



The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962



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Newsletter for October 2026



Toronto Chapter meeting

Sunday, October 11, 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 Frank MacKay. Franks talk will on **Bases and Groundwork**: more than just rocks and dirt.

OMSS Virtual meeting

No meetings are scheduled due to the lack of volunteers.

*Volunteers are urgently needed to setup and host the meetings
Please contact Bob Thompson or a member of the club executive if you can help*



Ottawa Chapter meeting

Tuesday October 27th, 2026 @ 7pm

This months topic is TBA

The Barley Mow, 1541 Merivale Road



International Toy Soldiers Club Virtual Meeting

Saturday October 10th, 2026

@ 8pm GMT

(that's 3pm for most of us in Ontario)

Contact HQ@replicametalsoldiers.co.uk for an invitation
Or check out www.internationaltoysoldier.club



BMSS Monthly Virtual meeting

Friday October 16th 2026 @ 7pm GMT

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

This month's topic is "Armies of Europe"

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





Saturday
October 24, 2026
From 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

medals • badges • insignia • uniforms • field equipment • antique muzzleloaders • helmets
war souvenirs • trench art • toy soldiers • inert ordnance
accessories/acoutrements • books • prints

Experts on site to identify your treasures
• **FREE APPRAISALS**
General Admission (8:30 am) - **\$10**
Early Admission (7:00 am) - **\$20**
No Firearms or explosive devices

Nepean Sportsplex
(Halls A & B)
1701 Woodroffe Avenue
Ottawa, ON K2G 0C4
www.nepeansportsplex.com

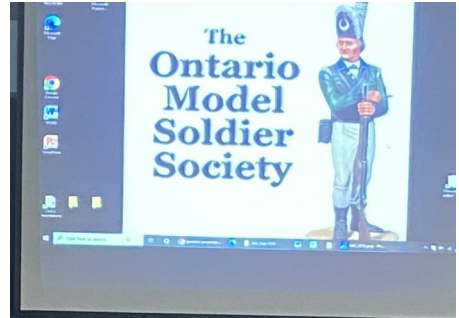
FOR INFORMATION
Eric Blenkarn
(343) 542-2288
blen0005@hotmail.com

Toronto Chapter's September Meeting

Thanks to Jim Qualtrough for the photos



Eric Shaw gave a lively and interesting presentation on his experiences living in Japan for 12 years, their relationship with history and the figures that are collected to in Japan to commemorate their history.



To the right, Larry Stutt, who in addition to being an OMSS member, also participates in reenacting. Larry wore one of his twelve reenactor uniforms and spoke about the efforts to ensure authenticity in the recreation of the uniforms and events in history.

In addition to the usual attendees and vendors, it was great to have Al Macdonald from the Ottawa chapter attend with fellow Ottawa member Steve Alexander who set up a table of unique items for sale, including some Lego like plastic block toy soldiers.



This date in history— October 2001—Operation Apollo



Members of the 3rd battalion of PPCLI in Tora Bora Afghanistan

Operation APOLLO was Canada's military contribution to the U.S.-led international campaign against terrorism following the September 11, 2001 attacks. Announced by then-Prime Minister Jean Chrétien on October 7, 2001, the operation lasted from October 2001 to November 2003. Approximately 7000 members of the Navy Army and Air Force of Canada participated.



H.M.C. Ships St. John's, Protector and Algonquin in the Arabian Sea

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/military-history/history-heritage/past-operations/asia-pacific/operation-apollo-2001.html>

Don't miss this month's Toronto speaker



Frank MacKay will discuss bases in modern figure modeling and the importance of groundwork which has now become almost as important to the display as the figure itself. Many modern and realistic products are now available to accentuate the display—texture rollers, grass mats, plastic foliage, plaster, putties, pigments and even brickwork molds and 3D printed terrain, all of which will be demonstrated. It will be a real round-up of traditional techniques combined with the latest and greatest modeling innovations. An event not to be missed!



President's Message October 2026

Hey there OMSS,

I've been fortunate enough to visit a number of toy and toy soldier shows in North America and Europe over the last 20 years. Speaking of which, how was Torcan? I had to miss it due to a couple of other things on the go.

