



Newsletter for June 2026

The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962



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

2026 Executive

Victor Rudik
President

Eric Shaw
1st Vice-President

Janet MacKay
2nd Vice-President

Gary Lenius
Secretary/Treasurer

Duncan Johnstone
Past President

Steve Alexander
Ottawa Chapter Chair

Jim Qualtrough
Annual Show Chair

Andy Traverse
Program Chair

VACANT
Technical Committee Chair

Canada's Largest Model Soldier Show

ON PARADE 2026

Presented by the Ontario Model Soldier Society

Saturday June 13, 2026
9 am to 3 pm

Admission \$10
Free Parking

Franklin Horner Community Centre
432 Horner Ave. Toronto (Etobicoke) M8W 2B2

Massed displays of toy soldiers, large vendor area, modelling competition and more.

Show details at www.omss.ca
Show Contact: Jim Qualtrough 416-543-0873 email: omss@bell.net

Look further in the newsletter for more details and information

OMSS Virtual meeting

Unfortunately, meetings are **Cancelled until further notice** due to lack of volunteers to help run the meeting



Ottawa Chapter meeting

Tuesday June 30th, 2026 @ 7pm

The Barley Mow, 1541 Merivale Road, Ottawa
The topic is "Japanese"



International Toy Soldiers Club Virtual Meeting

Friday June 12th, 2026 @ 7pm GMT

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

Contact HQ@replicametalsoldiers.co.uk for an invitation



BMSS Monthly Virtual meeting

Friday June 19th 2026 @ 7pm GMT

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

This month's topic is "open meeting"

Contact: Jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk for more details.



President's Message



Hey Everyone,

Are you counting down the days to the OMSS "On Parade" Show like I am? As I write this (at the last minute...) there are only 10 days left. Again, I remind members that traffic might be messy due to the first World Cup match the day before. For those helping to set up on Friday June 12th at 4pm, give yourselves lots of time! And who knows what traffic will be like the next day for the show. Hopefully, a lot lighter.

Ok, on to happier thoughts! We have a full show coming up, including model competition, wargamers, kids' painting table, and a ton of vendors!

While I am a "crazy collector" and will roam the vending tables for interesting 1/72, HO and similar stuff, I ALWAYS take time to look at the beautiful work of everyone who submits an entry to the modeling competition. It doesn't matter the scale or subject, these are each an absolute work of art! Perhaps some will find a place in a museum, or at least in a place of honour in the maker's home. And each one is also a trophy of patience and skill. For that alone, I salute you all!

And as I mentioned before, we have wargamers this year! Like HG Wells did so long ago (read his Little Wars), they will be showing us another fun aspect of our hobby. A quick search of the internet will also show you that wargaming is greatly popular all over the world and has a surprisingly large number of celebrities who do it. So get your Napoleon (or Hannibal) hat on, and enjoy!

Cheers!

Victor Rudik, OMSS President

OMSS 'On Parade' Annual Show 2026 Final Update

We have all **48 vendors** tables booked up and we are ready to go with another exciting show and competition.

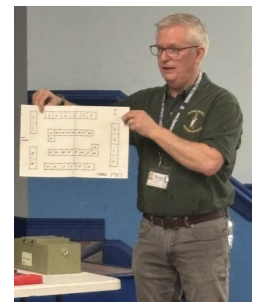
Our featured workshop this year is the **Hamilton Wargamers** who will have a display going on in our breakout room. I have heard from numerous people regarding setting up their larger displays for the Competition area, so anticipate some super presentations.

The Horner Centre is not putting on 'breakfast' this year, they will only be selling lunch and refreshments, so make sure you bring a bagel or breakfast sandwich and a coffee with you to keep energized until the volunteers arrive and fire up the kitchen.

Last Call for members to bring in a display or diorama of your collection. It's an opportunity to share with others your favourite pieces or something unique from your collection.

A reminder to all competition entrants that entries must be setup by 12:00 noon to allow time for the judges to review and score all entries.

