

# THE / LE BULLETIN



## President's Comments

By Léon Chamois, President OMMC

I will keep my comments short because I hope to see as many of you as possible in Calgary this June.

I'm sure that most of you would agree that one of the main advantages to attending our annual course is all the opportunities it gives us to network with our peers. The academic lessons and the site visits are the other two major benefits to attending, and I take as much advantage of those opportunities as possible.

But, for one whole week we swim in the same warm waters as almost a hundred of our peers; people who share the same passions that we do and are willing to share their knowledge and experiences. Some are even willing to share their friendship.

I urge you to expand on the idea of networking at the museum level. If you are not members of the CMA, please join. Join your provincial or territorial museum organizations; join any local area museum organizations that exist near you. Join international museum organizations; join as many organizations as you can. We cannot hope to succeed in the museum world if we exist in a vacuum. Meet people! Learn stuff!

Oh yeah; don't forget to attend our famous annual historical quiz, held this year in beautiful Calgary.

## OMMC 50th Annual Museum Studies Program

19 - 25 June 2016

Calgary, Alberta

Registration Now Open

Registration forms and schedule now available online at [www.ommcinc.ca](http://www.ommcinc.ca)

## Commentaires du président

Par Léon Chamois, président de l'OMMC

Je vais garder mes commentaires courts parce que je souhaite voir le plus grand nombre possible de vous à Calgary ce mois de juin.

Je suis certain que la plupart d'entre vous seraient d'accord que l'un des principaux avantages d'assister à notre cours annuel est toutes les opportunités qu'il nous donne de faire du networking avec nos pairs. Les leçons formelles et les visites sur place sont les deux autres avantages majeurs d'assister, des avantages dont je tire profit autant que possible.

Mais, pendant une semaine entière, nous nageons dans les mêmes eaux chaudes que près d'une centaine de nos pairs; des gens qui partagent les mêmes passions que nous et qui sont prêts à partager leurs connaissances et expériences. Certains sont même prêts à partager leur amitié.

Je vous exhorte d'élargir sur l'idée de networking au niveau du musée. Si vous n'êtes pas membres de l'AMC, s'il vous plaît joignez-vous. Joignez-vous à vos organisations de musées provinciales ou territoriales; joignez-vous aux organisations locales de musée qui existent près de chez vous. Joignez-vous à des organisations de musées internationaux; joignez-vous à autant d'organisations que vous pouvez. Nous ne pouvons pas espérer réussir dans le monde des musées si nous existons dans un vide. Rencontrez des gens! Apprenez des trucs!

Eh oui; n'oubliez pas de participer à notre fameux quizz historique annuelle, tenue cette année dans la belle Calgary.

**Le 50e programme annuel d'études pour musées de l'OMMC**  
**19 - 25 juin 2016**  
**Calgary, Alberta**

Les inscriptions sont ouvertes.

Les formulaires d'inscription et l'horaire sont maintenant disponibles en ligne à [www.ommcinc.ca](http://www.ommcinc.ca)

## Election of Directors 2016

The Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act requires that organizations such as OMMC be led and managed by a Board of Directors. Directors are elected from among the members of OMMC. The Articles of Incorporation state that OMMC will have not less than 9 and not more than 11 Directors. Part VI of the OMMC By-laws approved at the AGM 2014 govern nominations and elections of Directors.

OMMC members will conduct elections at the Annual Meeting of Members (AMM) 2016 to fill a vacancy among the Directors. The Directors will meet immediately after the close of the AMM to appoint the officers of the corporation for the next year.

Léon Chamois, Rory Cory and Richard Ruggle will all reach the end of their current term as a Director at the end of AMM 2016. All three are eligible for re-election, have agreed to stand for election again and all three will be nominated for election. David Stinson, Greg Gallant, Dale Murray and Bruce Tascona have one year remaining in their current term as Directors. Bethany Aitchison, Eric Ruel and Jim Whitham have two years remaining in their current term as Directors. There is one vacant Directors position, following the resignation of Andrew Nellestyn.

