

The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962
www.omss.ca



Monthly Newsletter for November 2018

2018 Executive

John Hambly
President

Lorne Farr
1st vice president

Dave Norman
2nd vice-president

Gary Lenius
Secretary/Treasurer

Jim Qualtrough
Past President

Eric Clarke
Program Chairman

Brendan Hogan
Journal Editor

Norm White
Annual Show Chairman

Scott Dummitt
Newsletter Editor
/ Media Officer

Dave Norman
Facebook Page Manager

Frank MacKay
Calendar Co-ordinator

Jeff Duncan
Club Table & Donations

Monthly Meeting Dates for 2018

14 January 2018 - 11 February 2018 – 11 March 2018

8 April 2018 - 6 May 2018 – 9 September 2018

14 October 2018– 25 November 2018 - 16 December 2018

Annual Show

Saturday June 15, 2019

Next meeting...

Sunday, 25 November, 2018

Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion 110 Jutland Road Toronto

Meeting starts at 1:00 pm. Doors open 11:00 am

ANNUAL AUCTION

See Page 5 for auction rules.

No vendor tables at this meeting please.

Letter from the President



I would like to take this opportunity as your president to thank all the members who were elected into the 2018/2019 OMSS Executive. Your next president Mr Lorne Farr has a good group to help him with the next chapter in the OMSS year. The next meeting will be our annual auction and I always look forward to seeing the goodies the members bring out. Remember to dig deep in to those attic, closets and basement storage rooms, as the saying goes "One man's junk is another man's treasure". With

this newsletter will be the auctions details so we can make this a successful one and also a smooth running one as well. Frank Mackay will be our ever famous auctioneer again this year so let's bid often and bit high!!

As I sit and write this presidents message to you I see that Remembrance Day is only a few days away and ask every member to take a minute or two and give thanks to our vets for the great sacrifice they made so we can be here today. LEST WE FORGET! As you know this is a special year as it is the anniversary of the ending of World War 1. and maybe our next show and tell at a club meeting can carry that theme.

I called Britains to get a update on our figure they are doing for the club I was told the figure is in production but not given any time on delivery Will keep on top of this situation and when we get updates you will be updated.

Frank Mackay has said the calendar has been sent to the copy company and should be available for the November meeting. Thanks for all your work on this Frank. (*LATE UPDATE – due to family issues Frank the calendar will not be ready for this meeting but Frank has promised it for December.*)

This message maybe a short one as I have been very busy these days and it does not seem to be slowing down. So I end by saying HAPPY COLLECTING!!

President John Hambly

Thank You to Peter Reading

In June this year Peter Reading kindly donated several dozen magazines to be distributed to the OMSS members at our monthly meetings. In addition to his kind donation, he also donated a cash contribution to the OMSS for some magazines that were sold to one of our members. The Executive and the general membership would like to thank Peter for his generous donation.



OMSS Christmas Luncheon

Our annual Christmas Luncheon will be held in the front meeting room at the Royal Canadian Legion on Jutland Avenue on the 16th of December. Tom Elliot is heading up the event and will be taking orders for the meal, a Swiss Chalet Chicken Dinner. This consists of Chicken, Fries, Roll and dipping sauce plus a Garden Salad. The price is \$15.00 per meal. We also ask that if you could help out with a dessert for our pot luck dessert table it would be much appreciated.

The Christmas Luncheon is that time of year where we get together with our members and invited guests and just enjoy ourselves. Our Annual Awards are also presented at this time of year and it is one final opportunity to pick up a Toy Soldier Christmas Gift from our many vendors. Vendors please remember that you are only allowed one table for wares at the Christmas Luncheon due to the size of the room.

To book your meal please contact Tom Elliot at: (647) 467-5610 or email: telliott45@hotmail.com.

William Britain Ltd, Sir Arthur Currie Prototype Figures to Be Sold at OMSS Auction

The OMSS received two unpainted prototype figures of Lt General Sir Arthur Currie this year from W. Britain Limited along with certificates guaranteeing that these are only two of three produced. The two figures we have are to be auctioned off at the annual OMSS Auction on 25 November 2018. As the proceeds from the sale of these two figures is to go to the OMSS, and to make as much possible on these pieces of OMSS and W. Britain history, we are opening the auction of these two figures to anyone who wants to bid on them. If you cannot attend the auction in Toronto, which many of our members and other interested parties can't, we will accept bids by mail. Here's how this will work.

