

THE / LE BULLETIN



President's Comments By Léon Chamois, President OMMC

I am happy to be able to write an upbeat article for this Bulletin. Because of the hard work of some key people, OMMC is on solid ground and our future looks bright.

2016 was a good year for us; we no longer have the financial and administrative challenges of past years; our membership numbers are holding up well on a year-to-year basis and our efforts to become better known in the Canadian museum world are bearing fruit.

You all know Bethany Aitchison, Bruce Tascona and Brad Froggatt as long standing and dedicated members of OMMC; they are now also media stars, articles about them having appeared in CMA news clippings in recent months. As well, newcomer Caitlin Bailey has a beautiful First World War artifact on display in the latest edition of CMA's journal *Muse*.

Thanks to Bethany, our *Bulletin* continues to appear regularly in consistently good quality. All of this coverage is very good for our propaganda mission.

We are still waiting with great interest for the Request for Proposal from DND, which would give us the chance to secure a five-year contract for our annual course. One way or the other there will be a course next year; from 28 May to 03 June in the Toronto area, quite possibly based on the Ontario Regiment Museum in Oshawa. More to follow.

Thank you for your support.

Commentaires du président Par Léon Chamois, président de l'OMMC

Je suis heureux de pouvoir écrire un article optimiste pour ce bulletin. En raison du travail acharné de certaines personnes clés, OMMC est sur un terrain solide et notre avenir semble brillant.

2016 a été une bonne année pour nous; nous n'avons plus les défis financiers et administratifs des années passées; notre nombre de membres se maintient bien chaque année et nos efforts pour mieux se faire connaître dans le monde des musées canadiens portent leurs fruits.

Vous connaissez tous Bethany Aitchison, Bruce Tascona et Brad Froggatt comme membres de longue date et dévoués de l'OMMC; ils sont aussi maintenant vedettes du média, des articles à leurs sujets ayant paru dans les coupures de presse de l'AMC ces derniers mois. De plus, la nouvelle venue Caitlin Bailey a un bel artefact de la Première Guerre Mondiale exposé dans la dernière édition de la revue *Muse* de l'AMC.

Grâce à Bethany, notre *Bulletin* continue à paraître régulièrement avec une qualité constante. Toute cette couverture est très bonne pour notre mission de propagande.

Nous attendons toujours avec grand intérêt la demande de propositions du MDN, qui nous donnerait la chance d'obtenir un contrat de cinq ans pour notre cours annuel. D'une façon ou d'une autre, il y aura un cours l'année prochaine; du 28 mai au 3 juin dans la région de Toronto, probablement basé sur le Ontario Regiment Museum à Oshawa. Plus à suivre.

Merci pour votre soutien.

Unique and Interesting Items

By Pat Murphy, Board Member, Vancouver Island Military Museum

Like most military museums in Canada, the Vancouver Island Military Museum is a registered non-profit society and is completely managed and operated by dedicated volunteers. These volunteers have helped the museum to exist now for 35 years, and they have seen an immense amount of artifacts come into the museum, including two that we believe are one-of-a-kind.

Not a week goes by that we don't receive a box of donated items, sometimes books or badges and letters, and we have over 700 uniforms donated and well over 200 firearms - you never know what will walk in the door. On the odd occasion these donated boxes can produce some very rare and museum quality items. During our 35-year history we have received some extremely rare artifacts and two of them are highlighted here. One of the artifacts is uniquely Canadian while the other is a Christmas greeting from a Nazi dictator.

Several years ago a Canadian one-dollar bill printed in 1937 was donated to us as it contained several signatures of individuals that served in the RCAF. It is dated September 25, 1942, one of the unique signatures is that of P/O George Beurling, Canada's leading World War II ace. Called a "Short Snorter", aircrews often signed bank notes prior to a Trans Atlantic flight or after a round of drinks. It can't be confirmed when exactly when the bill was signed, but the date on the bill coincides to a day that he destroyed two aircraft and damaged another while serving with an RAF Spitfire Squadron in Malta. The signature has been compared to other items signed by Beurling and it is a convincing match, in addition to several of the other signatures on the bank note. The museum is certain we have a genuine Short Snorter signed by one the most famous fighter pilots to ever serve in the RCAF.