Jim Qualtrough, OMSS Show Chair

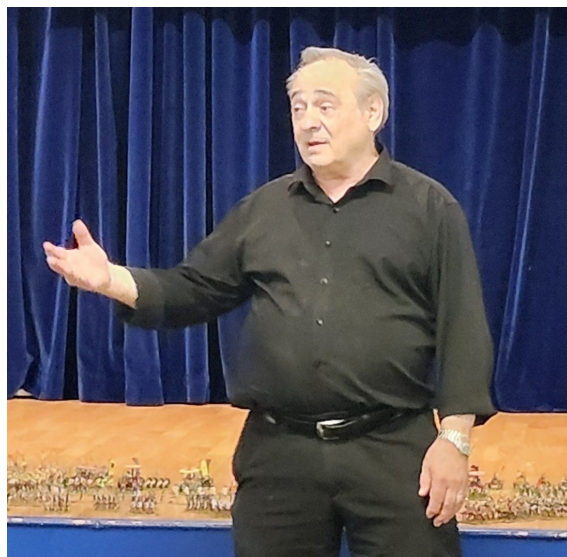


Franklin Horner Community Centre
432 Horner Ave, Toronto (Etobicoke)
M5W 2B2

The centre is east of Browns Line, south of the Gardiners Expressway and north of Lakeshore Blvd West

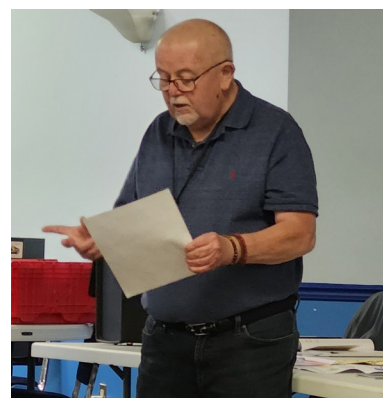
Toronto Chapter's May Meeting

Thanks to Jeff Duncan for the photos



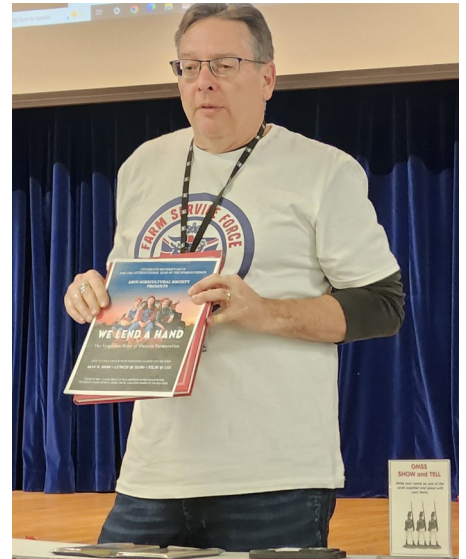
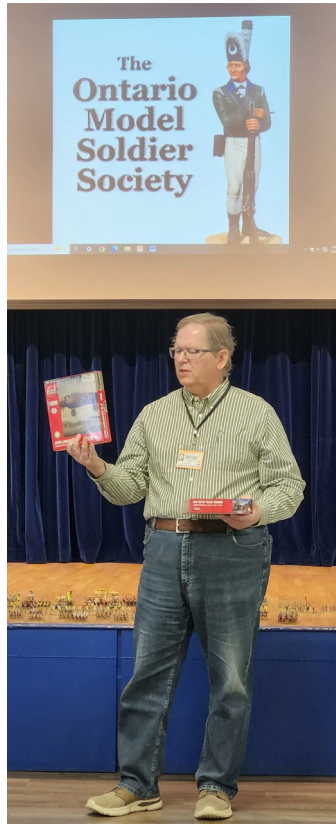
Dan Stapleton did a very interesting presentation on how a gift from his mom when he was a child started his interest in toy soldier collecting, the toy soldier store he used to own, dioramas he has been commissioned to build for movies and his own collection of toy soldiers.

As usual, there were quite a view deals to be had at the vendors table which generated a lot of interest.

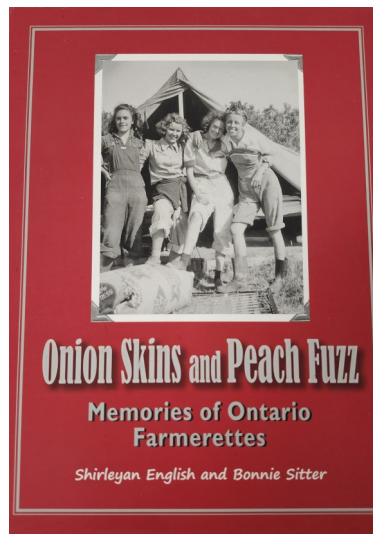


Above, Paul Thompson speaks to attendees about opportunities and his efforts to advertise for the OMSS and "On Parade"

Toronto Chapter's May Meeting *(continued)*



Jeff Duncan spoke about an intriguing theatrical play he attended about women who were 'drafted' into farming in WWII based on the book "Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz"



During 'Show and Tell', Gary Lenius showed us some unique "Airfix" puzzles he came across in a store



Alan Macdonald (sorry we didn't get a photo) and Steve Alexander from the Ottawa Chapter dropped in to the Toronto meeting. Steve setup a vendors table with some unique items including 'lego like' miniature toy soldiers which generated a lot of interest.

