



CANADIAN MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM

Spring 2018

MARK THIS!

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, August 5th, 2018

25th Anniversary

10am to 4pm

Free admission

FUN TIMES!

Entertainment for the whole family!

Demonstrations, displays, reenactment battles

door prizes- food

25th Anniversary Celebration

So much to celebrate

Chairman's Remarks

I hope everyone survived the brutal winter as it sure was a long and brutal one. But now, it's past and good weather is here.

Since we closed at the end of November 2017 this museum began a transformation like the kind never before seen. It took the better part of five months but we got through construction, painting etc. turning the museum into a first class destination for people to see the artifacts on display.

We are planning some terrific events this year beginning with our OPEN HOUSE in August, the Brantford Symphony Orchestra in the fall, Great speakers on WW1, The Guild etc. just to name a few.

I do hope you will plan to attend these events and bring a friend. Supporting these events is very important to the life of the Museum. I will close for now, hoping to see you throughout the year. Have a great summer!

Rick Shaver

October 20th – British historian **ANDY ROBERTSHAW**

Is the guest speaker at the Museum.



Badge of Canadian Fire Fighters in Britain



***NEW FEATURE DISPLAY HONOURS THE BRANTFORD
FIREFIGHTERS WHO SERVED IN BRITAIN DURING THE BLITZ
DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR***

Renovations complete – Finally!

The long winter reconstruction projects are complete and the museum has never looked better! We thank our member benefactor and the City of Brantford. Their generous financial support has enabled the museum to make the most significant changes in its history.

We proudly celebrate our 25th anniversary with a first class museum that honours the men and women of our rich military heritage.

Building/Displays CHANGES

The concrete walls and floors have been painted – museum is much brighter!

Our invaluable volunteers should be applauded for their dedicated efforts during the winter.

A new brighter Boardroom/library has been constructed that will be used for museum meetings and available to civic groups.

FRONT ENTRANCE- New glassed-in doors and windows have been added that brighten the entrance.

Two new roll-up doors were installed to allow easy access in and out for the vehicles at the rear of the building. This has opened up the space where the vehicles had previously been stored and enables the new glass entrance to brighten the foyer.

LED lighting has been added in the new vehicle storage area at rear of building and we will be gradually replacing older lighting units with LED preserve our valuable artifacts.

VISITOR RESPONSE HAS BEEN VERY POSITIVE, SAYING THAT THE MUSEUM IS 'BRIGHTER AND MORE OPEN'.

We are proud to display two original charcoal drawings by famous World War One and Two illustrator and cartoonist Bruce Bairnsfather.

The original Trench Mortar that was captured at Vimy Ridge in 1917 has had wheels constructed by our Mennonite friend.

Many of the display cases have had casters installed to make them mobile and easier to move for special events. **Bob Ion- Displays & Archives**

FEATURES TO COME THIS YEAR

Armistice 1918-2018 and Canada's involvement in the Last Hundred Days of World War One.

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY, AUGUST 5TH

We will be present at the PARIS FAIR in September

October 20th- British Historian Andy Robertshaw speaking at Museum – details to follow

WW1 German Trench Mortar Gets New Wheels



Before



After

Bruce Bairnsfather (2 Original charcoal drawings exhibit)

Captain (Charles) Bruce Bairnsfather was a prominent British humorist and cartoonist. His best-known cartoon character is Old Bill. Bill and his pals Bert and Alf featured in Bairnsfather's weekly "Fragments from France" cartoons published weekly in "The Bystander" magazine during the First World War.

World War 1 Service

In 1914 he joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment as a Second Lieutenant and served with a machine gun unit in France until 1915, when he was hospitalized with shellshock and hearing damage sustained during the *Second Battle of Ypres*. Posted to the 34th Division headquarters on Salisbury Plain, he developed his humorous series for the Bystander about life in the trenches, featuring "Old Bill", a curmudgeonly soldier with trademark walrus moustache and balaclava.

The best remembered of these shows Bill with another trooper in a muddy shell hole with shells whizzing all around. The other trooper is grumbling and Bill advises:

Well, If you knows of a better 'ole, go to it.

Many of his cartoons from this period were collected in “Fragments From France” (1914) and the autobiographical “Bullets & Billets” (1916) and reproduced on numerous patriotic commercial objects including stoneware.

Despite the immense popularity with the troops and massive sales increase for the Bystander, initially there were objections to the “vulgar caricature”. Nevertheless, their success in raising morale led to Bairnsfather’s promotion and receipt of a War Office appointment to draw similar cartoons for other Allies forces.

Post-war

“Old Bill” and Bairnsfather himself continued in popularity between the World Wars. Bairnsfather was the subject of one of the first British sound films in 1927, wrote and directed the 1928 Canadian film Carry on Sergeant, and took part in the early Alexandra Palace television transmissions in 1936. Old Bill appeared in numerous books, plays, musicals and films. In 1939 he published an autobiography, “Wide Canvas”.

In World War II, he continued Old Bill work, but was not asked to help with the British war effort. Instead, he became official cartoonist to the American forces in Europe, contributing to Stars and Stripes and Yank. He also drew cartoons at American bases and nose art on aircraft. His works are considered to have influenced artists such as Bill Mauldin. Bruce Bairnsfather died in 1959.

On March 8th, 1950

*Bruce Bairnsfather
spent an evening in Brantford in the auditorium of B.C.I.
where he spoke to
The Women’s Canadian Club*

*The man who taught us how to laugh our way
through two wars presented them with two original
charcoal drawings that are now **proudly on display at the museum***

Fire Fighters Visit Museum



Brantford Fire Chief, Shayne Caskanette, Chief Fire Prevention Officer, Dwayne Armstrong and a fire crew toured the museum in June and were very impressed with the exhibits. Retired Chief Ross Bennett and Steve Armstrong also toured the museum.

**2017 – 2018
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Don Musson – Treasurer
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Bob Ion – Displays and Archives
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Ted Abbott
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MUSEUM HOURS

Summer

May 1 – Sept 30
Tuesday – Sunday
10:00am-4:00pm
Closed Mondays

Winter

Oct 5 – Nov 30
Friday-Saturday-Sunday
10:00am-4:00pm
Closed
December-January-February

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND
UPDATES**

Please provide your email address so we can send our newsletters and notices throughout the year on happenings at the museum. You don't want to miss out. This will greatly reduce mailing costs to the museum.



Contact Us

**Canadian Military Heritage Museum
347 Greenwich St.
Brantford, ON
519-759-1313
CMHM@execulink.com**

BE THE FIRST TO SEE

THE NEW EXHIBITS

Stay tuned for special events

Please include any changes to mailing address or phone number.

Send any changes to: don.musson@gmail.com

If you know of a group who would like a tour of the museum have them contact us. We can arrange tours for days or evenings.

Reminder

2018 Memberships are now due

Adults - \$25

Student & Seniors - \$20

Family - \$35

Corporate - \$50

Thank You for your

Support!