In another cardboard box, donated to the museum about 10 years ago, was found an equally unique item. The box belonged to a Canadian soldier who had passed away about five years previously, and it was obvious that it was a box of wartime souvenirs. The box's contents were quickly examined, and some badges and cloth patches were found and placed on display, as is expected from these types of collections. However, an envelope containing a Pay Book and some other papers was placed in a file and was not closely examined until last year. A researcher was inspecting the contents more thoroughly, and to his surprise, he discovered a Christmas Greeting dated December, 1939, bearing the signature of Adolph Hitler. On the back of the Greeting, the Canadian soldier had written, "I found this greeting while cleaning out a desk in my new office while serving as part of the occupation forces while serving in Berlin." The greeting extends best wishes for Christmas and the changes of the year.

The Vancouver Island Military Museum is thrilled at having these two rare historic artifacts. The Hitler greeting is on display, the Short Snorter signed by Beurling is available for viewing by appointment.



Museum Vice President Brian McFadden, standing in the Spitfire display, holding the Christmas Greeting from Adolph Hitler and the Short Snorter signed by P/O George Beurling, famed RCAF/RAF Spitfire pilot.

The Brockville Rifles: An Illustrated History, 1866-2016

By Major (Ret'd) Roger Hum, Curator, Brockville Rifles Museum

The Brockville Rifles have served Crown and Country for 150 years in war and in peace. Their story reflects that of the Canadian militia as a whole, as well as the special challenges of the reservist. Now, a complete history of the regimental history is available in a new book.

Since its official inception in 1866, the Regiment has been part of the social fabric of the City of Brockville and surrounding area. The community has reciprocated over the years in supporting the unit whenever the need arose, whether it was a Brockville Mayor allowing the Regiment to be billeted on his private property or the entire City and united counties petitioning to prevent the unit from being down-sized or being stricken off the Order of Battle.

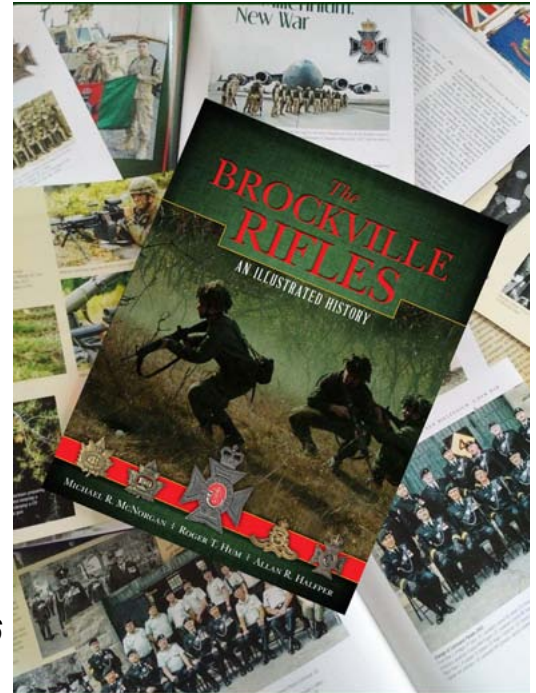
The Regimental motto is "Semper Paratus: Always Prepared". The book *The Brockville Rifles: An Illustrated History, 1866-2016* is an account of just what that motto has meant for the history of our unit throughout our many theatres and eras of conflict. It records the history of the Regiment from its roots just after the American War of Independence, up to its contribution to the war in Afghanistan.

The last publication about the Brockville Rifles regimental history was published in 1966, the year of the Regiment's 100th Anniversary. The new book will bring that history up to the present, just in time for its 150th anniversary in 2016. The updated book contains many recently discovered archival illustrations, photographs and documents that were not available during the first edition.

The author of the new book is Major (Ret'd) Michael R. McNorgan, CD - a very well known military historian and writer of a number of regimental histories pertaining to Canadian regular and reserve regiments. He was ably assisted by co-authors, Colonel (Ret'd) Allan Halfper, OMM, CD, whose company digitized all of the documents and photographs found within the book, and Major (Ret'd) Roger Hum, CD, the Curator of the Brockville Rifles Regimental Museum.