A while ago, Scott told me that I should provide more info on some of the experiences I have had at foreign shows. A couple years ago I was in Milan for the February **Borsa Scambio Novegro** and met some new friends...Here's how the day went:

Sun, Feb 25, 2024

I got started early today. There's little as energizing to me like the first time (jeez, get yer minds out of the gutter! There's ladies present) ...at a new toy show. I've always wanted to go to the Borsa Scambio Novegro, which happens here every February and November. And as such, I was up before my alarm. I showered (getting the old muscles and bones in alignment), dressed and headed down for breakfast. High protein, as usual.



After that, I returned to my room, brushed the old tooth-bones, freshened up and got my backpack and small suitcase with seven copies of my book, **The One Inch Army II**. I was literally out the door of the hotel at 8:30:00 right down to the second. That was my plan. As I walked down the almost empty streets, I first encountered a strange guy in a top hat sitting on a car roof while hugging a stuffed bear.

Then I saw a fashion model going the other way. How did I know she was a model? She looked thin like one, had the runway walk, was taller than me in her 3" heels, and was wearing sunglasses on a cloudy day. This city is full of models right now for Fashion Week. I saw another in the Metro last evening and she didn't just do the runway walk, it was a super runway strut!...in the Metro 😊

At the Lima Metro station, I took the M1 line south to San Babila and then took the M4 out to the end of the line, which is Milan Airport. I got out at the Kiss and Ride exit, just after a guy with a www.tinycars.it bag in his hand. I could tell that we were headed to the same place so I struck up a conversation with him. He runs the shop, and sells diecast cars in Milan. I should check it out, though there are no figures there. We walked about 500m and he peeled off to go in the dealers entrance.



The Novegro exhibition hall from a distance.

President's Message October 2026 *(continued)*

I continued north and met a few other toy collectors. We chatted a bit and walked to the long line outside the show entrance. Had I been sharper, I would have saved myself a couple of Euros and 20mins of time if I had bought my ticket online a few days before. That said, I did enjoy watching all the other toy collectors: a trekkie wearing a communication badge gaffawed behind me, the Barbie collectors were there in their many colours of clothing and hair, the model train collectors all serious, diecast car guys, and other toy collectors of all types. What a beautiful snapshot of eccentric people.

When we got inside, the place was huge. Like a full-sized soccer pitch and it was full of hundreds of dealers each selling hundreds of toys.

I worked my way to the left and started scouring each row methodically. I think I got only through three rows when I came across a good seller with lots of Atlantic toy soldiers. There were a few other guys there already and as I approached, one recognized me and excitedly asked me to pull out my book. I dug into my suitcase and out came the big red book. I dug into

my suitcase and out came the big red book. I dug into What happened next made me feel like a celebrity in a media scrum. I was quickly surrounded and asked questions as they each leafed through the book. All that was needed was paparazzi snapping flashbulbs in my face. I met guys like Giancarlo, Roberto, Dario, Albino, and Dario. Mauro, the author of the four volume *Viaggio Nell' Atlantic* was there and one of the guys translated between us. Mauro's tome is the absolute authority...nay...the BIBLE of Atlantic and I need to find someone willing to sell it to me. It is rare and costs hundreds of Euros now on the secondary market. Atlantic has the same rabid followers in Italy as Marx Toys does in the US. In the scrum, I was asked how i got into toy soldiers, how big my collection was, told of inspiring the creation of HaT toy soldier company, told of visiting Treviglio yesterday, helped identify some finds, and it went on and on like that for over forty-five minutes. One by one, the guys handed over their 50 Euros and got my book. I kept one that I had promised for Pierre Belmont, a seller somewhere in the show.



1/72 prototype of a 3D printed Real Ghostbusters haunted mansion



At 11am, we decided to split off on our own separate hunts but meet back at the scrum site in an hour. I kept on in my methodical way, found some good stuff like a mint in box set of Atlantic Far West diorama playset in a 4ft x 3ft x 9" box. It was going for 1000 Euros.

