

The Torch

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Friends of The Canadian War Museum
Les amis du Musée canadien de la guerre



The Military Heritage of a Small Canadian Town By Mike Braham

Carberry, Manitoba (population 1500) is located 40 kilometres east of Brandon and about five kilometres south of the Trans-Canada Highway.

Incorporated in 1882, Carberry is in many respects a typical Manitoba small town. It has a wide Main Street containing among other things two grocery stores, two banks, a pharmacy, a hotel, a coffee shop, a hardware store, a post office and Branch 153 (MB) of the Royal Canadian Legion.



Carberry Today

A common sound in Carberry that is not a feature of most other Manitoba communities is the rumble of artillery fire coming from the ranges at nearby CFB Shilo. That ominous sound is an audible backdrop to Carberry's significant military heritage.

Just to the west of Carberry, one can find the remains of what was Camp Hughes during World War I.

Camp Hughes was a huge training area for the Canadian army and at its peak in 1916 was the second largest (by population)



Camp Hughes – 1916

community in Manitoba, after Winnipeg.

All that remains of this site is a small cemetery and evidence of the trench system that was used for training – the only remaining trench system in North America.



Camp Hughes Trenches –1916

On the south-east side of Carberry, where a large potato processing plant is now located, one can still see vestiges of the World War II, British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP)



Base that was #33 Service Flying Training School (SFTS).

33 SFTS Carberry – 1942

Carberry's contribution to both war efforts was not only through the provision of space for training. The people of the town responded themselves – both as hosts for the large numbers of trainees far from home looking for some respite from their arduous routine, and as volunteers for military service.

(Continued on page 3)

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President's Message Douglas Rowland

On behalf of all Friends, I wish to thank Bill Leach for his two years of leadership and to wish him continued success in his new responsibilities.

I am conscious of the honour I've been paid by being called upon to serve an organization with the history of the Friends' contributions to the evolution of the Canadian War Museum— a source of pride to every Canadian that visits.

The first priority of our Board of Directors, will be to complete the work begun on the structure and strategic direction of the Friends. We will then move quickly to enhance our communications and to engage members and allied groups in our work while enhancing our profile in the general community. *The Torch*, and our website will be central to these efforts.

We are fortunate to have strong supporters of the Friends in the persons of the President of the CMCC, Mark O'Neill, its Board Chair, LGen. Bill Leach and the Acting Director General of the Canadian War Museum, Jim Whitham. These relationships bode well for the success of our efforts to make membership in the Friends attractive to more of those interested in preserving the military history of Canada.

A means for Friends outside the National Capital Region to

become a little more “hands-on” is a call for members (see insert) to nominate deserving members of the Friends to receive the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and to forward those names to the selection committee under the Chairmanship of Marvin Blauer. The committee will make its recommendations to the full Board of Directors for decision and forwarding to the Chancellery of Honours.

On April 12, the new portrait wall was unveiled to the public. A huge “thank you” to all of you who contributed to the special fund that, together with a regular project grant, made it possible to place more of the Museum's art collection before the public. The new system enables the art work on exhibit to be changed more frequently and at the same time be provided with greater protection against the hazards of being on display.

As we move toward our June Annual General meeting, I wish to thank all those Friends, members of the Board, and members of the Museum staff who have offered their advice, support and encouragement. I look forward to meeting and talking with many more Friends in the coming days.

Yours, aye,

Doug Rowland

The Military Heritage of a Small Canadian Town (Cont. from p.1)

The town cenotaph has the name of 60 local men inscribed who gave their lives in World War I. Over 160 Carberry natives served during World War II and the names of those that did not return are remembered on a plaque in the town hall.

Carberry has at least one famous native son whose exploits are known nation-wide. Wilfrid "Wop" May was born in Carberry in 1896.

During World War I, as a pilot in the Royal Flying Corps, May downed thirteen enemy aircraft and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

He was instrumental in the formation of the first Flying Club in Canada, the Edmonton Aero Club, in 1927; established Canada's first commercial airport, Blatchford Field; flew the first airmail to the Canadian Arctic in 1929; worked with the RCMP in tracking the "Mad Trapper" in 1932; formed the Para-Rescue Service for the RCAF; and was



Wilfrid "Wop" May

awarded the Trans-Canada (McKee) Trophy for 1929 and the Medal of Freedom with Bronze Palm by the US Government in 1947.

During World War II he commanded #2 Air Observer School of the BCATP in Edmonton.

"Wop" May was inducted as a member of Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame in 1974.

The small town of Carberry has played its own unique and important role in the vast and complex mosaic that comprises Canada's military heritage.

Ottawa Heritage Day – 2012

Monday, 21 February was Heritage Day in Ottawa and forty-four local museums and heritage organisations gathered at City Hall to display artefacts and information pertaining to their respective institutions.

