

THE / LE BULLETIN



President's Comments

By Léon Chamois, President OMMC

There are only a few points I would like to cover since we will be seeing each other in a few months in Oshawa (a course which promises to be amazing).

Those of us who usually receive MDF funding are now aware that they will not be available in the next fiscal year. I know that this will affect most of us in different ways; it can be catastrophic for some of us and a mere speed bump for others. I think it reinforces DHH's wisdom in insisting that we not rely solely on MDFs for our existence; we must broaden our fund raising activities and re-evaluate our priorities. This applies to us as individual museums as well as to OMMC as an organization. I hope we take this opportunity to help each other as much as possible.

On a more personal note, I am saddened to say that one of my friends and a great help to our Museum has been investigated by Stolen Valour Canada. It seems his military history is completely bogus. It makes me wonder what dark hole in someone's psyche must exist before they decide to reinvent themselves in this way. Operationally, I wonder how many of our museums contain medal groups and other memorabilia from such false warriors. Do we check when we receive such donations or do we accept all of them on face value?

I look forward to discussing these matters with you in Oshawa. And if you know anyone who has not renewed their OMMC membership, please prod them gently with a sharp stick.

Thank you

Commentaires du président

Par Léon Chamois, président de l'OMMC

Il y a seulement quelques points que je voudrais couvrir car nous allons nous voir dans quelques mois à Oshawa (un cours qui promet d'être étonnant).

Ceux d'entre nous qui reçoivent habituellement un financement FDM sont maintenant conscients qu'ils ne seront pas disponibles au cours de la prochaine année fiscale. Je sais que cela affectera la plupart d'entre nous de différentes façons; Il peut être catastrophique pour certains d'entre nous et une simple bosse de vitesse pour les autres. Je pense que cela renforce la sagesse de DHP en insistant sur le fait que nous ne nous appuyons pas uniquement sur les FDM pour notre existence; nous devons élargir nos activités de collecte de fonds et réévaluer nos priorités. Cela vaut pour nous en tant que musées individuels et pour OMMC en tant qu'organisation. J'espère que nous profiterons de cette occasion pour nous aider les uns les autres autant que possible.

Sur une note plus personnelle, je suis attristé de dire qu'un de mes amis et une grande aide à notre Musée a été enquêté par Stolen Valour Canada. Il semble que son histoire militaire est complètement fausse. Cela me fait me demander quel trou sombre dans le psychisme de quelqu'un doit exister avant qu'ils décident de se réinventer de cette façon. Sur le plan opérationnel, je me demande combien de nos musées contiennent des groupes de médailles et d'autres souvenirs de ces faux guerriers. Vérifions-nous quand nous recevons de tels dons ou les acceptons-nous tous sans questions?

J'ai hâte de discuter de ces questions avec vous à Oshawa. Et si vous connaissez quelqu'un qui n'a pas renouvelé leur adhésion à OMMC s'il vous plaît donnez les un petit coup avec un bâton pointu. Merci.

The City of the Poppy

By George Romick, Thunder Bay Military Museum

The First World War had a significant impact on the communities of Port Arthur and Fort William.

Thousands of men and women from the region served in the armed forces during that conflict. It is appropriate then that Thunder Bay has adopted the title “The City of the Poppy” to commemorate involvement in that war and remember those who served.

This story begins in 1915 in Flanders Field, Belgium, with Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, Canadian doctor and poet, who penned his now famous ode to the deceased, “In Flanders Fields”. In the process Lieutenant Colonel McCrae immortalized the poppy and its symbolism in his poem.

It seemed a natural fit that this symbol should be established as a permanent memorial to the fallen. The custom of wearing the poppy perhaps lay with Miss Moina Michael, an American, who adopted it while working in a Y.M.C.A. canteen in New York in 1918.

