

# THE / LE BULLETIN



## Course Director Reflections

We had a great turnout in Edmonton for the 2019 Museum Studies Program - well over 80 participants, members from Halifax to Comox, and our largest course group in the past 10 years. The course facilities were modern, fully affordable and right downtown, too, in a major Canadian city - well done to Grant MacEwan University and its staff members, they get full marks for efficiency and cooperation. Many thanks to Anne Lindsay-MacLeod for her persistence in suggesting Edmonton and, most importantly, for all of her help in the course planning - it really made my job much easier. All of the presenters appeared on time at the right place - this may sound a bit strange, conducting a class sing-song for 40 minutes when a presenter is late is not my idea of a fun time!

Particular thanks go to Jeremy Neal Blowers of the Ontario Regiment Museum for organizing a really good set of presentations on social media and military museums. For folks like me who are not social media savvy, it was eye-opening, indeed. The Royal Alberta Museum was a great hit, judging by the critique comments, and Anthony Warman's efforts to accommodate as many folks as possible for the back-room tours were much appreciated. On a scale of 1-10, I think I would give the Edmonton course an 8.5.

This was my seventh time as OMMC Course Director - I am departing the job on a high note, from my perspective - a good way to leave. The course members' thanks at the formal dinner at Edmonton are something I will cherish for a long time. Overall, it has been good fun.

David

## Réflexions du directeur de cours

Nous avons eu une excellente participation à Edmonton pour la formation annuelle en muséologie 2019: plus de 80 participants, des membres d'Halifax à Comox, et notre groupe le plus important des 10 dernières années. Les installations de cours étaient modernes, abordables et situées au centre-ville d'une grande ville canadienne. Bravo à l'Université Grant MacEwan et à son personnel pour leur efficacité et leur coopération. Merci beaucoup à Anne Lindsay-MacLeod pour sa détermination à nous suggérer Edmonton comme ville-hôte et, surtout, pour toute son aide dans la planification du cours - cela m'a vraiment beaucoup facilité la tâche. Tous les présentateurs ont été ponctuels et au bon endroit - ceci peut paraître un peu étrange, mais diriger une chanson de groupe pendant 40 minutes lorsqu'un présentateur est en retard n'est pas mon idée d'un temps amusant!

Nous remercions tout particulièrement Jeremy Neal Blowers du Ontario Regiment Museum pour avoir organisé de très bonnes présentations sur les médias sociaux en lien avec les musées militaires. Pour les gens comme moi qui ne sont pas habitués aux médias sociaux, cela a été une révélation. La visite au Royal Alberta Museum a été un franc succès et à en juger par les critiques, les efforts d'Anthony Warman pour accueillir le plus grand nombre de personnes possible pour les visites guidées dans l'arrière-salle ont été très appréciés. Sur une échelle de 1 à 10, je pense que je donnerais 8,5 à la formation d'Edmonton.

C'était ma septième fois en tant que directeur de cours à l'OMMC et de mon point de vue, je quitte ce rôle sur une note positive. Une bonne façon de partir. Les remerciements des participants lors du dîner officiel à Edmonton sont des choses que je chérirai longtemps. Dans l'ensemble, ce fut très amusant.

David

## Museum Studies Program Highlights Faits saillants du programme de formation des Musées Edmonton, Alberta - May 27-31, 2019



(Left) Léon Chamois, OMMC President, welcomes everyone to Edmonton, and administers the annual History Quiz.

(Gauche) Léon Chamois, président de l'OMMC, souhaite la bienvenue à tout le monde à Edmonton et administre le quiz historique annuel.



(Above) Members visit the Royal Alberta Museum for gallery and collections area visits.

(Left) Royal Alberta Museum Curator of Military and Political History, Anthony Worman, gives a lecture on Object-Based Storytelling.

(Ci-dessus) Les membres visitent les galeries et les collections du Musée royal de l'Alberta.

(À gauche) Anthony Worman, conservateur de l'histoire militaire et politique au Musée royal de l'Alberta, donne une conférence sur la narration basée sur les objets.