I had to rush the last few rows of my search as time was short. As it was, I was a few minutes late when I got back to our meeting spot. I had still not found Paul Belmont and one of the guys volunteered to lead us all there. So off we went. When we got there,, I was surprised. I had bought 110 Euros of stuff right beside him about a half hour earlier and neither of us had noted the other. He took a look at the book and handed over his 50 Euros with a smile and a dance.

President's Message October 2026 *(continued)*



At this point, Dario asked me if I wanted to go for coffee or lunch. It was just after noon, so our merry band of five headed outside to another building that served as the cafeteria. By that point, I was lugging around my suitcase full of toy soldiers, plus two plastic bags and a couple of reusable grocery bags that I had brought from home. Oh, and my backpack. Yah, toy shows turn me into a pack mule. I was glad when one guy volunteered to guard all our finds while the others got food. In keeping with my low carb diet, I got a large hamburger patty and green beans. And we all sat down in the sunshine at a picnic table.

While we ate, I learned wondrous things. Dario has big plans. I can't go into a lot of detail without betraying his trust, but believe me...he has done a lot of planning and work. The toy soldier geek in me is grinning like a Cheshire Cat. If it comes to fruition, there will be tens of thousands of others worldwide with similar grins.

Another guy, Albino, revealed that he was a Colonel in the Italian army and had fought in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia and elsewhere. And I talked a bit about the rumour that a US soldier had seen the lost Atlantic moulds in Baghdad in the early 2000s. There is doubt that the moulds still exist, as they may have been melted down or rusted, but there is a chance. I also told of going to Ramsgate to see the Airfix factory, and the joys of the big Chicagoland Toy Soldier show. Yes, lots of toy soldier geek talk.

And Dario also gave me the gift of 12 Dulcop cowboys and Indians. I had been under the impression that there were fewer than half that number of poses, so it was a very pleasant surprise. I thanked him and said to them all that I am glad that I don't know everything about our hobby. The hunt and surprises keep me in our glorious infatuation.

After lunch we all split off and did more hunting. Dario stuck with me and we spent a half hour digging through a couple of large boxes of loose toy soldiers. Very few were our scale but we enjoyed the dig. He also showed me a couple of Mercury wagons (diecast with plastic parts), and he showed me lots of toy soldier photos on his phone. We need to trade photos!



Then we sat down for a coffee/tea and talked more. He was born in 1970, and is a Venitian, which is different than an Italian. One of his relatives spoke neither Italian nor Austrian (when it was part of the Austro-Hungarian empire), but Venitian. He told me that he has a 12 year old daughter in Venice with his wife and due to a rough work situation in Italy, he lives and works five days a week in Bergamo, to the northeast of Milan (and northwest of Venice). He only gets to see them on weekends, and has been in the job for ten years. Wow. That said, the free time to himself during the work week has allowed him to pursue his big plans. He made me promise to keep them under wraps as part of "Under promise and over deliver". He also helped Mauro write the last half of *Viaggio Nell'Atlantico*.

A few other collectors came by and talked with us. One lugged a large Star Wars Tyderium Shuttle under his arm and sighed that he was heading home to his wife. I joked that he should be sure to hide it from her, and he laughed. She's a good woman who recognizes that his is a much better hobby than fast cars and other women. The guys looked over Dario's copy of my book and were disappointed that I had sold out. They got my contact info and were happy to hear that I plan on returning to Europe in November and can mail the books from France. I think I only have five copies left at home. I bet I could sell them all in November.

And now I am inspired to begin writing the third edition. It may take half a decade, but there is still a market for it. Digital only, as I don't think production of a 4kg book is going to work well at the post office.

President's Message October 2026 (conclusion)

Dario and I also talked of going to meet Dominico Greco who now lives in Rho. If Dario can get a hold of him, I will get to meet one of Atlantic's sculptors, who also happens to have lots of test shots. These are figures moulded in colours that aren't usually seen in production. It's part of the procedure to test out how good the moulds are. I have some from several companies, but none from Atlantic. Plus, Dominico has done work for other toy soldier companies. I would love to see and learn as much as I can before I leave on Wednesday. I must keep an eye on my email for the next few days.