Two years later, a French woman, Madame Anne E. Guerin, visited the United States and learned of Michael’s idea. Guerin decided to use the concept in fundraising to help French children suffering in the war-torn areas. While she did not conceive of the idea, Guerin certainly did the most to encourage groups and organizations to adopt the poppy as a symbol of remembrance, as well as a means of raising funds for those affected by the war. In 1921, Guerin presented the poppy idea to officials of the British Legion who recognized the value of it.

She visited Canada later that year, with Port Arthur, Ontario, as her first stop. At the same time the Great War Veterans Association (GWVA), a forerunner of the Royal Canadian Legion, was hosting a national convention at the Prince Arthur Hotel in July 1921. On July 4, she gave an account of her activities and presented her idea of the remembrance. The next day the GWVA readily approved the idea of the poppy as a national emblem and passed a resolution that it be worn on the anniversary of Armistice Day in memory of fallen comrades. On November 11, 1921, poppies were made by the women and children of France and distributed in Canada for the first time under the sponsorship of the GWVA. Within a year, all Legion branches across the country wore the poppy as a means of remembrance, a practice which continues to this day.

Efforts to commemorate this history began in August 2014 with the launching of the World War One Thunder Bay Centennial Project (www.tbpl.ca/worldwarone). At the same time, a group of community members approached the City with some ideas. Members of the World War One Thunder Bay Centennial Project joined City Administration and community members to develop a plan for commemorating the war’s impact on life in Thunder Bay. To date the City and community members have developed a logo, brochure and banners that you may have already seen in the city. Work is underway to coordinate a book and film focused on the City of the Poppy story. The City is also collaborating on potential legacy projects that will serve as lasting reminders of our place in history. By telling this and other stories about the local contributions and sacrifices from 1914-1918 the City of the Poppy (aka Thunder Bay) ensures that the people and families upon whom war takes its toll will not be forgotten.



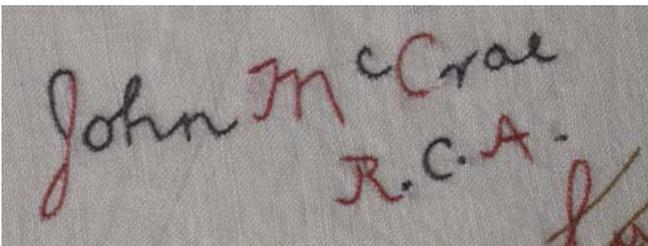
Matron C.J.G.F. Pope's Boer War Tea Cloth

By Allan Kerr and Doug Styles, Canadian Militaria Preservation Society Museum



Above: Hemstitched tea cloth embroidered by Canadian Nurses 1900, bearing names of the nursing colleagues and Canadian and British military and diplomatic personnel.

Below: Detail of tea cloth showing John McCrae's signature.



in all Georgina had been deployed in South Africa with the British Army in three Canadian Contingents, serving from: November 1899 to January 1900, January 1900 to January 1901 and January to July 1902.

The tea cloth in figure one, while belonging to Georgina Pope, was probably the result of work by the eight Canadian nurses who served with her. The rank or title of most of the signatories indicate that the tea cloth was signed in an Officers' Mess. All signatures on the linen cloth were then embroidered to protect them during laundry. The cloth then became a souvenir of Georgina's time as a nurse during the Second Boer War 1899-1902. Souvenirs of this type are broadly called Trench Art.

In 1975, I had an interesting phone call from an antique store in Prince Edward Island. They had a tea cloth containing the signatures of many Canadian Officers and others related to the Boer War. I indicated my interest and after some discussion the cloth was sent on approval. The cloth is now one of the best items in our 8,000 piece collection.

The tea cloth belonged to Georgina Fane Pope who served in Africa from November 1899 to June 1902. She chose the military's nursing service as a career and was posted to Britain and France during the First World War. Georgina Pope and her Nursing Sister colleagues confronted the reality of military service when they arrived in South Africa in 1899; they were subject to the same rules and regulations as the fighting soldiers.

Nursing Sisters were accredited as Lieutenants receiving the pay, benefits, and respect accorded that rank but without the authority to issue orders to other military personnel. Creation of the Canadian Nursing Service in 1901 provided women with a formal means of serving in the Canadian Army Medical on an ongoing basis.

