



CMHM NEWSLETTER

2025- 2026
CANADIAN MILITARY
HERITAGE MUSEUM
OF BRANT COUNTY
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
794 Colborne St., Brantford, ON
N3S 3S4
519-759-1313
EMAIL
cmhmbrant@gmail.com

Newsletter
Marilyn Shaver / Bob Ion

THE AMBULANCE HAS LEFT THE BUILDING



**The vehicle is restored, running, almost ready to
paint and return to museum for display in the Fall.
Long time coming.**

**Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Volunteers Don
Wilkin, Albert, Beau and Neil**

Speaking of Volunteers.....

Volunteers- our most valuable and indispensable asset



Linda Robbins
Archives



Doug Marriott
Director



Marilyn Shaver Dave Pearce
Directors



Joanne Wilkin Susan Bradbury
Volunteer Director



Jane & Bob Ion (Chair) Don Wilkin Colin Mouatt
Director Director Director



Julia Jacobson
Director



Ted Abbott
Director



Neil Hurlbut Director



Don Musson Treasurer

Randy Johnson Director

JEEP RIDE WITH NEIL

Alyssa Smith called Bob Ion hoping to get in touch with someone who had a military jeep that her grandfather could go for a ride in, as a Father's Day gift. He's a member of the museum and took her to our car show in May. She knew it would mean a lot to him and meant a lot to her to be able to do it for him.

Bob called board member and volunteer Neil Hurlbut and mentioned this to him, and he was more than happy to extend a ride for them in his Jeep. Great Day for Rod Miles and family. Thanks Neil!!!



BUILDING PROJECT - EXCITING

Enclosing the alleyway in the rear of our building and joining it to an additional upgraded space in the back building is ongoing and should be completed by early October.

The construction will add over 3000 sq ft of much needed quality display, presentation and event space. HOORAY!



Dragster's Rush Friday September 21 the museum was a destination site for a Car Rally where we hosted Dragster's Rush, with approximately 180 beautiful vehicles and a total of 240 drivers and passengers who stopped at the museum as part of their rally from Grand Bend to eventually Cayuga where they were on the track later that weekend. Below: **Volunteer Garry Balsdon** welcomes two Rally Dragster Participants





OPEN HOUSE August 2026

Director Dave Pearce and member Peter Warren who won the 50/50 draw.



Town Crier David McKee

Volunteer Reenactor Brian Armstrong



It looked like our annual Open House was going to be a washout but the rain stopped at noon and we had a terrific, enthusiastic response from visitors far and wide all afternoon.

They visited our current commemorations, displays and special weapons demonstrations from James McRae and his reenactors from **The Alliance of Applied Military Museums**.

Many thanks to the volunteers who directed traffic in the rain, the BBQ cooks and members assisting guests inside and out and all the set-up and take downs and clean-up.



Special thanks to our friends at radio KX94.7 and 92.9 for their support.

Reenactor firing the BREN Gun

WAR AMPS CANADA - BOB & JANE TRAVEL TO OTTAWA – BRINGING BACK TREASURES



Important piece of Canadian Military Heritage: A Japanese Samurai Sword donated by John Roussel, Hong Kong Prisoner of War. It is on display in the 2026 display commemorating 'Canadians in Hong Kong'

War Amps Canada Consultant, Jacqui Schofield, asked if we would take possession of a very large collection of artifacts that they wanted to be preserved and displayed by our museum.

We were honoured to bring back a van load of helmets, uniforms, badges, paperwork and very large collection of Canadian and British medals that had been donated to War Amps Canada for many years by family members of veterans. Medals that go from Queen Victoria to Queen Elizabeth.

They will be archived and be included in a very impressive display with recognition of the generous donation by The War Amps and friends of The War Amps. The photos are a small portion of what we received.



War Amps Canada Consultant Jacqui Schofield with Bob at Ottawa War Amps Office





TED BARRIS SPEAKING AT MUSEUM OCTOBER 24 RESERVE YOUR TICKET NOW

ETRANSFER
cmhmbrant@gmail.co
\$30/TICKET

This will be a fun event with excellent speaker, raffle, silent auction and yummy treats.

We will remember and honour Camp 20 Army Military Camp in Brantford during WW2 and so much more.

Don't miss this fabulous event. Support the work of the museum and its volunteers.