All nominations will be reviewed by the Nominations Committee as stated in the OMMC Bylaws. The Committee for 2016 includes David Stinson as Chair, with Dale Murray as the Director member and Sandra Johnson Penney, representing the Canadian Military Engineers Museum, as the non-Director member.

The nomination form for the 2016 elections can be acquired by contacting David Stinson, Secretary, at [ommcinc2@gmail.com](mailto:ommcinc2@gmail.com). Nominations, on the prescribed form, written in either French or English, must be delivered by 1600 hrs, Pacific Daylight Time, Friday, 03 June 2016, to me by PDF copy e-mailed to [ommcinc2@gmail.com](mailto:ommcinc2@gmail.com), by fax to me at OMMC, 250-655-1493, or by postal mail to OMMC, 2513 Beacon Avenue, PO Box 2204, Sidney, BC, V8L 3S8.

Nominations which do not pass scrutiny by the Committee will be returned to the nominator with the reason(s) for rejection stated.

Nominations which pass scrutiny will be announced in advance of the AMM. The Nominating Committee will report formally at the AMM. If there are two or more nominees for the position open for election, the vote will be conducted by secret ballot. The successful candidate will take up his/her position after the end of the AMM.

It will be asked once at the AMM if there are any nominations from the floor. Any such nomination must meet all of the conditions which apply to a formal nomination and the nominated person must be prepared to speak briefly about himself/ herself at the meeting.

## World War One Thunder Bay Centennial Project

By George Romick, Thunder Bay Military Museum

The effects of World War One could be felt every day in the communities of Fort William and Port Arthur between 1914 and 1918. The local newspapers printed Victory Loan advertisements, editorial reports and stories on a near-daily basis. While the impact of World War One is felt differently today, it is no less significant than it was one hundred years ago. The Thunder Bay Military Museum is participating in the World War One Thunder Bay Centennial Project - a community partnership to commemorate the centennial of World War One. Members of the partnership, which include the Thunder Bay Public Library, City of Thunder Bay Archives, City of Thunder Bay Heritage Advisory Committee, the Northwestern Ontario Sports Hall of Fame, Thunder Bay Military Museum, Lakehead University History Department, Thunder Bay Museum and the Northwestern Ontario Aviation Heritage Centre, will contribute photographs, records and research to a dynamic online exhibit depicting life in Thunder Bay during World War One.



The project is hosted online and is publicly accessible at [www.tbpl.ca/worldwarone](http://www.tbpl.ca/worldwarone). New stories, photos and documents are being added regularly. The public is invited and encouraged to contribute their own stories and research material to make this project truly unique and dynamic.

The World War One Thunder Bay Centennial Project involves a wide range of cultural and community partners who are sharing their resources and expertise to tell the story of the Lakehead and its people in the Great War. The project is an ever expanding source of information; in addition to the "Soldiers' Letters segment", one of the latest additions is an obituaries index of local casualties during or as a result of the war, which were published in the Fort William Daily Times Journal and the Port Arthur News Chronicle. Together with the service record from the Libraries & Archives Canada (LAC) and the burial record from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), it is possible to find out more about those who fought and died in the war. The obituaries index is updated monthly to coincide with the centennial of these events and commemorate the sacrifice of those individuals and their families.

By the winter of 1916, it had become clear that the conflict of the First World War was far from over. Over four dozen individuals from Fort William and Port Arthur had already lost their lives during or as a result of the war. The impact of the war is most prevalent in the stories, photos, and records that show the real people who gave their all to the war effort in many different ways. Within the project there is an area called "People & Stories" through which family members of those that served during World War One have shared their stories with us.

You need to visit this wonderful project to get the full experience of what it was like in Fort William and Port Arthur between 1914 and 1918. Questions or comments about the project can be emailed to [ww1project@tbpl.ca](mailto:ww1project@tbpl.ca).