Ottawa Chapter's May Meeting

Thanks to Doug C for submitting this report and Julian for providing the photos

OMSS OTTAWA BRANCH Meeting Tuesday 26 May 2026

The meeting was well attended with 19 members and friends present



Eric Shaw and his son visited from the Toronto OMSS HQ and he brought some interesting displays

He and Juan Lopez showed 5 Japanese approximately 1/6 scale figures with heads and rifles made by Juan

Eric had the wood and cloth figures and Juan used his 3D printer to make the heads and weapons

The show and tell topic was 'Axis Powers in WW2' and it resulted in a plethora of figures both on and off topic

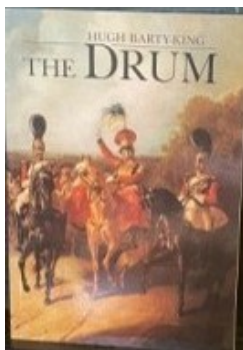
Paul T had 3 of his miniature battleships, Kirishima, Andrea Doria and Bismarck in 1/2400 scale, see the Ottawa Chapter May 2026 minutes for stories about these ships.



Kelly H showed his Britains figures of 1935 Italian Bersaglieri, a famous elite unit of the Italian Army who were famous for their distinctive feathered helmets



Dennis D brought in some 24mm kits of Chinese Soldiers he found at Walmart!



For the musicians out there, Morley V showed a book titled "The Drum" the history of military drumming



Julian B displayed several 1/6th WW2 figures



A good time was had by all. Please see details and more photos in the May Monthly Minutes.

Countdown to On Parade 2026: Reminders for Entrants

Keith C. Ritchie, Head Judge



We are less than two weeks away from the annual On Parade show, and I would like to provide some insights, reminders, and hints to all who plan to show their works at the show.

First, we do welcome – and want – displays. Everyone spends a lot of time with the vendors. But the club also offers so much more, in terms of wargaming demonstrations, children's toy soldier painting, presentations and – of course, displays by members and others. And while everyone appreciates competition, and wants to see the best efforts, we also welcome displays that are not for competition. Just remember to check the Display Only box on the form.

There are some changes in the judging team, but otherwise the rules remain unchanged from the past two years and largely unchanged from the rules used for more than a decade and which have evolved over the OMSS' 60+-year history.

I remain as the head judge, but Ian Pearson is returning as a judge, and he was one member of the head judging team for over a decade – I welcome his knowledge and experience back. Andy Traverse and John Hambly are joining as part-time judges (because they also have other important duties to fulfill at the show), assisting in their speciality areas, such as entrant made/painted, dioramas and displays. They are knowledgeable and experienced members who will bring insight. We also have access to other members with “institutional knowledge” that we can call upon if needed; they do not judge themselves, but can provide some insight and options for the judges to consider.

I would suggest that entrants look over information on the OMSS' website. Specifically, the [On Parade Competition Background](#) on the OMSS website provides useful information on categories and what our judges look for in assessing competition entries. I would also suggest a review of articles that I, as the (at that time) incoming head judge, provided in the February, March and April 2024 on-line newsletters in [that section of the OMSS' website](#).

The focus is, of course, on each display. Each display must have a completed entry form. While there is the basic information, such as name of entrant and title there is some (limited) space for other information about the display. Was it made or painted by the entrant? What elements? Is there additional information, or related items, such as books, badges, militaria, that complements and helps explain the display? Some of this is self-explanatory, but information on the form, or in separate short documents (we don't have time to read a book) and pictures can help us to understand the display – and if the judges do not fully understand the display, then you can be assured that many other attendees will feel similarly. The judges bring a lot of experience, but we will not make assumptions about the display or the work done that we cannot easily discern. (To help us out, I and some of the judges may do a walk-around before the show opens at 9 a.m. to get some background from entrants setting up their displays, but we are collecting information only and not pre-judging any entries. We could ask an entrant for some insight during the show, but this is dependent on time – a tight commodity for us during the show.)