This book is available to anyone, for personal or institutional use. The cost of the book is \$50.00, plus \$15.00 for postage and handling. For more information please contact:

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“Grandma, what was it like during the war?” Life for Normans and Canadians from Occupation to Liberation

By Jenna Zuschlag Misener, Executive Director, Juno Beach Centre Association

This exhibit, conceived and created by the Juno Beach Centre especially for the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings, tells the story of Norman and Canadian civilians (specifically children) from 1940 to 1944. The intention is that the exhibition can serve as a way to establish dialogue between generations.

The exhibit answers the questions: “What would my everyday life have been like if I was a kid living in Normandy in 1944, like my great grandparents?”; “Who did the Canadians liberate when they landed in Normandy?”; “Who were the occupiers?” Children are enlightened as to what their great-grandparents have endured during the war, as well as the meaning of “Liberation”. The exhibition is made of five modules that evoke familiar places (a classroom, a family kitchen, the staircase of a home and a scene of ruins), which allow a glimpse at the major worries of this difficult time period.

For Normans: going without, forced labour, working in Germany, fear, the black market, curfews, etc. For Canadians: worrying, listening to the radio, reading the newspaper, propaganda, rationing, recycling, being separated from family members, waiting...



Every element is adapted for young visitors. The subjects are simplified to preserve the vantage point of a child on events over which they had no control over, but to which they were required to constantly adapt. More developed content enable adults to explain the stations to children as needed.

This exhibition was developed with education programs for elementary children as well. Led by one of the museum’s Canadian guides, children from grades 4 to 6 use four thematic suitcases to retrieve objects throughout the five stations that discuss the themes of occupation and Liberation. Following the treasure hunt, each team can put together the personal stories of Bernard and Simone, two young Normans, as well as Bobby and Suzanne, two young Canadians. Pupils then compare their contemporary way of life to those of Norman and Canadian children in 1944.



The Juno Beach Centre also created an interactive activity on tablets, also led by a Canadian guide. The app encourages teenagers to gain a greater understanding of the concepts of Occupation and Liberation from 1940 to 1944. The class is divided into five teams. Each team must respond correctly using their respective tablets to the highest number of questions on the themes of the exhibit within a limited time. The Canadian guide leads a group discussion based the results of all the teams. Teachers may obtain the Q&A from the App to further explore the topics back in the classroom.

« Mamie, c'était comment pendant la guerre? » La vie des Normands et des Canadiens de l'occupation à la Libération

Par Jenna Zuschlag Misener, Directrice exécutive, Le Centre Juno Beach

Cette exposition conçue et réalisée par le Centre Juno Beach spécialement pour le 70^e anniversaire du Débarquement raconte la vie des civils normands et canadiens, particulièrement celle des enfants, de 1940 à 1944. Cette exposition se veut un outil de dialogue « inter-générationnel. »



En répondant aux questions « Quelle aurait été ma vie de tous les jours si, comme mes arrière-grands-parents, j'avais eu 10 ans en 1944? » « Qui au juste les Canadiens ont-ils libérés en débarquant en Normandie? » et « De qui les ont-ils libérés? », l'exposition éclaire les jeunes sur ce que leurs aînés ont enduré à cette époque et sur la profondeur du mot Libération. A travers 5 zones évoquant des univers emblématiques (une salle de classe, une cuisine familiale, un coin de salon, une scène de ruines) les préoccupations majeures de cette époque trouble sont abordées. Coté normand: la pénurie, le STO, le travail en Allemagne, la peur, le marché noir, les couvre-feux... Coté canadien: la crainte, l'écoute de la radio, les journaux, la propagande, le rationnement, le recyclage, l'absence, l'attente...

Chaque dispositif est adapté au jeune public grâce à des sujets traités de manière épurée, pour préserver le regard qu'un enfant pouvait porter sur des événements sur lesquels il n'avait aucun contrôle, mais auxquels il était obligé de s'adapter. Des explications plus développées, destinées aux adultes, permettent d'expliquer les 5 modules.

Cette exposition a été conçue avec ses propres programmes éducatifs. Encadrés par un guide canadien du musée, les élèves du primaire (4^e à 6^e année) partent avec 4 valises thématiques à la chasse aux objets, à travers 5 espaces scénographiques qui traitent des thèmes de l'occupation jusqu'à la Libération. A l'issue de cette collecte, chaque équipe est en mesure de reconstituer les histoires de Bernard et Simone, deux jeunes Normands, ainsi que Bobby et Suzanne, deux jeunes Canadiens. Les élèves peuvent alors comparer leur mode de vie d'aujourd'hui avec celui des enfants normands et canadiens de 1944.