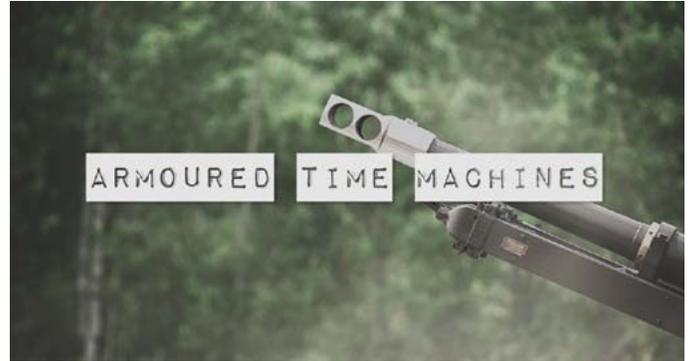
Cecily Jane Georgina Fane Pope was born January 1, 1862, in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. She attended the New York Training School for nurses, graduating in 1885. She worked in the United States until returning to Canada in 1899 to seek a position as a Nursing Sister accompanying the Canadian Contingent to South Africa. She was placed in command of the first group of nurses to go overseas;

Armoured Time Machines: A Short Documentary Film

By Jeremy Blowers, Ontario Regiment RCAC Museum

Looking back at 2016, it was a fantastic year for the museum and for our Regiment. We celebrated 150 years of service for the Ontario Regiment (1866-2016). One of the high points was our annual AQUINO Tank Weekend that we host in Oshawa, which has become one of Canada's largest military shows.

In addition to the celebrations of the Regimental anniversary, the AQUINO show included a special commemoration for the 25th anniversary of the 1991 Gulf War, which turned into a career highlight. Each year, we commission a special video of the event that is full of sights and sounds from the live tank show. As we were witnessing history in the making, we decided instead to make a documentary.



Over time, the museum has acquired the world's largest collection of veteran 1991 Gulf War British vehicles. These vehicles were painstakingly researched and restored over many years to bring them back to their 1991 markings and condition. The museum's UK collection includes a Ferret Scout Car and one of each CVRT light tank (Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance Tracked) variants. This is accompanied by a US M60A3 MBT (Main Battle Tank) and HUMVEE of the same period. Two Soviet vehicles of the period are also in the collection; a BMP-1 APC (Armoured Personnel Carrier) and a T-54R MBT that was captured from the Iraqis by the US Marines during the 1991 conflict.

For this special anniversary Lt(ret) Alan Duffy, president of the Ontario Regiment RCAC Museum, tracked down the service records of the vehicles and the crews from 1991. The UK Gulf War veterans were invited to visit Canada during the 2016 AQUINO Tank Weekend and were reunited with their vehicles from 25 years ago. For the veterans, this was an opportunity to "go back in time", meet up with old friends and tell their stories to the public. They even got to crew the vehicles again in the live show and demonstrations during the weekend. For many this was an emotional experience, both for those that were able to meet the veterans and the veterans themselves.

Being a tank museum, visitors are drawn by the shock and awe of these powerful machines. But this was about the personal stories of the men and the experiences that shaped their lives and the times we live in. It was not all about the vehicles and tanks, it was about the stories.

This documentary, "Armoured Time Machines", allows the veterans of this conflict to tell their personal stories from 25 years ago. The difficulties of leaving home, the months they spent together in the desert and the emotions of being reunited with their vehicles and their mates from so long ago. It is dedicated to a remembrance of their service, and all those who served in this conflict.

The Museum will once again host some of the Gulf War veterans in 2017 at the AQUINO Tank Weekend in May. We hope that OMMC members will take the opportunity to visit the show as it will take place May 27-28, the weekend prior to the annual course. We hope you enjoy the documentary and look forward to seeing you this summer. The documentary, "Armoured Time Machines" can be found at youtu.be/WXcyJG4jaBc. For more information on the Ontario Regiment RCAC Museum or AQUINO Tank Weekend please visit our website, www.ontrmuseum.ca.

