



CMHM NEWSLETTER

2021
CANADIAN MILITARY
HERITAGE MUSEUM
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When we last left you in our Spring 2021 newsletter, we were hoping to finally re-open the museum in May after being closed for 16 months. Unfortunately, the wait continued until July.

After 20 long months, the **museum has opened the doors to the public**. With caution, we are open Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. with admission by donation. Our visitors have responded in large numbers both enthusiastically and with donations.

The extra down time gave our dedicated volunteers extra time to create and update some of our most ambitious displays and projects.

We've carried over the 2020 theme

"Commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII" with special focus on the Liberation of the Netherlands'



We will be open until the end of November but may still take reservations for tours in early December.

TOURS/EVENTS – WE'VE BEEN BUSY



The volunteers have welcomed students from BCI, NPC, W. Ross Macdonald School, Christ the King and Lansdowne schools.

We welcomed the Army Cadets, Beavers, Cubs and Girl Guides.



Top Photo: Students of the W. Ross Macdonald School

We promoted the museum through ZOOM Presentations for:

Brantford Public Library

Kiwanis Club

Rotary

Grand River Council on Aging



Photo: Rotary Club held their traditional Remembrance week meeting and ZOOMED for members who could attend.

At podium is Rita Marie Hadley, Executive Director of Lansdowne Children's Centre & Bob Ion



CHCH TV visited the museum November 10th and recorded four 3-minute videos. They featured:

- the stories of our honourary Life Member and Korean veteran **Len Hill**
- local artist **Barb Sutherland's** art
- **Jane Ion** speaking of the Liberation of the Netherlands in 1945

They were replayed on CHCH Morning show on Remembrance Day. It is a challenge to present the stories in a three-minute segment.

Photo: Len has visited the museum a few times since we opened.

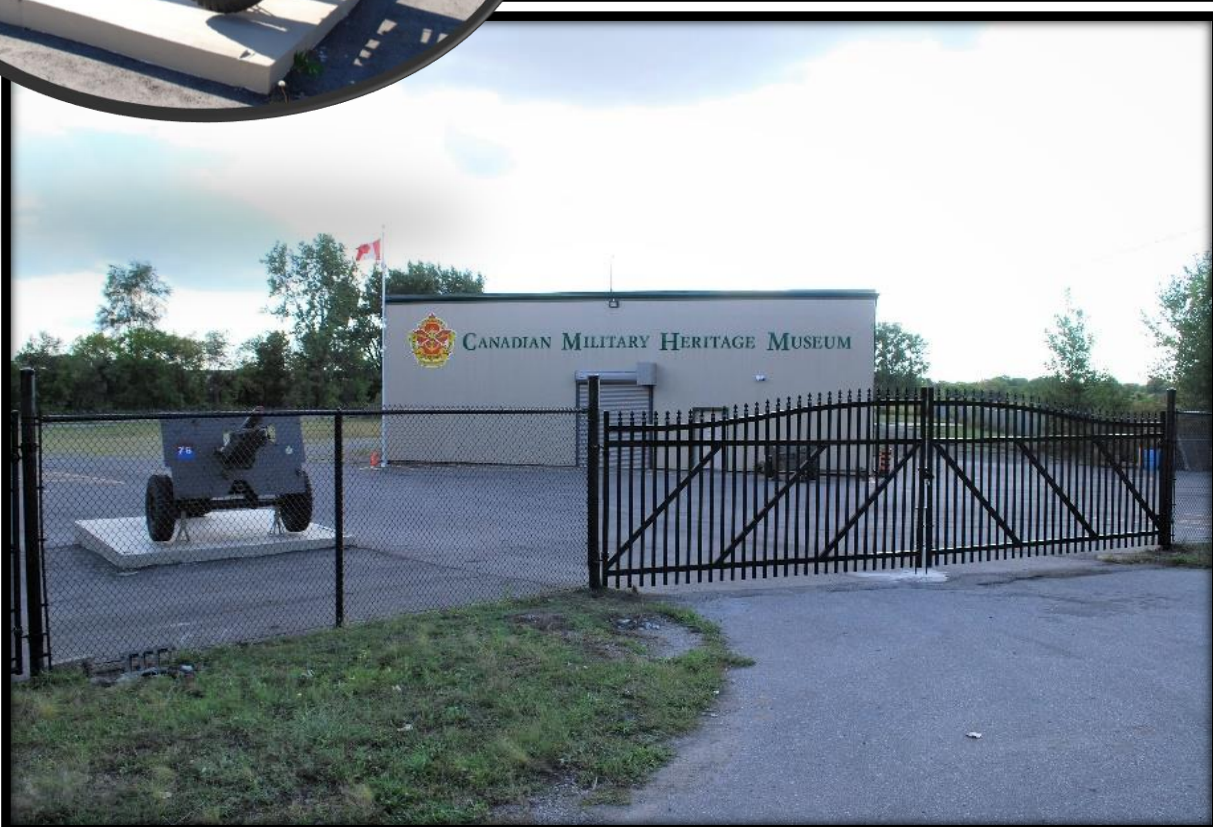


Happy Mothers Day Joanne!

