

# THE/LE BULLETIN



## President's Comments

By Léon Chamois, President OMMC

This is our first Bulletin since our very successful Annual Course in Oshawa. I want to take this opportunity to thank Jeremy and his staff at The Ontario Regiment Museum and all others who helped to make it so. It was nice to visit that part of Canada, we should do it again.

I want to offer congratulations to Bill Cuell from the Comox Air Force Museum and to our very own David Stinson on having received the CAF Museums Volunteer Recognition Award. Both of these gentlemen represent the best of what OMMC is all about. Their nominations also underline the fact that it takes people of different backgrounds to make OMMC and its member museums a success.

Next year's course will be held in Winnipeg, 26 May to 02 June. We were there once before and we look forward to our return. The snow should be gone by the time we arrive.

Éric Ruel would like to encourage all of us to make greater use of OMMC's Facebook page; visit it often and send him any news items that you would like him to post. He can be reached at [eric.ruel@museedufortsaintjean.ca](mailto:eric.ruel@museedufortsaintjean.ca).

I am proud to report that the funeral of Clive Law was well attended by members of OMMC and DHH. Clive was a major player in our world and he will be missed. He was also a friend of mine, as he was to many of us and his loss is personal as well.

I was informed last night that Col. John Sherry from the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment passed away. The Colonel was a long standing member of our organization and his attendance at our meetings will be sorely missed. I always enjoyed talking to him. I learned a lot from him. Isabel and I hope to be at his funeral.

Enough for now.

Léon

## Commentaires du président

Par Léon Chamois, président de l'OMMC

Ceci est notre premier bulletin depuis notre cours annuel très performant à Oshawa. Je tiens à saisir cette occasion pour remercier Jeremy et son équipe au Ontario Regiment Museum et tous les autres qui ont aidé à nous le présenter. C'était agréable de visiter cette partie du Canada, nous devrions le faire à nouveau.

Je veux aussi féliciter Bill Cuell du Musée de l'Aviation militaire de Comox et notre propre David Stinson pour avoir reçu le Prix de reconnaissance des bénévoles des musées des FAC. Ces deux messieurs représentent le meilleur de ce qu'est l'OMMC. Leurs nominations soulignent également le fait qu'il faut des gens de milieux différents pour assurer la réussite d'OMMC et de ses musées membres.

Le cours de l'année prochaine aura lieu à Winnipeg, du 26 mai au 02 juin. Nous étions là une fois avant et nous attendons notre retour. La neige devrait disparaître avant notre arrivée.

Éric Ruel voudrait vous encourager à utiliser davantage la page Facebook de l'OMMC; visitez-la souvent et envoyez-lui toutes les nouvelles que vous aimeriez qu'il publie. Il peut être contacté à [eric.ruel@museedufortsaintjean.ca](mailto:eric.ruel@museedufortsaintjean.ca).

Je suis fier de signaler que les funérailles de Clive Law ont été bien assistées par les membres d'OMMC et de DHP. Clive était un acteur majeur sur notre scène et il va nous manquer. Il était aussi un de mes amis, comme il l'était pour beaucoup d'entre nous et sa perte est également personnelle.

J'ai été informé hier soir que le colonel John Sherry du régiment Hastings et Prince Edward est décédé. Le colonel était un membre de longue date de notre organisation et sa présence à nos réunions sera vraiment manquée. J'ai toujours aimé parler avec lui. J'ai appris beaucoup de lui. Isabel et moi espérons être à ses funérailles.

Assez pour le moment.

Léon

OMMC Presents...

*L'OMMC présente...*

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## “Three Hearty Cheers”: The HMCS Saguenay at the Vimy Pilgrimage

By Caitlin Bailey, Canadian Centre for the Great War

*Adapted from the online blog of CCGW.*

Today on the blog we’re doing something a little bit different. The Tri-couleur flag shown here comes from the collections of the Naval Museum of Halifax, and it has a great backstory.

Our tale begins with the organisation of the Vimy Pilgrimage in 1936 and the unveiling of Walter Allward’s long awaited National Vimy Memorial. As part of the celebrations, the Canadian military provided both a band and a Royal Guard of Honour for the newly crowned British king, Edward VIII, who would perform the only public ceremony of his short reign at Vimy Ridge. The formation of the Royal Guard was assigned to the Royal Canadian Navy, and was its first.

