



# CMHM NEWSLETTER

**2026-2027**

CANADIAN MILITARY  
HERITAGE MUSEUM  
OF BRANT COUNTY

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**Newsletter**

**Marilyn Shaver / Bob Ion**



A CENTURY of standing with Veterans, strengthening communities, and honouring the memory of those who served.

Plan to participate in activities celebrating this once in a lifetime milestone.



Among other support services, the Canadian Legion operated mobile canteens during the Second World War. Photo: Legion Magazine Archives



## NEW EXHIBIT



Volunteer & Board Member, Ted Abbott adds the finishing touches to the display.

### NEW EXHIBIT

Portraits created by artist Sergey Malina featuring former Brantford Collegiate Institute students who died in World War I & II.

This display honours the men & women from Brantford, Brant County and Six Nations who made the ultimate sacrifice during wartime.



Includes Mother's Crosses, Death Pennies, Documents and photos.

## BCI WAR PORTRAITS PROJECT

It was originally started and paid for by the late Keith Reekie (portraits can be found in some other high schools in Southern Ontario and at the War Plane Heritage Museum). Keith was assisted by John Manners.

I asked the BCI alumni association to assist in funding. The BCI students worked with the Brantford Public Library (led by the late Geoffrey Moyer whose assistance in this project was incredibly helpful). There have been a few hundred different BCI History students who have worked on this program. Unfortunately, COVID denied a few years of students having the opportunity to work on this program.

A large number of portraits still are waiting to be framed. A number of former BCI students still need to have research started/completed. To complete the project a new benefactor(s) will need to be found. I am willing to complete the project into retirement, if necessary.

Richard Eyre – BCI History Teacher





**We will remember him...**

## **Captain Leonard Martin Hill**

‘Len’

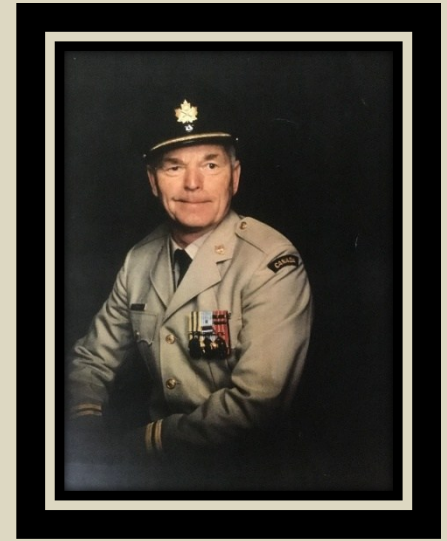
*Strathcona's*      *RCEME*      *RCACC*

Len Hill was born December 4, 1928

He joined the Canadian Army in 1948

After Basic Training at Camp Borden, he departed  
for Wainright, Alberta to join

*The Lord Strathcona's Horse Regiment* as a vehicle technician



He served in Korea from 1953 to 1954 and transferred to *The Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers* in 1957

Len retired in 1972 after years of serving from Petawawa to Korea and Germany with the rank of Warrant Officer

He volunteered with Scouting and  
Royal Canadian Army Cadets in Brantford from 1975 to 1983

Len was one of our volunteer members from day one.  
As a result of Len's contributions and dedication in helping to create and maintain our museum  
he was made an

**HONOURARY LIFE MEMBER**  
of the Canadian Military Heritage Museum of Brant County

Our friend Len Hill passed away at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

He had just turned 97.

We were fortunate to have Len sit for an emotional video of his military experiences in Canada, the Korean War and his involvement with the Royal Canadian Cadets Corps

**Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, a tribute to the life of Len will be held at the museum at 11:00 a.m.**



## Report From The Chair



Our friend and member Donna Murakami Fujimoto brought two guests to the museum.

LCol Faith Mwangandi is from Kenya Navy. She is a warfare Officer who has served onboard a Ship as the Commanding Officer from 2019 to 2023. She has served in the Naval Headquarters as a Staff Officer in charge of Personnel Administration prior to attending the year long, **Canadian Forces Command and Staff College course** in Toronto. Students graduating will be returning to their respective countries to resume their military careers.