(Above, right, and below) Our first tradeshow welcomed three exhibitors!  
(Ci-dessus, à droite et ci-dessous) Notre premier salon des exposants a accueilli trois kiosques!



(Right) Jeremy Blowers facilitates a seminar series on social media for museums.  
(À droite) Jeremy Blowers anime une série de séminaires sur les médias sociaux pour les musées.





(Left) Aaron Curtis of Valour Canada presents on their programming for schools.

(Below) A behind-the-scenes glance at the Loyal Edmonton Regiment collections area.

(À gauche) Aaron Curtis de Valour Canada présente son programme éducatif destiné aux écoles.

(Ci-dessous) Un coup d'œil dans les réserves du Loyal Edmonton Regiment.



(Below) Group photo, taken by George Romick. A high-resolution version will be made available to the membership shortly.

(Ci-dessous) Photo de groupe, prise par George Romick. Une version haute résolution sera bientôt disponible pour les membres.



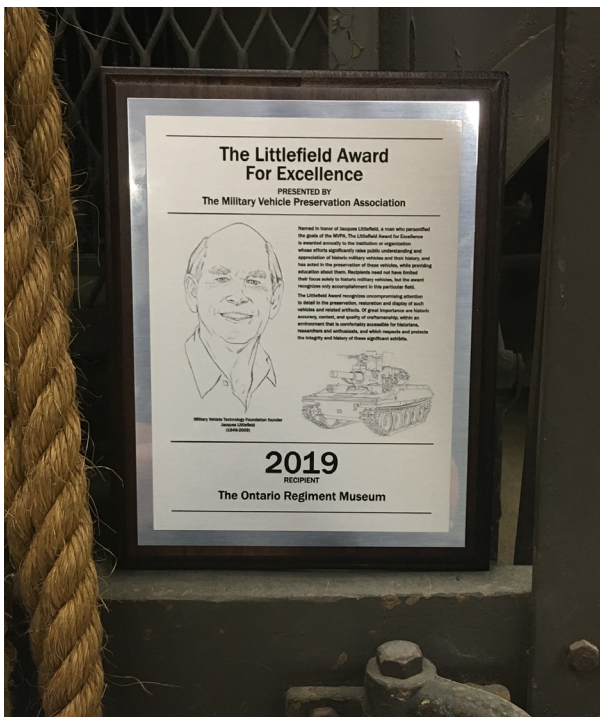
## CAF Museum Wins International Award

By Jeremy Blowers, Ontario Regiment RCAC Regimental Museum

The Ontario Regiment R.C.A.C. Regimental Museum in Oshawa, Ontario is proud to have received the 2019 Jacques Littlefield Award for Preservation and Education Excellence, awarded by the Military Vehicle Preservation Association at their Convention in York, PA. This honour is bestowed annually on an institution or organization whose efforts significantly raise the understanding and appreciation of historic military vehicles. Previous Jacques Littlefield Award recipients include the National Museum of the Marine Corps in the United States, the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, and The Tank Museum in Bovington, England.



The Jacques Littlefield Award is named for the founder of the Military Vehicle Technology Foundation, one of the world's largest private collections of armoured military vehicles. Mr. Littlefield passed away in 2009. Recipients of the award are recognized for uncompromising attention to detail in the preservation, restoration and display of vehicles and artifacts, including historical accuracy and context, quality of craftsmanship, and an environment that is comfortably accessible for learning, conducive to historians, researchers and enthusiasts, and respects and protects the historical value and integrity of vehicles and artifacts.



The Military Vehicle Preservation Association is an international historic military vehicle organization whose aim is to promote, preserve, restore, share, and enjoy historic military transport with other enthusiasts and the general public. It has over 10,000 members and 100 affiliate organizations around the world.