Come join us in honouring

VICTORIOUS

World War Women

Saturday, October 24, 2026
at the
Canadian Military Heritage Museum of Brant County,
347 Greenwich St., Brantford

Guest Speaker: Ted Barris C.M.
An award-winning journalist, author and broadcaster.

Recipient of many honours including:

- Minister of Veterans' Affairs Commendation.
- Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee
- Libris Non-Fiction Book of the Year Award
- NORAD trophy
- Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Award
- Member of the Order of Canada "...for advancing our understanding of Canadian military history..."



auditorium seating

Camp 20 Canteen Opens at 1300 Hours (1:00 p.m.)
Program Commences at 1400 Hours (2:00 p.m.)

Ration Book (Ticket): \$30 per person
Reserve your Ration Book (Ticket) by phoning the museum at 519- 759-1313
or e-transfer payment to cmhmbrant@gmail.com (state your name and "Camp 20" in the comments)
Redeem Ration Stamps at the Camp 20 Canteen!

Desserts Beverages Displays Silent Auction Raffles Prizes



KOREAN WAR VET WAS DEDICATED TO PRESERVING MILITARY HISTORY



Family & friends gathered at the Canadian Military Heritage Museum to pay tribute to the late **Leonard (Len) Martin Hill**, a beloved veteran of the Korean War, during the celebration of life service held at the museum.

“Len was the ultimate volunteer”
Bob Ion, the museum’s chair, said during the celebration of life service. **“He was here since Day 1 and helped turn this old building into a real community treasure. It didn’t matter how difficult or how dirty the job was, Len was always there to lend a hand to make this**

military museum what it is today.”

Mr. Hill died Dec. 8, 2025. He was 97.

Born Dec. 4, 1928, in Saskatoon, Hill joined the Canadian Army in 1948. He completed his basic training at Camp Borden before heading to Wainright, Alberta where he joined **Lord Strathcona’s Horse Regiment**.

A vehicle technician, Hill served in Korea from 1953 to 1954 before transferring to the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1957.

Hill retired with the rank of warrant officer in 1972. He volunteered with Scouting and the Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps. in Brantford from 1975 to 1983.

“He was always quite willing to share his experiences from the Korean War and was dedicated to preserving military history,” Ion said. **“He was a quiet man and what I’ll always remember most is him working here at the museum, doing everything he could to preserve military history. “His presence, wisdom and commitment will be profoundly missed by all of us at the museum.”**



Len’s daughter Terry Hill with Bob Ion



A photo exhibit of Hill at the museum included photographs that captured his contributions to both Canada and the military museum. There is a photograph of Hill in his military uniform in Korea, another in his dress uniform at a formal military function and yet another of him wearing a white undershirt and pants while mopping the floor at what would become the military museum.

Ion said all connected with the museum will be forever grateful for his service and the legacy he leaves behind.

In a tribute shared on social media, the Strathcona’s said Hill served as a Sherman tank mechanic during the Korean War.

“While an army may be said to march on its stomach, the Armoured Corps goes nowhere without the skill, dedication, and perseverance of its maintenance troops.

“Warrant Officer (Retired) Hill was a superb example of this truth, both in war and in peace,” the Strathcona’s said.

Honorary Lt. Col. Tim Young of the 56th Field Artillery Regiment attended Tuesday’s gathering. Young, who enjoyed a long and successful career with the Canadian military, was a cadet when Hill was volunteering with the cadets in Brantford. Young’s career included serving as the defense attaché at the Canadian embassy in The Netherlands.

PHOTO: Hon. Lt. Col. Tim Young, Bob Ion, Hon. Col. 56th Reg. RCA Phil McColeman

Cont'd from page 8

"He is the reason that I'm wearing this uniform," Young said, calling Hill a tough but fair mentor and leader. More than 26,000 Canadians served in the Korean War which began in June 1950 when troops from North Korea invaded South Korea in June 1950. The fighting came to an end three years later when an armistice was signed in 1953.

More than 500 Canadians died in the war.

Often overshadowed by the First and Second World War, the Korean War, once called the "Forgotten War" is now recognized as an important chapter in Canada's history, information provided by the Government of Canada says.

Vincent Ball Article Published April 29, 2026 Brantford Expositor

WE APPRECIATE OUR VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM! WE LOVE A CROWD!



Mount Pleasant United Church Mens Group



Notre Dame School

ON THE ROAD AGAIN



Bob picking up donated half mannequins at the Niagara Military Museum from curator Jim Doherty.



Jane & Bob attended a Drumhead service for Korean War Vets at Hespeler Legion.



