



Newsletter for February 2026

The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962



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

2026 Executive

David Dorward
President

Victor Rudik
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

Toronto Chapter meeting Sunday, February 8, 2026

Doors open at 11:00 am, meeting starts at 12:30pm
Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion, 110 Jutland Road, Etobicoke

This month's guest speaker is Andy Traverse and his topic will be the evolution of United States Army helmets 1917-1990



Ottawa Chapter meeting Tuesday February 24th, 2026 @ 7pm

The Barley Mow, 1541 Merivale Road, Ottawa



OMSS Virtual meeting Tuesday February 17th, 2026 @ 7pm

Virtual meetings are open to all OMSS and BMSS members
The topic is "Opposites Attract"
contact Bob Thompson at thompson_robert@rogers.com

International Toy Soldiers Club Virtual Meeting Saturday February 13th, 2026 @ 7pm GMT

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

Theme - Desert island Figures! What one item from your collection would have with you if you were marooned on a desert island and why!

Contact HQ@replicametalsoldiers.co.uk for an invitation



BMSS Monthly Virtual meeting Friday February 6th, 2026 @ 7pm GMT

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

This month's topic is the French and Napoleonic Wars
Contact: Jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk for more details.



A note from the editor

You will notice we are missing our monthly message in the newsletter from the Society's president, David Dorward.

I am saddened to report that unfortunately David is not well and unable to send a message to the members or attend this month's Toronto meeting.

On behalf of all the members of the Ontario Model Soldier Society, we send David our best wishes for a quick and complete recovery.



The Calendar Committee's Wish List

by Frank MacKay



In 2023, the OMSS Executive authorized the production and printing of an annual full colour calendar which would be distributed to all paid up members as yet another valuable bonus of membership. Its objective was threefold: to provide a useful daily calendar, with all planned OMSS meetings clearly marked as a reminder; to entertain members with a brief snippet of military history every day; and to serve as a record and catalogue of each year's annual show.



I was honoured to be appointed editor and took as my inspiration the calendar of the Military Miniatures Society of Illinois (which calendar was sadly discontinued the next year due to rising production costs). Neil McGavock and Phil Andrews volunteered to compile historical content and after several very loud meetings, a large stock of chronological info was compiled. Neil also compiles the monthly calendar grids, being expert with the program used to create them. Jeff Duncan volunteered to be production manager after the first few issues and got costs reduced significantly. Through the connections of Scott Dummitt, we managed to land the generous advertising support of the prestigious *Tradition of London* and until this year, *Britains*, which helped reduce the costs.

So, what more do we need? It has always been my ambition to have the calendar pay for itself though advertising. Obviously we don't want full page ads on every page, but the inclusion of one business card ad on every page wouldn't hurt and would cut costs by half. Can you or your company spare \$25 to help? It's the cheapest advertising you can buy and highly effective. What we really need is a permanent advertising manager!

And what else? *More participation from members*—we need good photographers; clerks to match descriptions and names with photos and much more. Most of all, we need each and every member to sit down and start modeling! We need pieces to photograph, especially with a view to what month they will be displayed in. Model something with snow that we can use in the winter months (Rommel in shorts in February is a little out of place, no?). As with everything in the OMSS, you get out of it what you put into it.

Frank MacKay
Editor

2026 On Parade Update!

Everything is lining up beautifully for the 2026 'On Parade' show.

The date is **Saturday, June 13th 2026** with doors opening to the public at 9:00. Vendors can do a final pre show set up at 7am that morning.

Help will be required for show and vendor table setup Friday, June 12th at 3pm till 6pm.

Same Venue as last year;
Franklin Horner Community Centre 432 Horner Avenue in Etobicoke.

Vendors can start contacting the Show chairman now to reserve your tables at jimqualtrough@gmail.com.

Payment can be made by etransfer to the treasurer at omss@bell.net

Jim Qualtrough OMSS Show Chairman

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

Toronto Chapter's January Meeting

Prior to the start of the meeting, the day started with all tables in the meeting room full of vendors and their wares, with attendees hovering over the tables looking for that missing toy soldier to add to their collection. The meeting then started with a few presentations followed by a fascinating presentation by Andy Traverse the relationship between dental health and the ability to wage war and war stories from a dentist's chair.