When you arrive at the museum you will notice two wonderful additions!



The old guard shack has been demolished and vintage 25 Pounder artillery gun has been installed on the pad thanks mostly to Don and Joanne Wilkin's deconstruction talents. We thank them for spending Mother's Day demolishing and preparing the pad.



Rear Museum Building – Storage, Workshop and Vehicle Maintenance Area

As reported in the previous Newsletter, the rear building has received a new roof, exhaust fans, insulation, new siding and heating with the generous assistance of Don and Joanne Wilkin. A major cleaning took place inside and the walls and floor are painted, and water and suppression system put in place. An ambitious update of the website is in the planning stages.



Rangefinder

This is a German coastal rangefinder WWII era with German and Danish markings. It is about 5 metres wide. It was obtained a few years ago and re-assembled in October. They were used by the Germans in the Second World War on coastal areas to sight and fix positions of shipping.

Our volunteers are a dedicated group and reassembling and restoring artifacts really enhances our displays.

The crew in this photo are Don Wilkin, Dave Pearce, Ted Abbot, and Randy Johnson.

DIGITIZATION Summer Students **Kate Groberman** and **Marie Both** were very successful in getting us kickstarted down the road to digitizing and archiving our ephemeral archives. With a new scanner, computers and updated archiving software, the students were an asset. We are asking for volunteers to assist in continuing this long-term project. *Would you like to help with the digitizing project?*

WORLD WAR ONE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS



The family of Harold White visited from British Columbia to donate **RAF Captain Harold White's** World War One Distinguished Flying Cross – a very rare artifact to a former Brantford resident and WW I fighter pilot. This will be placed in a prominent display with photos.



Photo: Daughter-in-law Carol White McKay, Granddaughter Lynne White Pacholok and Her husband Tim Stephens.





The 56th Field Regiment RCA

The Museum was pleased to share the parking lot for several training sessions with the Army Reserve artillery regiment based in Brantford.



Volunteers Make Our Events A Success

Volunteers Lead Shared Interest Groups

Volunteers Serve on Committees

Whether they are helping visitors at the Information Desk, researching artifacts in our collections, setting up for an event, or making tea for our High Tea event, volunteers contribute to the enhancement and excellence of the Military Museum.

The Museum Board is working to build our teams on the following committees:

- Archives and storage
- Displays
- Volunteer Management
- Winter Projects
- Building and Facilities
- Fundraising (Sponsorship/Donations/Grants)
- Communications, Marketing, Promotions (Website, Advertising, Marketing, Newsletter)
- Open House (annual)
- Membership/Contact List
- World War Women High Tea
- New Events

We have volunteers working in all these areas now, but we need help. You will work alongside other volunteers and have an opportunity to learn so much. Being a volunteer is a great way to honour the history and contributions of our veterans. Make a difference. Join the team! Call us 519-759-1313

WE HAVE FUN TOO!

For members and friends who are interested in Brant's military history, Author Roger Sharpe is generously making available digital copies of his work.

Great reference materials.

You can email the author at

rogersharpeparis@hotmail.com

for a free eBook copy of any of the following books.

"Soldiers and Warriors, Vol. 1, The Early Volunteer Militia of Brant County, ON, Canada, 1856-1866." In 1855 the present Volunteer Militia system was created. "Soldiers and Warriors" is the exciting story of the first ten years of the volunteer militia system in Brant County, Canada. It explores the formation of Independent Companies in 1856 to the establishment of the 38th Brant Battalion of Infantry in 1866.

"Soldiers and Warriors, Vol. 2, The Volunteer Militia of Brant County, ON, Canada, 1866-1936." Vol. 2 continues the story from Vol. 1 with the formation and development of the 38th Brant Battalion of Infantry up to 1936 when it became the Dufferin and Haldimand Rifles of Canada.

"The Martial Spirit – A History of the Sedentary Militia and Six Nation Warriors of the former Brant County Area 1784 to 1884." During Canada's early years it was law that all settlers between 16 and 65, with a few exceptions, must serve in the sedentary militia of their country. Aboriginal warriors served in their own units of the Indian Department on an Ad Hoc basis. "The MARTIAL SPIRIT" is the story of those formative years of the sedentary militia and Six Nations warriors in Brant County.

"For King and Country" is a book about the history of the 125th battalion CEF or as it was also called the 1st Overseas Battalion, 38th Regiment Dufferin Rifles of Canada. It was raised in Brantford and travelled to England where it was broken up to reinforce other battalions in the fields of France.

There is some excellent reading about our local military heritage....what are you reading over the holidays?

