

The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962



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

2025 Executive

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David Dorward

1st Vice-President

Janet MacKay 2nd Vice-President

Gary Lenius Secretary/Treasurer

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Steve Alexander Ottawa Chapter Chair

Jim Qualtrough
Annual Show Chair

Andy Traverse Program Chair

VACANT

Technical Committee Chair

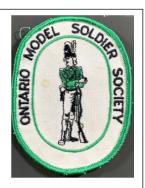
Newsletter for September 2025



Toronto Chapter meeting Sunday, September 14, 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 Eric Shaw and the topic is Historical Colour Pencil





Ottawa Chapter meeting Tuesday September 30, 2025 @ 7pm

The Barley Mow, 1541 Merivale Road. The meeting topic is 'Medical and Casualties'





OMSS Virtual meeting Tuesday September 16, 2025 @ 7pm

The show and tell topic is "Artillery"

Virtual meetings are open to all OMSS and BMSS members ZOOM





BMSS Monthly Virtual meeting Friday September 19, 2025

@ 7pm GMT

(that's 2pm for most of us in Ontario)
Contact: Jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk





TORCAN 2025

Saturday September 13, 2025
Save Max Sports Centre

1495 Sandalwood Parkway E (look for the flyer later in the newsletter) Brampton Ontario



Passages

We are sad to advise members of the passing of **Frank Barrett.**

Frank was a member of the Society for over 50 years and had many friends in the OMSS. He will be missed by everyone.



Hello fellow members,



Welcome to the Society's 2025 Fall season. Hope everyone had a great summer.

We look forward to the events this fall including the scheduled presentations, the Members' Auction, the Christmas Lunch and even the Annual General Meeting, at which it is anticipated that the Executive Committee for the 2026 Year will be elected. Please consider serving on the Committee, in particular we need volunteers for First Vice President, Technical Director and Program Director.

The Annual Show for this year is now behind us and was a great success thanks to the hard work of everyone and especially our Show Chairman, Jim Qualtrough, who will no doubt provide a report to the membership at the September meeting. Most of the vendors seem to have come away very happy, as well as a number of purchasers. There were a number of excellent and eye-catching exhibits, both in and out of the competition. On that note, the Executive anticipates instituting some modifications to the judging procedure for next year's show to occur prior to the announcement of the results. The venue was enjoyable, as it had been the previous year. Enjoyable presentations were provided by Stuart Hessney, editor of Toy Soldier Collector and Historical Figures magazine, to whom we owe a great deal of thanks.

The dates for the meetings in 2026 at the Legion have been scheduled and no doubt will be posted on the website directly.

I expect that the summer months are not the optimum time for most people to work on figures, but I want to say I have enjoyed working on, among other things, some French infantry of the American Revolution and Voltiguers Canadiens from the War of 1812. I am also waiting for delivery (but not holding my breath) of the new Conte Vikings and relatively new Expeditionary Force ACW Militia which latter will convert nicely to British Indian Mutiny troops.

Looking forward to seeing you all in September.

OMSS member serving in Lativa

While we are at home, safe and comfortably enjoying our daily coffee,

OMSS member and Canadian Forces **Major Brendan Hogan** is in Latvia supporting Lativia's sovereignty and security.

Here, Brendan debriefs a Spanish forward observer following a live-fire event with the Battle Group.

We look forward to Brendan coming home safely at the end of 2025



OMSS 'On Parade 2025 Round Up by Jim Qualtrough, On Parade Chair



Well Done Everyone!!! I am so pleased with the success of this years show. Our second year at the new venue has proved that we made the right decision to move the event to the Frankin Horner Community Centre in Etobicoke.

The event was held on Saturday June 7th opening the doors to the public at 9am. The preparation and set up of the vending tables, competition and display tables and speakers workshop room went like a

well-oiled machine. Everyone pitched in and got the rooms formed into accessible aisles and viewing areas. The wargamers were centre stage, literally. Thanks to Barnaby Orr and his Hamilton Wargaming Club for always putting on a great display on our stage.