Major Thu-Hue Tran served in the Vietnam People's Army for seven years and currently works as an assistant at the Institute for Defense International Relations. She graduated from the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam with both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in international law. She too is currently attending the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College course in Toronto. She will graduate at the end of June and will return to Vietnam

Over 40 people attended the Brant Historical Society and the Canadian Military Heritage Museum's fourth annual Scotch Tasting fundraiser on Friday, January 23, 2026.

Set up amongst the exhibits of the Canadian Military Heritage Museum, the event was hosted by whisky enthusiast Geoff Kempster, who led guests through the tasting of five different Scotches, each poured as a half-ounce sample. The tasting featured The Dalmore 12-year-old Highland single-malt, Té Bheag blended Scotch, Ardmore Legacy Highland single-malt, Ardbeg 10-year-old Islay and Dun Bheagan Islay single-malt Scotch whiskies.

Esther Brouwer, Myrtleville House Museum's Education Programmer and organizer of the event said the scotch whiskies were all produced in Scotland.

Photo credits: Brant Beacon



Esther Brouwer bringing out the Haggis



Scotch tasting host Geoff Kempster with Murray Angus from Brant Historical Society & Gary Burns



Richard Eyre- Our friend and dedicated history teacher from B.C.I. has traditionally brought his history classes to tour the museum for many years. It is the teachers who bring their students to the museum that makes it all worth while. We have so many stories to tell and the student demographic is who we hope will pass them on. If anyone can help Richard complete the War Portraits Project as described on page 2 contact Bob Ion.

## 2026 EXHIBIT HONOURING CANADIANS IN HONG KONG DURING WWII



**Recognition of Canadians in Hong Kong during World War II has not had the attention it deserves. We extend thanks to our friends at Hong Kong Veterans for their input and donations to the museum display.**

**intended as a symbolic “deterrent”, quickly turned into a 17-day struggle against overwhelming odds.**

**In 1941, Canada sent nearly 2,000 soldiers to help defend the British colony of Hong Kong against a Japanese invasion, marking the first time Canadian ground troops saw combat in the Second World War. The mission,**

### Timeline and Deployment

Deployment (October 1941): Known as "C Force," the contingent consisted of the [Winnipeg Grenadiers](#) and the Royal Rifles of Canada. They arrived in Hong Kong on November 16, 1941.

The Invasion (December 8, 1941): Only three weeks after their arrival, Japanese forces attacked, beginning with an aerial bombardment of [Kai Tak Airport](#) and an assault on the mainland's "Gin Drinkers' Line".

"Black Christmas" (December 25, 1941): After fierce fighting that retreated from the mainland to Hong Kong Island, the Allied garrison surrendered on Christmas Day.

### Key Figures and Acts of Valour

Brigadier J.K. Lawson: The commander of the Canadian contingent, he was killed in action when his headquarters was overrun. He famously radioed that he was "going outside to fight it out".

CSM John Robert Osborn: Posthumously awarded the [Victoria Cross](#), Canada's first of the war. During the Battle for Mount Butler, he threw himself on a Japanese grenade to save his fellow soldiers.

**Impact and Aftermath** The Battle of Hong Kong was one of the costliest chapters in Canadian military history:

Casualties: 290 Canadians died during the 17 days of fighting.

Prisoners of War: The 1,685 survivors were taken as Prisoners of War (POWs), enduring nearly four

years of starvation, forced labour, and disease in camps in Hong Kong and Japan.

Total Deaths: Over 550 Canadians never returned home, with roughly half dying in captivity.

In 2011, the [Japanese government issued an official apology](#) for the mistreatment of Canadian POWs.

