



CMHM NEWSLETTER

2025
**CANADIAN MILITARY
HERITAGE MUSEUM**
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Ion
Chair
Randy Johnson
Vice Chair
Don Musson
Treasurer
Susan Bradbury
Secretary

Directors
Julia Jacobson
Neil Hurlbut
Dave Pearce
Don Wilkin
Ted Abbott
Colin Mouatt
Marilyn Shaver
Doug Marriott

Canadian Military Heritage Museum
347 Greenwich St.

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 27033
Brantford, ON N3S 3S4
519-759-1313
EMAIL
cmhmbrant@gmail.com

Newsletter
Marilyn Shaver / Bob Ion

Salute to Brantford Vet Mary Thompson

Mary Carmella Luciani enlisted in the Canadian Women's Army Corp in Tillsonburg in 1943. We welcomed Mary to our Tea of Remembrance May 10th. Photo shows her beside the storyboard of her war years. She married Douglas George Thompson of Brantford who served with the South Alberta Regiment of the Canadian Army.



56th Field Regiment RCA in the Netherlands 80th Anniversary of the Liberation in WW2



As part of a larger group, 12 soldiers of the 56th Field Regiment RCA had the honour to participate in the remembrance ceremony at Holten and Groesbeck Canadian military Cemeteries in the Netherlands in May.

Lieutenant-Colonel David Vreugdenhil CD, reported “The troops held themselves very well, and were given the honour of leading the artillery contingent through the city in a crowd that must have reached 50,000 people.”

Our troops are going to Latvia. Twenty 56th members were to be deployed in June with more to be deployed in January. The 56th Field Regiment Association is preparing packages to send to the soldiers.



The Museum is proud to support the 56th Field Artillery Regiment, RCA Association, a group that supports the men and women of our local regiment through various events during the year. May 28 the Museum co-hosted with the Assoc. a special presentation by Author, Historian **Dr. Tim**

Cook, Director of Research at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa speaking to a full house on “The Liberators”, commemorating Canadian Army’s Liberation of the Netherlands.

Photo: Vincent Ball, Bob Ion, **Speaker Dr. Tim Cook**, Reg Madison

VICTORIA DAY ANNUAL CLASSIC CARS & MILITARY VEHICLES SHOW



Above: David (centre) and Don (right) received the Director's Choice award for their 1959 Daimler Ferret Mark 2 scout car.

Right: Finn & Piers Hurlbut in the Universal Carrier at the Military Vehicle Show.



Below: Norman & Jean Mulloy, proudly show their award for their 1934 DeSoto Airflow.



The restoration of the ambulance in the back building is back on track with new tires ready to be installed. Much progress is being made by our volunteers. Mark May 18, 2026 on your calendar and attend next years show to see unique cars and military vehicles.

SALUTE TO BRANTFORD VETERAN RICHARD KUNTZ



In 1944 at just 18 years old, Richard (Dick) L. Kuntz enlisted in the Canadian military unaware that his service would span an impressive 37 years before his retirement. Throughout his distinguished career with the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, Dick served in Europe, with United Nation forces in Lebanon and Gaza and in the remote northern regions of Canada. Upon retiring Dick chose to make Brantford his permanent home



where he embraced the joys of life in this vibrant city. Last month, Dick celebrated an incredible milestone - his 99th birthday! All of us at the museum proudly extend our heartfelt wishes: "Happy 99th Birthday, Dick! We look forward to commemorating your 100th next year."

Thank you Dick for your exceptional service and dedication.



ARCHIVISTS - Our diligent volunteers are busy preserving our precious artifacts every week. Below Don McRae & Dave Cook are hard at work. Julia Jacobson and Linda Robbins dug into the archives to provide hats worn by WRENS to use as centerpieces at the Tea in May.



ALEXANDRA PARK CANNON -captured by the British during the Crimean War in Russia (1853-56)



The biggest news of the year is the restoration and relocation to the museum of two important pieces of our rich military heritage.

The famous Crimean War cannon that sat in Alexandra Park for many years sustained environmental damage and has been transferred to the museum's rear building where it will be professionally restored and displayed inside the museum for permanent display.

In 2026 the World War One howitzer displayed in front of the

armouries will be transferred to the museum to join the cannon and other priceless pieces of Canadian military history.

(Below) Ted Abbott on hand for delivery of cannon to museum.