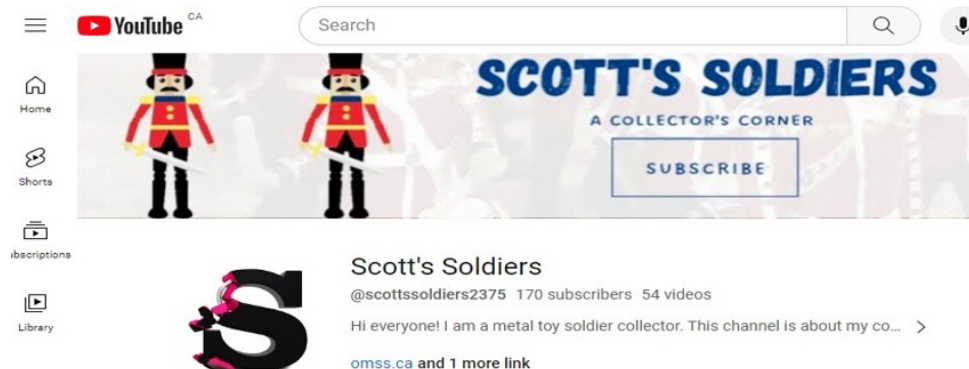
Dario gave me a ride back to the Metro station and we promised to keep in touch. When I return to Canada, I will put together all my toy soldier photos on a USB stick and mail it to him. He knows how dangerous info can be, and it could trigger some major buying :)

I headed back to my hotel. The Metro was again full of beautiful young women, and at least one was done up in "Mob Wife" chic. When I got into the hotel, I unpacked my toy soldier finds, photographed them and repacked them in my small suitcase with the overflow in a grocery bag for now.



This is why I start a trip with an empty suitcase!

Remember to Check out Scott Paget's YouTube Videos featuring **On Parade 2026**



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

Eric's Collection *(thanks to Eric Shaw for this story and photos)*

How about the classic Canadian game of "Find the German". This time in early Canadian history. Have fun with this folks. Future editions to include "Find the ancient Sumerian", "Find the unhappy peasant" and "Find the syphilitic landsknecht". No end to the depravity!

The order of the pictures should be chronologically as follows:

1. Early indigenous people with seated German officer.
2. Champlain and company.
3. Carignan-Salieres Regiment
4. Indigenous warriors in 18th century dress



The Quartermaster's Store



OMSS member Jim Cook is on the hunt for the following set to complete a band he is putting together for his collection.



If you know anyone with **Wm Britains set #40332**, Gordon Highlanders Pipe and Drum Band Set of 4 for sale, please see Jim at September's meeting, or email Jim at 48jcook@gmail.com

My London Trip Adventures

(thanks to Victor Rudik for the story and photos)



July 5th was the last big event planned for my U.K. trip, with smaller stuff happening over the next three days. Today is the **Kempton Arms Fair** at Kempton Park which is quite a ways outside of the main City of London. Given that the rail services are getting worse and worse, I knew the trip was going to be difficult.

I got up with my 7am alarm, got prepped, went down for breakfast. I was out the door by 8 and took the Underground to Vauxhall and caught a train to Teddington. This is where things got hard. South Western Rail said that I had to catch a bus as they were doing weekend work on the rail line. And the bus stop was about 400ft from the train station. I joined a few other old boys on the trek and was smart enough to snap a picture of the posted sign. It guided us to the bus stop...and no bus came. More of us gathered. One guy got ticked off and left after a half hour. Another (Gary the postie) tried to get a cab from one company but the company rep spoke in such a strong accent that he couldn't understand and the rep hung up on him twice! I tried the same number and had the same problem.... Gary tried another company and got the point across. I helped by finding the postal code of where we were. But the taxi was still not there when the bus arrived OVER AN HOUR LATE. We all got on without paying. The bus driver didn't fully understand her route, but we got there eventually. South Western Railways sucks dead bears...