Forty Vendor tables did brisk business throughout the day. It was so nice to see and meet new vendors and we are always grateful for our long time returning vendors. Scott J Dummitt wins for the most inventory and always has the most up to date figures offered by the big Toy Soldier manufacturers. It was fabulous to see the Toy Soldier Club come back to our show who always arrive with a big smile on their faces and positive vibes. It was also nice to see family members of some of the more senior collectors standing in for their family. I know they enjoyed hearing stories of their loved ones time in the club and appreciated the support everyone gave in clearing out their stock. One vendor actually sold out just after lunch .

I have to say how much we missed our good friends from Britains this year as Ken and Erica Osen head into a new venture of which we wish them the very best and support from all of us.

Stuart Hessney ran the workshop this year and what an honour it was to have him present an interesting and well attended talk on his life as the Editor of the International Toy Soldier and Model Figure Magazine as well an update on our hobbies latest and greatest. Thank you Stuart.

Jeff Duncan ran the OMSS Club table and did us proud again tis year. He has successfully ran this club table for so many years and we just appreciate all his efforts for the club. Janet MacKay and Barb Milburn ran the Kids painting table and everyone loved to see the intensity of the participants who did such detailed work on the donated figured.

The displays and competition pieces were of high quality and really displayed some of the very best our hobby has to offer. I want to thank Keith Ritchie and his judging team for the gigantic effort they had to undertake in judging the competition entries.

The show ended with our awards and presentations at 3pm then a quick tear down and pack up finished off the successful weekend.

Please see the latest edition of the Toy Soldier and Model Figure Magazine for a very good article on our show as well as on line with a Youtube video from Scott Paget reporting on the show.

Thank you all for your individual efforts to make our show the best in Canada. I am extremely proud to be the OMSS On Parade Chair,

Save the date of June 6th, 2026 for our next on Parade Show at the Franklin Horner Community Centre.

Be sure to check out; Scott's Soldiers Episode 71 On Parade OMSS Toy Soldier Show 2025



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qnflgh663c

Scott Paget's video of **On Parade 2025** already has over 4000 views! Obviously, there are people out there interested in our hobby, we just need to connect with them.

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

60 Years of Getting the Lead Out! A History of The Ontario Model Soldier Society 1962-2022

Anniversary Book Update

Submitted by David Dorward

"Our OMSS history from 1962 to 2022 has been printed and copies distributed at our annual June 7, 2025 show.

If you still wish to purchase a copy, it will be **\$30** not the \$40 originally quoted, which was a guesstimate by me. I printed 60 copies and have very limited number to sell to anyone beyond our subscribers and complimentary cop-

ies. Thankfully the book has come in at a lower price.

Those who did not pick one up at "On Parade" show of June 7, Gary Lenius has the remaining pre-paid copies to distribute and will bring them, along with your \$10 re-

fund, to those people who subscribed and already paid \$40 for the book, to our regular Legion meetings, I should add Gary has been a tremendous help in getting this publication across the finish line.

We would prefer to hand out the copies in person but realize that is not an option for everyone, as to mail these rather heavy books will be costly and postage was always ON TOP of the purchase price. Anyhow we will see how many people are available to pick up their copy, if they had not done so, at the Legion during our normal meeting dates until our last meeting this year in December.

If you wanted to buy a copy at \$30 or had already bought a copy, and will be <u>unable to pick up</u> your copy at our regular OMSS meetings between now and the end of 2025, please let Gary know via e mail and we will arrange to post your copy, and collect the postage from you before we mail it out. We can also reserve a copy at \$30 for pick up from our limited numbers printed, or mail out if that is your preference. Please do not blame us when the postage comes to more than you would like! Gary and I do not control rising postal rates! Gary can be reached by email at: omss@bell.net

Thanks again to everyone including Ian Pearson of course, who made this publication possible. They deserve a lot of credit."

Anniversary Book presented to OMSS Honourary President Brigadier General Darrell Dean (Ret'd)

In August, during a visit to the west coast, Past President Scott Milburn had the privilege to present copy #1 of the Society's anniversary book to General Dean.

Darrell was very honoured and excited upon receiving the book and dove into it right away. The day after receiving the book, General Dean had already discovered a photo in the book of a gentleman he had served with in the CAF and commented to Scott, 'what a small world'.