A reminder that all entries for competition must be ready for judging by **12 noon**. That means that they must be fully assembled by that time. Entries not ready will be excluded judging. This is necessary to provide the judges time to complete their assessments, and then time to compile our results to meet the deadline for Awards announcements scheduled for 2 p.m. I will note that other hobby shows in the Greater Toronto Area, such as TorCan and HeritageCon have similar 12 noon cut-offs.

Good luck, and we look forward to your entries. See you at On Parade.





2026 London Toy Soldier Show

by Scott Paget



London before the Summer onslaught of tourists is not a bad place to visit. London for the May toy soldier show is a great place to visit and this time OMSS member Brendan Hogan & I travelled to see what treasures and trouble we could get into over a four day period.

We arrived early the Friday before the show and beat a path to the Armoury of St James the last retailer of toy soldiers in the city. Before the afternoon was over Brendan hit Apsley House to check out the Duke of Wellington's humble abode before he and I linked up with **Andrew Stevenson, owner of Replica Metal Soldiers** and two members of the **International Toy Soldier Club Tony Dilley and Stephen Hutchinson** from the London area. The five of us spent the remainder of the day at the National Army Museum, checked out its exhibits and then passed the evening at a local pub talking about the hobby and anything else we could think of.



Saturday (show day) we all met up at the event, but of course everyone followed their own course looking for bucket list items and taking in what was being offered for sale. Brendan & I found a number of items and I have to say there was a lot to choose from including lots of Del Prado at multiple vendors' tables, plastic figures, Hocker sets, vintage figures, books, painting supplies and castings. There was of course King & Country, Britain's, Fusilier / Tommy Atkins, RP World Models, Asset, White Tower, Tomas Gunn, Loggerhead Studios, El Infante to name just a few, I think there were over 40 exhibitors in all. While the Pound / Dollar exchange rate sucked, prices were not unreasonable.

If you were willing to look beyond the retail prices for new figures there was a good selection from the larger makers, but if you were checking out the used/vintage/second hand items I thought prices were even better and negotiable. I believe that if you are savvy, know what you want and what you are willing to pay there were bargains and treasures to be found. I was able to negotiate down the marked prices down on every item I purchased from a number of vendors. The show was well attended, I would hazard a guess that several hundred at least. I saw a few figures which I passed on, only to change my mind and go back to, were sold and so I will have to write the maker and try to order them - you snooze you lose. There was of course a number of plastic model kit vendors and several IPMS branches exhibited some of their completed kits.

2026 London Toy Soldier Show (conclusion)



Post show there was a gathering of the ITSC members who attended the show numbering about a dozen in all. We all trooped to a local pub where for several hours we made a great deal of noise showing off our purchases on the tables amongst pint glasses.

Sunday, Brendan, Andrew & I managed to catch the Royal Marine Band playing down The Mall followed by serving and retired marines for the Graspan Parade, while Brendan on his own saw the Horse Guards and Blues and Royals in Hyde Park for the Cavalry Old Comrades Association Memorial. This was followed by a visit to the RAF Museum.

Later we crossed greater London to visit the homes of Hutchinson & Dilley and to see their collections. So you really can't go wrong attending the one day London Toy Soldier Show, it can quickly turn into a four day adventure with some great friends having a great time.

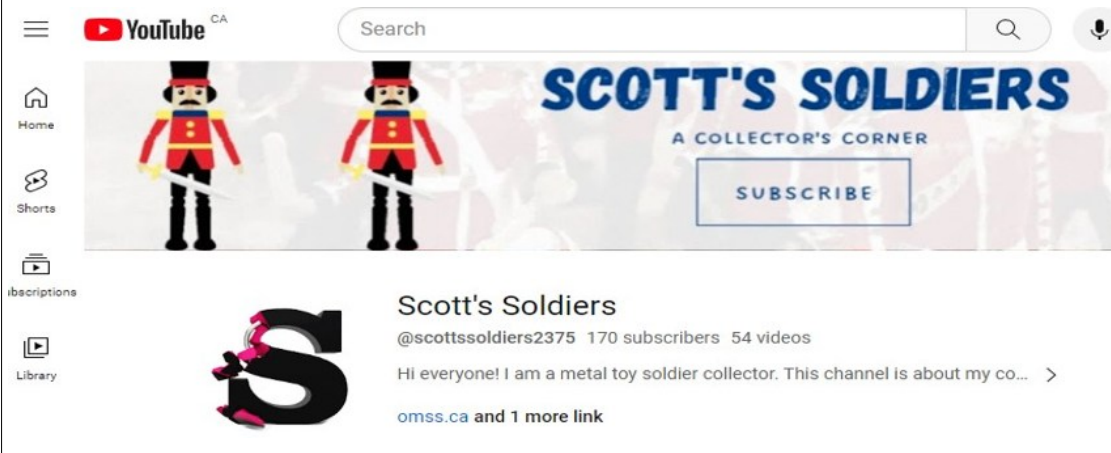
Check out my **YouTube channel - Scott's Soldiers** - for an upcoming video of the show