Le Centre Juno Beach a aussi créé, une animation interactive sur tablettes, encadrée par un guide canadien et enrichie d'objets d'époque. L'appli permet aux adolescents de mieux comprendre l'Occupation et la Libération de 1940 à 1944. La classe est divisée en 5 équipes qui doivent répondre correctement sur leurs tablettes au plus grand nombre possible de questions en lien avec les thèmes de l'exposition, dans un temps limité. Le guide canadien assure ensuite la mise en commun des résultats. Possibilité pour l'enseignant d'obtenir les questions/réponses pour un travail approfondi de retour en classe.



100th Anniversary of North Bay's National Hockey Team

By Captain Doug Newman, 22 Wing Heritage Officer

One hundred years ago, the planet was engulfed in the First World War. Stunned by the magnitude of the losses, the Canadian Army embarked on an intensive nationwide recruiting campaign to fill the void and bolster its overseas contingent. North Bay, Ontario, which had already sent the 97th Regiment (today the Algonquin Regiment), contributed three more units, of enlistees from across Northeastern Ontario: the 159th, 228th, and 256th Battalions.

The 228th Battalion, created in March, 1916, was singled out for an additional special assignment. To bolster morale and encourage young men into military service, the Army arranged with the National Hockey Association (ancestor of the National Hockey League) to have a team play in the 1916-1917 season. The hope was Canadian males would associate the Army with the excitement, glamour, and celebrity of the NHA, and sign up in droves.

The Association comprised five clubs: the Montreal Canadiens, Montreal Wanderers, Ottawa Senators, Quebec Bulldogs, and Toronto Blueshirts (predecessor of the Maple Leafs). The 228th, nicknamed "The Northern Fusiliers", would form the sixth. To ensure it could match the play of these premier teams—and not embarrass the Army—major professional and A-list amateur players were enticed to join, most under agreement they would not have to fight overseas.

The season opened in December, 1916. Clad in khaki-coloured jerseys, they were an instant hit with the news media and public, and they had substance to merit the hype. In their first four games they outscored their opponents 40 goals to 20, hammering their way into becoming the highest scoring team in the league. In a game against NHA All-Stars, drawn from the other five teams, the Battalion obliterated their competition 10-0. By New Year's Day, 1917, they had accelerated to first place. The country was mesmerized.

At a match in Quebec, 228th Defenseman Howard MacNamara, an Army captain, launched into a wild fistfight with the referee, igniting an all-out brawl. The game was called, and Battalion players had to run for their train to escape, attacked by Quebec fans and pelted with debris. The incident only intensified their national sensation.

By mid-season the 228th slipped to third place, but there was nevertheless the talk of the Stanley Cup. But the dream was never realized. In February, 1917, the Battalion was called to war. A handful of players, citing agreements of not having to fight, were released. The remainder went overseas. The NHA went so far as to sue the Canadian Army, arguing the military had acted disingenuously, inserting a team into the league knowing it would never finish the season. The suit collapsed, but the Battalion's departure began the death of the NHA. Forced to rejig the season a team short, and with the Toronto Blueshirts suspended due to issues with their owner, in November, 1917, the remaining four teams formed the National Hockey League.

Overseas the 228th, revamped as the 6th Battalion, Canadian Railway Troops, won acclaim for its brilliant transportation and supply support to the Allied armies on the battlefield. The team never reformed. All survived the war. Many subsequently played in the NHL.

Though named for Toronto, the team was distinctly North Bay's, and its heritage continues today in the city's Algonquin Regiment.

Call for Community Partnerships

By Terry Quinlan, Algonquin College, Applied Museum Studies

The Conservation Department of the Applied Museum Studies Program (AMS) of Algonquin College has been actively engaged in the development and completion of numerous conservation partnerships with various cultural institutions from across Canada.

The AMS Conservation Department seeks the establishment of projects which provide opportunities for students of the AMS program to become actively engaged in the development, completion and assessment of conservation/preservation related projects for the 2016-2017 academic year.



