

The  
**Ontario  
 Model  
 Soldier  
 Society**  
 Founded 1962  
 www.omss.ca



## Newsletter for November 2019

### Monthly Meeting Dates for 2019

13 January 2019 - 10 February 2019 – 10 March 2019  
 14 April 2019 - 5 May 2019 – 8 September 2019  
 6 October 2019– 17 November 2019 - 8 December 2019

### Annual Show

Saturday June 13, 2020

## Monthly Newsletter for November 2019

### 2019 Executive

Lorne Farr  
 President

Keith Ritchie  
 1st vice president

Scott Millburn  
 2nd vice-president

Gary Lenius  
 Secretary/Treasurer

John Hambly  
 Past President

Vacant  
 Program Chairman

Brendan Hogan  
 Journal Editor

Scott Dummitt  
 Annual Show Chairman

Scott Dummitt  
 Newsletter Editor/ Media  
 Officer

Dave Norman  
 Facebook Page Manager

Frank MacKay  
 Calendar Co-ordinator

Jeff Duncan  
 Club Table & Donations

OMSS Archivist  
 Ian Pearson

Next meeting...

**Sunday, 17 November, 2019**

Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion 110 Jutland Road Toronto

**Annual Auction** starts at 12:00 noon. Doors open 11:00 am  
 Details in the Auction Notice accompanying the newsletter.

### Letter from the President



At the October 6, 2019 meeting, the Ontario Model Soldier Society conducted its annual meeting. The proposed 2020 Executive of Keith Ritchie as President and Scott Millburn as Vice President was ratified by the OMSS members. However, we do not have a second Vice President, as no one volunteered for this position. This means that the OMSS will not have a President in 2022, unless a member agrees to fill the second Vice President position. So, I encourage all the members to consider volunteering for this position. The OMSS activities only happen because of the contributions of the Executive and the members. Any member interested in this position can speak to any of the members of the Executive.

The OMSS is also looking for a member to serve as the Program Director. The Program Director, with the support of the Executive, arranges for the speakers at the OMSS meetings.

Tom Elliot is organizing the OMSS Swiss Chalet dinner for our December meeting. Tom will be giving more details on the cost of the meal at the November meeting. Members are asked to sign up and pay Tom at the November meeting or contact Tom if they wish to buy the Swiss Chalet dinner.

At the meeting, Guy Elliot gave us Part 2 of his battleship presentation. Guy discussed the Battle of the River Plate and the scuttling of the Graf Spee. Keith Richie spoke on collecting 1/6 scale figures and how the detailing of the figures changed over time.

Our November 17 meeting is the annual OMSS auction. Check your collections for any spare toy soldier or model related items to enter in the auction. The number of auction lots will be capped at 100. Please note that the meeting will start at 12 noon to allow enough time for the auction.

*Club President Lorne Farr*

**Whats New  
in the  
Hobby,  
November  
2019**

**By**

**Brendan  
Hogan**



It's been some time, since I've previewed soldiers from W. Britains Ltd. or Tradition of London. For the gloss and Britains collectors amongst us – hopefully you'll find these new releases of some interest. First up, from Tradition of London is its Christmas set for 2019 based on the British army during the Crimean War (1853-1856). This six-figure set comprises an officer and private of both the 93<sup>rd</sup> Highlanders and the 33<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot, together with the British commander, Lord Raglan, and an officer of his staff. Though resplendent in British scarlet and blue, this small vignette represents a decisive moment on the army's long road to modernity. This special limited edition "Christmas 2019 Set" is only available during the year of issue.

Next up from W. Britains is "George Washington's Inauguration," the first set in the new "National Honor" collection. Washington was inaugurated as the first President of the United States at Federal Hall in New York, then the nation's capital. Recreated here is that humble and noble scene. The three 1/30 scale figures stand

approximately 2½" tall, are cast in white metal and hand painted in stunning detail – all mounted on a sturdy alloy base. These historically accurate miniatures are sure to inspire and enchant enthusiasts and casual collectors alike. This is the first in a series of American national heroes. Look for additional releases in this National Honor collection in the future. Both the Britains and Tradition sets should retail for \$185 CAD.





## OMSS Annual Auction

17<sup>th</sup> of November is our annual auction. The auction will start at 12 noon. Please remember there are no vendor tables at this meeting.

### Annual OMSS Members Invasion of USA

In the words of our host Jim Hillestad, “every time I turn around I’m running into a Canadian”. Including wives and members there were at least 10 OMMS members at Jim’s annual open house at The Toy Soldier Museum in Pennsylvania on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November this year. All except Toy Soldier & Model Figure magazine editor Stuart Hessney were Canadian and they were from both the GTA Chapter and the National Capital Region Chapter. The members took this opportunity to present Stuart with his 10 year OMSS pin, as he would not be able to make the meeting in December in Toronto when they are usually presented by the society. Members were openly welcomed by the Hillestads and their hospitality was more than generous. Also present were William Britain Limited and Tree Frog Treasures. Collectors from all over the USA and Canada make this destination part of their travel weekend as all our members also headed for Hackensack, New Jersey on the Sunday for the East Coast

Toy Soldier Show. With 40,000 sq ft. of floor space this one day show has something to please everyone. The variety of vendors always has little treasures pop up at great prices. This is strictly a vendor show and our members were busy all day looking for the elusive figures that they might need to complete a display.