In the photo to the left, outgoing president Duncan Johnstone is presented with a framed copy of the Presidential print by Vice President Victor Rudik and Treasurer/Secretary Gary Lenius



Dan Syned was presented with his 10 year pin by Vice President Victor Rudik and Treasurer/Secretary Gary Lenius



A Brief History of the Society Print



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

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



Ottawa Chapter's January Meeting

Thanks to Bob Thompson for submitting this report

Despite the snow and freezing cold we had a good turnout at our recent January meeting in Ottawa. Kelly made the drive in from Cornwall, and Brendan Hogan made the pilgrimage all the way from Petawawa.

OMSS business matters included the last call for collection of 2026 OMSS membership dues to be forwarded to Toronto as a bulk OMSS Ottawa submission. Also the 2025 OMSS calendars and information cards for the 2026 On Parade show were distributed.

The biggest news at the meeting was that the planned OMSS Ottawa Toy Soldier Show scheduled for late February at the Kanata Legion has been postponed. Dave Waddell is liaising with the Legion to negotiate an alternate date for our Ottawa Show.

The Show & Tell Topic for our January meeting was – “Naval” and/or “Cats & Dogs” – Surprisingly, the “Naval” theme got the biggest uptake.

Juan took the opportunity to give us the first public peek at his newest project on the sailors of WW2. He brought out his series of more than 20 1/6 scale WW2 sailors from different countries. The long term project will display each sailor with a matching 1/72 scale 3D designed and printed ship they served on.

As often happens Bob T. went overboard on both themes, with an emphasis on “Cats & Dogs”. His “Naval” contribution featured 3 ships’ cannon sets: a Napoleonic British set from Tradition, a War of 1812 Gun with crew from Wm Hocker 1812, and a Conte Pirate gun with crew.

Bob’s extensive “Cats & Dogs” display included the first showing of portions of his long anticipated “A Boy and his Dog” series of diorama modules.

Bob ended his presentation with a “*fascinating*” (and detailed) *long winded* (LoL) report on the “Dogs at Rorke’s Drift”. (The audience of course was in awe!)

Other displays of Naval topics, along with a smattering of Dogs and cats rounded out the thematic presentations.

The consumption of a tin of home baked shortbread in the shape of cats, dogs & penguins offered by Juan’s daughter rounded out an enjoyable evening.



Bob’s combined display for Show and Tell of “Cats and Dogs” and a variety of Naval pieces

Ottawa Chapter's January Meeting, *continued*



To the left and below are some samples from Juan's work in progress of 1/6 scale WW2 sailors from various countries



Above: Julian giving attendees the first look at his newest addition to his 1/6 WW2 village



Above: Naval Toy Soldiers for "Show and Tell"



Above: Dogs and Cats display from "Show and Tell"



OMSS Zoom Meeting for January

Thanks to Bob Thompson for submitting this report

10 participants (5 Ottawa, 1 Toronto, 2 Quebec, 1 Montreal, 1 England)

The Show & Tell topic was “Light” – “Because we are going to have more light now as we are between the winter solstice and the spring equinox.”

Bob’s usual photo presentation of Monthly Humour/Wow photo album (*Political statements, humour, Wow, Wow Toy Soldiers*) - *New acquisition's – “Light” photos*

Ian’s archeological dig from under his bed continued with the discovery of box #15 consisting of some combined bands from many different manufacturers

A good time was had by all.



Some of the finds during Ian's archeological dig



To the right and below Eric S. did a presentation covering many eras and toy soldiers types.



To the left, a small sample of Imperial China Toy Soldiers from Eric's presentation



Photos above are from Eric's presentation of closing of the gates at Waterloo



Venezuelan Soldiers!

Thanks to Jeff Duncan for submitting this story

Keeping up with current events! Here are the two Britains Ltd toy soldier sets produced representing Venezuelan troops. Both produced for only 4 years 1955-1959.



