"A man with a khukuri" represents a man with honor, dignity, courage, and loyalty. The shape of the blade represents the trinity symbols of "Brahma", "Vishnu" and "Shiva", the three most famous and influential Hindu Gods in Nepal. Kaudi (notch) signifies the powerful Hindu symbol "OM" and signifies the cow's hoof.



Ottawa Chapter's April Meeting

April's meeting was chaired by Steve H and the topic for the evening was 'Navy'

It was a special evening with Dennis DeRusha being presented with his 25 year OMSS membership pin

The meeting included a review of upcoming shows and events, collections for sale and other hobby related news and a large number of show and tell items (photos coming next month).

April was a busy month of events for Ottawa Chapter members including;

- Prescott Annual Model and Train show—April 12
- OMSS Virtual Meeting—April 15
- International Toy Soldier Club Virtual meeting—April 19
- BMSS Annual Show—April 26
- Ottawa Military Heritage Show—April 26
- Alymer Hobby Show—April 26 and 27



A few Ottawa chapter members congratulate Dennis DeRusha on receiving his 25 year membership pin

OMSS Virtual (Zoom) April Meeting



The meeting on April 15 was well attended with members from Ottawa and Toronto chapters as well as OMSS members in England, despite being 5 hours later (*now that's dedication to the hobby!*).

The topic was 'Medieval Knights' where many participants had the opportunity to show their favorite's including Ian Stevenson from

'over the pond' who kept everyone chuckling showing knights he found during his 'archaeological dig' of storage bins he had put away.





The Quartermaster's Store



Frank Barrett Collection for sale



Frank Barrett is looking to relocate his beloved toy soldiers to a new home to be enjoyed by others.

His collection includes Bastion, Britains (ancients, modern, limited editions, and plastic "eyes right"), CBG Mignot (Napoleonic), Ducal, Marlborough/Blenheim, Nostalgia, Soldiers' Soldiers, Steadfast and Tradition. Many are still in their original boxes.

One of his prized possessions is the Marlborough Delhi Durbar series. He has the entire procession of elephants, handlers, regiments, and accessories.

Frank also has a collection of military bands (foot and mounted) casted by Toronto's Gord Dumbleton, that Frank counted as some of his favourite figures.



Our aim is to sell to likeminded collectors either in entirety or by maker brand.

Please reach out Frank's son Grant at;
Grantbarrett3@hotmail.com
or (647)928-4961 with any enquiries.



The international toy soldier club held its third video call club meeting on the 19th of April. It was again well attended with 14 members dialling in from all over the UK, Canada and the US.

As usual, there was lots of toy soldier talk with Ian Stevenson revealing yet another box of goodies from under his bed. The call was quite informal and topics for discussion were varied ranging from new releases, techniques, military films and other such topics. Our next call is scheduled for Saturday, the 17th of May at 7 pm GMT plus one. Following on from a lively discussion of military films, we decided that the next meeting would have a themed show and tell : Toy Soldiers and figures that a film related! This should be fun!

Membership of the ITSC is free and gives enthusiasts the opportunity to engage with fellow collectors across the globe.



the last word

"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take"

Wayne Gretzky

The newsletter is edited by Scott Milburn.

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