Although the visit was brief and they just met for the first time, both Scott and Darrell (and their spouses) carried on like they were long lost friends. A benefit of the common interest of history, toy soldier collecting and membership in the OMSS.



Ottawa Chapter news - What We Did This Summer

Submitted by Bob Thompson

In June of the first year of the OMSS Ottawa Chapter's existence we held a vote as to whether we would continue with the OMSS practise of closing down activities for the July and August summer months. The result was a resounding "no closure" ... and since then the Ottawa Chapter has continued with its regular summer monthly meetings schedule. Our compromise to summer holidays was merely declaring the Ottawa July and August meetings to be "informal meetings" ... meaning no agenda, no minutes, and no Show & Tell topics.

The following is a brief summary of OMSS Ottawa summer activities.



Rob K brought some of his collection of Danish Toy soldiers to July's meeting

August 18 Luncheon - 8 OMSS members met to wine & dine with Jeff Duncan on his Annual Inspection Visit of the Ottawa Colony.

August 19 OMSS Zoom Meeting: The Show & Tell topic Tropical Kit/Warm Weather Warfare". lan from England showed us his interesting selection from his "archive" boxes #10, 11 &12.

August 25 OMSS Ottawa Meeting: With 18+ participants, one of our largest meeting turnouts. Juan gave an excellent presentation on scale model building techniques. Working in 1/72 scale, he explained his use of evolving techniques and materials over the years, ranging from paper, fibre board, to 3d printing. Alain brought some of his superb photo binders of his collection of high quality miniatures including early French regiments in Canada. There were recent collections of Britains gloss figures and 1/43? Diecast vehicles from Solido & Corgi for sale.

UPCOMING OMSS OTTAWA EVENTS

September 16 - OMSS Zoom Meeting - Show & Tell topic is "Artillery"

September 20 - Juan's Open House to see his "Model Cave" (his personal miniature museum of WWII)

September 28 - OMSS Ottawa participation in Ottawa Scale Model Contest at the Walkley Road Armoury September 30 - OMSS Ottawa Meeting - Show & Tell topic is "Medical & Casualties"

July 15 OMSS Zoom Meeting: 13 participants - Show & Tell topic was "Naval Troops"

July 26 OMSS Ottawa Parking Lot/Trunk Sale: both buyers and sellers were happy with the day's transactions and socializing.

July 29 OMSS Ottawa Meeting: Kelly brought out a great 1890's paper soldier collection; Rob K. brought his collection of Danish toy soldiers.



Jeff (3rd from the right), reviewing the Ottawa troops.



Samples from Juan's talk at the August meeting on scale model building techniques.

OMSS June Virtual Meeting



In addition to the usual banter and show and tell, in honour of D-Day, **Andrew Stevenson** (*from the U.K.*) shared the story of his grandfather who was a Royal Marine Commando who participated in D-Day and landed with the Canadians at Juno Beach. He is 3rd from the left in 1st standing row.

Andrew shared the story of his grandfather, John Stevenson, who was part of the 48th Royal Marine Commandos, known as the D-day commandos and landed on Juno Beach with the Canadians. He fought through Normandy and into Holland, enduring various hardships including being wounded by a mine blast that resulted in the loss of his eye. Despite his quiet nature, Stevenson's experiences during D-day and the war left a lasting impact on him, and Andrew provided a detailed account of his grandfather's service and the challenges he faced.

Thank You Andrew for sharing the story with us.

OMSS July and August Virtual Meeting News

As mentioned in the Ottawa chapter report, the Society continued with monthly Zoom meetings during the summer that were well attended and engaging.



On the left, Eric showed some wonderful Napoleonic figures he is working on during the July meeting

To the right, a sample of Wm. Britain's Camel Corps was displayed during the August meeting.



Thank you to David of **Toy Soldiers Club** for submitting the following

King and Country's new Winston Churchill, DD371



Back in June 2023, King and Country released a new version of Winston Churchill. Like many collectors who are big fans of this British prime minister, this was a very welcome addition. Of course, with Churchill being this popular amongst the collectors means that this is also not the first Winston Churchill to be produced. Let's look at this new **DD371 - Winston S. Churchill** (shown on next page), but first let's start with a small recap of King and Country's "Churchill collection" so far.

