



# CMHM NEWSLETTER

**2022**  
CANADIAN MILITARY  
HERITAGE MUSEUM  
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Canadian Military Heritage Museum  
347 Greenwich St.  
Brantford, ON N3S 3S4  
519-759-1313

**EMAIL**

cmhmbrant@gmail.com

## *SPRING HAS SPRUNG SCHOOL TOURS ARE HERE AGAIN!!!*



A class from St. Francis Xavier High School in Sarnia made the two-hour trip to visit our museum and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

We welcome students to the museum to learn more about our proud and extensive military history.

**THE BRANTFORD ARMY CADETS** recently toured the museum after their original date was postponed last year.





## BZZZY VOLUNTEERS

Preparing Museum for visiting groups takes time and muscle, setting up tables, chairs and many more tasks. Volunteers are always needed. We have no paid staff.

We want to celebrate four new volunteers to the Archives Committee.

Julia Jacobson, Marilyn Shaver and Joanne Lewis are now learning the Archive computer program to assist Linda Robbins who has been working alone until now. Keith Gloster has also joined the team to take photos of the items that the public donate to the museum for archival purposes. THANK YOU

## Saturday, May 23 – CAR SHOW



Saturday, July 16

**Norm Christie**  
**Speaker**  
**Miliaria displays**  
**outside vendors**  
**car show**

**Norm Christie will be speaking in the afternoon. \$5 admission.**

**Details to follow soon.**

THE CANADIAN MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM PRESENTS:

COMBAT & CLASSICS SHOW 2022

Military vehicles & classic cars on display -

Where: 347 Greenwich St., Brantford N3S 7V1

When: Victoria Day, May 23, 2022 10 a.m - 2 p.m.

For more information: (519-759-1313)

Email at: [cmhmbrant@gmail.com](mailto:cmhmbrant@gmail.com)

(entrance by donation)



## Brant Theatre Workshop

**Ted Abbott, museum**

**Director receives a cheque to museum from Vince Ball and Peter Muir. Brant Theatre Workshop presented Vince's play "The Foot Locker" at the museum in March.**

**The play Vince wrote was a great success and we look forward to the next play. It's a terrific way to bring history alive.**



**We Celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
Polish Combatants Association of Canada, Brantford Branch,  
with a wonderful event attended by 100 guests on May 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**Below Slawomir Dobrowolski & Zig Misiak show Polish Combatant's Battle Honours banner  
that was donated to the museum.  
More details to come soon.**



## **SPECIAL MUSEUM OPENING**

During the Christmas holiday break, we had the pleasure of meeting Second Lieutenant Justin Bartlett, his wife Sheena and their children who were in town visiting family. Hoping to visit the museum while here, special arrangements were made to ensure that this visit could happen. We are always pleased to open our doors for Canadian forces families.

## **DONATION**

Dan Gilliam from Habitat for Humanity, Niagara Re-Store donated a World War Two radio from a Lancaster Bomber. The donation was documented by CHCH TV.



## KOREAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION



THANKS TO  
JANE ION AND  
ELIZABETH  
VERTICCIO FOR  
ORGANIZING  
THE MEETING  
AND LUNCH.

+



THE MUSEUM WELCOMED THE 23<sup>RD</sup> SPARKS AND BROWNIES WHEN THEY HELD SOME OF THEIR MEETINGS AT THE MUSEUM WHILE THEIR CHURCH WAS CLOSED DURING THE PANDEMIC.

Ontario Paranormal group did a study of paranormal activities in the museum. Report to come.



**ORTONA, ITALY** The 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Infantry Division took Ortona from the German 1<sup>st</sup> Parachute Division in a furious, blood-soaked week of street fighting, from December 20 to December 27 in 1943. The town became known as "Little Stalingrad". The "Ortona Street Fight" is considered one of the most epic battles that Canadian soldiers have ever fought.

"Nothing could be less Christmas-like than the acrid smell of cordite overhanging Ortona's rubble barricades, the thunder of collapsing walls and the blinding dust and smoke which darkened the alleys in which Canadians and Germans were locked in grim hand-to-hand struggle" (The Canadians in Italy; Nicholson).