Army Museums Strategic Planning Moves Forward

By Lieutenant Gareth Newfield, Canadian Army G1 Museum Plans



In June 2016, Canadian Army G1 staff administered a survey to Army Museum attendees of the OMMC Course held in Calgary, Alberta. The 42 respondents, representing a majority of the Army's 52 accredited museums and several associated collections, provided a snapshot evaluation of the state of the Army's museums.

The data gathered suggests overall varied performance of our museums. Key challenges identified include the need for a new Army museum strategy, access to training programs, an updated Canadian Armed Forces museum manual, staffing and volunteers, increasing local community engagement, infrastructure concerns, and need for institutional networking. The survey also clearly indicates tremendous future potential for Army museums to support public affairs outreach, recruiting, and promote the sharing of the heritage of the Canadian Army.

To move forward, the Canadian Army has created the temporary position of G1 Museum Plans, tasked to develop formal recommendations and a new Army museum strategy aligned with the Army Operating Framework. An update on this process and recommendations will be presented at the OMMC course in May 2017 in Oshawa, Ontario.

The 2016 Canadian Army Museums survey results are now available and being distributed to Army museums and collections. Thank you to our Curators for their input.

Museums and collections are also encouraged to take advantage of the Canadian Army's funding for attendance of the 2017 OMMC Course. Accredited museums are eligible for funding of up to two (2) delegates' course fees, and non-accredited collections may send one (1) delegate.

If you have not yet received a copy of the survey data or if you wish to discuss attendance at OMMC, please contact: gareth.newfield@forces.gc.ca – (613) 971-7261.

La planification stratégique des musées de l'Armée se développe

Par le lieutenant Gareth Newfield, G1 Plans musées de l'Armée canadienne

En juin 2016, l'état-major du G1 de l'Armée canadienne a remis un sondage aux représentants des musées de l'Armée présents au cours de l'OMMC, à Calgary, en Alb. Les 42 répondants, représentant la majorité des 52 musées accrédités de l'Armée et plusieurs collections connexes, ont fourni une évaluation de l'état des musées de l'Armée.

Les données recueillies révèlent que nos musées affichent des rendements variés. Parmi les principaux défis relevés, mentionnons la nécessité d'avoir une nouvelle stratégie des musées de l'Armée, un accès à des programmes de formation, un manuel des musées des Forces armées canadiennes mis à jour, l'effectif et les bénévoles, l'accroissement de l'engagement communautaire local, des préoccupations au niveau de l'infrastructure et un besoin de réseautage institutionnel. Il s'est également dégagé du sondage qu'il existe un potentiel énorme relativement au soutien des musées de l'Armée à l'égard des relations externes des affaires publiques, du recrutement et de la promotion du patrimoine de l'Armée canadienne.



Afin d'aller de l'avant, l'Armée canadienne a créé le poste temporaire de G1 Plans des musées, qui aura pour but de formuler des recommandations officielles et de proposer une nouvelle stratégie pour les musées de l'Armée harmonisée avec le Cadre opérationnel de l'Armée. Une mise à jour sur ce processus et ces recommandations sera présentée au cours de l'OMMC en mai 2017 à Oshawa, en ON.

Les résultats du sondage 2016 réalisé dans les musées de l'Armée canadienne sont maintenant disponibles et sont remis aux musées et aux collections de l'Armée. Merci à nos conservateurs pour leur rétroaction.

On encourage également les musées et les collections à tirer parti des fonds consentis par l'Armée canadienne pour la participation au cours de l'OMMC 2017. Les musées accrédités sont admissibles au paiement des frais de participation de deux (2) délégués au cours, tandis que les collections non accréditées peuvent envoyer un (1) délégué.

