

# The Torch

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## Fordson Van Restoration Update

Gordon Foster



The Fordson Food Van in the LeBreton Gallery (for purposes of the photo). Photo: Bill Kent.

The restoration of the Fordson Emergency Food Van, sponsored by the Friends, is almost complete. The vehicle will soon be on display in the LeBreton Gallery. Our example of this unusual artefact is unique among the 450 of the type produced by Ford and donated to Britain by Henry and Edsel Ford. The food vans went to the site of air raids in order to provide tea and food to emergency crews and survivors.

The original Fordson E83W truck was produced from 1938 to 1957. The basic model was of 10 hundredweight capacity and used a 10 horsepower engine. The chassis was designed as a Forward

Control truck meaning that the engine, located on the “near side,” extended right up to the passenger space so that a passenger seat was an optional extra, as was a step at the passenger door. These vehicles were widely used in commercial service in Britain and, during war time, large numbers were converted by coachbuilders for a wide variety of uses by fire, ambulance and food services.

The War Museum’s example features the fender style of the original model and also has window winders which were later eliminated. The number plate, JNO 421, suggests that it was registered in Essex in 1941. But why is it unique? A plaque affixed to the side states, “F.E.V. No 1. This van was inspected at the Mansion House, London, by Their Majesties the King and Queen, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 1941.”

Although many of the vans were sponsored by organisations such as the NAAFI or the Church Army, our van carries the inscription, “Maintained Voluntarily by R.H. Paterson & co., Ltd., Forth St. Works, Newcastle on Tyne.”

This vehicle is a most interesting part of our collection and will prove so to our visitors. It reflects the commitment of industrial companies to support the war effort. It also reminds us of the suffering of civilian populations during war time. It is an example of concentrating all of our determination towards winning the war.

## Walt Conrad Wins Star of the City Award

Just as this issue was going to press we learned that Friend Walt Conrad, a Volunteer Interpreter at the CWM, has received an Ottawa Tourism “Star of the City” award for excellence in client service. For full details, please see our web site at [www.friends-amis.org](http://www.friends-amis.org).

## The Friends of the Canadian War Museum

1 Vimy Place  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0M8  
Tel: 819.776-8618  
Fax: 819.776-8623  
www.friends-amis.org  
E-mail: fcwm-amcg@magma.ca

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### The Torch

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**Editor / Layout:** Bob Margeson

**Photographer:** Hellmut Schade

**Mailing Team:** Pamela Brunt, Tina Creber, Helen Ott, Huguette Thériault, Joan Voller, Pixie Vradenburg

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*Ce Bulletin est aussi disponible en français*

## President's Message

I had not expected to be writing this edition's President's Message. When I assumed the job in December 2006, I had stipulated that I would serve for two years.

I did this for a couple of reasons. One was personal preference. This year marks 10 years of my involvement with the Friends. Like everyone, I have my own goals and other factors that impact upon my life. More importantly, I think that any organization needs to encourage new people and new ideas to stay vibrant and to progress.

The best-laid plans of mice and men, however, "gang aft aghly," as Robbie Burns said. The plot was that the Vice President, Bill Leach, would take over in January 2009. Due to the pressures of his real day job, it will not be possible to meet this date. Instead, we have embarked upon an extended handover with a view to his assuming the mantle not later than the Annual General Meeting on 3 June, immediately after which he will be put forward as the candidate for President at an election of officers by the Board of Directors

Succession is something that the Executive Committee is pondering at the moment. There are vacancies in the Board of Directors to be filled at the AGM. And a new Vice President will be needed. Elsewhere in this issue there is a notice asking for nominations to the Board. I urge you all to

consider whether you can take a more active role.

We are reaching the end of the fiscal year and some of the projects that we are funding will be nearing completion as well. Of particular interest is the restoration of the so-called "Hemmingford Colours." A second nineteenth century flag has been acquired and will join the first in the restoration program about which we told you in the last edition of TORCH. The Fordson food van is still awaiting some peculiar parts for its British engine and, although we had hoped to see it on display by now, we are optimistic that it will soon join the other vehicles in the Le Breton Gallery. Planning for the two academic conferences that we are jointly funding with the Donner Canada Foundation is well underway and, by the time you read this, one should have been conducted. Tank restoration of both the Ram and the M1917 tank are proceeding but slowly and possibly will take longer than previously had been planned. On the plus side, the Military History Research Centre has been able to complete archival work and add to the library's collection through the efforts of the Friends.