If you like watching videos, don't forget to check out; *Scott's Soldiers on YouTube*

hosted by our very own Scott Paget of the OMSS Ottawa chapter

<https://www.youtube.com/@scottssoldiers2375>



Remember to click on **Like** and **Subscribe** to help raise the profile of toy soldier collecting on YouTube.

The War and a toy soldier

thanks to Norm Cuthbert for sharing this memory with members.



During WW2 my parents were stationed in St. John NB as Salvation Army Officers. How well I remember standing on the sofa, as a small boy of 3 and 4, looking out the front window and seeing something I can never forget.



St. John was a busy port on the Bay of Fundy, a centre for ships that would form parts of the convoys heading to Britain.

Going past our house were long lines of military equipment passing at a slow speed. I stood for long periods captivated to see trucks, artillery pieces, ambulances, Bren gun carriers and more.

I remember mom holding my hand as we walked past stores with Christmas music coming out of loud speakers above their store windows. Mom was wearing her gas mask in its pouch and I had my child's mask over my shoulder. One evening she took me on a visit to a lady's house that attended our church. The lady had a husband and son overseas in the forces. After milk and cookies the ladies wanted to talk and pray so the lady gave me a casting of a Canadian soldier. This was the first time I had ever seen anything like it. I was very well entertained! Unfortunately I had to give it back. That was the apart that lead to a lifetime of fun. Today I have just under 10,300 figures in my collection.

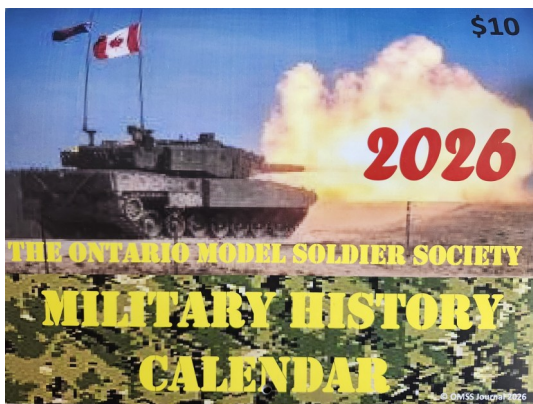
Norms History Snippets

In 1777 fleeing the British advance on Philadelphia, patriots secretly hauled the Liberty Bell out of the city to hide it in rural Pennsylvania. Wagons rumbled over muddy roads as church bells and metal were disguised as ordinary cargo. The Liberty bell spent the winter hidden in Allentown saving it from being melted into British cannon.



In October 1918, James Towers watched five messengers die trying to stop the British artillery from accidentally firing on their own trapped company. Volunteering for the sixth attempt, he used his speed as a farm runner to dodge machine gun fire and crawl through wire. He delivered the message just in time saving his entire unit from certain destruction. For his bravery he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

The 2027 Calendar Committee Wants You!



After a long stand down, the Calendar Committee has mobilized and will be photographing everything and everyone at the show for use in our 2027 calendar.

If you can take a good picture, please consider sharing them for publication. There is no official accreditation or anything, we go with the best picture we have of any given entry and any member can contribute.

We are also needing a volunteer to record the names of the entrants so we can match them to the picture and actually credit the artist on every picture.



Please see **Frank MacKay** if you'd like to volunteer. See you at the show!

A Visit to Fort Ligonier, Bushy Run and the Toy Soldier Gallery

Thanks to Alex Monsour for submitting this story



About a year ago, I was copied of a YouTube video about the toy soldier brick and mortar store in Ligonier, PA. The owner is a John Jenkins dealer and has a variety of miniature models for sale. The video was only a piece of information to tuck away when in June, I was advised that my US based tech group meeting was scheduled to meet in Pittsburgh in September. Ligonier is an hour east of the city so my plans began to tour the area.

