



The Cannon Speaks

Stop the Presses !

See the last page for a Special Announcement !

Annual Christmas Open House

COME ONE, COME ALL to our Annual Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 13, 2009. 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 our new exhibits and how the staff have been busy decking the halls.

Mark it on your calendar - we hope to see you there.

Summer Students

This summer the Museum was fortunate to have three summer students - two of them (Charles McMillan and Michelle Whitchurch) returning from last year and our 'newbie' Rebecca Gloor. The three young people worked hard and accomplished many things over the summer, including setting up our new exhibit, "Learning through Play".

They also helped the staff get more caught up in cataloguing, giving tours, photographing artifacts, and countless other things.

New Acquisitions

In our last newsletter we told you of Mr. Ron White, an excellent craftsman from Tillsonburg who handcrafts ships. The Museum has now received two more, MTB #379, and *HMS Dreadnought*. They really are a must see and a great addition to our collection!



Another local modeller has graciously loaned the Museum a model of a Fokker Triplane, made famous by Manfred von Richtofen, "the Red Baron". Meticulously detailed, this model is truly a wonder to behold.

If you read St.Thomas's new local weekly paper, the Super Shopper Weekly News, then you may already know the Museum was presented with a framed photograph of the Avro Arrow. It was donated by Mrs. Iris Wellwood in memory of her brother

Sgt. K. Wood,RAF, killed in action
Dec. 16, 1943.

In July, Andrew Cadzow, who has a great interest in medals, presented us with a Fenian Raid Medal originally awarded to St. Thomas resident W.M. Thompson for his efforts as a member of the St. Thomas Rifle Company during the Fenian Raids in 1866. A true philanthropist, Mr. Cadzow purchases medals at auction, and then donates them to local museums across Canada, asking only for a tax receipt for all his efforts.



*W M Thompson's Fenian
Raid Medal*

In June, we received from Mr. Ken Allen, a private collector, his complete collection of about 3000 items relating to the Royal Canadian Engineers. This huge donation will not be formally 'received' by the Museum until the completion of a Movable Cultural Property Application (tax reasons, you know), a process that may take up to 15 months to complete.

Remembrance Week was a very busy week for the Museum

Remembrance Week this year was again 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. Ian Raven gave a talk at the Library, on the home front during the early days of WW II and Jeff Booth read letters from his books "Opened by Censor" and "All is Well with Ellis". The Museum had a display at Southwold Service and laid wreaths at the services' in Port Stanley and St. Thomas. Busy! Busy!



New Exhibits

You may remember two years ago the Museum did a big move of exhibits. To properly address the anniversaries of Vimy Ridge and the Armistice we moved our WWI exhibits into the Main Exhibit Room and downsized our WWII exhibit and moved it to the WWI Room. WWII is now back in the Main Exhibit

Room with a display on the “Beginning of War II”, focusing on the time line of 1939 to 1941. As well, the new exhibit “Learning through Play”, done by the summer students, is located in this room.

When we moved the WWI Exhibit back to its original room we gave it a new look as well. With the help of Tim Barrett and the staff, what used to be the ‘Bunker’ is now a vignette of a trench during WWI, and the Fokker Tri Plane model mentioned earlier, is also on exhibit in this room.

The ‘Post War’ Room has now moved into Duncombe House, where you will see new exhibits relating to the current Afghan campaign. This includes battledress worn by our soldiers in Afghanistan as well as some artifacts that Craig Grant brought home from his recent tour.

A second exhibit is mounted on the wall and consists of a listing of the citations of soldiers who have received the Star of Military Valour or the Medal of Military Valour for their actions in Afghanistan. Reading these citations gives a very clear impression of how difficult and dangerous this campaign is for our soldiers.

The Museum is in Demand

Over the summer months, D.N.D. sent someone to the Museum to research our records on #4 Bombing and Gunnery School at Fingal. The researcher spent a full day copying and searching our files on the school. Jeff Booth and Ian attended the Bachus-Page Educational Day

with a demonstration relating to the British Soldier. Museum volunteers and staff manned an exhibit at the Wing & Wheels Air Show, as well as the Seniors in the Park event. We have had a request from a teacher who was running a workshop for all Ontario teachers on Education and Museums asking for a copy of our education programs to pass on to the attendees. For the first time this year the city of St. Thomas participated in the Doors Open Program and the Museum was part of it, ranking third in the number of visitors received. On top of all that, it has been a very busy summer for visitors on a daily basis and our numbers are up over 6% overall!