Glen Jorgenson leads in the pipers on Combat 'n Classics Day. (sorry if you missed it)



Vince Ball & John Muir & Brant Theatre Workshop Actors of "Herinnger"

To commemorate the Liberation of the May 4th Netherlands celebration in 2026, Will Prinzen and volunteers presented a wonderful sold-out program at the museum. Keynote speaker Jason Van Bruggen spoke on '80 Years of Freedom' and a musical performance by Paige Warner. The weather prevented the evening from becoming a bigger hit but the day after, presentation outside with bands, games and displays was well attended. The play **Herinnger** was postponed because of weather and later presented successfully in June.

Below is a review from a member present. Perhaps 2027 weather will co-operate for another? Thanks, Will.

June 6 · Brantford

This afternoon I attended Herinnger, a musical written by Brantford resident Vincent Ball, with music by Will Prinzen **Tulips and Maples** presentation held at the museum in May.

Presented by **Brant Theatre Workshops** at the **Canadian Military Heritage Museum**, this was a meaningful production about Dutch memories, shared through local storytelling, music, and community talent. On the 82nd anniversary of the D-Day invasion, which helped lead to the liberation of Holland and the end of the Second World War, the performance was a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made for the freedoms we enjoy today. It was wonderful to see Brantford talent bringing history to life in such a heartfelt way.

Lest we forget.



Bill Baxter, Tim Young and Geoff Kempster at 56th Fd Rgt Honorary Colonel golf Tournament. Geoff Kempster and Bob Ion sponsored a hole on behalf of museum.



Hampson Family 50/50 Winners at August Open House donate winnings back to Museum.

Thank You!





Journey of a Red Cross Parcel

From 1941-1945 Canada produced approximately 16.5 million food parcels. Learn more with a new exhibit at the Oct. 24th Camp 20 Canteen Event.

Get your ticket now!

Don't read about it afterwards!

Attend the Oct. 24th Camp 20 Canteen

Our guest speaker Ted Barris will introduce you to a select group of women who helped win WW2.



What is Camp 20 you ask? Find out on Oct. 24th. Speaker, Raffles, Silent Auction, and view the new addition!

Go back to page 7 and read how to reserve your ticket.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, October 24 Camp 20 Canteen at Canadian Military Heritage Museum

Saturday, November 7 Thank-A-Vet Luncheon at Cainsville Community Centre

**Sunday, November 8 Veterans' Tribute, A Walk of Remembrance
Cainsville Community Centre**

Wednesday, November 11 Museum is open noon to 4 p.m.





Left: Director Randy Johnson with Car Show Winner
Right: Volunteers Garry Balsdon & Jeff Wilkin



Director Ted Abbott working on display



Speaker John Bullen



Volunteer Dave Cook



Left: Stouffville museum members visited. Krista Rouchensten curator right side of photo

Right: Volunteer Don McRae cleaning uniform in Archives





A partnership event by:



BRANT
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

COUNTY OF
Brant Simply Good

VETERANS' TRIBUTE

A WALK OF REMEMBRANCE

Honouring the Servicemen and Women of Brant County

Sunday, November 8th, 2026
TF Warren Cainsville Community Centre
15 Ewart Ave, Cainsville

Doors Open: 1:00pm
Guest Speaker: 2:00pm

"Womens' Involvement in Military Conflict During the Early 20th Century"

A Presentation by Meghan Cameron,
Head of the History Department at Cayuga Secondary School
Historical displays open throughout the event

Doors Close: 4:00pm



This event is free to attend,
and registration is encouraged!

Use the QR code to secure your ticket.

Did you Know? The poem "For the Fallen" was written by Laurence Binyon in 1914. After it was published, the fourth stanza became known as the "Ode of Remembrance" or the "Act of Remembrance". Its' lines are often engraved on cenotaphs, war memorials and headstones in war cemeteries throughout the English-speaking world.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn;
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them.

2027 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 2027 membership form and payment TODAY!



EVERY MEMBER COUNTS

Canadian Military Heritage Museum
P.O. Box 27033, 794 Colborne St., Brantford, ON N3S 3S4
Email:cmhmbrant@gmail.com • Phone:519-759-1313

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Stay safe, stay well, see
you at the Museum!



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
P.O. Box 27033
794 Colborne St.
Brantford, ON N3S 3S4
Email:cmhmbrant@gmail.com • Phone: 519-759-1313