To the left and below, Set 2098 Venezuelan Military School Cadets, review order, marching at the slope, Officer with National Standard (flag).



Set 2104 Venezuelan Infantry, service dress, marching at the slope, Officer with National Standard (flag). Ironically these are identical to US marching troop figures beside the flag.



Book Review

Submitted by Andrew Stevenson
of Replica Metal Soldiers and Models

Glory of the Empires by Wendell Schollander

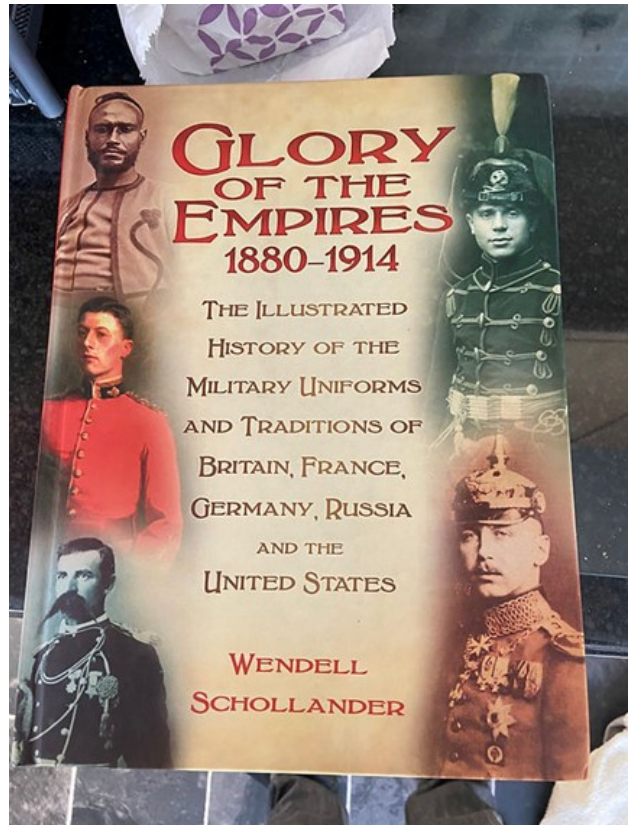
I picked up a copy of this book today and I can honestly say I'm blown away by it!

I spotted it on Amazon, read the reviews and thought "this looks interesting". So I took a gamble and ordered a copy. And I have not been disappointed. This book is truly fantastic pulling together a multitude of information about the armies of the Great Powers before the First World War. Of particular interest to me is the Indian army section. I think this must be the most comprehensive presentation of the detail of the Indian Army dress in a single publication. That's not to be said that it's complete, focusing mainly on the uniforms of 1913, however it is the best single reference to date.

The sections on France, Russia, Prussia, and the United States together with the British regulars are just as comprehensive and in the case of the Russians, illuminate an army which until now has not had the focus of the other great powers in terms of a uniform study.

For anyone interested in the uniforms of this period, this book has to be purchased and put on the bookshelf as a go to reference. On Amazon at the moment this book is just under £30 and for the size of it and the information it contains it is absolutely Supervalu.

I could not recommend this purchase highly enough!



Don't miss

See hundreds of quality models on display, many vendors including retailers, distributors and private sellers and with the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum as a venue, It's atmosphere is tough to beat.



Show your support for other hobby organizations with your attendance, and don't forget to wear your OMSS shirt!

March 29, 2026
9:00 am—4:00 pm
At the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum

Follow this link for more information
[HeritageCON | IPMS Hamilton](#)