The coming year or two promises to be an interesting time at the CWM with new exhibits appearing after the current successful ones finish. As ever, we Friends stand ready to fulfill our aim: To Support the Canadian War Museum.

## FCWM and Donner Canadian Foundation Sponsor Two Conferences on Canadian Military History

Last year FCWM applied to the Donner Canadian Foundation for funds in support of two conferences on military history to be held at the CWM. We were successful in obtaining a grant for \$50,000 for that purpose.

**The first conference** took place on 18-19 February, 2009 and was entitled "Is Difficult Important? Canadian Museums and the Search for Social Value."

It was geared towards museum professionals and addressed the critical issue of how Canadian museums and other cultural agencies can, or should, deal with contested or otherwise difficult subjects or methodologies.

**The second conference** will be aimed at a broader audience base. It will take place on Thursday, 9 April, 2009 and is

entitled "Wars with Words: Great Debates in Canadian Military History." The event will be held in the Barney Danson Theatre, and will be open to the public. The cost will be minimal. Further information will be available as the date approaches.

Information on both conferences is available on the conference web site at [www.warmuseum.ca/conference-e](http://www.warmuseum.ca/conference-e).

## Volunteers at the CWM

### Gordon Jenkins

You pass these people in the hall at the CWM and the only item catching your eye is that they have a pass hanging around their neck. They look like an employee of CWM but they aren't. They are one of the close to 150 volunteers that work regularly at various locations in the War Museum. Twelve new volunteers have been added to the ranks in 2008.

All volunteers put their time in to help the CWM and work closely with CWM and Museum

of Civilization staff at all levels. Volunteers only work in areas where they are asked to help. Museum senior management support the volunteers in every way possible – from meaningful assignments in areas that would not otherwise get done – right down to coffee and parking!

The most obvious are the Volunteer Interpreters (VI) with their blue blazers and medals who assist the CWM Guides in the various exhibit areas. These VIs make up 46% of the total of

the Volunteers and are there because they are either veterans or retired experts in their field.

Where, you ask, are the other 54%? There are CWM volunteers behind the scenes in such areas as the Resource Centre (Library -15 volunteers work here alone) to the War Art collection to repairing /restoring a vehicle or tank for future exhibition. There are over 20 different project areas and approximately 80% of the volunteers are Friends of the War Museum.

## FCWM and the Donner Canadian Foundation Award

The President attended the Donner Canadian Foundation awards luncheon in Toronto in November.

Being nominated as a finalist is an honour in itself, given the broad range of agencies represented. Although the Friends did not win the \$10,000 prize in our nominated category of alternate education, the very fact that we

were one of 27 chosen organizations from among 601 applicants speaks to the efficiency of our organization.

For the Friends, the real payoff arrived early in January when a detailed score card and judges' comments arrived. This document is now being reviewed by the Executive Committee with a view to identifying both

strengths and weaknesses in our operation. Areas covered include assessments on financial controls, organization, fundraising and strategies for improvement.

Each finalist received a certificate of attestation for their work. Next time you are in the office, you can see it proudly displayed.

## Books by CWM Historians

### **Northern Armageddon: The Battle of the Plains of Abraham by Dr. Peter MacLeod.**

Rooted in original research, featuring quotations and images that have never appeared before, Northern Armageddon immerses the reader in the campaign, battle and siege through the eyes of dozens of participants, such as British sailor William Hunter, four Quebec residents enduring the bombardment of their city and a teenage Huron warrior.

Shifting from perspective to perspective, we move from the

bombardment of Quebec to the field of combat, where Montcalm and Wolfe gave their orders but thousands of individual soldiers determined the outcome of the battle.

In the final chapters, MacLeod traces the battle's impact on Canada, the United States, both countries' Aborigines and the world, from 1759 into the twenty-first century.

### **Shock Troops by Dr. Tim Cook.**

This volume, the second of 2 on the CEF in the First World War, has been nominated for the

Charles Taylor prize. This prize commemorates Charles Taylor's pursuit of excellence in the field of literary non-fiction. The Prize will be awarded to the author whose book best combines a superb command of the English language, an elegance of style, and a subtlety of thought and perception. This prize consists of \$25,000 for the winning author and \$2,000 for each of the runners up, as well as promotional support to help all shortlisted books stand out in the national media, bookstores, and libraries.