Included among those represented were the Friends of the Canadian War Museum who displayed a number of our products, explained our role, and, in the process, managed to recruit a couple of new Friends.



The picture shows Mike and Mai-Yu in action.

The FCWM presence was arranged by Krista Duncan of the Membership Committee and the table was manned by Mike Hind (in full regalia), Mai-Yu Chan, and Krista.

2012 Annual General Meeting

The 2012 FCWM Annual General Meeting will take place on 6 June 2012 in Ateliers C and D of the Canadian War Museum starting at 1945.

This is later than usual to accommodate the opening of a new CWM display.

Volunteer Profiles

The objective of this series on FCWM Volunteers is to provide a picture of the wide scope of volunteerism being conducted at the CWM and the varied backgrounds of those individuals giving of their time.

John Anderson – Volunteer Interpreter



John Anderson is not a veteran; he has never worn a uniform, but he did spend his entire professional career working with military personnel. He joined the Defence Research Board in 1966, thereby beginning a forty-year career in defence research and development.

“I remember having a very clear choice after I completed my Master's degree,” John relates. *“Do I go into defence research, or do I go into ‘academic’ research? I have never regretted my choice, because the defence-related work has always had a mission.”*

John began his professional career at (then) Suffield Experimental Station, and his first professional assignment was research into the effects of nuclear weapons. *“This was important work; we had to know what a nuclear weapon could do before we could begin to figure out ways to protect ourselves.”*

After leaving Suffield, John moved on to other assignments, including a four-year stint on the International Staff in NATO Headquarters in Brussels. *“An absolutely fascinating and rewarding experience, both personally and professionally”*, John says.

John became a Volunteer Interpreter at CWM in 2007 and mostly spends his time in Gallery 4, which covers the years of Canadian history after the end of World War II, including the Cold War.

John explains the Cold War to gallery visitors by telling them that during the Cold War we never got around to pulling the trigger. *“But”*, he adds *“we did everything short of that. We warped our culture, our finances, our education system, our research and development activities and our manufacturing capabilities, everything, to prepare for a war that, thankfully, never happened.”*

He sums up his CWM experience as follows, *“We should think of the War Museum as a exposition of five hundred years of Canadian history, told from the viewpoint of the wars in which Canada has been involved, either by choice or otherwise, and illustrated with enough artefacts to keep the story ‘real’.*

President of FCWM Moves On

LGen (Ret'd) Bill Leach who was our President since 2010 has been appointed as Chair of the Canadian Museum Corporation Board by the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Honourable James Moore.

This appointment required that Bill step down from his position on the FCWM Board. His place as President has been taken up by the former Vice President, Doug Rowland.

All Friends join in thanking Bill for his devoted service to the Friends during his tenure as President, and in wishing him well in his new responsibilities.

The New Portrait Wall – Provided by CWM Public Affairs



Left to right: Mr. James Whitham, Acting DG of the CWM; Mr. Douglas Rowland, President of the FCWM; Dr. Laura Brandon, War Art Historian, CWM; Col. (Ret'd) Jarrott W. Holtzhauer, Immediate Past President of the FCWM.

Photo © CWM, F. Wimart.

Thanks to the support of the Friends of the Canadian War Museum, the Museum has installed a new exhibition called **Ordinary People in Extraordinary Times**, along with an updated, more flexible hanging system, more detailed captions and enhanced lighting. The exhibition consists of 10 diverse portraits from the remarkable Beaverbrook Collection of War Art—many of which have never been on display before.

“We’re very grateful to the Friends of the Canadian War Museum for their generous donation, which allows us to showcase more works from the Beaverbrook Collection in a way that is more accessible to visitors,” said James

Whitham, Acting Director General of the Canadian War Museum. *“The works in **Ordinary People in Extraordinary Times** are direct, dramatic and speak broadly to the personal experience of war. They show that Canadian military history is more than just about soldiers, it’s also about ordinary people who must face difficult challenges and adapt to change when their lives are upended by conflict.”*

The exhibition illustrates everyday moments from the First World War to the current conflict in Afghanistan.

Manly MacDonald’s *Apple Picking* (1919) is a bucolic scene of female Canadian farm workers sorting apples during the First World War. In contrast, Jack Nichols’ *Taking Survivors on Board* (1945) is a dark image of a lifeboat on a turbulent sea, as Canadian sailors rescue German survivors from a Second World War naval battle.

20th Century Cumulus (1994), by Paul Matthews, is an unsettling interpretation of families trying to flee the Rwandan Genocide. In *Stack* (2004), contemporary Canadian artist Gertrude Kearns depicts four Canadian soldiers bristling with weapons and full protective gear as they train for serv-

ice in Afghanistan.