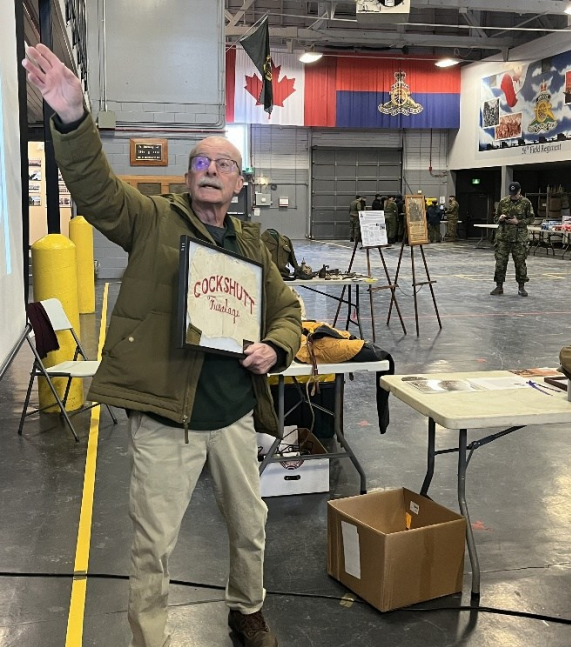
Today, the fallen are commemorated at the Sai Wan War Cemetery and the Stanley Military Cemetery in Hong Kong.

### NO. 20 MEN FOUGHT AT HONG KONG

At Least 13 of the 2,000 Canadians who were at that far eastern stronghold in Hong Kong, received Training at **Brantford Camp 20** (A wartime training camp situated where Pauline Johnson Collegiate and the Glebe property is now). At least 13 men **trained at Brantford** before going to Camp Borden in October for their advanced instruction. From Camp Borden the 13 men apparently went into one unit that was sent to Hong Kong, and others may have gone with other units. It is believed by authorities that more had trained at No. 20, but as yet their names are not known.

These men took part in the defense of Hong Kong against the Japanese.

The 13 known to have been at the local camp are **Ptes. J. T. Aksenchuk, G. Barron, E C. Bolton, L. Brown, P. C. Bruns (sic), W. R. Campbell, R. K. Chalmers, G. J. Conron, F. A Cooper, G. E. Edgecombe, V. O. Fehr, R. J. Fleming and R. A. Gover**



### CMHM 'Cadet Day' at the Brantford Armoury

**Meghan Cameron** is a high school history teacher and local historian who has volunteered for the Great War Centenary Association of Brantford, Brant County & Six Nations and the Canadian Military Heritage Museum. Thanks to Meghan for initiating this project to engage our youth.

Board directors Randy Johnson & Bob Ion joined Meghan for her learning project for more than 100 Army, Navy and Air Cadets.

The Cadets formed groups of 3, explored the artifacts on the tables. And: Identified 3 artifacts that each tied to the different branches of the military - ARMY, NAVY and AIR.

As a group, they selected ONE that they investigated and presented to the larger group.

Each group had 15 minutes to research and investigate their artifact to find out its story.

Each group presented the story of their artifact to the group for 1-2 minutes. They described: What it was; what it was used for; to which conflict it belonged; where and when it was from and was there a local connection. Was it connected to a specific battle within



a larger conflict?

If there was a specific story connected to the artifact; & were there individuals we can learn about from this artifact?

What did the artifact tell them about this period of Canadian or military history in general?

Many thanks to the Cadet leaders. The engagement of the cadets was evident and made for a very rewarding day.



## A CENTURY OF REMEMBRANCE: ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 29 PARIS CELEBRATES 100 YEARS



The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Branch 29 Paris aligns perfectly with the centennial of the Royal Canadian Legion across Canada.

To mark this occasion, Branch 29 has organized events and projects throughout the year, with the focal weekend set for **October 2,3 and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. During those three days we will host a variety of activities with the highlight being our gala dinner and dance.

One of the most beautiful and heartfelt tributes to our centennial is the stunning fibre art quilt created by artist Donna Campbell. Donna used a rich array of fibre arts techniques to incorporate the graceful train bridge arching over the Grand River, classic symbols of military service, fields of poppies, local landmarks, and quiet nods to the sacrifices made by those who served. The quilt has been travelling this year appearing at events, displays and museums.



Complimenting the quilt is our community-wide Poppy Project which allows everyone regardless of age, background or experience- to participate in a tangible, creative act of gratitude and reflection. Community members of all ages have been knitting and crocheting individual red poppies. To date we have collected nearly



7,000 handcrafted poppies. These poppies are now being stitched onto netting to form a large, dramatic blanket that will be draped over the Legion building in Paris and our cenotaph during October and November. The sight of thousands of handmade poppies cascading across these landmarks will be a powerful, visible reminder of collective remembrance right in the heart of Paris.

