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CMHM NEWSLETTER

2022 CANADIAN MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM

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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.

<u>Julia Jacobson, Marilyn Shaver</u> and <u>Joanne Lewis</u> are now learning the Archive computer program to assist Linda Robbins who has been working alone until now. <u>Keith Gloster</u> 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.





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 75th anniversary of the

<u>Polish Combatants Association of Canada, Brantford Branch,</u>

with a wonderful event attended by 100 guests on May 15th.

Below <u>Slawomir Dobrowolski</u> & <u>Zig Misiak</u> 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 23RD 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 1st Canadian Infantry Division took Ortona from the German 1st 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!

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



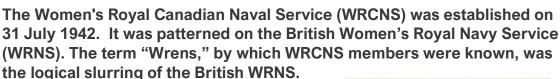
The more volunteers there are, to welcome the public, the more hours we can open the doors to the public. If you think you could offer a few hours once or twice a month, let us know. Prospective volunteers can call Bob Ion at 519-752-0245 or bobbyionjr@gmail.com.

2022 commemorates the 80th Anniversary of "WRENS"

Canadian Wrens arriving in Britain, October, 1944



When Canada entered the <u>Second World War</u> 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 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

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Check us out on FACEBOOK

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



WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!