Si vous n'avez pas reçu un exemplaire des données du sondage ou si vous souhaitez discuter de la présence à l'OMMC, veuillez écrire à l'adresse gareth.newfield@forces.gc.ca ou composer le 613-971-7261.

Museum Helps RCAF Golden Hawks Be Recognized

By Kevin Anderson, New Brunswick Aviation Museum

In 1959, RCAF Station Chatham, New Brunswick, was chosen to be the home for Canada's first official national aerobatic team, the RCAF Golden Hawks. The team would perform using the Canadair F-86 Sabre Mk V jet aircraft, Canada's front-line fighter aircraft that had patrolled the skies of Europe for almost a decade. Then Chief of the Air Staff, New Brunswick-born Air Marshal Hugh Campbell, chose Chatham as it was the site of #1 (Fighter) Operational Training Unit.

The man selected to lead the team was Squadron Leader (S/L) Fern Villeneuve. S/L Villeneuve had several years of jet flying and aerobatic experience and was the ideal man for the job. Of the original eight team members, three were from New Brunswick. Flight Lieutenant Ralph Annis was born and raised in McAdam. Flight Lieutenant Jim McCombe was raised in Fredericton, and Flying Officer William Stewart was born and raised in Dalhousie.

Although the team was only supposed to last one year, their tremendous success was rewarded with their establishment as a permanent unit of the RCAF. The team was based in Chatham until the end of the 1962 season when they moved to Trenton, Ontario, in order to make room for 416 (All Weather) Fighter Squadron and their CF-101 Voodoos. Despite their tremendous popularity, the team disbanded in February 1964 due to severe budget cuts in the RCAF.

In September 1967, Canada's Centennial year, RCAF Station Chatham decided to honour the Golden Hawks by dedicating an F-86 Sabre painted in team colours and markings in front of the Station recreation centre at an event referred to as "Golden Hawk Appreciation Day". The Guest Speaker for the event was Air Vice Marshal M. E. Pollard, DSO, DFC, AFC, CD. In addition to recognizing the excellence of the Golden Hawks, AVM Pollard stated that this monument was a tribute to all the men who flew the Sabre aircraft in operations overseas at the height of the Cold War.

In early 2016, we nominated the Golden Hawks for induction into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame. With letters of support from former Chatham Base Commander and Chief of Defence Staff, General (retired) Paul Manson, OC, OMM, CD; Saint John-born member of the 1967 Golden Centennaires, Russ Bennett; noted Canadian aviation author Larry Milberry; and, the Executive Director of the RCAF Association, Lieutenant-Colonel (retired) Dean Black, our nomination proved successful. The team will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Vancouver on June 15th.

As 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of Golden Hawk Appreciation Day, and the induction of the Golden Hawks into the Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame in the Belt of Orion category, the New Brunswick Aviation Museum will honour the service of the men who flew, maintained and supported the team by hosting a community celebration from September 15-17, 2017, at the Rodd Inn Miramichi. For more information, check out our website at www.nbaviationmuseum.com.

We are currently seeking assistance to track down former members of the Golden Hawks and/or their families. In particular we are trying to find relatives of Lloyd Hubbard, Dave Tinson, Jake Easton, Russ Bowdery, George MacDonald, Dan MacKinnon, Carl Peterson and numerous ground crew personnel. Please share this with your Museum volunteers and supporters. If anyone has any information, please contact Kevin at nbamdirector@outlook.com or by phone at 506-625-4925.

New Acquisitions at the National Air Force Museum of Canada

By Laura Imrie, Curatorial Assistant

The National Air Force Museum of Canada graciously receives many artefact donations each year. One particularly unique item was brought to the Museum from Belgium, and tells a very interesting story.

On November 2, 1944 Halifax MZ 829 of #77 Squadron (RAF) was shot down over Jalhay, Belgium while returning from a bombing raid over Dusseldorf, Germany. After being shot, it crashed and then exploded 20 miles south-east of Liege, Belgium. Halifax MZ 829 had a crew that consisted of six Canadians and one Scottish airman.

