



The Cannon Speaks

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

BUSY SUMMER PLANNED

Open House to Feature Cannon Cannon Rededication

COME ONE, COME ALL to an Open House on Sunday, April 20, 2008.

To kick things off, the Museum will be rededicating the Cannon Cannon, which now rests on its new carriage, built by volunteers over the past winter after the original succumbed to the march of time.

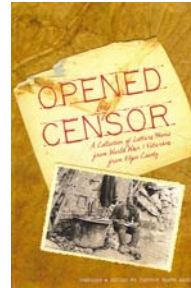
Originally built in 1983 at the Cannon Foundry in St. Thomas the cannon has guarded our entrance and become one of our logos. Recently, the original wooden 'positive' (from which the mould is made) was donated to the Museum. The wooden cannon has drawn so much response from visitors that plans are afoot to build another, lighter carriage for the 'positive' that will become a real eye catcher when the museum sets up displays at various events.



The Barrel 'positive' sitting on the new oak carriage. A new lightweight carriage is to be built for the wooden barrel.

John McCrae Exhibit

From May 3rd till July 26th 2008, a special traveling exhibit will be on display. With limited stops this traveling exhibit from Museums Guelph promises to be a big hit. At 2 p.m. on launch day Lawrence Grant, formerly of McCrae House in Guelph, will speak about the original acquisition of the McCrae Medals by the Museum.



Another Book Launch

Also May 3rd will be the date for the Museum's publication launch "Opened by Censor." This book compiled and edited by local historian and fellow member Jeffrey Booth contains 110 letters home, from World War 1 veterans all across Elgin County. Sized at over 250 pages the book is filled with interesting stories from WW1 such as first hand accounts of the Halifax explosion, the downing of a zeppelin, being torpedoed on open water and much more. Booth will be present for the launch to sign copies of his latest. Cost \$25, all profits to the Elgin Military Museum.

*Call or email the Museum today
and reserve your copy !*

(519) 633-7641

emm@execulink.com

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

What's New with the Duncombe House Heritage Centre

Plans for use of the house over the summer season are coming along well. It has been decided to put up temporary displays in the five rooms on the main floor of the historical house. The northeast or the old

Doctor's Office room will become a Jumbo exhibit, while for a short time the Ryckman Miniature Circus will adorn the southeast room. The old parlour will house an exhibit by the Canadian Royal Heritage Trust on the Monarchy and the Military. The other two rooms will likely house an exhibit entitled St. Thomas then and now.

Negotiations are underway to have the Royal Canadian Heritage Trust as full time exhibitors at the Duncombe House Heritage Centre.

At this time the museum is asking for the loan of Jumbo related artifacts for the Jumbo display. If you have anything of interest call the museum or stop by to talk about them.

A grant application is being drawn up to request funds to makeover the back of the Duncombe House. If approved the work will change some doors remove a wall and improve accessibility as well as the functionality of the back rooms.



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!

Do you have Email?

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emm@execulink.com**



'Hannibal', an original carousel horse that stood for many years in Raven's Shoe Store, has been loaned to the Museum to add to the summer Jumbo display.

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 a more permanent display area emerges these costs will become known. It is hoped that the temporary displays will draw in more spectators to the museum through the summer of 2008, so tell (and bring) your friends.

While the new space is not yet generating 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 hydro and gas.

The McCrae exhibit has great potential to increase visitors and income, but costs over \$1,000 to obtain.

As we expand more space may be given to military displays. A larger Hall of Honour, a children's touch me area and a multi media room are under consideration. If you feel strongly about any of the above (or 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 seen.