In past years, King and Country has produced at least 8 versions of Churchill (at least, that I can think of!) ranging from his service during the Great War to the Second World War, offering a wide variety of uniforms and civilian clothes. Some even came with a vehicle!







From left to right and top to bottom, DD106, EA031(SL), RAF038, DD271, DD105, FW218, DD055 and DD296.

All are now retired except for RAF038 - V for Victory.











This new Churchill is an echo

to the old DD105 - Churchill with his Tommy Gun. Both figures were based on actual pictures, but taken at different times. The original DD105 was based on a photoshoot taken in March 1944, when the British prime minister visited the 2nd Armored US Division at the Salisbury Plain for a casual target shooting with no one else than General Eisenhower.



To the left, Churchill is firing a Thompson Submachine gun with General Dwight D. Eisenhower in the background. According to the back of the photo, Churchill scored a number of 'hits on the target.

To the right, King and Country's earlier Churchill with a Tommy Gun, DD105 (note the straight magazine)



King and Country's new Winston Churchill DD371, continued

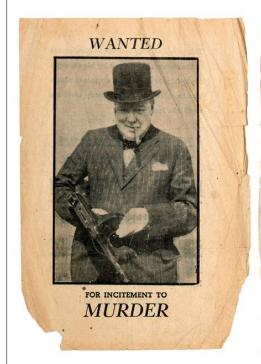


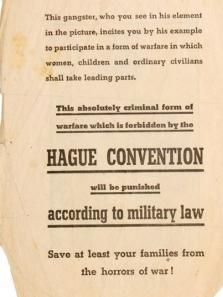
The new DD371 - Winston S. Churchill is based on an early war picture taken during an inspection near Hartlepool in 1940.

One of the main differences to the older DD105 is the round magazine with the new DD371. Round magazines were used in the early war in hope they would provide a lot of firepower between each reload. But the size and weight of the filled magazines were making them less favorable for combat situations. Round magazines were eventually returned to the USA and exchanged for straight magazines.

At the time the reference picture used for the DD371 was taken, the Tommy gun with a round magazine was already greatly associated with the American gangsters. When seeing the British prime minister with a 'mobster weapon' in hands, Goebbel jumped on the occasion and ordered the German propaganda to present Churchill as a criminal responsible for the murder of thousands of people by prolonging this war. This sadly familiar propaganda song is still played today when evil leaders are looking for a quick way out of a conflict they started.







German Propaganda Poster

The German propaganda showing Churchill as a wanted criminal had the opposite effect. The British people loved it as it showed their prime minister looking like a real badass; a statement that is still true today. In fact, this might even be why this new figure looks so good!

King and Country's new Winston Churchill DD371 conclusion

Winston Churchill, considered by many as the most popular Prime Gangster of England.

To complete this figure, a British Bulldog was added to the set. This dog was not part of the original photoshoot and was not even Churchill's pet. During World War Two, Churchill had a Poodle named Rufus as a pet, but Poodles were more associated with French and therefore were not suitable for a war effort picture. However, when he was still a young lad, Churchill had a Bulldog named Dodo that he purchased in 1891. The good old Dodo died a long time before the Second World War. So the animal in this set is purely a creation by King and Country. Nevertheless, it is a good addition as Churchill was indeed occasionally photographed with Bulldogs during the war. Because of his unique face and attitude, the British prime minister was often compared to the British Bulldog. In a way, he became the incarnation of a British national icon; the plucked and determined dog protecting England.

Some collectors might find this Bulldog a bit familiar and they are right. This is because it is a reuse of the dog from the DD054 - Beach Master Set. This set was based on the 1962 movie The Longest Day where the Beach Master Captain Colin Maud was played by Kenneth More. That being said, the real Captain Colin Maud had a German Shepherd called Winnie as a pet and not a Bulldog. However, the German antagonist already had a German Shepherd, so the producer Darryl F. Zanuck changed the history a bit to get a better looking movie.



The DD054 - Beach Master Set with a familiar Bulldog.
This set is now retired.