During the French and Indian war, the French had established a small fort at the forks of the Ohio, Allegheny and Monongahela rivers in what is now downtown Pittsburgh which they named Duquesne. In an attempt to remove them, General Braddock unsuccessfully launched an expedition through Northern Virginia in 1755. His troops were ambushed and the general killed near Pittsburgh. One of his officers, George Washington, helped restore an orderly retreat that saved a portion of the troops. In 1758 the British built a series of forts along the southern Pennsylvania in order to attack and take Fort Duquesne. General Forbes was tasked with this endeavor with Colonel George Washington amongst his officers. The road, now Route 30 was named for Forbes. Fort Ligonier was built as part of this chain of forts. Forbes would eventually reach Fort Duquesne to find the French, upon learning of the advancing British Army, had abandoned and destroyed it. The British replaced it with Fort Pitt a much larger structure.

Fort Ligonier now has a museum and provides an excellent representation as it stood for eight years. Unknown to me at the time was that John Jenkins had visited the fort to gain inspiration for his French and Indian war figures. I already have several wagons and artillery pieces. As I walked into the fort, the recreations made me feel like I'd stepped inside my display cabinet. If you're in the area I recommend adding it to your itinerary. TripAdvisor said to allow one to two hours for the visit. I was there for 4 ½. I also had the opportunity to meet with the fort military engineer reenactor who explained the defense layout.

I then walked up the street to the small downtown square with eclectic stores to visit the Toy Soldier Gallery I had seen on YouTube. I have been recently collecting John Jenkins Fur Trade series and in the one year old video there was a figure called the Blanket Seller. Included in his wares were the blankets of the Hudson's Bay company with the typical patterns. It was wishful thinking he would still have the figure, but when I walked into the store there I saw it on the shelf. I introduced myself to Norm Flam the owner. I spent the next half hour looking at what he had to offer and eventually selected two more figures. Norm and his wife have done painting for John Jenkins. They currently cast and paint 28mm wargaming figures. Although well done, none of them were of interest to myself. Norm was very patient with my rationalization and justification of which ones I was going to buy. He told me I had to be an engineer. He once had a store near Caltech University (for those who've seen Big Bang Theory and its oddball nerds). He said he dealt with my types every day. It was a fun visit.



The next day enroute to Pittsburgh I stopped at the Battle of Bushy Run site in Jeannette, PA which took place during Pontiac's rebellion. This lesser-known battle was undertaken when in 1763 war had broken out with the First Nations who wanted to remove the British and settlers from their territory. The French and Indian War had led to British promises of not allowing further frontier settlement, removal of the forts and continued the trade of muskets and ammunition, which they now depended on for hunting. All in exchange for neutrality or allied support against the French.

A Visit to Fort Ligonier, Bushy Run and the Toy Soldier Gallery, *conclusion*



By 1763 all of these guarantees had been broken. Pontiac successfully attacked and captured all but Fort Detroit and Fort Pitt, which he laid siege to.

Colonel Bouquet led a British regiment of the 42nd Highlanders, the 60th Royal Americans and the 77th Highlanders to relieve the siege of Fort Pitt. His expedition having departed Fort Ligonier was ambushed near Bushy Run with the event captured in a painting by Don Troiani. The British were able to retreat to a high ground in what was a completely wooded area. Colonel Bouquet waited until dawn since the natives did not attack at night for fear that fallen warrior souls might get lost.

On the second day he had part of his troops feign retreat. The natives swooped in and found themselves encircled and then fled. Bouquet reached Fort Pitt which lifted the siege. I completed my entire tour after my meetings with a walk to the Fort Pitt remaining wall with museum and the area identified where Fort Duquesne once stood.



June 14 Scott Dummitt Presents Annual Open House



Over the years, members who travel from the east for 'On Parade' have commented that they would like the opportunity to drop by Scott's to see his collection and peruse his store on their way home.

So for those that wish to take a break from their journey, Scott is hosting an open house from **11am until 5pm on Sunday June 14th**. Scott is only a short 15 minute drive north of the 401.

Take exit 464 off the 401 and head north on County Road 28 to **1754 Carmel Line** in the small hamlet of Ballieboro. We hope many members take the opportunity to drop by for a chat, a cold drink and a sandwich.



the last word

"life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes."
Andy Rooney—Journalist

The newsletter is edited by Scott Milburn
News items, notices and upcoming events can be submitted to
omsnewsletter@gmail.com