Determined Battalion administrative personnel arranged for two Canadian battalions to observe Christmas Day in a very creative manner. Museum volunteers will honour the Canadians in Ortona with the recreation of the Christmas dinner. Please join us for this special evening, so we can "Remember Together".

### **ADVANCE NOTICE!**

**Tickets are being offered to our Museum Members first. Tickets can be reserved by members until July 16<sup>th</sup>. Then they will be offered to the public. Reserve your tickets now.**

## Ortona Christmas Dinner RECREATED

*Come Dine*

**Fri., Nov. 18, 2022**

at the

**Canadian Military Heritage Museum**  
347 Greenwich St., Brantford

**Exhibits Open: 5:00 p.m.**

**Dinner Served: 6:00 p.m.**

*Catered by Devlins Country Bistro*

**Tickets: \$75 per person • Reserved Seating**

Tickets available by emailing: [ortona.dinner@gmail.com](mailto:ortona.dinner@gmail.com)  
or by phoning the Canadian Military Heritage Museum  
at 519-759-1313

*Proceeds go to support the work of the  
Canadian Military Heritage Museum*

*Thank you for your support!*



Commemorating  
the historic event of  
December 25, 1943  
when troops from the  
Canadian 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry  
Division were rotated from  
battle to a battered church  
in Ortona, Italy for their  
turn to enjoy a Christmas  
dinner before returning  
to battle to liberate this  
occupied village, which  
they achieved in 8 days  
during this period of  
World War II.

*For a short time  
the Canadian soldiers  
experienced the spirit of Christmas.*



The more volunteers there are, to welcome the public, the more hours we can open the doors to the public. If you think you could offer a few hours once or twice a month, let us know. Prospective volunteers can call Bob Ion at 519-752-0245 or [bobbyionjr@gmail.com](mailto:bobbyionjr@gmail.com).

## 2022 commemorates the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of “WRENS”

Canadian Wrens arriving in  
Britain, October, 1944



### FREE A MAN FOR THE FLEET

When Canada entered the Second World War in September 1939, thousands of Canadian men volunteered for service. However, recruitment failed to keep pace with increasing demands. Women were needed to fill the demand for manpower.

The Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service (WRCNS) was established on 31 July 1942. It was patterned on the British Women's Royal Navy Service (WRNS). The term “Wrens,” by which WRCNS members were known, was the logical slurring of the British WRNS.

The WRCNS attracted women from all walks of life: farm girls, debutantes, students, teachers, factory workers, as well as

department store clerks and office workers. Recruitment continued throughout the war until February 1945, and by April of that year, 6783 Wrens had been brought into the service, primarily from Ontario, British Columbia, and Quebec.

British Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS), also known as the WRENS. The WRENS, who were working as code breakers together with Alan Turing's team made up almost two-thirds of the staff working at Bletchley Park and were crucial in decoding the German Enigma codes and winning World War Two. The WRENS were given very little recognition until recently.

Beatrice Worsley, the first female computer scientist in Canada, was one of thousands of Wrens who served in the Second World War.



**STAY IN TOUCH**  
519-759-1313

Email: [cmhmbrant@gmail.com](mailto:cmhmbrant@gmail.com)

Website: [www.canadianmilitaryheritagemuseum.ca](http://www.canadianmilitaryheritagemuseum.ca)

Mailing Address: [CMHM, PO Box 27033, 794 Colborne St. Brantford, ON N35 7V1](#)

[Check us out on FACEBOOK](#)

## DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ACCEPTING E-TRANSFER FUNDS NOW



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.

**Renew your membership 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 TODAY!



**Canadian Military Heritage Museum**

P.O. Box 27033, 794 Colborne St., Brantford, ON N3S 3S4  
Email: cmhmbrant@gmail.com • Phone: 519-752-3054 (Don)



Please renew your membership to 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send your 2022 membership form and payment TODAY!**

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Keep this portion for future reference.

# WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!