### General Sir Arthur Currie figures now available

The OMSS commissioned the W. Britain company to produce a limited edition figure for us of General Sir Arthur Currie, commander of the Canadian Corps in 1918. Only 250 of these figures were produced. The figure is 1/30 scale and in matte finish.

For a limited time these figures are being offered to our members at an exclusive members' price of \$36 each. Every member in good standing may purchase up to two figures.

These figures will be available at the remaining meetings of this year from Gary Lenius.

If you can't make it to a meeting contact us by email at [omss@bell.net](mailto:omss@bell.net) or by mail (OMSS 43 Saugeen Cres. Toronto M1K 3M8) to arrange shipping. Within Canada shipping by Canada Post is \$15 for one or two figures.

#### **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/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/577999975631964/)

**The newsletter is edited by Scott Dummitt.**

**News items and notices can be submitted to [gijoe@kos.net](mailto: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 copyright law we cannot reproduce any published article without permission of the publication in question**

**AS OF JUNE 2020 I WILL BE STEPPING DOWN FROM DOING THE NEWSLETTER. IF YOU FEEL YOU CAN TAKE OVER CONTACT ME ASAP. Thank you!**

#### **Annual Christmas Luncheon**



Our annual Christmas Luncheon and Awards will be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December. The meal will be a 1/4 chicken, choice of white or dark meat and fries and à garden salad with dressing from Swill Chalet. The cost is \$17.00 per meal and you can pay Tom Elliot at the November meeting or contact him at: 647-467-5610 to order meals. Tom would also appreciate it if you could bring a desert for the event as well. There will be a vendor market but only 1 table per vendor.

# A CAPITAL REPORT (from the OMSS Ottawa Chapter) by Bob Thompson

## OCTOBER 2019 OTTAWA CHAPTER MEETING ... Tuesday October 22

We had 20+ attendees at the October 22 meeting, including 5 new first timers. The packed agenda included the following:

**Club Business** – Updates on some of the active OMSS Ottawa Chapter projects

**Discussion on current hobby news** – What's New, upcoming shows, and reports on recent hobby related shows. Unfortunately the news included the passing of Denis Desmarais from Hobby House. "Denny" has been a major player in the hobby scene in Ottawa since 1953 when he opened "Hobby House".

### Presentations:

Tom Wright presented a big screen viewing of an excellent video showing Airfix figures animated in full battle mode.

Bob Thompson (me!) presented a recent find of a "rare" Elastolin Castle. (See accompanying article in this newsletter)

**"Show & Tell" Presentations:** - The topic for this month's "Show & Tell" was "Tanksgiving". Needless to say there was far more of a vehicle presence than normal!

After the adjournment of the meeting, there was the usual flurry of buying, selling, trading, and conversations!

The "Show & Tell" topic for our next Ottawa meeting (November 26) is "Knights/Middle Ages" (in keeping with our "armour" theme).

Visiting the "Capital Region"? Why not join us for one of the Ottawa Chapter's Meetings. Contact Bob Thompson 613-523-3103 or Email: [thompson\\_robert@rogers.com](mailto:thompson_robert@rogers.com) for further info.

*The OMSS Ottawa Chapter meeting dates for the rest of 2019 are Tuesday November 26, and Tuesday December 17.*



## A Rare Find? ... By Bob Thompson

Let me start off by saying that I don't collect toy castles.

It all started when I got a call from a fellow saying he wanted to sell his Dinky toys and a few toy soldiers from his and his father's collection. I also don't collect Dinky toys, so I passed the info on to Francois Brisebois, our Ottawa member Dinky Toy collector. Francois checked it out and called me back saying that the fellow had a few toy soldiers I should look at, and that there had been two toy castles for sale. Francois said he bought the "good" castle.

So, I had to check it out for myself ... bought a few soldiers, and bought the second castle. The castle was very primitive, and very toy like ... but "cute".



Upon examining the castle at home, I found that each piece was stamped "Elastolin" and "Made in Germany", with number 13516 on the bottom cover of the castle. I immediately "Goggled" Elastolin 13516 ... and came up with nothing. Eventually I came across photos of hundreds of beautiful Elastolin castles .... But not mine.

In desperation I borrowed Dennis DeRusha's copy of "Toy Forts and Castles" by Allen Hickling ... the defacto authoritative work on European made toy castles. After digging through 47 pages of information dedicated to Elastolin castles (in which the author lists every castle produced by Elastolin) ... I was able to find the following:

My castle (type 13516) was part of the very first Elastolin castle series produced. The series consisted of 5 types released between 1920 to 1926. There are "No known examples" of any of the 5 types of castles in the series .... they are only known to exist from 1925 catalogue listings. Furthermore, the only images of 4 of the 5 castle types in the series come from the 1925 catalog. Finally, there is no known image of my castle type (13516) as there was no accompanying image in the 1925 catalogue listing.

So, I think I have a rare find .... and Francois, I think I got the better castle ... and I now own 3 pre- WW2 toy castles (so I guess I do collect toy castles now).