"CAMP 20 The History of Brantford's Second World War Military Training Centre 1940-1946." It must have been an exciting time at camps like Camp 20. Young men—some very inexperienced, just off the farm—were required to attend military camp with such a wide variety of other people. A whole new world of personalities, rules, and orders they must learn, with the expectation of soon being in armed conflict with an enemy they must defeat. This book looks at Camp 20 and the challenge of imparting this military knowledge and way of life to a generation of youth during the Second World War.

"Wings above the Skyline, the Story of No. 5 Service Flying Training School, Brantford, ON, Canada, 1940-1944." This book describes the exciting development, operation and end of the Air Station. It gives a small glimpse of what happened all across Canada as the Plan evolved and specifically the events in the City of Brantford. Brantford became the location of a large RCAF community that for a time was an important part of Brant County and developed into what is the present Brantford Municipal Airport, a significant part of the Brantford community.

"The Paris Armoury" tells the history of the Armoury at Paris from 1909 to its closing in 1973. The units that served in the armoury began as a cavalry troop of the 25th Brant Dragoons and ended as part of the present 56th Field Regiment, RCA. The units are described and personal interviews with surviving members tell a little about the end of the armoury.



Charlotte Wood

In 1936, Mrs. Charlotte Susan Wood from Winnipeg, Manitoba became known as the first National Memorial (Silver) Cross Mother when she placed a wreath on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Westminster Abbey in London England, on behalf of all Canadian mothers who have lost a child in military service to their country. On August 24, 1914, her son Private Frederick Francis Wood, was killed at Mons, Belgium. On May 5, 1917, a second son, Private Peter Percy Wood, was killed at Vimy Ridge.

While on a pilgrimage to attend the unveiling of the Vimy Ridge Memorial in July 1936, Mrs. Wood was presented to King Edward VIII. Seizing the opportunity she said to him, "I have just been looking at the trenches and I just can't figure out why our boys had to go through that." He replied, "Please God, Mrs. Wood. It shall never happen again." Canada's famous war mother died three years later, just weeks after the start of another world war. She was buried in an unmarked grave in Winnipeg's Brookside Cemetery. A new gravestone was erected over 60 years later.



"Irene Sobering didn't swing a hammer or a drill, but she was just as important to getting Hamilton's Lancaster bomber into the air as any mechanic." Hamilton Spectator July 13, 2020



Irene Sobering 1921 – 2020

**Irene, LT., RCAF, WD
attended the Museum's
"Mothers Munitions
Matrons High Tea" May,
2019.**

While at the Tea, she posed beside the army uniform she wore when she joined the military reserves in Grimsby during the period of the Cold War as a member of Canadian Army Ordnance Corps and served with 23 Service Battalion for 16 years. You can see this display with her uniform at the CMHM.



Irene joined the Women's Division (WD) of the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1942. Posted overseas to London in 1944, she was sent to RCAF Headquarters to work with the medical section. A total of 17,038 women enlisted with the Women's Division during World War II, but only about 1,500 WD's served overseas. In London, she met her future husband George Sobering, an RCAF Lancaster pilot. They married in London shortly before V-E Day in 1945 "in the remains of a bombed-out church" the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Mount Hope (CWHM) said in a May 26 tweet.

Irene and George **"were the big wings behind the Lancaster Support Group**, which raised money into making the plane...flyable again in 1988". Hamilton Spec. July 13, 2020. She volunteered there from 1985 until her death at 99 years. The family lived on Jerseyville Rd., Brant County when George became vice-president of Trailmobile. She brought many guests to the Brantford Military Museum through the years.

From the team at the Canadian Heritage Military Museum, we wish you and your loved ones the very best of the holiday season and a very Happy New Year!

STAY IN TOUCH
519-759-1313

Email: cmhmbrant@gmail.com
Website: www.canadianmilitaryheritagemuseum.ca

JOIN THE RANKS





With country wide closures, our programming has been shut down but we see light at the end of the tunnel. In recent months, as it has been safe to do so, our amazing volunteers have been working very hard to update and create new exhibits. We have significant changes to our building and property that we can't wait to share with you.

Every member counts and membership is critical to demonstrating to government and municipal bodies that the Canadian Military Heritage Museum in Brantford is a valuable asset to the community.

Become a member and encourage your friends to join the museum.

MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

- Quarterly Newsletter
- Membership Appreciation Event
- Annual Open House
- Guest Speakers
- First chance at tickets to our World War Women High Tea
- Annual Museum Opening Preview Day

Please send your 2022 membership form and payment by December 31, 2021



EVERY MEMBER COUNTS

Canadian Military Heritage Museum
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We invite you to become a member of the
Canadian Military Heritage Museum
by completing this
2022 MEMBERSHIP FORM

✓ Fees: Students & Seniors...\$20 ☐
Adults.....\$25 ☐
Family.....\$35 ☐
Corporate.....\$50 ☐

Cheque payable to: Canadian Military Heritage Museum
or e-transfer funds to: cmhmbrant@gmail.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email(s): _____

: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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Keep this portion for future reference.