Above shows the treatment of various 17th century French ferrous trading pieces from the Symmes Inn Museum. The pieces underwent extensive condition treatment reporting, electrolytic cleaning and pacification in preparation for display.

At right, an example of the cleaning and preparation for display a collection of rare silver artifacts from one of Canada's most significant national historic sites. The pieces underwent extensive research, in order to establish their cultural significance, comprehensive photo-documentation, material research and condition reporting.

Each piece was treated to remove excessive tarnish and residues from previous cleaning products.

AMS Conservation Department is seeks artifacts of the following condition and compositions for treatment: Corroded ferrous objects, tarnished silver collections, broken ceramic wares.

If you are interested in exploring a Treatment Partnership with the Conservation Department of the AMS please contact Terry. Quinlan@algonquincollege.com, or by phone at 613.727.4723 ext: 5060.



Pledging to Save: Children Helping Fund War Efforts

By Allan Kerr, Canadian Militaria Preservation Society Museum

Children were among the most enthusiastic purchasers of war savings stamps during the Second World War. We have a very large collection of government publications issued during the First and Second World War. Most of the article is directly from these publications but not from one single publication. The information below is quoted from some of these documents.

Children often made the following pledge:

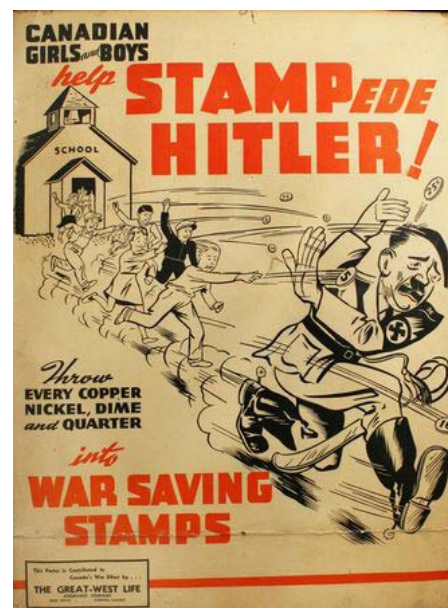
We pledge:

- To do all we can as good Canadians to help win the war;
- To save our money and lend it to Canada by purchasing WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES through collecting WAR SAVINGS STAMPS;
- To buy as many WAR SAVINGS STAMPS as we can out of our allowances or with money we earn throughout the year.

War Saving Stamps

War Saving Stamps are not new; WSS and Thrift Stamps were used in the First World War.

Stamps enable the purchasing of War Savings Certificates on an installment basis. Each Stamp costs 25 cents. Sixteen Stamps having a value of \$4.00 are accepted for a Certificate with a maturity value of \$5.00. The War Savings Ledger allows the teacher to record the saving by crossing the appropriate amount off in the ledger. Once 25 cents are saved the teacher issues a 25 cent stamp to place in the Pupil's War Savings Pass Book.



War Savings Certificate

A War Savings Certificate is proof that dollars have been loaned to Canada to help win the war. It is Canada's promise to return the money, and in addition to pay interest on the money if the Certificate is held for a year or longer. This promise is backed by all the wealth of Canada, and her record of paying every obligation in full. Certificates redeemed before expiry of one year from date of purchase bear no interest. From one year up to 7.5 years the interest return gradually increases from 1% at the end of year one to 3% at the end of 7.5 years.

Member Museums Get Great Exposure

Guided Video Tour

Explore the Prince Edward Island Regiment Museum with a guided tour by local Cadets!

The PEI Regiment Museum now has a video on YouTube (as well as its website) that uses local Army, Navy, and Air Cadets to bring the viewer around the museum, highlighting key artifacts and exhibits from the collection.

Check out the production by searching “PEI Regiment Museum” on YouTube.

Featured Artifact in Muse Magazine from OMMC Member

Earlier this year, OMMC was contacted by Muse magazine to provide a featured artifact for one of their issues. A call was put out to invite OMMC members to submit an artifact, and the Canadian Centre for the Great War’s “sons in service flag” was selected.

We are delighted to have better partnerships between OMMC and other organizations. When you see opportunities like this, we encourage you to participate and help us grow our outreach, and showcase your own museum!

The Organization of Military Museums of Canada

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