The crew of the HMCS Saguenay was assigned the Royal Guard, in addition to escorting the convoy of pilgrimage ships across the Atlantic Ocean from Montreal. Once arrived in France, the guard troop of 66 left for Arras, where they were based until the ceremony on 26 July. Photographs of the event show the King and dignitaries passing the guards on the walk back from the monument.

After delays to their buses caused by traffic, the commander of the Guard, Lieutenant H.F. Pullen decided to march his men and the military bands back to Arras, instead of waiting for the bus. It is here that the Naval Museum’s flag comes into play. It was likely flown in the ceremony, and one of the sailors took it down during the march. The flag was later signed by 24 members of the Royal Guard, plus a Royal Artillery gunner, and kept as a souvenir of their time at the Vimy ceremony.

The Tri- couleur was eventually donated to the museum by a grandchild of one of the original signatories, where it has been ever since. As for the Saguenay, she continued to serve with the RCN until a collision with a freighter in November 1942 during a convoy run. After repairs, the Saguenay was only fit for use as a training ship until she was broken up for salvage in 1946.

Many thanks to Naval Museum Director, Richard Sanderson, for making both the flag and the history available to us!



French Tri-couleur flag, silk, 1936. The Naval Museum of Halifax.

For more information on the Royal Guard, visit <http://www.journal.forces.gc.ca/vo8/no1/reynolds-eng.asp>



## Bofers Gun donated to the Vancouver Island Military Museum

By Pat Murphy, Vancouver Island Military Museum



The 40 mm Bofers Gun that was part of the armament package on the HMCS Nanaimo, a Maritime Coastal Defense Vessel (MCDV) is now in place at its new home, in front of the Vancouver Island Military Museum in Nanaimo, British Columbia. The process to obtain this historic firearm started in December 2015. It was donated by the Government of Canada to the citizens of Nanaimo and was delivered in late June 2017.

A dedication ceremony took place on Saturday July 1st 2017 and was attended by officials from all three levels of Government, citizens of Nanaimo and 6 crew members off the HMCS Nanaimo. The HMCS Nanaimo was in port for the Canada Day festivities, and she was open for tours on the weekend and on Monday July 3rd she returned to her home port of Esquimalt under clear skies on calm water with 52 Nanaimo residents who enjoyed a spectacular 8 hour cruise. The cruise from Nanaimo to Esquimalt was a thrill of a lifetime for all of the passengers.

The beautifully re-conditioned 40 mm Bofers Gun now stands on guard in front of the museum overlooking Nanaimo Harbour and will honour those Canadians that served on the Nanaimo for decades to come.



## Restauration des roues du FK96 du musée de la Société d'histoire du comté de Brome (SHCB)

Par Normand Roberge

À l'automne 2014 alors que nous revenions par les Cantons de l'est d'une visite pour acquérir un « Deuce » à Thedford Mines, Max Toms, Terry Honour et moi toujours à l'affût de nouvelles entrées pour la base de données des mémoriaux canadiens nous nous sommes arrêté au musée de Knowlton de la SHCB. Nous avons trouvé l'état des deux canons à l'extérieur lamentable, un canon antichar de 17 livres et une prise de guerre de 1917 FK96 à la mémoire du 5th Mounted Rifles des Cantons de l'est. Nous avons offert nos services pour aider à la restauration des canons et laissé nos cartes de visites.



Ce n'ai qu'en juillet 2015 qu'un des administrateurs du musée nous a contacté afin de s'enquérir si notre offre tenait toujours, nous avons donc entrepris les démarches pour la restauration, à l'automne 2015 nous avons retiré les roues du FK 96 pour les amener chez notre expert charron et artificier Tony Walsh (Artillery Ironwork) de Lannark, ON.

Une roue avait déjà été refaite mais en pin blanc et avec des rayons rectangulaires, il y avait une roue originale datant de 1915, nous en avons informé le musée et la conservatrice de nous a demandé de retourner la roue originale, afin de l'exposer à l'intérieur du musée. Ceci modifiait le travail de restauration car à ce moment il fallait refaire également un deuxième moyeu de roue.

Tony nous a souligné qu'il s'agissait du modèle allemand du début de la Grande guerre, ces roues étant fabriquées à l'aide de gabarits précis avec soucis d'économie pour la matière première soit avec le moins de perte de bois possible, l'inconvénient étant que celle-ci ne pouvaient être réparées en campagne.

En juin 2016 nous avons dans un premier procédé avec l'appui d'anciens artilleurs locaux (27th Fd Regt) au nettoyage et peinture des canons : le Fk96 ainsi que le 17-Pdr sur le site du musée à Knowlton.