## New Ways of Attracting Visitors

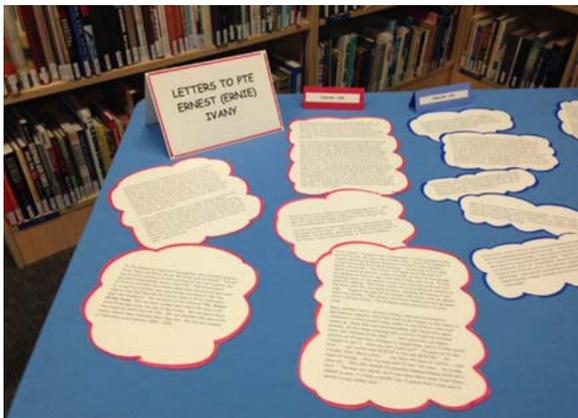
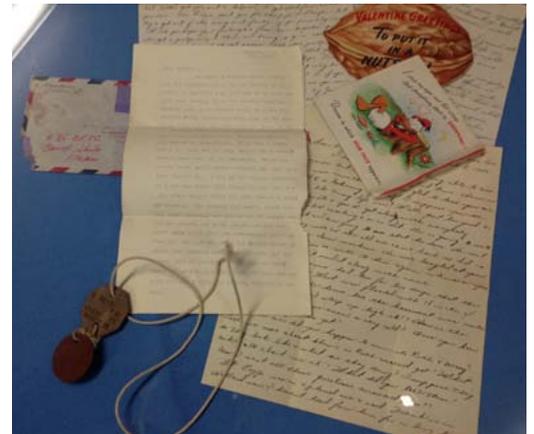
By Val Wilson, Comox Air Force Museum

Here at the Comox Air Force Museum, we have had success encouraging a wide variety of members of our community to come in, including school groups, Air Cadets, and seniors' centres, among others. We spend time with all our guests as they enter the Museum, making them feel welcome, helping them find the information they might be looking for, and providing a great visitor experience. For the last several months, we've been working on a different approach to invite visitors into the Museum, one that doesn't even involve having them stepping through the door!

Just over a year ago, we felt that showcasing some of our Library books might draw visitors into the Library itself for a look. We set up a table in the Library, and placed the books along with a short write-up on each. Volunteers working with visitors were encouraged to invite them in to see the display.

This has grown into an exhibit that we change every two weeks, featuring specific items in our archives. These can be thematic or date-specific, such as a display on RCAF traditions for International Tartan Day (April 6th), or on a subject such as the Battle of Britain leading up to Battle of Britain Sunday.

These same Library Table write-ups are simultaneously posted on our Website, and consequently to our Facebook page. We find that many of those who visited us on Facebook are also drawn to our website. They check out the Library Table Display and tend to read previously posted pieces as well.



Two memorable experiences related to this have been about letters donated to us. The first was from a set written by a WWI Royal Flying Corps Lt. Arthur William Hammond. The letters gave us insight into his life and times in the military, as well as his family and their lives. In the process of researching, we found family members who didn't know about the letters or about one another. Because they looked at our website postings, we were able to connect them and to send copies of the letters to include with their family histories.

The second set was written to a WWII serviceman, Ernest Ivany, a BC native. We learned about life at home during the latter part of the war. In the process of researching, we found Ivany himself, living in the BC interior, near his family home. We continue to communicate with him, and have been able to add to our knowledge.

As a result of this multi-faceted approach, our Museum is constantly open and available to visitors. We include history and current events, items that educate, and invite personal responses from folks. People are able to visit us in the comfort of their homes, which also means that people who live outside our community can now experience our history, and people who are homebound can still come to, and enjoy, our Museum.

## Airgraph

Submitted by Allan Kerr, Canadian Militaria Preservation Society

Adapted from Canada at War, October, 1943

The popularity of the airgraph services, which were inaugurated in 1941, is demonstrated by the number of airgraph messages being sent. More than 76,000 of them are flown weekly from Canada, and in a single week in July 88,000 were received in Canada from many lands overseas.

Airgraph letters save space and weight; an ordinary mail bag will hold 2,400 ordinary letters or 408,000 airgraph letters, which would require 213 mail bags and 639 cubic feet of cargo space as ordinary mail.