Report from the Chair

Your museum is very much alive and well and having a year to remember. We have welcomed a significant number of 'new Canadian' families who have toured the museum and been enthusiastically engaged. Attendance by visitors will set records this year.



2025 THEME – Recognizing the service of the men and women of the Royal Canadian Navy and Merchant Marine, the sailors and the WRENS. Come in and visit new displays.

Another added display features children's games and books during wartime.



(Left) On the rainy morning of May 28th, the famous Blue Knights (retired police motorcyclists) left their bikes at home and toured the museum.

(Right) Jens Enslev posed with a 1966 service photo of himself in the United Nations display. He hasn't changed a bit!





Lori Smith and Rob Foord from the Hong Kong Veterans Association will be dedicating a plaque and artifacts, honouring the Battle of Hong Kong.



(Right) Sea Cadets from Dundas visited in March.

Students from Eastwood Collegiate (right) were among the many school groups that visited.
Brantford Collegiate Institute
(5 classes)

North Park Collegiate
3 classes

Chatham Christian
School

Fort Erie Army
Cadets

Solid Foundations
School

The Professional
Engineers of Ontario
held their annual
AGM at the museum.



MAY 10 TEA OF REMEMBANCE

SPEAKER



Marilyn Shaver, Speaker
Donna Murakami, Jane Ion

SUPPORTERS



Wendy Bethune & Bev Osborne

VOLUNTEERS



Jane & Bob Ion, Don Wilkin, Colin
Mouatt



Piper Glen Jorgenson leads
Veteran Mary Thompson &
daughter Pat Luciani into lunch.



Supporters



Karen Nagel & Phyllis Bennett at
Silent Auction Display

Our speaker Lieutenant Commander Donna Murakami (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. Commemorating Women's Naval Contributions in War time was done with speakers's presentation, souvenir booklet, storyboards and video clips. The raffle and silent auction were very successful and the event put \$12,000 into the treasury.

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, Jay Vance.

HMCS Brantford K218
Flower Class Corvette
Commissioned May 15, 1942



Director and volunteer Colin Mouatt made an important contribution to the educational portion of our displays. He created seven colourful flyers relating to: **Brant County Men in the Boer War; War of 1812; HMCS Brantford; Brant County and Six Nations in WWII; Brant County Militia; Women's Royal Canadian**

Naval Service Wrens; and Brant County and Six Nations Boys in WWI. These will be available to visitors.



Restoration work is to be done before moving to its new home at the Canadian Military Heritage Museum in Brantford. PHOTO BY BRIAN THOMPSON /Brian Thompson/The Expositor

More on the Alexandra Park Cannon...

This cannon was captured by the British during the Crimean War in Russia (1853-56). Typically, the Russian cannons came from the siege of Sebastopol, confiscated by the British when they captured that city in 1856. The captured cannons were offered to towns throughout the British Empire for public display.

The cannon was removed from its original moorings and placed on a vertical stone base, then lowered, straight into the ground in Alexandra Park. But the base began to sink from the pressure of the cannon's weight amid cannon ended up in mud.

On May 9, 1901, The Expositor reported "the cannon which has b been lying embedded in the mud at Alexandra Park for some years is just now receiving attention. A squad of

corporation employees are engaged in constructing a granolithic platform on the spot where the gun lay". A November 17, 1895, Expositor article on the history of Brantford's parks, indicated that the Russian gun at the time of writing the article was lying half buried in the sand in Alexander Park. Thus, it is speculated that the cannon was moved to Alexandra Park sometime between 1883 and November 17, 1895.

VOLUNTEERS – We have several new recruits and -if you would like to join our ranks, email Colin Mouatt at: colin.mouatt@gmail.com

Thanks to Brant Beacon, Rogers TV, Expositor, KX94.7, Brian Thompson & Vincent Ball for their support.



ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3RD

PLAN TO ATTEND FOR A FUN TIME!

SUMMER HOURS
Friday, Saturday & Sunday
July 4th to August 31st
NOON-4PM



summer afternoon...is there a better thought?

How do you enjoy a summer afternoon? Enjoying a cold drink on your front porch; reading a book lake side; watching the kids splash in the pool; driving through the countryside in your convertible or even strolling through the Military Museum reflecting on earlier years. However you enjoy a summer afternoon, do enjoy the time and stay safe. We look forward to seeing you at the museum soon.

HAPPY SUMMER!!!