F/O Robert Eric Bowman Pike, Pilot, Canadian
F/O Harold Frederick Le Noury, Navigator, Canadian
P/O Joseph Judges, Wireless Air Gunner, Canadian
P/O William Walford Lankin, Air Gunner, Canadian
P/O William Herbert Hanes, Air Gunner, Canadian
P/O Vernon John Lazier, Bomb Aimer, Canadian
Sgt E.J. Payne, Flight Engineer, Scottish (RAF)

A monument called "Tigelot" near the Gileppe dam at Jalhay, Belgium has been erected in honour of that flight and its crew. Every year, a memorial service is held in the village of Jalhay in the memory of the crew of Halifax MZ 829. During the 2014 ceremony, Ms. Anne-Marie Howard approached two of the Canadian Forces representatives to give them a brooch with a very special story.

The brooch is made from Perspex (often known as Plexiglas) from Handley Page Halifax MZ 829. Ms. Anne-Marie Howard acquired this brooch at the age of 12, when a local man was selling jewellery from parts he had scavenged from the crash site of Halifax MZ 829 as a means to sustain his family. Ms. Howard held onto this brooch for many years, but decided when she saw the Canadian Forces representatives at the ceremony that it was time for the brooch to be sent to Canada, where it could serve as a memorial for the Canadian men who lost their lives in Halifax MZ 829.



A Project, a Mission

By Normand Roberge

We met at OMMC's annual meeting in 2014, the Curator of the Fort St-Jean Museum, Éric Ruel, and our small group of volunteers from the Bytown Gunner Fire Power Museum, 30 RCA: Max Toms, LCol Terry Honour (retired), and I, sharing common interests in artillery. Eric mentioned that he had a bronze piece in a storeroom at RMC St-Jean and would like to showcase it.



In early 2015, we stopped on a trip for a short visit to the museum and Eric brought us to see the gun. We then discussed with our friend; blacksmith/gunsmith Tony Walsh from Artillery Ironwork, Eric's project to reproduce a field gun carriage in order to put the canon in evidence in front of the Forges building at the museum for the opening scheduled in spring 2016.

This piece is an excellent example of 19th century howitzer models. We can be sure that this piece dates from after 1837, due to the monogram of Queen Victoria, and an additional monogram of George Murray, Master of the Ordnance.

From then on, it was under the guidance of the prime contractor Tony Walsh to define the model of carriage and with the support of the curator and Max Toms to reproduce the plans from the original sketches and drawings of time. In the fall, Tony Walsh realized that we had to rehabilitate and create certain tools needed to make metal and wood pieces.

A mechanical hammer was thus rehabilitated to forge the metal and create a woodcutter for the elliptical construction of the wheel spokes.

A tedious but most interesting stage; the manufacture of metal tires for wooden wheels. The metal strip must be manually cold-rolled to the diameter of the wheel less $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. The metal will be heated on a wood fire to take the necessary expansion in order to slip it on the wheel. At this stage it is important to thoroughly water the assembly so as not to burn the wheel and allow its retraction.



Another very important lesson was learned; the more the project progressed and the more imposing the piece was, the more impossible to handle alone or without mechanical aid. So we did not reach the goal for the spring of 2016. It was over six months late that the piece was delivered to the Fort St-Jean Museum. Tony Walsh, the project's prime contractor, estimates over 600 hours of work for the piece to which one can easily add 270 hours of volunteers from Pembroke, Gatineau, Belleville and Carleton Place. On October 19, Éric Ruel, curator of Fort St-Jean Museum came to Tony's forge in Lanark County and accepts the gun and a week later it was delivered at the museum. From left to right: Éric, Daniel, Chest, Terry, Max, Paul, "Grandma" & Tony and Darrel, all neighbours and volunteer on this mission.