Airgraph messages are written on a combined envelope-and-letter form obtainable at any Post Office free of charge. After being prepaid at the proper rate of postage and mailed, they are carried by air to Toronto and photographed on a roll of microfilm, which is carried by plane to the United Kingdom. These photographic enlargements are made, placed in envelopes and forwarded. Each roll of microfilm weighing only 3.75 ounces contains 1,600 airgraph messages or 6,800 airgraphs to the pound.



A vertical poster for Airgraph services. At the top, the word "Airgraph" is written in a large, stylized, cursive font. Below it, the text "CONSERVE SHIPPING SPACE" is written in bold, block letters. A circular graphic shows a ship at sea. Below that, a graphic shows a stack of microfilm with the text "MICRO-FILM 1,500 AIRGRAPH MESSAGES" and "1,500 LETTERS". At the bottom, a box titled "AIRGRAPH FEES" lists rates: "TO ARMED FORCES IN UNITED KINGDOM AND MIDDLE EAST -- 6 CENTS", "SENT BY CIVILIANS TO CIVILIANS IN UNITED KINGDOM AND MIDDLE EAST -- 15 CENTS", and "SENT BY PERSONNEL OF THE CANADIAN, BRITISH AND ALLIED ARMED FORCES SERVING IN CANADA TO CIVILIANS IN UNITED KINGDOM AND MIDDLE EAST -- (NOTE: RANK, UNIT AND SERVICE MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE SENDER'S ADDRESS) -- 6 CENTS". At the very bottom, it says "ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF HON. WILLIAM P. MULLOCK, P.C., M.P. POSTMASTER GENERAL."

Notice placed in Post Offices to advertise the Airgraph (Copyright Sharon and Allan Kerr)



An Airgraph envelope with a handwritten address: "TO:- MRS E KEWR", "BOX 32, TURFORD", "SASKATCHEWAN", "CANADA". The envelope number is "207457". Below the address, there is a circular stamp that says "PAID BY CENSOR NO. 038". The message area contains a drawing of three men in military uniforms standing in front of a building. The text "CHRISTMAS GREETING FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN" is written across the drawing, and "FROM YOUR MOTHER KEWR" is written below it. At the top, it says "Write the message in large BLOCK letters in the panel below. The address must NOT be typewritten." and "Write the message very plainly below this line." At the bottom, it says "MAKES SURE THAT THE ADDRESSES WRITTEN IN LARGE BLOCK LETTERS IN THE PANEL ABOVE".

Airgraph sent by my half-brother to my mother (Copyright Sharon and Allan Kerr)

## Notes from the Editor

I am always so excited to see what articles come into my inbox every couple of months for new issues of 'The Bulletin'. The work our membership does with military history never ceases to astound me, and I am proud of our members for the amazing efforts they put into their museums.

We are hoping to broaden our reach with content from our membership. Discussions have already begun with 'Muse' magazine to see if we can contribute articles on a regular basis to their publication. If this is successful, do not be surprised if you see your content in their magazine. It may need to be heavily edited to meet their submission criteria, but from now on, be aware that if you submit something to 'The Bulletin', it may be submitted on behalf of OMMC to 'Muse'. This will not only bring more attention to your own work, but also OMMC as a whole as we continue to strengthen our connections with other museum organizations. We will keep you updated about any further developments.

'The Bulletin' is made almost entirely of member-generated content. Please help keep this publication running by submitting your stories, and they can be about anything. The last two issues, I have had no submissions for "The Editor Asks..." questions, so we will not be doing that feature anymore. That said, please feel free to send in any featured artifacts or photos that you want to share with the membership. Even short articles or submissions are very welcome here, and we want to share as much about all of our museums as we can.

We are a close-knit network, and the stronger our network is, the better we can achieve our collective goals of sharing Canadian military heritage.

I look forward to seeing your future submissions!

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'The Bulletin' is the official publication of the Organization of Military Museums of Canada. The editor is Bethany Aitchison. Articles can be submitted to [bethany.aitchison@live.ca](mailto:bethany.aitchison@live.ca).