La machine outil que Tony Walsh a fabriquée et qui a servi antérieurement à faire les rayons de roues du canon du Fort St-Jean, nous a été des plus utiles pour reproduire les rayons de roues du FK 96, en fait le temps requis pour créer cette machine a retardé sur le coup l'échéancier du projet mais nous a permis de reproduire les rayons de roues rapidement. À l'automne 2016 les rayons de roues ont été reproduits, sablés et traités à l'époxy. Au cours de l'hiver 2016-2017 les roues ont finalement été assemblées et par la suite peintes.

Après plus d'une année d'attente Le personnel du musée de la SHCB était vraiment impatient de recevoir ses roues et il était impératif d'avoir le canon prêt pour l'ouverture du musée. Nous avons livré et installé les roues au mois de mai.



## Brome County Historical Society (BCHS) Museum FK 96 Gun Wheels Restoration

By Normand Roberge

In the fall of 2014, when we were returning from a visit to acquire a “Deuce” in Thedford Mines, Max Toms, Terry Honor and I, always on the lookout for new entries for the Canadian Memorials Database, stopped in the Eastern Townships at the Knowlton Museum of the BCHS. We found the condition of the two guns outside to be lamentable, a 17-pounder anti-tank gun and a 7.7 cm German field gun FK 96, 1917 war-trophy in memory of the 5th Mounted Rifles of the Eastern Townships. We offered our services to help restore the guns and left our business cards.

It was only in July, 2015, that one of the museum’s administrators contacted us to find out if our offer was still there, so we started the process of restoration, in the fall of 2015 we removed the wheels from FK 96 to our expert wheelwright and artificer Tony Walsh (Artillery Ironwork) in Lannark, ON.

A wheel had already been redone but in white pine and with rectangular wheel spokes, there was an original wheel dating from 1915, we informed the museum and the curator asked us to return the original wheel to exhibit inside the museum. This modified the restoration work because at that time it was necessary to also redo a second wheel hub.

Tony pointed out to us that this was the German model of the beginning of the Great War, these wheels being manufactured using precise gauges with economy concerns for the raw material either with the least possible loss of wood, The disadvantage being that it could not be repaired in the field.

In June, 2016, we started with the help of former local gunners (27th FD Regt) to clean and paint the guns: the FK 96 and the 17-Pdr on the site of the museum in Knowlton.



The spokes machine that Tony Walsh manufactured and which previously served to make the wheel spokes of the Fort St-Jean cannon, was very useful to us to reproduce the wheel spokes of the FK 96, in fact the time required to create this machine delayed the timing of the project but allowed us to reproduce the wheel spokes quickly. In the fall of 2016 the wheel spokes were reproduced, sanded and treated with epoxy. During the winter 2016-2017 the wheels were finally assembled and subsequently painted.

After more than a year of waiting the staff of the SHCB Museum was really looking forward to receiving its wheels and it was imperative to have the cannon ready for the opening of the museum. We delivered and installed the wheels in May.

## Bytown Gunners Firepower Museum Funeral Urns



The Bytown Gunners' Firepower Museum (through the Regimental charity, the Bytown Gunners Order, BGO), is offering to sell to interested persons, copies of its Regimental funeral urns. Each funeral urn has been specifically created from used brass 105 mm gun salute "casings", purchased by the BGO from government surplus. Each urn has been professionally re-finished in order to bring out the original brass shine. Additionally, each shell casing has had the shell primer removed, the shell casing shortened and a beautiful oak wooden base and cap has been installed. The 105mm blank shell casings have all been professionally "finished", polished and anodized. Cost for this completed Urn is \$ 300.00 Canadian.

After discussions with a local funeral business/cemetery, it has been determined that the size of the urn fits within existing dimensions required for cemetery plots and burial "niches". Additional add-ons for each urn can be customized (by clients), potentially including the addition of a Regimental badge/logo on the top of the urn and/or appropriate personal engraving on the shell casing. Monies earned from the sale of these Funeral Urns will be used to support the Bytown Gunners Order goal, "for the good of the Regiment and its soldiers", and to support improvements to the Bytown Gunners' Firepower Museum.

All 105mm shell casings have been originally used performing official DND military salute duties on Parliament Hill or during official government salute taskings in the Ottawa/Gatineau area. Each shell casing has subsequently been declared surplus and then privately converted into Regimental funeral urns.

The top oak wood cover of the shell casing is secured to the urn by the use of two brass medal screws, thereby preventing the urn contents from being spilled once the urn lid is securely attached and screwed into the shell casing walls. The outside of the shell casing urn, has been anodized in order to help protect the surface of the brass shell outer layer from tarnishing.