Un projet, une mission

Par Normand Roberge

Nous avons fait connaissance à la rencontre annuelle de L'OMMC en 2014, le conservateur du musée du Fort St-Jean, Éric Ruel et notre petit groupe de volontaires du musée de la Puissance de feu des artilleurs de Bytown, 30 RAC, Max Toms, Icol Terry Honour (retraité) et moi, partageant des intérêts communs pour l'artillerie Éric nous mentionna qu'il avait une pièce de bronze dans un entrepôt fourre-tout du CMR St-Jean et qu'il aimerait bien la mettre en valeur.

Au début 2015, nous nous sommes arrêté lors d'un voyage pour une courte visite du musée et Éric nous a amené voir la pièce. Nous avons alors discuté avec notre forgeron/armurier Tony Walsh du projet d'Éric de reproduire un affût de canon de campagne afin de mettre le canon en évidence à l'avant du bâtiment des Forges du musée pour l'ouverture prévue au printemps 2016.

Cette pièce est un excellent exemple d'obusier du XIXe siècle. Nous pouvons être sûrs que cette pièce date d'après 1837, en raison du monogramme de la reine Victoria, et d'un monogramme supplémentaire, celui de George Murray, maître de l'artillerie.



Des lors on s'affaira sous la gouverne du maître d'œuvre Tony Walsh à définir le modèle d'affût de campagne et avec le support du conservateur et de Max Toms a reproduire les plans à partir des croquis et dessins originaux d'époque.

Au cours de l'automne Tony Walsh réalisa qu'il nous fallait remettre en état et créer certains outils nécessaires à la confection des pièces de métal et de bois. On a donc remis en état un marteau mécanique pour la forge du métal et créer un reproducteur de coupe de bois pour la confection elliptique des rayons de roues.

Une étape fastidieuse mais des plus intéressantes; la fabrication des pneus de métal pour les roues de bois. Il faut laminier manuellement à froid la bande de métal d'un diamètre de ½ pouce inférieur à celui de la roue. Le métal sera chauffé sur un feu de bois pour prendre l'expansion nécessaire afin de le glisser sur la roue. A cette étape il est important d'arroser l'ensemble abondamment afin de ne pas brûler la roue et permettre sa rétraction.

Une autre leçon très importante fut apprise; plus le projet avançait et plus la pièce était imposante, voir impossible à manipuler seul ou sans aide mécanique. Nous n'avons donc pas atteint l'objectif pour le printemps 2016. C'est avec plus de 6 mois de retard que la pièce fut livrée au musée du Fort St-Jean.

Tony Walsh le maître d'œuvre du projet estime à plus de 600 heures de travail pour la pièce à cela on peut ajouter facilement ajouter 270 heures des bénévoles de Pembroke, Gatineau, Belleville et Carleton Place.

De gauche à droite; Paul Deryaw, Max Toms, Terry Honour, Normand Roberge et Éric Ruel, conservateur.



Technical Data - Construction of Carriage for 24-Pounder Howitzer

By Sheila Zieman

This article deals with the construction of a carriage and wheels for a 24-pounder bronze howitzer owned by Fort St. Jean, Quebec. The tube was discovered, in remarkably good shape, by divers after spending more than a Century in the Richelieu River.

I was provided with two drawings of the carriage by the Museum, however, the scales were not completely reliable. I adjusted by comparing to known dimensions. I was fortunate in receiving a copy of a circa-1860s Royal Artillery photograph of a 24-pounder howitzer. This helped fill in details on paint, spoke shape, etc.

I used dividers and calipers to extrapolate the dimensions. I then transferred the measurements onto full sized patterns. The trail is made up from four pieces of white oak, stacked on the bolts horizontally. The axel bed is two pieces, and the cheeks use 16 pieces, stacked vertically. The pieces are all dry fitted using the bolts to check the alignment. Adjustments are made by paring or kurfing in West Systems 105 Epoxy resin with 205 or 206 hardener used as directed (small batches are mixed at a time to prevent cook off). Bees wax is used as a release agent on the bolts. It is applied by rubbing it onto the bolts while they are hot. All surfaces to be joined receive a generous coat of epoxy, well rubbed in. Bolts are used as guide pins and as an aid to clamping. Bolts and clamps are tightened slowly to allow the epoxy to soak into the wood.

