



The Cannon Speaks

Newsletter of the Elgin Military Museum C 2008 All rights reserved
Fall 2008

IT'S BEEN A BUSY YEAR!

Annual Christmas Open House

COME ONE, COME ALL to our Annual Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 14, 2008. 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Kick off the Christmas Season sharing time with your friends and family at the Museum. Come and see the new exhibits and how the staff have been busy decking the halls.

So mark it on your Calendars and we hope to see you there.

Foundry built a half scale replica 32 pounder cannon for the Museum. It has always had a place of honour at our entrance. In the last few years weather and age have taken its toll and the carriage really needed replacing. We had to dismantle the cannon for the safety of everyone coming to see the Museum.

Thanks to some volunteers from the St. Thomas Senior's Centre a new carriage was built and on April 20th we had an official rededication and open house here at the Museum.



Cannon Rededication

When The Elgin Military Museum opened in 1982, Cannon Iron

The Museum Must Be Photogenic

The Elgin Military Museum, has had a few photo op's this last year Roger's Cable invited our Executive Director, Ian Raven to their studio for an interview that was aired in November, and then early in December Mark Cosens came to the Museum and did a live interview while touring the Museum.

One morning Ian heard a knock at the Museum door and looked out to see a St. Thomas Police cruiser in the parking lot. As it turned out, it was Jim Ziegler with a crew from the French CBC network, who were doing a documentary on the *HMCS St. Thomas* When they arrived in the City, they stopped the first police cruiser they saw to ask directions to the Museum, and it turned out to be Ziggy's car. They had come to the City to get shots of the City as well as the ship's bell and other artifacts in the collection.

A crew from CTV's W5 were in St. Thomas doing a news piece on the economic situation and the impact on our city and came to the Museum for information on Jumbo and the city in general

Summer Students

This summer we were fortunate to have three summer students Charles McMillan, Katlyn Muller, and Michelle Witchurch. These three young people really worked hard and accomplished many things. They painted rooms, and set up exhibits, the three of them did a great job in doing exhibits for the WWI room after the John McCrae Exhibit was done. They also organized an Open House and BBQ at the Museum during the summer. If you missed it you missed a good time.

The students also helped the staff get more caught up in cataloguing, photographing artifacts and countless other things. You name it, if it needed doing they would get it done. They did so many things that

the list could easily fill this entire newsletter.

Remembrance Week was a busy time at the Museum

Remembrance week this year was a very busy time for the staff and volunteers at the Museum. The week of November 11th there were tours booked every evening for Brownies, Girl Guides, Cubs and Scouts as well as tours during regular business hours. The staff and volunteers also visited schools, nursing homes and of course laid wreaths at the

Cenotaph's in Port Stanley and St. Thomas.

Myrtle Street Public school visited the museum on Remembrance Day for a tour and got some hands on with Mr. Neal. And as I mentioned before Mr. Raven was interviewed on Roger's Cable that was aired Remembrance Week. Busy Busy!



Come and meet our Co-op Student

In September the Museum was approached by St. Joseph High

School to see if we would be interested in having a Co-Op Student to help us out in the morning hours at the Museum. Jim Thompson now comes in every morning to help us out and find out what Museum work is really like. He has been helping the staff by inputting our data base information from the old Elgin Regiment Nominal Rolls, assisting us with setting up exhibits and tours as well as anything that comes along. Jim will be at our Open House on December 14th so make it a point to meet this remarkable young man when you stop by our annual Christmas social.



***What's New with the
Duncombe House
Heritage Centre
Drop in and see!***

Another Book Launch

On October 18th the Museum hosted a book launch for ***“Age Shall Not Weary Them”*** by Jim McCallum, published by the Elgin County Branch, OGS about men from East Elgin who made the supreme sacrifice in World War One. It is available at the Museum at a cost of \$25.00.

*Call or email the Museum today
and reserve your copy !
(519) 633-7641
emm@execulink.com*

*Remember – Museum Members get a
20% discount !*

Do you have Email?

Send us your address, and we will send you the email edition of the Cannon Speaks – more stories, more info and full colour!

**Email us at
emm@execulink.com**



***SMS Scharnhorst
WWI German commerce raider sunk in
the Falkland***

New Acquisitions for the Museum

The Museum has been fortunate enough to receive three model ships, made by an exceptionally talented craftsman, Mr. Ron White from Tillsonburg. All were handcrafted from plans (not kits), and are true works of art that must be seen to be appreciated. The three ships are *HMS Ark Royal*, (whose ‘obsolete’ Swordfish aircraft launched the torpedoes that crippled Bismarck-an

attack that was carried out without loss), *HMS Lion*, Vice Adm. Beatty's Flagship, at the battle of Jutland in 1916 and *SMS Scharnhorst*, the First World War German commerce raider sunk in the Falkland, December 8, 1914.

Every piece of the models has been hand done. They are a must see when you come to visit the Museum.

See Colour Photos in our Email Edition!

Is it Time to Renew Your Membership?

Members are reminded that the time is here to renew your membership – only \$20.00. And that \$20.00 can save you even more – 20% off flags and books (save \$5 on Jeff's new book), free admission, and more. Be smart – save your money by buying a membership today !

Thank you, Walker Transport!

The Museum staff are constantly on the lookout for bargains. This summer the Museum acquired some new display stands from Doon Heritage Crossroads in Kitchener at a price we couldn't refuse.

All we needed was a truck (a big truck – a really big truck) to bring the new stands back.

Our thanks to Walker Transport and Jim Ziegler for all of their assistance. They truly are a company with a great sense of community spirit – and pretty talented drivers, too!

Get the whole story in the email edition.

Support of Donors Still Critical

While we are continuing to calculate the increased costs to the museum by the acquisition of the Duncombe House Heritage Centre, we are trying to keep expenses to a minimum. As time passes and more permanent display areas emerge these costs will become known. It is hoped that the temporary displays will draw in more spectators to the museum through 2009, so tell (and bring) your friends.

While the new space is not yet generating much income, it is generating expenses that are taxing our meagre reserves to the limit. Insurance costs went up by 50% adding coverage to the new space, not to mention the cost of utilities.

The McCrae exhibit was a great draw to increase visitors this summer and we had many positive comments, not just about the McCrae Exhibit but about the Museum in general. To keep up the good work we need to have the resources.

As we expand more space will be given to some military displays. A larger Hall of Honour is in the planning stages now. If you feel strongly about anything else feel free to write us a BIG cheque and have the area named after you. Or, if you are modest, just write the cheque – and we won't tell anybody . . . the bottom line is that bottom lines should be black, not 'red', and we

need some of your *'green'*, if that is
to be so.