In *The Survivor* (1945), Eric Aldwinckle imagines an air gunner standing solemnly amidst the twisted, fiery wreckage of a plane. Adam Sherriff Scott’s *The Canadian Women’s Army Corps* (1943), wholesome and reassuring in comparison, is a prim portrait of Ruby Farr, who worked in the Corps’ Montreal recruiting office.

The works are all from the Museum’s Beaverbrook Collection of War Art, which consists of more than 13,000 paintings, drawings, prints, and sculptures. The Museum intends to showcase more of this exceptional collection by periodically rotating the works on display on the Portrait Wall.

*“The Friends of the Canadian War Museum are very proud to support **Ordinary People in Extraordinary Times** and the enhanced installation, because they ensure that the Museum’s remarkable collection of war art can be appreciated by a wide audience,”* said Douglas Rowland, President of FCWM. *“This exhibition provides another way to help Canadians understand their military history in its personal, national, and international dimensions, a goal which the Friends share with the Canadian War Museum.”*

Literary Friends

In our last edition we introduced four Friends who had put pen to paper and been published. Here are three more.

John “Robbie” Robertson’s autobiography describes his own personal experiences in the Canadian Army, with emphasis on his career from 1953-1977 that includes time with the Black Watch, as drill instructor at RMC, peacekeeping in Cyprus, and, in career management in NDHQ. *“An Ageless Company: My Time in the Canadian Infantry”* has been published by Trafford Publishing. John has been a Volunteer Interpreter at the CWM since 1992.

WO (Ret’d) Ed Storey is a materiel historian and has written over two dozen magazine articles on military equipment. These publications include; Canadian Military History Magazine, After the Battle, Militaria Magazine, Esprit de Corps, Frontline, AFV News, Army Motors and Legion Magazine. He has also been published in The Maple Leaf and Guard of Honour DND newspapers and has written one book on 1937 Pattern Web Equipment with another on the 1942 Pattern Battle (Assault) Jerkin in the final editing stage. He has also been a credited contributor to 10 other books on military equipment.

Harold Wright who became the 2,000th member of The Friends on 23 August 1999 wrote *A Salute to the Air Force Medical Branch*. When this was published, on the 75th anniversary of the creation of the RCAF, Dr Jack Granatstein wrote remarks for the cover of the book in which he praised the work as an essential underpinning of Air Force medical history.

Hal Wright, who was also Contributing Editor to *True North Perspective*, died in Ottawa in January, 2012.

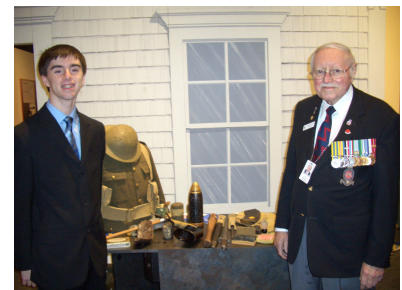
FCWM Volunteer Student Program By Mike Bedford

The Canadian War Museum and the Friends cooperated to organize the Volunteer Student Program in the summer of 2011. Friend and CWM Volunteer Phyl Reading managed the Program with Volunteers Mike Bedford and Mai-yu Chan acting as consultants.

The 2011 Student Volunteer was Kevin Cheevers. Kevin’s task was to interview several of the FCWM’s Volunteer Interpreters at the Canadian

War Museum and to select a single topic on which to conduct further research. Kevin met with Volunteer Interpreters John Anderson (a historian), Daniel Drapeau (a veteran Peacekeeper) and Donovan (Reg) Redknap (a veteran of the Korean War). As part of his student volunteer assignment Kevin an article describing some of Maj. Redknap’s experiences in the Canadian Forces. His article will be posted on the FCWM web site.

The Friends would like to thank Kevin for his diligence in this project. He was a delight to talk to and to work with.



Kevin & Reg Redknap

In Memoriam – Bruno Friesen (1925-2012)



Bruno Friesen passed away in Ottawa on February 27, 2012. Born in Manitoba in 1925 of German parents, Bruno returned to Germany prior to the outbreak of World War II and joined the Wehrmacht. After the war he returned to Canada and pursued a distinguished career in academia. He joined the Friends of the Canadian War Museum in 1997.

The following is the text of a tribute to Bruno's service with the FCWM from the Board of Directors.

Bruno Friesen first came to the Canadian War Museum fifteen years ago. He began

working at Vimy House, the former location where all of the vehicles were stored and which also included the library. He offered his talents in conducting research in the library to aid in the restoration of many of our artifacts. We owe to him much of our knowledge of the Molch midget submarine located in the LeBreton Gallery. Bruno was able to translate documents from German to serve the needs of Museum staff and clients. When our new facility opened in 2005, Bruno began working as a Volunteer Interpreter.