## Canada's Navy Celebrates 100 Years and We Need You!

On May 4, 1910 the Canadian Navy came into existence. Many celebrations are planned around the country and the Friends are also planning on commemorating this important anniversary.

In addition to assisting the museum in its celebration of this event, the Friends also have a number of ideas for its own activities. For example, we can

research and write articles for "The Torch" on naval history, as well as additional Fact Sheets on naval equipment and personalities, or assist in the development of special events to commemorate the centennial.

In order to make this a success, we need a team of Friends, especially ex naval types, with ideas and enthusiasm. Writers, researchers, event organizers,

photographers, volunteer interpreters are just a few of the skills we will need but above all we need your ideas on ways to celebrate.

If you are interested in participating, provide your name, contact information and ideas by email (comms-fcwm-amcg@magma.ca), or by telephone, FAX, or mail to the Friends' office.

## Update on Book Sales: Our Cup Runneth Over Stephen Dunne

A donation of some hundred or so titles from the Diefenbunker Museum to Canadian War Museum and Friends has helped to replenish our inventory with a good cross section of Military History books, most in good to fine condition.

We are in the process of re-

organizing the Friends book web site so that, in the near future, these recent acquisitions will be available to you at reasonable prices. Note: prices do include postage within Canada. As an additional benefit to Friends, a bi-monthly e-mail list will be sent out, listing titles we consider of

particular interest.

Signed copies of Dr. Tim Cook's recent publication, *Shock Troops*, are available for the price of \$30.00 from the Book Room. The two-volume set is also available for the combined price of \$60.00, both signed by the author.

## Preview of Upcoming CWM Temporary Exhibits

### Camouflage – 4 June 2009 to 3 Jan. 2010 – McCrea Gallery

This exhibit will explore the origins and evolution in the use of military camouflage and its adoption by contemporary modern culture. It will feature 150 artifacts: artworks, uniforms, sketches, models and fashion

items. It has been borrowed from the Imperial War Museum, and supplemented with material from CWM.

### Landscapes of 1759 – May 2009 to 3 Jan. 2010 – CWM Lobby

This exhibit will present the battlefield of the Plains of Abraham through the eyes of

those who fought in the battle. It will feature reproductions of little-known 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century views of the Plains of Abraham, mostly from the National Archives of Canada. Many of these images also appear in Peter MacLeod's just-published book on the battle.

## Afghan Exhibit on the Road

The very successful Afghanistan exhibit recently displayed at the Canadian War Museum has begun to travel.

The exhibit opened in St John's NL on 15 January for a three-month stay at "The Rooms", the new exhibition centre in the city. It will be there until 15 April.

A lot of work was needed to remodel the exhibit that took up almost 4,000 square feet in Ot-

tawa. In addition, some of the artifacts and text panels had to be deleted or reworked to allow it to fit into smaller venues and to withstand transportation. The challenge was to do all this without losing the essential elements and impact of the display.

The Afghanistan exhibit in Ottawa won the Canadian Museums Association award last year for the best new exhibit among all its competitors across Can-

ada. Attendance was well beyond expectation. This success led directly to the decision to modify the work so that it could be shared among other centres in Canada. The original exhibit was curated by Andrew Burtch, staff historian at CWM.

While negotiations are still ongoing, it is expected that a number of other major Canadian cities will have the opportunity to see the work in coming months.



## Remembrance Day 2008

The photo on the left shows Angus Brown, President of the Friends, laying a wreath from the Canadian War Museum and the Friends of the Canadian War Museum at the National War Memorial. Photo: Richard Gimblett



## Updated FCWM Organization Chart

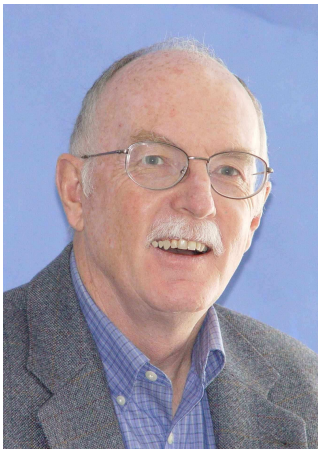
A copy of latest organization chart for the Friends is included as an insert with this issue of The Torch.