Send the following information to Gary Lenius at: OMSS Auction, Gary Lenius, 43 Saugeen Crescent, Scarborough, Ontario, M1K 3M8 or by email to: gary_lenius@sympatico.ca

1. Name, Address, Phone Number and Email if you have one.
2. Total amount you are willing to bid.

The opening bid for these figures (two separate lots) is \$35.00. The bid will go up in increments of \$5.00.

All bids by mail must be received by Gary Lenius by the 23rd November 2018.

Out of town winners will have 14 days to get their payment in. If the payment is not received within 14 days after notification, the next highest bidder will be contacted.

If and out of town bidder should outbid someone who was at the auction, the person at the auction will have his contact information recorded in case of a default of payment.

Shipping will be done by Canada Post Expedited in Canada and Tracked if International. The winning bidder, if shipping is required, will be charged for the shipping cost as well.

Membership Dues

In September this year the Executive came to the decision that due to increasing costs for rent of the Legion, and mailing out Calendars, Journals and Newsletters, the membership dues would have to be increased starting in 2019 from \$35.00 a year to \$40.00. We have not had a membership dues increase in over a decade and there is no other way to meet the increasing costs of running the OMSS. Remember your membership covers 9 newsletters, two Journals and a Calendar each year, plus the cost of renting the Legion for eight meetings and holding the annual Show and Competition. While we are almost breaking even with vendor registration and door admission prices at the show, we aren't quite there yet.

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES IN.

OMSS EXECUTIVE FOR 2019

In October your 2019 Executive were approved for the upcoming year. Here are your club officers for 2019:

President: Lorne Farr
2nd Vice: Scott Milburn

Vice President: Keith Ritchie
Treasurer: Gary Lenius

Past President: John Hambly

Specialty Positions

Annual Show Chairman: Scott Dummitt
Journal Editor: Brendan Hogan
Club Table: Jeff Duncan
Facebook: Dave Norman

On Parade Head Judge: Ian Pearson
Calendar Editor: Frank MacKay
Speaker Chairman: Eric Clarke
Newsletter: Scott Dummitt

On Parade Committee: Tom Elliot & Jim Qualtrough



OMSS JOURNAL NOW AVAILABLE!

Volume 54, Issue 2 of the OMSS JOURNAL is now available for pick-up at the November meeting. If you can't make the meeting, please arrange for someone to pick it up for you. We do send copies out by mail, but with the rising costs of postage it is a drain on the Society's operating funds. Copies will be available for pick-up for members who have paid up their dues to date. Thanks to Brendan Hogan and Jeff Duncan for their continuous great work on getting our Society's publication out.

Whats New in the Hobby – November 2018

by Scott J. Dummitt

First off, Brendan Hogan, who usually does this article, is off doing Remembrance Day ceremonies in Sicily this month, so I have filled in. We have a few different subjects to look at brought to us by Tradition of London and John Jenkins Designs. Rome, Mexico, the North American Colonies and WWI France make for a diverse amount of subjects this month.

Once again ToL has released its annual Christmas set, which is a nice compliment to its Armistice Signing set which was covered in a previous newsletter. This year's set represents different units of the WW1 French Army and includes Marshal Foch, Officer Line Infantry, 2nd Lieutenant, Private Chasseurs Alpine, Trooper Chasseurs a Cheval and Private Line Infantry. It sells for approximately \$170.00. The Christmas set is only available until the end of 2018..

John Jenkins has just announce the release of War of the Roses cannoniers, an unusual line of Conquistadors which complements its Aztec figures, a number of new figures to its Battle of Saratoga line, including the 1st Canadian Regiment, and a superb Roman Turf and Timber Fort. The new Conquistador series includes mounted and dismounted soldiers and civilians such as a Catholic Warrior Priest. Colourfully painted these figures are engage in action against the Aztec warriors defending their homeland against the invading Spaniards. The two figure sets sell for approximately \$127.00 each. Saratoga was the



John Jenkins Designs new Spanish Crossbow man and Arquebus



JJD's Roman Fort comes in sections so it can be made to any size



1st Canadian Regiment at Saratoga fought for the Rebels

first time a British Army surrendered. The results were disastrous for the British as France and Spain entered the war as allies to the Colonist. The 1st Canadian Regiment consisted of both disgruntled Canadian colonist and men from the US colonies. The double figure sets sell for \$109. Our last item is JJD's Roman

Timber Fort. The fort has been produced in sections consisting of: a gate, wall with tower, straight wall and a corner tower. It works well with both JJD's Republican Romans and King & Country's or Thomas Gunn's Imperial Romans. Prices vary with the gate selling for \$243, while the walls go for \$105 each and the Corner tower for \$204.