The trail is done up in halves, then is dry fitted again, the side taper marked out, and the excess wood is sawn off or chopped off with an adze. Next, the center line for the axel bolt and the elevating screw are marked out top and bottom on the inside of both pieces. These marks are connected with a saw cut just the depth of the saw teeth. The sides are then clamped together and the saw cut acts as a guide for the screw in the auger bit. Once the holes are drilled, the trail can be glued up and is ready for final shaping and squaring up. It is now ready to be fitted to the axel bed, cheeks, elevation mechanism and the trail plate/towing eye.

The cheeks can be laid out for the horizontal holes and then sawn out to accept the axel bed and trunnion plates. The cheeks are bolted back to back and the trunnion plates and eye bolts are fitted. A square is used to ensure that the trunnion plates are level and in line. A cylinder that is turned to the same diameter as the trunnions and long enough to span both of the plates is used to fit the cap squares and to ensure that everything lines up when the cheeks are bolted to the stock until the tips of the axel arms.

Now the axel is ready to be fitted. The center of the bed is lined up with the center of the stock, the bed is then shifted until the tips of the axel are an equal distance from a point at the center of the tip of the trail, It is then fitted into the stock/trail until the center of the trunnion seat is the same distance from the top of the axel bed on both sides.

The carriage is now ready to check for its alignment with the barrel. The barrel is set into position. The alignment can be adjusted, if necessary, by enlarging the bolt holes in the stock. Then holes are drilled for locating pins. This assures that everything is aligned for re assembly.

The carriage is now dismantled, coated with epoxy, re-assembled and allowed to cure. Two more coats of epoxy are done before the carriage is painted with two coats of an oil based paint. Sanding is done between all coats of epoxy. While the coatings on the carriage are drying, the wheels are being built.

In Memoriam

Former Fort Garry Horse Museum Chairman LCol (ret) Larry Lajeunesse CD passed away on 2 January, 2017. Larry served as Museum Chairman for many years and was the driving force behind developing the Fort Garry Horse archives. Over a period of six years he tirelessly transcribed all our Nominal Rolls, War Diaries and Part II Daily Orders, providing an invaluable reference tool for the Museum. He last attended the OMMC Museum Studies Program in Montreal in 2012.

Here is an excerpt from his obituary from the Winnipeg Free Press:

In Winnipeg, Larry joined The Fort Garry Horse, a militia regiment(now part of the Army Reserve), where he became an officer and eventually commanded the regiment from 1970 to 1973. He oversaw the transition of the regiment's role from tanks to armoured reconnaissance. He then served at a higher headquarters. On retirement from the Army Reserve, he became a member of the Regimental Senate, the Regimental Association and The Fort Garry Horse Foundation. He was chairman of the Senate for 25 years. He was a director of The Fort Garry Horse Museum and Archives at McGregor Armoury, starting in 1978. With other volunteers, he helped develop it into an accredited military museum. He enjoyed museum conferences throughout Canada, where he was able to exchange ideas about museum programs. One of his major contributions was the digitizing of the lists of members of the regiment starting from 1912. This is a valuable source of information for family members and others.

The Organization of Military Museums of Canada

Executive

Léon Chamois: President	leon.chamois@forces.gc.ca
Anne Lindsay-MacLeod: Vice President	anne@asmac.ab.ca
Dave Stinson: Secretary	davelach@telus.net
Richard Ruggie: Treasurer	shepherd@kw.igs.net

Directors

Bethany Aitchison	bethany.aitchison@live.ca
Rory Cory	Mor-curator@telusplanet.net
Greg Gallant	greggallant@pei.sympatico.ca
Dale Murray	juddal@pacificcoast.ne
Eric Ruel	eric.ruel@museedufortsaintjean.ca
Bruce Tascona	tasconab@mymts.net
James Whitham	jim.whitham@warmuseum.ca

'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.