It was in this capacity that he found his true calling. Because he was such a talented story teller when relating tales of his remarkable experiences as a tank destroyer gunner, he was very popular with visitors. Many who came to the Museum specifically asked to meet Bruno. He also related extremely well to the Museum

the guide staff. We would often see these young men and women completely enthralled as he told them about the vehicles and about his own perilous experiences on the Eastern Front. We all looked forward to the publication of his book. When it appeared, it gave us an even deeper insight into his life.

Bruno was often accompanied at the Museum by his wife Helga. It was always a pleasure to meet the two of them. All of us regarded Bruno with respect and admiration but, for many of us, he was also a friend.

Bruno was a member of the Army Officers Mess and regularly attended to participate in our lively discussions. Throughout his time with the Museum he contributed to its reputation and enlightened all who encountered him. He will be sorely missed.

New Friends: The FCWM welcome the following who joined between 1 Jan. and 31 Mar. 2012

Capt. (Ret'd) Brian Forbes Colgate
Mr. William E. Davidson
Ms. Donna Coutu

The Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 153 (MB), Carberry
The Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 514 (ON), Gore Bay

M. Richard Turcotte
Mr. C. Fred (Ted) Smale

Donations: The FCWM thank all of the following who generously donated to the Friends between Jan. 1 & Mar. 31, 2012

MGen. John L. Adams
 LCol. William R. Aikman
 Mr. John H. B. Anderson
 Mr. Derek H. Ayles
 Mr. Christopher Barltrop
 Col. Francis W. Bayne
 Mr. Arthur J. Beemer
 Col. Gil R. J. Bellavance
 Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Berlinguette
 Mr. Martin Boomsma
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 Mr & Mrs. John and Joan Gazeley
 LGén. James C. Gervais
 Mr. William J. Gervin
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 Mr. Charles G. Gruchy
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 Mr. W. J. E. (Ted) Patrick
 BGen. (Ret'd) William J. Patterson
 Mr. W. Gordon Peacock
 Maj. Zbigniew Pierscianowski
 Maj. Donovan J. Redknap
 Mr. John D. Redmond
 LCdr. Paul A. Roggeveen
 Mr. Adrian P. Rombouts
 Mr. John H. Sargent
 Mr. W. J. Patrick Shipton
 Mrs. Ruby Silzer
 Mr. Ian E. Simpson
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 Mr. D. Townend
 Ms. Marie-Josée Tremblay
 Col. Tony J. H. A. Tremblay
 Mr. Frederick J. Troop
 Mr. Robert G. Tucker
 M. Richard Turcotte
 Mme. Rollande Vézina
 Mrs. Frances J. Waters
 Mrs. Theodora B. Wensing
 Col. Ralph D. West
 LCdr. Donald R. Whittemore

In-Memoriam and Special Donations (Jan. 1 – Mar. 31, 2012)

The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command, in support of the Portrait Wall refurbishment project.
 Col. (Ret'd) A.M. Brown in memory of Bruno Friesen.
 Mr. W. Bruce Clark in memory of William Cooms, 4th Armoured Division & Bruno Friesen, 7th Panzer Division.
 Mrs. Evelyn P. Clue in memory of her late husband Major L.T. Clue.
 Mrs. Janet M. Drayton in memory of Lt R.F. (Dick) Hurley, Canloan ,WIA Normandy, 1944.
 Mr. Gordon Foster in memory of Bruno Friesen.

Mrs. Claire M. Gordon in memory of LCdr William J. Gordon.
 Ms. Maureen Leaver in memory of Capt. Gerald Leaver & PO Harold Leaver.
 Maj. (Ret'd) Howard Mansfield in memory of Dr. David Anido.
 Ms. Sylvia McPhee in honour of S/L (Ret'd) George J. Sweanor, RCAF.
 BGen. John B. Partington in memory of Captain Jon Snyder, SMV, 1PPCLI.
 Cdr. Martin S. Pelletier in support of the Portrait Wall project.
 LCol. A.J.K. Rasmussen in memory of Bruno Friesen.

Col. W. Humphrey Sheridan in support of the Portrait Wall project.
 BGen. Michael H.F. Webber in support of the Portrait Wall Project.
 MGen. Howard R. Wheatley in memory of Lloyd Morley Wheatley, RAF/RCAF Bomber Command and German POW during WW II.
 Mr. William P. Wilder in support of the Portrait Wall refurbishment project.
 Mrs. Iris Y. Willard in memory of Pte. Wesley Alguire, S.D. & G. Highlanders.
 The Hon. Douglas Young in support of the Portrait Wall refurbishment.