**Tradition of London's 2018 Christmas Set
WWI French Army Figures**

OMSS Annual Auction

Auction Rules

1. You must be a member in good standing to put lots up for sale.
2. All bidders and sellers must register and obtain a paddle number before the start of the auction. The registration fee is \$2. There are no other fees or commissions.
3. The auction will be limited to 100 lots. It's first come, first serve.
4. An auction card must be completed for each lot. On it you have the option of specifying a minimum reserve bid. Tear off and keep the "Seller's Stub" portion of the card, which you can use to keep track of what your items sell for.
5. You cannot bid on your own lots.
6. The minimum bid increment is \$1. As bidding for an item progresses the auctioneer will raise the increment he will accept. For example once bids on an item reach \$10 further bids must go up by \$2, once they reach \$30 the next bid accepted will be \$35, and so on.
7. Hobby related items only please. No weapons (authentic or reproduction) of any kind.
8. Please bring cash.
9. The auction committee will keep track of sales and accounts will be settled after the close of the auction. We ask that sellers allow buyers to settle up first so that we have the cash to pay you.

OMSS Meeting Dates for 2019

Here are the dates for our meetings and next year's "ON PARADE":

13 January 2019 – 10 February 2019 – 10 March 2019 – 14 April 2019
5 May 2019

'ON PARADE' – Annual Show & Competition – 15 June 2019

8 September 2019 – 6 October 2019 – 17 November 2019 (Club Auction) -

8 December 2019 (Club Christmas Luncheon)

Christmas Luncheon Figure Competition

Frank MacKay revived the annual Christmas Luncheon competition last year and will be holding it again at our December meeting. Rules are fairly simple.

Christmas mini show details: Any figure or model you have recently completed is eligible for competition (must be painted by you). The theme award is "Any figure you are particularly proud of" (first or last figure; family significance; scratch built; rare, etc. Please attach a note explaining why.) All figures will still qualify for the annual show without prejudice. All figures/models will be judged on their own merits, no categories. Prizes will be club plaques, and a gold OMSS medal to the best of show as voted by the attendees.

Remembrance Day Special

With Remembrance Day just past, a service friend of mine sent this interesting article to me on the United Kingdom's "Tomb of the Unknown Warrior". It is both interesting and emotional.

Britains Tomb of the Unknown Warrior

An interesting fact about the UK tomb of the Unknown Warrior. On September 7th 1920, in strictest secrecy four unidentified British bodies were exhumed from temporary battlefield cemeteries at Ypres, Arras, the Asine and the Somme. None of the soldiers who did the digging were told why. The bodies were taken by field ambulance to GHQ at St-Pol-sur-Ternoise. There the bodies were draped with the Union Flag. Sentries were posted and Brigadier-General Wyatt and a Colonel Gell selected one body at Random. A French honour guard was selected, who stood by the coffin overnight. In the morning of the 8th a specially designed coffin made of oak from the grounds of Hampton Court was brought and the Unknown Warrior placed inside. On top was placed a Crusaders Sword and a shield on which was inscribed 'A British Warrior who fell in the Great War-1918 for King and Country'. On the 9th of November the Unknown Warrior was taken by horse drawn carriage through Guards of Honour and the sound of tolling bells and bugle calls to the Quayside. There it was saluted by Marshall Foche and loaded onto HMS Verdun bound for Dover....The coffin stood on the deck covered in wreaths and surrounded by the French Honour Guard. On arrival at Dover the Unknown Warrior was greeted with a 19 gun salute, normally only reserved for field marshals. He then traveled by special train to Victoria station London. He stayed there overnight and on the morning of the 11th of November

he was taken to Westminster Abbey. The Idea of the Unknown Soldier was thought of by a Padre called David Railton who had served at the front during the Great War and it was the Union Flag he used as an altar cloth at the front that had been draped over the coffin. The intention was that all relatives of the 517,773 combatants whose bodies had not been identified could believe that the Unknown Warrior could very well be their lost Husband, Father, Brother or Son.... Every year on the 11th of November remember the Unknown Warrior...



For even more on this story visit the British Royal Legion site at:
<http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/shipston/remembrance/the-tomb-of-the-unknown-warrior>

On Facebook?

Make sure and check out our Facebook group maintained by Dave Norman. There are lots of interesting postings. www.facebook.com/groups/577999975631964/

The newsletter is edited by Scott Dummitt.

News items and notices can be submitted to gijoe@kos.net or 705-939-1028

Articles must be submitted no later than 14 days before monthly meetings.

Articles submitted must be original as due to copy write law we cannot reproduce any published article without permission of the publication in question.