To conclude, like many new editions of a previously covered historical figure, this latest production is probably the best one so far amongst the different versions of Churchill. His amused expression with deadly Thompson submachine gun in hand combined with the Bulldog creates are just a perfect combo to render in toy soldier the essence of this greater than life character. If you need someone to keep your collection safe from any invading country, you can bet on this guy.

I would like to thank The International Churchill Society for their help on this article. In some websites and even books, confusion exists and any British Bulldog seen on a World War Two picture with Churchill is falsely named Dodo and declared as being his pet. They helped me to find the correct information on this level. If you are more curious about this society, visit their website here: https://winstonchurchill.org/

Coming Soon!

The next edition of the Journal is being prepared NOW!



Please submit any stories or photos to the Journal editor, Ian Pearson no later than **October 31.** You can contact Ian at; Ianpearson560@gmail.com

Wm. Hocker - A Toy soldier Maker with Elbows Up

Article by Don MacOdrum



Wm. Hocker has been a U.S. manufacturer of toy soldiers since 1983, but says he is now winding down the business. Mr. Hocker notes that his staff has been responsible for the success of his business and he states:

"While these workers from Afghanistan and the mountains of Laos brought with them particular craft skills needed to produce our goods, it unfortunately needs to be repeated that every single business that is a part the American economy, every one, began and prospered from the work of immigrants like them willing to work hard to secure a better life. Lest we forget, immigrants, to this day, are the foundation of American prosperity and the American way of life."

As stated in the website, the Wm. Hocker figures "are finished in the distinctive style of Mr. William Britain of London, England. Although formed of solid-cast tin rather than the hollow-cast metal...." They are beautiful models. I only have one set. I would love to have more.

The 2025 catalogue, online at wmhocker.com, has a wide selection of sets. The categories include: Crimean War, Indian Mutiny, Abyssinian & Ashanti Wars, Northwest Frontier, Zulu War, Nile Campaign, Boer War, Imperial Durbar, Indian Army, Diamond Jubilee (including the Canadian North West Mounted Police, the 48th Canadian Highlanders), Victorian Army at Ease, American Revolution (including the British Army and Allies including Queen's Rangers), Barbery Coast Wars, War of 1812 (including Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles, and Tecumseh's Indian Warriors), Mexican-American Wars, American Civil War, American West, Buffalo Bill's Wild West, Spanish American Wars, Pancho Villa Expedition, Boxer Rebellion, The Great War and Specialty Products (including Wm. Hocker's 20th Anniversary Souvenir depicting two men on the floor playing with toy soldiers and a young boy complaining to his mother about their use of his toys).

This article focusses on a new category of sets called "the Trump Regime". It is unusual in the highly political nature of the figures. The sets are said to be:

"Born of the angst about our current era and our cultural unraveling, we present to our clientele a range of sets that illuminate the horrific and surreal path our nation is pursuing in thrall to a person seen as the most immature, mentally ill, dangerous, cruel and, unfortunately, most successful demagoque in the nation's history."



There are 7 sets in this category. I will show below only one these sets and its description, but encourage you to go to the wmhocker.com website to see the others.

Set 566, is described as "Jan. 6 Insurrection Souvenir. 8 pieces. Commemorating the failed Congress Hall Putsch led by the most sociopathic president in American history."

The statue lying on the ground is Lady Freedom from the top of the United States Capitol dome.

Other sets depict, *inter alia*, deportation of immigrants, the imprisoning of liberty, the USA and Justice for sale, and a "Fraternity of Autocrats - Mohammad bin Salman, Vladimir Putin, Xi Jimping, and Kim Jong Un

Trump.

In my experience of 70 years of serious interest in toy soldiers, these figures are unique in the strong political statements they make.

To find out more, go to "The Toy Soldiers of William Hocker, Proprietor at https://wmhocker.com/

Consider joining this new online club

The **International Toy Soldier Club** is an online club run by fans, for fans, and operates as a not-for-profit organisation. Your support helps us create engaging events, provide valuable resources, and maintain the upkeep of our site.