She let us off about 400ft from the entrance to the park and we had to cross a busy road. We paid the 5GBP to get in and saw tons of crazy antique militaria. I could have bought a black and brass cuirass for 400GBP, a very good deal but would have filled one of my suitcases. Many weapons had been deactivated and had certificates, others were airguns, and some were so old that they were antique. And there were lots of bladed weapons, medals, uniforms and other stuff. I got some original WWII SOE stuff including a 5 Franc coin that splits up to show a hiding spot for messages. I also got a boot knife, a Kurkhri bayonet for a musket, a WWI inkwell, and 1775 French marine officer's flintlock. Here are a couple of pictures I took in the fair:



My London Trip Adventures *(conclusion)*

(thanks to Victor Rudik for the story and photos)

I also talked to the guys who had pieces of the Coldstream Guard battle flag that was flown at the defense of Hougomont in the Battle of Waterloo. I had lowball bid on it several years ago, not knowing what it was. They got it for 100GBP more than my bid and spent a fortune getting it rebuilt. They sold it to a collector somewhere in the US. I will ask them to provide the info for the buyer. Perhaps I can buy it off them and bring it back into the "British Empire".

I was also pleased to see a Sikh group in full ceremonial garb. They were doing brisk business buying south Asian stuff. I got lots of business cards and info for other such shows. For those interested, I can provide the info.

It was sometime around 2pm when I ate at a nearby chippy truck and then I headed to where the South Western Railway bus was supposed to pick us up to take us back to Teddington station. The moment I got there, I realized that no bus was going to come. It was absolutely deserted and I wasn't even sure of how a bus would get into the parking lot. Eventually, I found a couple of possible busses that would stop at the same place about 1.5km away.

So, I tromped out of the deserted parking lot and waited about 25mins until the bus came. We piled in and I was happy to get a seat. We probably went at least fifteen stops until we got to Feltham, where there was an operating train station and was on the train a few minutes later. I decided to head all the way into Waterloo station and visit the Imperial War Museum.

This was a mistake, I should have taken my new treasures back to the hotel. Why? Because laws in the UK are different. I didn't know that they were absolutely paranoid about knives here. When, at the museum security desk, I told the guard that I had just been at the Kempton Arms Fair and opened my bag to show the non-pointy end of the Kurkhri bayonet. He told me I had to check it and sign a list there...and when I had filled out the info he got his supervisor, who had to get his supervisor. They took me into a side room and the top guy looked at the bayonet and said it was clearly an antique. And when he found out I was Canadian, he took mercy on me and told me it was very stupid to have it here. He told me that the police could come and it would be up to them if I got it back. I was flabbergasted. I could have ended up in real trouble. Fortunately, the guy saw that I was shocked and didn't want any trouble. He offered to hold it and let me go through the museum and get it at the end, but at this point, I said I just wanted to get it back to the hotel. I didn't want any more complications on the trip, and besides, I still had the OSS stuff and other sharp things that were still in my bag and had not declared them. Discretion is the better part of valour and so I told them that I would come back at a later date. They thanked me and saw that I was truly apologetic. I got my bayonet and shoved it in the backpack. And I beat feet to the closest Underground station, right past a police station. YIKES! That was a close call. I don't want to be in the clink!

I got back to my hotel and unpacked the stuff. Ok, I will ship it via FedEx, rather than put it in my luggage. Fortunately, I had my toy soldiers and some books/catalogues that made up the rest of a box. Despite the misadventures, it was a good trip.



A popular supplier to our hobby is closing it's doors.



ANDREA
Miniatures



Andrea Miniatures says goodbye



The products still available
in stock may continue to
be purchased only until
December 31, 2026.



There will be **no sales** or
discounts of any kind on
Andrea Miniatures kits or
on Black Hawk Toy Soldiers
at any time, as a sign of
respect to our customers.
They will be sold at their
regular prices until the end.



We will continue our
activity only in our
commissioned works
division (**Andrea Studio**).



*Thank you for your trust and support throughout all these years.
It has been an honor to be part of your passion.*



ANDREA
Miniatures



A LIFELONG PASSION

Infancy is often regarded as the finest period of life. I wholeheartedly agree. In my brother's words, ours was a marvellous one. Among-and perhaps above-its many joys were the miniature figures that were so much in vogue in those distant days. They awakened in us a passion that has never faded and has remained undiminished through more than half a century of working together.

There were difficulties, setbacks, and even disagreements, yet we never took a step back. It was as though we were guided by a higher force, one that ultimately came to fruition in 1983 under the name of Andrea Miniatures.

