



CMHM NEWSLETTER

2025
CANADIAN MILITARY
HERITAGE MUSEUM
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Brantford, ON N3S 3S4
519-759-1313
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Newsletter
Marilyn Shaver / Bob Ion

LEN HILL REMEMBERS WHEN...

Korean Veteran and founding member of our Military Museum, Len Hill sat patiently this past year, and recalled his life growing up, life in the military, and the early days of establishing this museum.



This special video recording will be part of the Korea display when production is finished.

Len is an honorary Life Member of the museum and we appreciate his service to his country and his loyal support given to the museum.

THANK A VET LUNCHEON



Korean Veteran **Len Hill** (seated) at the Thank-A-Vet Luncheon November 4th.

We recognize the generous support from the visitors who fed the donation box on weekends and all guests, organizations, foundations and the City of Brantford who have made significant donations to the museum.



Archivist **Linda Robbins**, Archivist & Museum Director **Julia Jacobson**, Former MPP and Thank-A-Vet Luncheon Co-Chair **Dave Levac**. Dave presents a donation to museum on behalf of the TAVL committee,



We laid a wreath on Remembrance Day ceremony at the War Memorial and attended a Remembrance week ceremony at St. John's College where Monte Cassino Veteran **Edward Moczulski**, 99 years old was honoured.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BRUNCH SEPT.



Volunteers Gary Balsdon & Geoff



Volunteers Dave
Joanne Lewis

Susan Bradbury Linda Robbins

We would not be where we are today, if not for our dedicated volunteers who are vital to the operation of the museum! More than 10 new volunteers have come on board this year, many providing their time to join us greeting visitors on weekends.

Our volunteers aid in duties such as: setting up and planning the High Tea, Open House, Car & Military Vehicles Shows; building maintenance; archiving; weekend cleaning; vehicles restoration; weapons storage and registration; applying for grants; financial duties and many more daily chores. 2024 saw real progress in the restoration of our ambulance.

Almost half our members have volunteered at some time this year! THANK YOU!!!!!!



MANY THANKS to Nancy and Frank Defelice for inviting the museum to be part of the closing event of the Brant Jazz Festival.

Nancy produced two wonderful slide presentations honouring many Brantford citizens who served in both world wars, Korea, Afghanistan and a presentation honouring those local service members who gave their lives. Copies of these will be played at museum.

Photo: Randy Johnson & Nancy Defelice





56TH ASSOCIATION

The Museum formed an affiliation with the 56th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA Association where we share information and coming events for each other's organization to recognize and honour our museum and the 56th. Several of our members attended a traditional Mess Dinner at the Brantford Armouries which was also a fundraiser to send several members of the regiment to the Netherlands in May for the 80th anniversary of the Liberation of The Netherlands.



Above: **Reg Madison** sells memberships to the 56th Assoc. at Museum Open House



Right: **Marilyn & Garnet Shaver** attend the Mess Dinner
Below: The **56th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA** members present at the Mess Dinner.



OPEN HOUSE CONT'D



Top Left: Board Members **Ted Abbott & Randy Johnson** guard the gun vault

Top Right: Harold Offenhamer cheers on Town Crier **David McKee**

Middle: 50-50 Winner **Liz Guest** with Board Member **Bob Ion**

Bottom: Board Members **Don Musson & Randy Johnson** offer Museum Memberships

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!



Report from the Chair

2024 WAS OUR 31st YEAR WITH LOTS TO CELEBRATE



Since opening in March, attendance steadily grew with positive responses from our visitors both in their generosity in the donation box and reviews online.

Major displays were the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force; the 80th anniversary of D-Day; the invasion of Normandy in 1944 and the 75th anniversary of NATO.

2025 THEME – Recognizing the service of the men and women of the Royal Canadian Navy and Merchant Marine.

The WWI exhibit will be redesigned showcasing our rare WWI collections.

We hosted 21 tours with more than 1700 visitors coming with tours and events alone. This does not include numbers for the Open House, Car Show, and the weekend visitors from March to the end of November, which has seen a substantial increase. So...you could more than double the 1700 number.



Brantford Probus Men's Club saw 96 Probians visit for their traditional November Remembrance meeting. In the photo above we see Volunteer **Brian Armstrong** with **Don Wilkin** as he greeted Probians in his 38th Dufferin Rifles 1860's uniform



Our Open House and Classic Cars and Military Vehicles show was very well received. Many thanks to **James McRae** for providing reenactors.

Below: Reenactors & Board Member **Doug Marriott**



MAY TEA OF REMEMBANCE

SPEAKER



Speaker Jackie Book, Bob Ion, Marilyn Shaver, supporter Chris Peart

SUPPORTERS



Diane Bartle, Jay Vance, Shelley Gibbs

VOLUNTEERS



Jane, Lyndsay, Phyllis, Donna



Volunteers: Donna, Lorraine



Phyllis, Karen, Sheila, Giovanna



Our speaker Cptn. Jackie Book, RCAF (ret'd), our 120 ticket buyers, and our team of volunteers came together and made the sold-out Tea of Remembrance the social event of the year for the museum. Capt. Book's story about joining the military, her three deployments to Afghanistan where she flew 113 combat missions and becoming a C-130 tactical airlift pilot had the audience spell bound. 2025 DATE: May 10th

A magnificent day, the result of Marilyn Shaver and her team of volunteers: Bob & Jane Ion, Julia Jacobson, Giovanna Notarandrea, Mary Lou Mackie, Karen Nagel, Sheila Gray, Phyllis Bennett, Lyndsay Jordon, Donna Waggoner, Lorraine Hagan, Evelyn Picketts, Kristen Shaver, Cathy Canton.