“We are very pleased to be awarded the Littlefield Award by the MVPA and be recognized at this level.” commented Jeremy Neal Blowers, Executive Director of the Museum “Our museum volunteers spend countless hours restoring, maintaining, and operating our fleet of historic military vehicles. Being recognized beyond our borders and by the international military vehicle community is a testament to their hard work and effort.”

The Ontario Regiment R.C.A.C. Museum is home to a historical vehicle collection of over 100 operational military vehicles in addition to an extensive static display with artifacts covering over 200 years of Canadian Armed Forces history, the Museum prides itself on making history come alive.

## Valour Canada Summer Update

By Aaron Curtis, Valour Canada

The first half of 2019 has been very busy for Valour Canada. We have some exciting updates to share with the OMMC membership!

Late last autumn, Valour Canada commenced a project to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Canada's involvement on D-Day and during the Battle of Normandy. On June 6th the Juno Beach portion of the project was unveiled to 140 excited supporters inside the CP Canada House at Spruce Meadows, Alberta.

After donning a virtual reality headset the attendees were instantly transported to Juno Beach; they were immersed in the surroundings of Juno and able to move between positions along the beach, compare modern surroundings with historical images, listen to first-hand accounts from veterans, and watch educational videos. The event was a huge success with the Juno 75VR experience receiving outstanding reviews, particularly in terms of its potential for engaging and educating Canadian youth about our nation's role in Normandy. Thanks to our supporters and sponsors for your ongoing support! To experience the virtual tour of Juno Beach, please visit [valourcanada.ca/juno-75vr](http://valourcanada.ca/juno-75vr). If you are using a laptop or tablet, once inside the virtual reality environment, slowly drag your mouse/finger to move the image, then tap on an icon to see media.



Valour Canada's 'The Character of our Canadian Military History' (CCMH) program is ready for autumn 2019 and spring 2020 youth presentations in five provinces. Our available dates (tentative) are as follows: Ontario: October 1 – 12; Nova Scotia: October 20 – 22; B.C.: October 27 – Nov. 2; Alberta: November 3 – December 7; Manitoba: March 22 – 28, 2020; Alberta: April 1 – 30, 2020. Evening and weekend presentations to cadets, guides, and scouts are also schedulable. If you would like to learn more about how your museum can add a free, youth-targeted education option to its programming repertoire please contact Valour Canada's lead educator, Aaron Curtis, at [aaron.curtis@valourcanada.ca](mailto:aaron.curtis@valourcanada.ca).



Martha and Pam Mawer receive the General Sir Arthur Currie award on behalf of their father, Commander Mawer.

On April 25th at the Calgary Golf & Country Club, 175 attended our presentation of the General Sir Arthur Currie Award to the Mawer family in recognition of Commander Charles "Chuck" Mawer's service to Canada both in uniform and during his civilian career. Guest speaker Rear-Admiral Haydn Edmundson spoke of Commander Mawer's service aboard HMCS Haida and how he earned a Distinguished Service Cross for his actions against the German Navy in June of 1944. The story of Commander Mawer and HMCS Haida is told in our newest documentary video at the link [here](#).

## RCE Memorial Established in UK

By Jerry Silva, President, 6 Field Engineer Squadron Museum Association

Recently 6 Field Engineer Squadron Museum (39 Combat Engineer Regiment) has been co-operating with Headley Down Nature Reserve Trust (HDNRT) to create a nature park and a memorial to Canadian Engineers who, in 1941, built a 400-man detention facility called Camp Erie at Headley Down in England.

At the end of the Second World War, housing in the United Kingdom was in great demand and for many years the de-commissioned camp buildings were used as temporary housing.

In later years, some of the land occupied by the former Erie Camp became overgrown with invasive vegetation and some land was used as a refuse landfill. HDNRT took on the task of reclaiming the land as a nature preserve while at the same time recognizing the wartime presence of the Canadian army and the Canadian engineers in particular. More details on HDNRT are available at [headleydownnaturereserve.org.uk](http://headleydownnaturereserve.org.uk).