To everyone who may not yet have a direct connection to the Legion, come and check out an event and you may just leave with a deeper personal sense of what the Legion represents. Branch 29 is a community hub that supports local causes, hosts events for all ages, and creates spaces where people can connect and give back together. In celebration of the national Legions's 100 anniversary, Royal Canadian Legion memberships are FREE IN 2026 across Canada.



You are encouraged to add a poppy or two to the growing blanket or simply share in the celebration of 100 years of service and remembrance. Lest we forget – and here's to the next one hundred years of community, gratitude and honour.

Submitted by Cheryl Humphrey, Anniversary Committee Member, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 19, Paris, ON.

**Museum Note:** A week after Canada entered the Second World War, The Legion pledged full support to the war effort. The members established **the Canadian Legion War Services**, providing recreation, educational programs, and personal support to men and women in uniform both at home and abroad. Working with the **YMCA, Salvation Army**, and similar organizations, Legion trucks and facilities overseas provided a small piece of home, while millions of soldiers received stationery, cigarettes, and access to

films.

**Saturday, October 24, plan to attend a presentation focusing on the support services of the Legion, YMCA, Salvation Army and enjoy lunch at the Camp 20 Canteen at Museum. Reserve your seat and Ration Ticket.**





Lieutenant Edson (Ted) Loy Pease, Brantford, 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars

## My Best War Stories Ever

By: "Ted" Edson Gordon Pease

My father, Harold Drummond Pease's health was not that good when the Second World War broke out. His twin brother, Edson (Ted, who I'm named after) Loy Pease's health was good, so he flew to England and married an English nurse and got her pregnant. He didn't know that she had a boy, David Pease, who was raised by his mother and stepfather in Brantford. Ted headed over to D Day. He was driving a tank with 3 guys in it along with 2 other tanks with 3 guys in them. Ted was driving the first tank toward a bridge leading to a village. He saw a 3-year-old boy sitting by the bridge, picking him up and taking him into the village.

Ted drove his tank back over the bridge and went down one side of the river and got blown up and died. The other 2 tanks were fine. A few years ago, David, who is 80 and lives on his farm in Shelburne went over for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day and walked up to his father's tombstone. There was an old guy there. He said, "who are you" and the old guy asked the same question. David said, well, that's my dad. The old guy replied, well your dad picked me up in his tank and took me into the village and saved me, then his tank was blown up and he was killed. Telling this story gives me goosebumps every time...

Museum Note: Edson died at the age of 23 and is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery in Calvados, France. Edson was posthumously awarded the 1939-45 Star; France & Germany Medal; Defense Medal; War Medal; CVSM & Clasp. His mother and widow both received a memorial cross.



My grandfather **Harold Edger (Captain) Mott**, my mom's father, was 17 when WW1 broke out and he was living in Winnipeg. He joined the Winnipeg Cavalry unit. At the last minute he saw that airplanes had been invented so he jumped to the air force. Thank God he did. The unit of 300 Canadian soldiers on horseback rode down a valley in France swinging their swords and the German machine guns killed them all. I tell my 4 kids if he hadn't switched, I wouldn't be here and neither would any of them.

Grandpa Mott suffered PDST his whole life. He lived in a soundproof half of the upstairs at 101 Dufferin Avenue in Brantford. Grannie and a maid raised my mother and her 4 younger sibs in the other half. He'd allow me and other guys to go up and chat before dinner then he'd come down and chat with the girls. He said at the beginning of the war they used a 6 gun. He'd shoot at the German 6 times and missed and if the German did the same thing they'd waive at each other and fly back to base and reload. Later it was machineguns shooting through the propellers. Not so much fun he said. Anyway, he shot down 5 German planes and survived the war and built Mott Manufacturing in Brantford. I just feel so lucky to have been born in 1951 and missing both world wars, and not to be American and missing the Vietnam war.