Founded by Andrew Stevenson, a passionate collector and the visionary behind **Replica Metal Soldiers & Models** in 2024, our club offers a vibrant space where aficionados of all levels can come together to celebrate their love for these timeless figurines.

At the International Toy Soldier Club, we believe that toy soldiers are more than just collectibles; they are a window into history, a celebration of craftsmanship, and a source of endless fascination. Our platform is designed to foster connections, facilitate the exchange of ideas, and provide a showcase for your prized collections.

Whether you are a seasoned collector with years of experience or someone just beginning your journey into the world of toy soldiers, you'll find a welcoming community here. Share your stories, display your collections, and engage with fellow enthusiasts who share your passion. Join us and immerse yourself in the rich and diverse world of toy soldiers.

At the International Toy Soldier Club, our mission is to create a thriving global community for toy soldier collectors and enthusiasts.

We are dedicated to:

- Bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds who share a common passion for toy soldiers, fostering friendships, and building a strong network of enthusiasts.
- Celebrating the rich history and artistry of toy soldiers by promoting their significance and encouraging the appreciation of these miniature historical artefacts.
- Providing a platform for members to exchange ideas, tips, and insights, enhancing their collecting experience and deepening their understanding of the hobby.
- Offering opportunities for collectors to display their prized figurines, share the stories behind their collections, and gain recognition within the community.
- Welcoming newcomers to the world of toy soldiers with resources, guidance, and a supportive community to help them start and grow their collections.

Join us in our mission to celebrate the timeless allure of toy soldiers and keep the spirit of this cherished hobby alive for generations to come.

https://www.internationaltoysoldier.club/

Thanks to **Ian Pearson** for sharing the following;

In Las Vegas, Nevada, lives the man with the worlds biggest miniature collection. Meet Gary, the man with the most Warhammer, 40k, Age of Sigmar, Dungeons & Dragons and display miniatures in the entire world consisting of over 16,000 fantasy miniatures from more than 150 different artists.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFutPHOV6cl



For history buffs, check out the following websites

Thanks to **Frank Mackay** for sharing the following;

For a free permanent subscription to World History Encyclopedia's monthly magazine click this link and submit your email address:

https://www.worldhistory.org/newsletter/



World History Encyclopedia

The free online history encyclopedia with fact-checked articles, images, videos, maps, timelines and more; operated as a non-profit organization.

www.worldhistory.org

!

They offer a magnificent 50-page general history magazine with weekly newsletters. Subscription is free but donations to the nonprofit organization are welcome. A must for the serious history buff!

Thanks to **Egor Evsikov** for sharing the following;

A great documentary of a little known time of North American history, the Russian vs. Native American War (1802-1804)



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDR3pJ9IBEQ

The Russian vs. Native American War (1802-1804)

Thanks to Jeff Duncan for sharing the following;



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2QClMm69oY

D

10 Best World War II Movies of the 1980s



The Quartermaster's Store



Frank Barrett Collection for sale



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

The 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 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 Gord Dumbleton, that Frank counted as some of his favourite figures.

Our aim is to sell to likeminded collectors.



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



Looking for that missing piece to finish your project?



The OMSS Spare Parts Box will be available at Toronto meetings. It contains a wealth of spare figure parts and modeling bits and pieces of every kind.

The rules are simple: if you take something and find it useful, replace it with something of equal value if not now, then at the next meeting.





"I've learned a lot from my mistakes..., so I decided to make more mistakes to learn more." Author unknown

The newsletter is edited by Scott Milburn

News items, notices and upcoming events can be submitted to omssnewsletter@gmail.com

Don't Miss TORCAN 2025

OMSS members need to support other organizations events to help our own club grow. By attending other clubs shows encourages people to attend our own "On Parade".

Show your colours and wear your OMSS club shirt.



General admission to the show is \$15, and new this year, registering models for the contest is now a flat fee of \$10 for AS MANY MODELS AS YOU CAN BRING!! (just remember, models that have been shown at previous Torcan shows are ineligible).

The vendor area will be packed, with 20 more tables than last year. The vendor tables sold out within days of being available, so there should be lots of deals for everyone. Food will be available to purchase.

Register your models up at: www.torcanmodelshow.com/registration