Our museum's historian, LCol (Ret'd) Vince Larocque researched the history of Camp Erie and found some unit histories. Four R.C.E. companies were heavily involved in the construction of Erie Camp, including 6th Field Company R.C.E., "C" Company of the 2nd Battalion R.C.E., Number 1 Road Construction Company R.C.E., Number 1 Canadian Base Units Construction Company R.C.E. Three further R.C.E. companies provided people for varying periods of time, including 7 from 1st Corps Field Park Company R.C.E., 4 from 2nd Field Company R.C.E., 5 from 18th Field Company R.C.E.



For several months, dialogue continued between our museum's Vince Larocque, Col (Ret'd) Bill White and the chair of HDNRT, Angela Jackson. Gradually the scope, the content and the execution of the project evolved.

The official opening of the site was on 9 June. Bill White and Vince Larocque were able to attend the opening and they were joined by many locals who were children during the war and remembered the Canadians of Camp Erie. Also attending were many who, as children, grew up in the camp buildings after the war when the camp was used as temporary housing.

The Canadian Military Engineers Association joined the museum in sponsoring the costs of a memorial stone at the entrance to the site. The inscription reads "In Memory Of The Canadians Who Served At Erie Camp During The Second World War".

# New Hong Kong Exhibit to Launch in September

By Eugene M. Labiuk, Director of Research and Archives, Niagara Military Museum

The Niagara Military Museum is proud to announce the opening of their new exhibit “C” Force – The Hong Kong Story.

The exhibit will open on September 28, 2019, and will remain on view until April 2020, when it will then taken down and used as a light-weight travelling exhibit. This travelling exhibit will be available to museums, libraries, municipal buildings, legions and other organizations which may want to tell the story of Canada’s volunteers which went to the defence of Hong Kong. The organization requesting the exhibit will have to pay the shipping expenses to their location and return to the NMM.

This travelling exhibit is based on 10 pull-up panels that are 6 x 3 feet. The panels have topics of:

- Panel 1 – The volunteers from the Counties of Lincoln and Welland in the Niagara Peninsula, also the volunteers from the Hamilton area
- Panel 2 – The Call to Arms and the history of both regiments, The Winnipeg Grenadiers and The Royal Rifles of Canada
- Panel 3 – The story of the two Nursing Sisters, John Osborn VC and Sergeant Gander
- Panel 4 – The Trip to Hong Kong
- Panel 5 – The Battle
- Panel 6 – The POW Camps
- Panels 7 & 8 – The Liberation
- Panel 9 – The Repatriation
- Panel 10 – Those That Never Came Home

Further information is available by contacting the Niagara Military Museum at 905-358-1949 or via email at [niamilmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:niamilmuseum@gmail.com).

## “C” Force - The Hong Kong Story

### THOSE THAT NEVER CAME HOME

After 18 days of fighting in Hong Kong, the Commonwealth forces surrendered on December 25, 1941. Over 1,000 Commonwealth soldiers died in battle and some 2,300 wounded died later while in Japanese confinement. There are two main cemeteries in Hong Kong, Sai Wan War Cemetery is the main cemetery for those who died in battle and after in the hands of the Japanese. The Stanley Military Cemetery located on the Stanley Peninsula and is smaller than the Sai Wan Cemetery.

Another cemetery is located at Yokohama, Japan, those buried here, were mostly those who died at the hands of the Japanese as POWs.

These three cemeteries are administered by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) which oversees the administration and maintenance of Commonwealth War Cemeteries throughout the world.



### Sai Wan War Cemetery

Sai Wan War Cemetery is the largest CWGC in Hong Kong, being the resting place of more than 1,480 Commonwealth military personnel of which 452 are unidentified. After the Second World War was over, many graves from Formosa were moved here and there are special headstones for those buried in Kowloon whose graves could not be found. Buried here are 283 soldiers of the Royal Canadian Army which includes 107 remains that could not be identified.

Sai Wan Memorial at the entrance to the cemetery bears the names of more than 2,000 casualties who died in the defense of Hong Kong, of these are 228 Canadians who died with no known grave. The Sai Wan Memorial Cremation Memorial contains the names of 144 casualties who were cremated according to their religious beliefs.