Museum Note: On 2 August 1916, Mott graduated from the Wright Flying School at Mineola, New York. He was posted to 9 Naval Squadron in 1917 and scored four victories flying the **Sopwith Pup** and one victory flying the **Sopwith Camel**. In November 1917, he was posted to the Aerial Gunnery School at Beamsville, Ontario, in charge of crash investigation



## *Canadian Military Heritage Museum Presents:*

# *'Combat & Classics Show 2026'*



*Have a military vehicle or classic car?  
Bring it out! Show it off!*

Where: 347 Greenwich St., Brantford

When: Victoria Day, Monday, May 18th, 2026  
*10 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Museum Open till 4 p.m.*

*Free admission – Donations at museum gratefully accepted*

For more information: (519-759-1313)

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

### **56<sup>th</sup> Association Presents**

**WADE Antenna manufactures communication antennas for military organizations and defence contractors. Their antennas are trusted by Canadian Armed Forces, U.S. Military, NATO and Defense organizations worldwide. Presenter Blake Dickson will speak to the communication between military drones and controllers and use of antennas.**

**Presenter: Blake Dickson**

**Tuesday, April 21 – Doors open 6pm Speaker pm**

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

**Space is Limited – Register by email at [56thfara@gmail.com](mailto:56thfara@gmail.com) with name & name of guests**



**HISTORY LOVES COMPANY:** 1. Jennifer Middleton & her Dad Bob  
2. Volunteer Ken Cooper greets visitors in WWII attire  
3. MPP Will Bouma making a video to promote Dutch Liberation event at museum on May 1<sup>st</sup>.  
4. Marlena and Mariusz Wisniewski  
5. Lt. Colonel Tim Young, 56<sup>th</sup> Field Rgt. RCA  
6. Royal Canadian Army Cadet



GREAT SUCCESS OPENING MONTH – 421 PEOPLE VISITED MUSEUM IN MARCH 2026



Admiral Landymore Sea Cadets

## Tulips and Maples

Dutch-Canadian Liberation Celebration Gala Dinner  
Friday, May 1, 2026

- Keynote Speaker: Jason van Bruggen ( 80 Years of Freedom )
- Special Musical Performance: Paige Warner
- Theatrical Performance: Brant Theatre Workshops - "Herinnering"

Cocktail Hour: 4:00p.m.-5:00p.m.  
Dinner, Speakers, Musical Performance: 5:00p.m.-7:00p.m.  
Theatrical Performance: 7:00p.m.-8:30p.m.  
Tickets: \$100 per person - Reserved Seating  
Contact: Will Prinzen at [celebrate@tulipsandmaples.com](mailto:celebrate@tulipsandmaples.com)  
or 519-753-4734 for more information.  
[www.tulipsandmaples.com](http://www.tulipsandmaples.com)

As part of a broader Dutch-Canadian Liberation Celebration Week, April 30 - May 5, 2026

## HISTORY LOVES COMPANY

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Tues. April 21- Doors open 6pm speaker 7pm**  
**Blake Dickson-Antennas & Drones in Wartime**

### **TULIPS and MAPLES**

**Friday, May 1- Dinner tickets contact Will Prinzen at**  
**[celebrate@tulipsandmaples.com](mailto:celebrate@tulipsandmaples.com)**

**Saturday May 2**  
**10:00 am Opening Ceremony – Brantford Pipes & Drums, Reuben Costa (Guitarist)**  
**12pm- 6pm Entertainment on Main Stage**  
**6pm-9pm grounds open**  
**Outside Children’s Area/Crafts/Vendors 10-6pm**  
**Food truck & Games 10-8pm**  
**Museum Open 10-4**

**Sunday, May 3** **Museum Open 12 noon to 4pm**

**Monday, May 18** **Museum ‘Combat & Classics Car Show’**  
**10am – 2pm**  
**Museum Open 10am-4pm**

**Wednesday, May 20** **Speaker – John Bullen – Women in the Air Force**  
**John represents Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum**

**Sunday, August 2** **Museum Open House**

**Saturday, October 24** **Lunch at Camp 20 Canteen**



# 2026 MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP

**EVERY MEMBERSHIP COUNTS**

**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 2026 membership form and payment **TODAY!**



**Canadian Military Heritage Museum**

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): \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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