## New Friends

Welcome to the following new Friends who joined between October 1 and December 31, 2008.

Mr Michael J.E. Amy	Mr Tom Brown	maresq	Mr Christopher	Morley and MaryJo
Mrs. Debra E. Bow-	Mrs. Linda Church	Mr. Stewart Elder	Hughes	Rutherford
man	Mr. Bernard Diep-	Mrs Erin Fowler	LGen (Ret'd) William	Mrs Wilma Skokun
Capt (N) Ret'd. Mi-	man	Mr Colin A. Franklin	Leach	Mr. Abraham Tara-
chael Braham	M. Daniel Drapeau	Mr. T.E. Harris	Mr. James Pettit	sofsky
Mr William Brown	Mr Selwyn Du-	Mr. Michael Hind	Mr Louis Reeves	

## New Chair of the Communications Committee for FCWM



In 1972 **Chris Hughes** began a career in the public service in Ottawa, holding various positions of increasing responsibility,

primarily in the information technology field. His last position involved responsibility for delivering government information through various technologies to the public as well as internally to the public service.

After retirement in 1998, he began a consulting practice, but also continued to be involved in several organizations as a volunteer. Among these were Treasurer and Director of Public Relations for the Nepean Sailing Club, member of the Nepean Parks and Recreation Committee, and Director of Communications and Vice-Chair

of the Ottawa Chapter of the MS Society.

Because of his continued interest in history and its promotion, especially that of the military, he joined the FCWM in October 2008. As Chair of the Communications Committee he has responsibility for coordinating the efforts of an able team of people in the delivery of vital information about the FCWM and its activities through various media including a Web site, a Newsletter, and other methods.

## 22nd Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the 22nd annual general meeting of The Friends of the Canadian War Museum, to be held in Ateliers C and D of the Canadian War Museum, at 1 Vimy Place, Ottawa on Wednesday June 3, 2009 commencing at 7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

Business will consist of:

- Approval of the Minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> AGM
- The President's Report

- The Financial Report
- Election of Directors
- Appointment of Honorary Life Members
- Appointment of Auditor
- Other Business

### Call for Nominations

Directors Marvin Blauer, Howard Mansfield, Alf Rasmussen and Bill Smith reach the end of their 3-year term in 2009, and all have agreed to stand for re-election.

Elections to fill these, and two other vacancies, will be held at the Annual General Meeting.

Nominations to fill all six positions are now invited from all paid-up Friends and should be sent to the Chair of the Nominations sub-committee, Col Jerry Holtzhauer by 4 May 2009 to allow sufficient time for election preparations to be made.

## Upcoming Events

Mar. 29	Temporary Exhibition "A Letter from Japan" ends, CWM
Apr. 9	National Day of Remembrance, 92 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge
Apr. 13	Temporary Exhibition "Trench Culture" ends, CWM
May (tbd)	Temporary Exhibition "Landscapes of 1759" opens in CWM Lobby
June 3	FCWM Annual General Meeting, 7 p.m. CWM
June 4	Temporary Exhibition "Camouflage" opens in McCrae Gallery

**UPDATED DETAILS OF CWM EVENTS ARE FOUND AT [WWW.WARMUSEUM.CA](http://WWW.WARMUSEUM.CA)**

## Donations to the Friends

The following donations which were made to the Friends during the period October 1 through December 31, 2008 are most gratefully acknowledged. With your financial help the Friends continue to support the Museum through programs of acquisition, research, conservation and restoration of artifacts, and special events, as well as publication of the Newsletter.