To purchase a funeral urn, interested persons residing within the National Capital Region (NCR) should contact or send their payment to The Bytown Gunners Order at the address below or by e-mailing: [jamesahampson@hotmail.com](mailto:jamesahampson@hotmail.com) and requesting more detailed information or to arrange local urn pick-up information (in Ottawa). Clients outside of the NCR will receive ordered Urns by parcel mail after client pre-payment for shipping costs. Delivery in Canada should be completed within 5 working days after receipt of payment. Please provide requested information using the attached form. All cheques and money order payments should be made out to/forwarded to: The Bytown Gunners Order, 16 Edgebrook Rd, Nepean, Ont. K2H 6C3.

## It's a Date!

By Clare Sharpe, CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum

Q: When is a historic date not a historic date?

A: When it's not accurate.

This is something that was reinforced for me recently when researching the closure of the former military convalescent hospital at Naden.

The Esquimalt Military Convalescent Hospital operated in the buildings that now house our museum. According to signage in the Museum Square, the hospital opened in 1915 "to treat the wounded, shell shocked and tubercular servicemen and rehabilitate them for their return to civilian life." Our signage gives the year of the hospital closing as 1919. So does another document long considered a reliable resource, a "History of Naden 1922-1965", which was compiled by a group of officers in 1967. In that publication, it's stated: "In 1919, the doors of the hospital were ... closed and the remaining inmates transferred to other centres of treatment." As it turns out, that's not correct. In fact it's out by years, as I discovered after digging deeper.

My research was prompted by an article shared with us by Bruce Davies, the Curator of Craigdarroch Castle, also at one time a convalescent hospital for military patients. Bruce did extensive research for his paper about "Craigdarroch Military Hospital: A Canadian War Story." In which he notes that "in Victoria, the Department of Soldiers Civil Reestablishment was operating only Craigdarroch and Esquimalt Military Hospitals by the end of 1920." When I read this, and read elsewhere in Bruce's article that Esquimalt Military Hospital likely closed its doors for good sometime in 1921, I began to seriously doubt our own signage and sources.

Which is why it seemed necessary to find out precisely when the Esquimalt Military Convalescent Hospital did shut down. Discovering the answer to that question took several visits to the University of Victoria's McPherson library, which has microfilm copies of 'The Victoria Daily Times' available for viewing.



CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum Collection

Obviously, getting to the truth of such things really doesn't matter, to many people, but it does to us as museum staff who work to present the history of these buildings and their various uses over time. And in a bigger picture way, it also matters, because dates are important to history. To quote one historian, "history without dates/locations is like math without numbers or physics without units." Dates, the right dates, are important to history, because they help chronologically show cause and effect relationships between events.



Existing signage at museum

After a lot of back and forth going through 'The Victoria Daily Times' for late 1920 and into early 1921, I struck gold. In the 29 March issue from 1921 was the following headline: *"TO CLOSE ESQUIMALT HOSPITAL END OF THIS WEEK": But Ottawa is Asked to Provide Other Accommodation to Prevent Patients Going to Other Local Hospitals or to Mainland."*

From there, it only took a little more searching to come across the follow-up article from The Victoria Daily Times that gives the precise date of the hospital closing – Saturday 02 April 1921. I later cross-checked this date with coverage from 'The Daily Colonist Newspaper' collection, which is available online.



## History of the Black Watch in New Brunswick

By Major (ret'd) H. Skaarup, V-Pres. Friends of the New Brunswick Military History Museum Org.

The 42nd (Royal Highland) Regiment of Foot (1751), has a long and decorated record of service. The regiment Mustered as the Highland Regiment in Scotland in 1739, initially numbered in 1751 as the 42nd Regiment of Foot, and designated "Royal" in 1758. It was one of the first three Highland Regiments to fight in North America. (It was officially redesignated The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) in 1931). During the French and Indian War, at the first battle of Ticonderoga, also known as the Battle of Carillon, the regiment lost over half of its men in the assault in July 1758. At that time they were already officially recognized as a Royal regiment.

The second battalion of the Black Watch was sent to the Caribbean, but after the losses of Ticonderoga, the two battalions were consolidated in New York. The regiment was present at the second Battle of Ticonderoga in July 1759 and the surrender of Montreal in September 1760. They were sent to the West Indies again where they saw action at Havana, Martinique and Guadeloupe.