RED & SILVER STAR ARMY CADETS VISIT MUSEUM



We hosted Army, Air and Sea Cadets, Brantford Navy League, Beavers, Cubs, Guides & Embers. Schools Tours were numerous with NPC, BCI, Ecole Dufferin, Onondaga Brant, Lansdowne and St. George German School. Brant Country Board of Education to Develop Military Educational Program
We will meet with contact at the Board in 2025 to create an educational program to raise awareness of our national and local military heritage.



The Gunners of the 56th Field Rgt. RCA continued using the museum lot for training of gunners and set up a display at Open House...an obvious partnership.



Some of the reviews from visitors in 2024

➤ A **real gem** of a museum, one of the best military-themed ones I've seen.

A wide variety of artefacts and stories covering everything from the War of 1812 to modern day. Numerous items that you rarely see elsewhere, and many in excellent shape or beautifully restored.

A lot of focus on local and regional people and companies and includes quite

a few stories of local women and First Nations. Interpretive signs and displays are generally quite good. No admission fees.

- Great place!!! All the volunteers were amazing with so much information and so helpful. Definitely recommend if doing a history project or just looking to learn more
- Had a lovely day Saturday with my daughter. High tea with the theme women in aviation and a fabulous woman military pilot of a Hercules fighter jet. I sat beside her for the event and it really made this event special for me. I would go again!
- I can't believe I've waited so long to visit this place!! I took my son towards the end of summer as he's very into wartime vehicles. This place does not disappoint! As we arrived, we were greeted by a very sweet older gentleman whom you could tell was very informed and enthusiastic about the history of the place. All of the displays were very well presented with all sorts of very interesting historical facts. My son was really into the barracks that they have set up within the building. It adds a very realistic element in showcasing what soldiers actually experienced during their time of war.
- It was well organized. A lot of info about the roles women play and info about local women's roles. That was nice to see.
- I have donated to this museum because of its important role in our military history.

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY

24th Scotch Tasting Event at Museum
7-9pm Book your ticket

MARCH BREAK

Museum re-opens daily Saturday, 8th to Sunday 16th.

Museum re-opens after March Break on weekends, Saturday & Sunday, Noon to 4pm.

MAY

**10th Tea of Remembrance
"Women of the Waves"**

19th Combat & Classics 2024
Classic cars & Military Vehicles Show

28th JOHN BULLEN Guest Speaker 7pm

AUGUST

3RD ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

**Prospective volunteers can
call Bob Ion 519-752-0245 or
bobbyionjr@gmail.com**

Scotch Tasting

5 FLAVOURFUL TASTES OF WHISKIES FROM ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24TH 2025

7:00 - 9:00PM | CANADIAN MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM

347 GREENWICH ST. BRANTFORD ON N3S 7X4



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

HAGGIS TASTING

ROBBIE BURNS POETRY

\$50 FOR BHS & CMHM MEMBERS

\$60 FOR NON-MEMBERS

\$20 FOR NON-DRINKING

CALL 519-752-2483 OR EMAIL
INFORMATION@BRANTMUSEUMS.CA

TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS

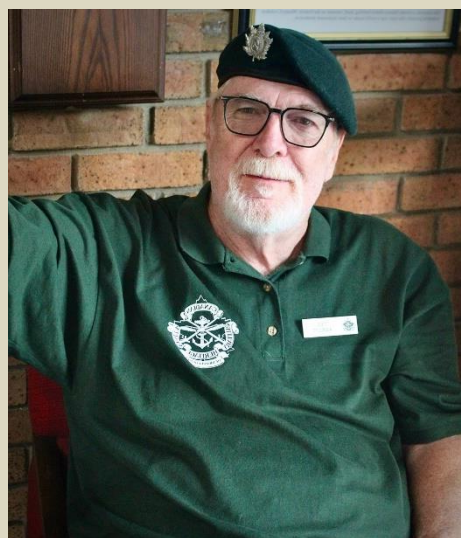
SPEAKERS SERIES 2024 - 2025

Training of Aircrews During World War II

John Bullen,
Presenter, Canadian
Warplane Heritage Museum

Wednesday | May 28th 2025 | 7:00 PM
Canadian Military Heritage Museum
347 Greenwich Street, Brantford ON

More Photos From Our Year in Review



Above Left: 56th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA at Open House

Above Right: Wilkin Family at Tea of Remembrance

Middle: Board Member Ted Abbot at Open House

Bottom Left: Shane Downy of the Navy League speaking at Rotary Lunch

Bottom Right: Volunteers Mary Lou Mackie, Karen Nagel and Sheila Gray (front)



2025 MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP

E-TRANSFER AVAILABLE
cmhmbrant@gmail.com

**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 2025
membership
form and
payment
TODAY!



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P.O. Box 27033, 794 Colborne St., Brantford, ON N3S 3S4
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Please renew your membership to the
Canadian Military Heritage Museum
by completing this

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 membership form and payment TODAY!

Canadian Military Heritage Museum

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