International Plowing Match

In 2010 Elgin County will be hosting the International Plowing Match and the Elgin Military Museum is combining resources with the other Museums in the County for a display. All this requires a lot of planning and meetings before the actual event takes place. Mr. Raven has been going to monthly planning meetings for several months now. As the event comes closer we will most likely be looking for volunteers to

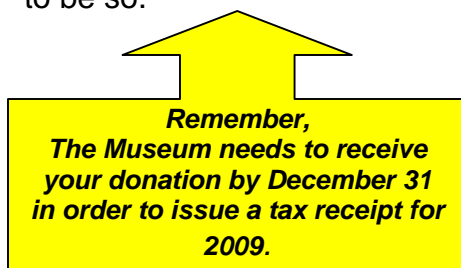
help. Please consider volunteering a bit of your time to this event.

Sorry to Nag, but . . .

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 are becoming known. It is hoped that the new exhibits will draw in more spectators to the museum through 2010, 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, and the cost of utilities has effectively doubled.

As we expand more space will be given to new and expanded exhibits, for example, a larger Hall of Honour is in the planning stages now. If you feel strongly about that or anything else feel free to let us know. Of course, we all know that money talks, and we love to listen. You might want to write us a BIG cheque and have an area named after you. Or, if you prefer, 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.



Is it Time to Renew Your Membership?

They Will be Missed

They Will be Missed

Many of us will look at 2009 as the year we said goodbye to too many great friends and supporters. Space does not permit us to list them all, as we should, but some do leap to mind.

Mignon Barnes *Charles Phillips*
F. 'Joe' Fellows *Nell Allen*
Jim Gillick *William Allen*
Jack McNeil

***Forever in our hearts, we will miss
you all. Thank you for all your
support.***

Museum Acquires Vehicles

The Museum has completed negotiations with National Defence to obtain two M113A1 Armoured Personnel Carriers for use as exhibits at the Museum. The M113 was the workhorse APC of the Canadian Forces for many years, and some have even seen service in Afghanistan.

The vehicles were recently declared surplus by DND, and are currently being 'demobilized' before coming to the Museum. With a nominal valuation of \$20,000 per vehicle, these vehicles become one of the

largest donations the Museum has ever received.

Although the Museum does not yet have a delivery date (this process has already taken close to 8 months), work will begin shortly to prepare suitable pads for the vehicles.



Along with St. Thomas, the Museum has also ordered models of HMCS Edmunston and U-877, the submarine the two ships sank December 27, 1944 in mid-Atlantic.

Scheduled for delivery in the spring of 2010, the ships will form the nucleus of a new naval exhibit to mark the 100th anniversary.



Each model requires hundreds of hours of detailed work. Similar models have been appraised at over \$8,000.

2010 Marks 100th Anniversary of the Navy

2010 will mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Canadian Navy, and the Museum has commissioned a custom built model of *HMCS St. Thomas* to mark the occasion.



The ship takes form . . .



The Great Spam Cook Off

Craig Grant, appropriately dressed in WWII battledress, draws his Spam and Bully Beef to prepare for the Great Spam Cook Off held Nov. 6 at the Elgin Regiment. The event was

a great success, and raised over \$600 for the Museum and the Wounded Warriors Fund. It was so successful that we are hoping to make it an Annual Event! (below are some picture of the Event)



**Judge Bill Todd
questions his judgment.**



**Could we interest you in some
lunch?**



**The Prime Ingredient awaits the
competitors.**



No they are not eating their own.



Sure they are smiling they only have to cook it!



And the winners are!

Press Release – Immediate Release

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Museum Receives Major Funding Grant

The Elgin Military Museum is the grateful recipient of a grant from the Elgin Business Resource Centre. The grant will enable the Museum to write an analysis and business plan relating to a major acquisition for the Museum.

This acquisition will dramatically transform the Museum and create a major new tourist attraction, with the potential to draw thousands of visitors from across the region, the country and even international destinations. Locally, it will create a myriad of new tourism based business opportunities in addition to a number of new employment positions with the Museum.

While the current negotiations preclude a detailed announcement of the project, the Museum is confident of a successful conclusion to this process, and looks forward to working with local municipalities, groups and individuals as we bring this project to fruition.

The business plan that this grant will fund is an integral key to the success of this project, and the encouragement and support provided by the Elgin Business Resource Centre has turned this project from an interesting idea to an achievable project, which will bring new jobs, new visitors and new revenue to many businesses, individuals and groups across Elgin County.

The Executive and Members of the Elgin Military Museum wish to express their deep gratitude and appreciation to the Elgin Business Resource Centre for this grant, and the opportunities it will create.