### Stanley Military Cemetery

The Stanley Military Cemetery was originally a military cemetery where members of the Hong Kong garrison and their families were buried. Under Japanese occupation the Stanley Jail and village were used as a prisoner-of-war camp and a civilian internment camp and the cemetery which had not been used for over 70 years was re-opened for the burial of those who were executed by the Japanese or died while being a prisoner of war.

### Yokohama War Cemetery

The Yokohama War Cemetery in Hodogayaku, Yokohama, Japan was constructed by the Australian War Graves group after the end of World War Two. The burial grounds hold the remains of over 1500 soldiers from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, India and the United Kingdom, also the Netherlands and the United States. The grounds are broken down into four sections, the British Section, the Canadian and New Zealand Section, the Australian Section and the Indian Section (Yokohama Memorial).



Photos of Yokohama War Cemetery – Courtesy of Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association

### Medals

Members of “C” Force were presented with various medals as to their service in Hong Kong. These medals are show here.



**The 1939-1945 Star**  
The Star was awarded for six months service on active operations for Army and Navy, and two months for active air-crew between 02 September 1939 and 08 May 1945 (Europe) or 02 September 1945 (Pacific).

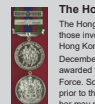


**The Pacific Star**  
The Star was awarded for one day or more of operational service in the Pacific between 08 December 1941 and 02 September 1945.

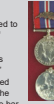


**The Defence Medal**  
Service overseas or outside the country of residence, providing that such service lasted for one year, except in territories threatened by the enemy or subject to bomb attacks, in which case it was six months prior to 02 September 1945. Under the terms of this last condition, Canadians serving for one year in Newfoundland were eligible and persons serving for six months in Hong Kong were also eligible.

**Canadian Volunteer Service Medal**  
The Canadian Volunteer Service Medal is granted to persons of any rank in the Naval, Military or Air Forces of Canada who voluntarily served on Active Service and have honourably completed eighteen months ( 540 days) total voluntary service from September 3, 1939 to March 1, 1947.



**The Hong Kong Bar**  
The Hong Kong Bar is awarded to those involved in the Battle of Hong Kong during the period December 9 - 25, 1941. It was awarded to all members of “C” Force. Some veterans who died prior to the date of awarding the bar may not have received the bar.



**The War Medal 1939-1945**  
The War Medal was awarded to all full time personnel of the armed forces and merchant marines for serving for 28 days between 03 September 1939 and 02 September 1945. In the Merchant Navy, the 28 days must have been served at sea.

The conditions that applied to service in Hong Kong was put in place after 1985. Those soldiers who served in Newfoundland (The Royal Rifles of Canada) and the British West Indies (The Winnipeg Grenadiers) from the day they arrived to the day they returned to Canada would have been eligible to receive the medal under the original terms.

Those who arrived while the regiment was overseas would not have been eligible.

All members of “C” Force Brigade Headquarters would probably not have been eligible for the medal.

Many thanks to the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association (HKVCA) for providing this information.

### Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association (HKVCA)

The Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association (HKVCA) exists to ensure that Canadians never forget their 1,976 fellow Canadians who fought in the Battle of Hong Kong in December 1941. Nearly 300 of them perished in the battle, and a further 290 died as prisoners of war – under brutal and inhumane conditions – during the 3 years and 8 months of internment that followed. Many of the survivors of this ordeal suffered from significant physical and mental health problems for years after their repatriation.

Our mission is education: we develop educational materials for teachers; we operate a web site and Facebook presence which contain a wealth of information about the Battle, its aftermath, and the Canadians who served in the conflict; our members make presentations to schools, service clubs and Legion branches about the Battle; we offer descriptive plaques for installation in Legions, museums and other sites to help educate the public.

We have built a Hong Kong Veterans Memorial Wall in Ottawa which lists the names of every Canadian who served in Hong Kong, and we hold commemorative ceremonies there each year.