### In-Memoriam Donations

Mrs. Lorna E. Bethell, in honor of the 50 murdered on Hitler's orders in the "Great Escape", 1944	Capt John J. Flannery, in memory, Lt. Dana Googh	calfe, 410 Sqn RCAF	Col. Clifford P. McPherson
Mr. Charles S. Bradley, in memory of Tom Farley, RCAF	Mr. Gordon Foster, in memory of Fred Pollak	MGen Wilson G Leach, in memory of Mabel Leach	Ms. Patricia Pollak, in memory of Major (Ret'd) Fred A. Pollak, CD
Lt. Col. And Mrs. John and Sharon Chandler in memory of Air Commodore Leonard Joseph Birchall	Mr. Gerald J. Gallagher, in memory of Dorothy Malott	Maj William T. Love (Ret'd), in memory of LCol Earl Alexander Olmsted, CD, RCA	Mrs. Elizabeth M.L. Von Richter, in memory of all members of the Armed Forces killed in Afghanistan
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Mr. Dennis G. De Rusha, in memory of all those lost in combat in Afghanistan	Dr. J. L. Granatstein, in memory of Pris Gates	Maj Howard Mansfield, in memory of Col Karen Ritchie	Bgen and Mrs. William J. Yost, in memory of Gerald A. Yost, Perth Regiment, WW II
	Col Jarrott W. Holtzhauer, in memory of Col Karen Ritchie	Lt (N) Robert C. Maveety, in memory of CSM Robert J. Maveety, CD	
	Mr. Laurence C. Kempffer, in memory of Alexander Metcalfe, 410 Sqn RCAF	MGen Herbert C. Pitts in memory of MGen A. James Tedlie and	

### Donations

Bell Canada Employee Giving Program	Mr. Arthur J. Beemer	Mr. Allan V. Castledine	CWO Arthur W. Eady	Mr. Larry F. Gray
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 264 (SK)	LGen Charles H. Belzile	Mr. Paul J. Charlebois	Mr. David A. Evans	H LCol Donald F. Greer
Ex RCAF (W.D.) Reunion	Dr. Serge G.J.A. Bernier	Col John H.C. Clarry	Lgén Richard J. Evraire	Cmdre John A. Gruber
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Mr. John H.B. Anderson	M. Ronald Bradley	Maj Peter E. Cooke	Mr. Christopher R. Gagnon	Mr. Angus C. Hamilton
Mr. Gérald Archambault	Mr. John W. Braithwaite	LCol Frank Cooper	Maj Ian M. Galbraith	MGen James E. Hanna
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Mr. Derek H. Ayles	Mr. Eric S. Brown	Mr. Jacob L. De Lange	Mr. Tim T. Gault	Mr. and Mrs. R. Frank Hare
Mr. Ernest T. Barnes	Lt (N) Pamela N. Brunt	Mr. Thomas Dent	Col André D. Gauthier	Mr. T.E. Harris
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	Ms. Lorraine J. Carson	Mr Selwyn Dumaresq		

(Donations continued on p. 8)

**Donations** (continued from p. 7)

Maj (Ret'd) Lorne E. Hemphill	Mr. Edward Lawson	Mr. William D. Murray	Mr. Edward R. Seal	Mr. Karel D. Vanderbeek
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Mr. Donald G. Hook	Col George L. Logan	Mr. Roy W. Page	Mr. Victor Simpson	Mr. William P. Vradenburg
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Mr. R.J. (Sam) Houston	Lt Col Ralph L. MacIntosh	Mr. Brian J. Pascas	Mr. John G. Smith	LCdr Sid R. Wallace
Mr. Gerald C. Hurdle	Mr. William I. MacKenzie	Mr. Eric N. Patterson	BGen Dean H. Smith	Mr. and Mrs. W. Harry Watson
Mr. Russell S.P. Isinger	LGen Donald C. MacKenzie	Mr. Leslie Peate	WO Thomas R.C. Smith	BGen Michael H.F. Webber
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S/L Gordon W. Johnston	LCol Thomas Marshall	Mr. Herbert F. Pragnell	F/L Lester G. Taylor	LCdr Donald R. Whittemore
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		Mr. John A. Scott		

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS**

**Friends are reminded that renewals of annual subscriptions are due at the beginning of the calendar year. For those who have already renewed, our appreciation.**

**FCWM Group Friends**

ANAF Veterans in Canada - Dominion Command	The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 009 (SK)	(ON)
Canada Veterans Hall of Valour	The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 031 (NS)	The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 238 (ON)
Canadian Association of Veterans of U. N. Peacekeeping (Ottawa Chapter)	The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 055 (SK)	The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 264 (SK)
Canadian Intelligence & Security Association	The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 068 (QC)	The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 636 (ON)
Korea Veterans Association of Canada (National Capital Unit)	The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 070 (ON)	
The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command	The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 079	

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