Ignoring the advice of family and friends, we decided, against all odds, to leave our respective professions and embark upon the extraordinary adventure of creating figures conceived as genuine works of art. Forty-three years later, we remain unchanged and will, in all likelihood, spend the rest of our lives imagining new projects and new creations.

Times, however, have changed-and dramatically so. The miniature figure market, which probably enjoyed its golden age in the 1990s, has become a steadily shrinking niche. The average age of collectors must now be around seventy, and there appears to be no meaningful generational renewal of the hobby in this digital age.

In these circumstances, the long-term viability of Andrea Miniatures is, in keeping with the times, virtually nonexistent. Yet we have always understood that our true purpose was not merely to create figures, but to convey enthusiasm, inspiration, and a love for the art of miniature figures to all those who held one of our creations in their hands.

It is the thousands of people around the world who have given meaning to our work and made the dream of Andrea Miniatures possible. To each and every one of them, we offer our deepest gratitude.

From the bottom of our hearts: thank you, thank you very much.

Fernanda Andrea

Carlos Andrea

Andrea Miniatures



Another popular supplier to our hobby is closing it's doors.



Gripping Beast has been around since 1996, and it's been quite a journey. Over the years, we've built up a collection of more than 6,000 historical and fantasy miniatures, while also taking on Front Rank and Lurkio and continuing to run their ranges alongside our own. We've also had the pleasure of supporting guest ranges from Calpe Miniatures and Ragnarok Miniatures and many others.

Most importantly, we've had the support of thousands of fantastic customers over the years. Many of them have become friends and fellow gamers, and we've been lucky enough to meet and share the hobby with people from all over the world. Their enthusiasm and support have been a huge part of our journey, and we're incredibly grateful for it.

Sadly, the time has come for us to admit that we unfortunately aren't getting any younger, some of us are getting considerably creakier, and our small team has been reduced by recent retirements. So, after a lot of thought (and not enough tea), we have decided that it is time for us to close the doors at Beast Towers.

However, we're not disappearing just yet.

The online shop will remain open for the time being, and we promise to fulfil all orders that come in. Eventually though at some point, we will have to turn sales off so that we can finish everything outstanding and get the last parcels out of the door before we turn off the lights.

We would very much like to see the business continue under new ownership. There is a huge amount of history here, a substantial established collection of ranges and a loyal customer base around the world, so we would be delighted if someone came along and decided that they fancied taking on the rather enormous pile of miniatures we've spent decades creating and looking after.

Whether that happens or not, we simply don't know yet, as this is just our initial announcement and we will provide further updates along the way as we have them.

For now, we're still here, still packing orders and still doing what we've always done, however please do bear in mind that orders can take a while to be despatched as we're running production to a minimum.

A massive thank you to everyone who has supported us, bought our miniatures, painted them, played games with them, stocked them, recommended us or simply stopped by over the years.

It's been one hell of a hobby.
Thank you for a wonderful 30 years.
The Gripping Beast Team

We are saddened to report that the OMSS has lost another long time member



In Memoriam

A salute in your memory
from
all your friends
at the OMSS.



In Memory of Garry Robson *(thanks to Scott Dummitt for submitting this article)*

It is with great sadness that I must share with you the passing away of Garry Robson on 16 September 2026 at Kingston General Hospital. Garry was 79 years old. Although he had not been able to make the Society meetings and shows for several years, Garry enjoyed his time with the OMSS. He was a World War I oral historian who gave many lectures on the war at schools and clubs and loved to dress up in his military outfits and show the equipment used by the troops during that war. Garry had a modest collection of military miniatures, 1/6 scale military action figures and books as well as an extensive collection of militaria hats and equipment. Generous to a fault, and always ready to lend a hand. He was so pleased and surprised when the society awarded him a trophy for his WWI display when we held the show at Humber College. Garry is survived by his wife Bonnie. A "Celebration of Life" will be held for him at the Royal Canadian Legion, Trenton Branch from 2 – 4 pm on Sunday 25 October.



the last word

"The key to life is how well you deal with Plan B"

Mariu Henner (actor)

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