The HKVCA is a registered charity, and we welcome donations to help further our work. You can learn more about the Battle of Hong Kong and the HKVCA or make a donation at our web site, [www.hkvca.ca](http://www.hkvca.ca).



**NIAGARA MILITARY MUSEUM**  
Hours: Wednesday to Saturday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

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## Cadet Museum Open for the Summer

By Wayne Emde, Vernon Military Museum

There are approximately 59,000 young Canadians enrolled in 1,113 corps and squadrons across Canada. There is one Cadet Museum and it's in Vernon, B.C.

From the outside, the former guardhouse and post office retains the well-worn textures and colours that harken back to the early 1940s when Vernon Military Camp housed thousands of soldiers training for duty overseas in the Second World War. Inside, it's a different story.

In the spring of 2013, the building was declared surplus to needs and the keys were handed over to Francois Arseneault who spent the summers between 1978 and 1980 at the oldest Army Cadet Training Camp in Canada. After his summers in Vernon, Arseneault began collecting photos, shoulder flashes, cap badges and other items related to Army Cadets in Canada. On a shoestring, with a great deal of support and encouragement from Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Terry Kopan, the museum opened its doors for the cadets and visitors to view some of their history.

In the years since, the collections have grown, with donations of photos, uniforms, documents, and band instruments. Many former cadets have contributed financially as well and a yearly auction is a major fundraiser. "It's been a team effort," said Arseneault, who works with a committee consisting of Mitch Steck, Maria and Graham Brunskill, Lisa Devine, and Cory Schultz. Dale Dickie of West Kelowna designed and built a detailed model of one of the H-Huts. Captain Dan Emde, a Licensed Electrical Contractor, upgraded the wiring and replaced the existing fluorescent lights with LED lights. Arseneault's father-in-law, Eric Otto, built cabinets and performed carpentry magic to bring the building up to code.

Visitors to the museum will be surprised at the scope of the collections housed inside. More than 2,500 items are on display. Glass cases display uniforms. Video screens loop historic footage. There's a library with a collection of books for cadets to spend some time in the evenings as well as a number of hands-on displays and challenges, including a working "Buzzer Practice Cadet Type" Morris code transmitter. In cabinets below displays of newspaper clippings and patriotic posters are historic items from both World Wars, including civilian gas masks, a Ross rifle from WWI and a Lee Enfield from WWII.

Because summer cadet training centres now include all three elements (air, sea and land), new displays represent this change in those who attend.

Overseeing the recent renovations and creating new displays is summer student Marina Craig, who is attending The University of Northern British Columbia where she is studying outdoor recreation and tourism. In her second year at the museum, Craig is enthusiastic about the additions and changes that are taking place.

Craig notes that the expansion of the gift shop will permit both cadets and visitors to take home unique souvenirs. "Last year, our best sellers were decks of playing cards that featured Edible Wilderness Plants," said Craig. Also available are pins, mugs, canteens, tee-shirts, poppy seeds and tree ornaments.

For Arseneault, who also created a website ([www.armycadethistory.com](http://www.armycadethistory.com)) to archive the history of Vernon, the museum is designed for cadets who are attending summer training, former cadets and the general public. "I hope to inspire the cadets by showing them their history," said Arseneault.

The official re-opening of the Vernon Cadet Museum took place on July 2. Visitor parking is available on the west side of Highway 97 and visitors enter through the tunnel under the highway. The museum is open to the public daily from 11:00 am until 6:00 pm except Mondays.



Combat Training Center, 5th Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown, New Brunswick, May 2, 2019, photo by LS Zach Barr, part of the 'Best Photos of 2019' collection on Combat Camera.

Centre d'instruction au combat de la Base de soutien de la 5e Division du Canada Gagetown, au Nouveau Brunswick, le 2 mai 2019, photo par Mat 1 Zach Barr, partie de la collection Meilleures photos de 2019, Combat Camera.

## The Organization of Military Museums of Canada

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