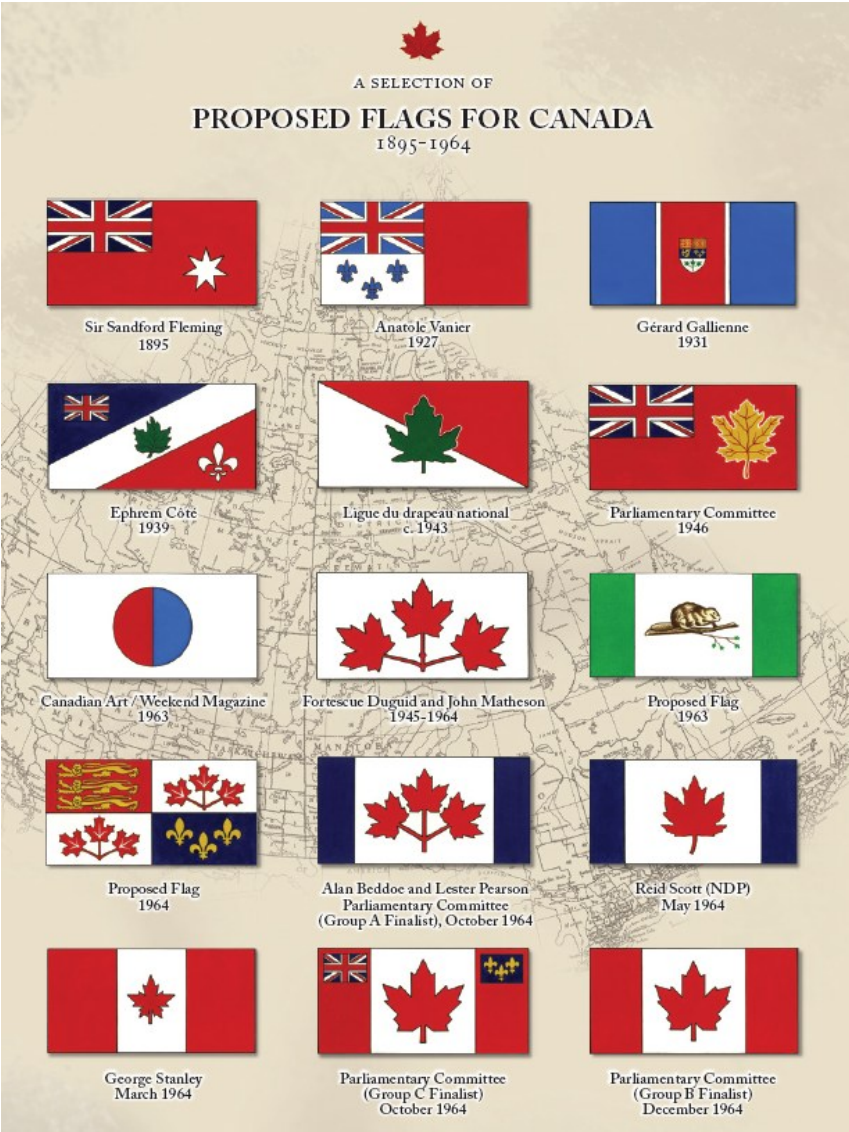


National Flag of Canada Day — February 15

At the stroke of noon on February 15, 1965, Canada's red and white maple leaf flag was raised for the very first time on Parliament Hill. On the same day in 1996, National Flag Day of Canada Day was declared.

Our national flag is a symbol that unites Canadians and reflects the common values we take pride in democracy, inclusion and equity.

To the right are some of the proposed National flags for Canada over the years.



To help get you through our long and cold winter, here are some movies to check out;

From Royal Canadian Legion Magazine



Have you ever watched a war movie and thought, "when are they going to mention Canada?" It's rare that the great white north gets anything more than a nod in cinematic depictions of warfare, but these 7 movies break the mould and let Canada take centre stage.

To see the list, read the Legion magazine article here:

<https://legionmagazine.com/7-movies-featuring-canada-at-war-you-have-to-watch-tonight/>

10 Great British World War II Films Most Americans Ignore



America gets most of the WWII movie spotlight—D-Day, the Pacific, the big Hollywood hero arcs. But Britain's war films hit different: tighter tension, sharper class friction, quieter heroism, and a gritty "keep going" realism that doesn't need fireworks to feel devastating.

 10 Great British WWII Films Most Americans Ignore

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKG13MAVWmM>

Rise of the Raven

This historical epic tells the story of Hungarian army commander John Hunyadi, who faced an Ottoman military force twice the size of his own troops at the bloody Siege of Belgrade in the 15th Century.

You can see the trailer here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GccawQitY_0



the last word

'...People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel'
Maya Angelou (author)

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