Between 1758 and 1767 it served in America. In August 1763, the Black Watch fought in the Battle of Bushy Run while trying to relieve Fort Pitt (modern day Pittsburgh, during Pontiac's Rebellion. The regiment went to Cork, Ireland and in 1767 and returned to Scotland in 1775.

The 42nd Regiment returned to North America in 1776, arriving in New York. During the American revolutionary War, the regiment was involved in the defeat of George Washington in the Battle of Long Island in August 1776, and saw combat in a number of other notable battles. Following the end of the war in America, the 42nd were posted to Nova Scotia in 1783, serving there until 1786 when they moved north to Cape Breton. A number of them chose to settle in Pleasant Valley, in New Brunswick.

Discharged members of the 42nd entered New Brunswick along two major routes. Ninety eight arrived in St John, on 17 Oct 1783, in the transports "Jason" and "Mercury", along with the final Loyalist fleet from New York. The remainder of the regiment sailed to Halifax. By 17 Dec 1783, sixteen 42nd vets from Halifax are known to have crossed over to St John. More may have followed. Based on different records, the total number of 42nd veterans who settled in New Brunswick would appear to be between 123 and 125. At least twenty-five of these vets moved up the Miramichi River and most of them stayed there, but Charles McLaughlin is believed to have arrived in Tracadie as early as 1786, and another six were among those who established Tabusintac in 1798.

The serving members of the regiment returned to England in 1789. Landing at Portsmouth, they marched to Tynemouth in Northumberland and in the spring of 1790 marched on to Glasgow, before taking up residence at Edinburgh Castle in November 1790.

Under the direction of Lieutenant Dugald Campbell, about 110 disbanded soldiers received land on the Nashwaak River. Individual land parcels were not all considered sufficient, and a great number of the Nashwaak grantees applied for additional acreage, submitting land petitions upwards of 10 and 20 years after settling on their land. Peter MacLaggan (McLaggan) accumulated enough additional property to provide for a number of his family members, and because of this cluster of relatives, part of the road in this vicinity became known as "MacLaggan Settlement".

Though the regiment was expected to settle on lots provided in the Dugald Campbell grant, not all of the members of the 42nd Regiment remained on the Nashwaak. More than a dozen former soldiers moved to or requested land in Charlotte and Northumberland Counties. Nevertheless, the 42nd Highland Regiment left an indelible imprint on the Nashwaak.

If you would like to visit the 42nd Memorial Cemetery with its commemorative cairn, it can be found on the East side of the river approximately in Pleasant Valley, 42 km North of Fredericton on the Nashwaak River along Highway 148, just a few km past the Pentecostal Church.

## OMMC Member Receives Commendation



CWO R.G. Swift (CME Branch CWO), MGen J.S. Sirois (CAF Chief Military Engr), Sgt J.J.C. Maillet and the CME Branch Col Cmdt, BGen S.M. Irwin (Ret'd).  
Presentation date: 16 Feb 2017

### Canadian Military Engineers Branch Commendation

Sgt J.J.C. Maillet, CD

*"Sergeant Maillet's extraordinary dedication and pride as the Instructor for Culture and Heritage, at the Canadian Military Engineer's Museum, has brought significant credit to the Military Engineer Branch and ensured the preservation of our history and traditions. Sergeant Maillet has led many tours of students and visiting military, re-modeled the gallery to better show the chronology of our story, was instrumental in the installation of the Beaver Armoured Vehicle Launching Bridge (AVLB) monument as well as many other initiative that have improved the quality of our museum. He is certainly deserving of the CME Branch's commendation."*

## The Organization of Military Museums of Canada

### Executive

Léon Chamois: President  
Anne Lindsay-MacLeod: Vice President  
Dave Stinson: Secretary  
Richard Ruggie: Treasurer

leon.chamois@forces.gc.ca  
anne@asmac.ab.ca  
davelach@telus.net  
shepherd@kw.igs.net

### Directors

Bethany Aitchison  
Rory Cory  
Greg Gallant  
Dale Murray  
Eric Ruel  
Bruce Tascona  
James Whitham

bethany.aitchison@live.ca  
Mor-curator@telusplanet.net  
greggallant@pei.sympatico.ca  
juddal@pacificcoast.ne  
eric.ruel@museedufortsaintjean.ca  
tasconab@mymts.net  
jim.whitham@warmuseum.ca

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The editor is Bethany Aitchison. Articles can be submitted to [bethany.aitchison@live.ca](mailto:bethany.aitchison@live.ca).