

## THE MUSEUM REPORT, June 2019



The museum committee has been active since our last Sabretache report in December. Thanks to funding from the Council of Archives New Brunswick and the Province of New Brunswick, Heritage Branch we had funding to hire a project employee over the winter part-time, to upgrade our archives to ensure the majority of our holdings have been properly stored to archival standards and the required information on each document or photograph is uploaded to the AtoM database to make them available to researchers as required. We also uploaded information and a photograph of a majority of our outstanding artefacts that have been donated to the museums. This national database called Collective Access provides researchers, both national and international, to access the museums holdings through the Canadian Heritage Information Network.

Display Changes - Two of the museum's exhibits were stood down and replaced. One display tells the story of the regimental chaplains and features artefacts from WW II and Afghanistan when 8<sup>th</sup> Hussars padres were front and centre to the activities and events of those conflicts. Padre Burnett would be awarded the Military Cross in WW II for his actions during the Italian campaign. The second display tells the story of Allynne Silver,

an indigenous woman who joined the CWAC in 1940, just 4 days after the CWAC was formed in WW II. She would marry a local soldier after the war, and he would serve in WW II, Korea, and two peacekeeping missions before retiring. Uniform, medals, photographs, art work and her life story are featured in the display.

Two other displays were updated to feature 2019 anniversary date activities. The WW I display now features an original battle map showing the Canadians advance towards Mons on the last 5 days of the war and an original poster displayed in Germany by the occupational forces advising the German population what was expected of them by the Allied occupational force. Details and the history of the Treaty of Versaille are also on display. The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Coriano Ridge was also upgraded with the story of Maj Howard Kierstead and his crew that survived being trapped behind enemy lines for a number of days during this battle. Lighting in a number of displays was also changed out to LED lights to reduce the impact of UV from older style lights.

Annual General Meeting – The Museum AGM was held in late winter with a field trip the Kings County Museum in Hampton, NB. It has been the museum policy to visit a different museum each year on the AGM date to provide the volunteers with a professional development scenario. These visits provide new ideas, approaches to display issues and simply a different view on how others present their themes and displays.

The following members were elected;

Darrell Zinck, Director	Borden McLellan, Director	Mary Jane McEwen, Director
Scovil Brown, Director	Rod Belliveau, Director	Brian Clancy, Director
Wayne Fogarty, Director	Ann Taylor, Director	Carol Carr, Treasurer
Gail McLeod, Secretary	Stephen Wilson, Vice	Tom McLaughlan, Chair

The following members are volunteers;

Cathy Spicer	Darren Spicer	Don Robinson
Doug Sare	Gina Kaupp	Diane Lutes

It is important that all the readers of the newsletter be made aware of how much effort and time these volunteers contribute to maintaining and operating the museum. Without their dedication, the 8<sup>th</sup> Hussar Museum would not be viable. It should be noted that the number of hours contributed by them in the last year alone exceeded 1130 hrs. As the chair of this committee I can only say thank you, please keep up the great work.

Summer staff – The 8<sup>th</sup> Hussar Museum was extremely fortunate this year in that we received three separate employment programs, two funded by the Federal Government and one by the Provincial Government. This would allow us to hire back three employees who have worked at the museum in the past. The quality of their work is beyond reproach and they are very keen to engage in many facets of the day to day

operations and extra curricular events. Since the museum opened in May they have revised the tour guides, developed a number of historical blogs that are or will be posted on the museum website through out the fall and winter, completed biographies of WW II casualties and have uploaded them to the national memorial, and have conducted tours for numerous schools who have visited the museum so far this spring. It should be noted here that to date since May 13, 2019, the museum has had 1650 registered visitors.



**Mikayla, Hayden, Matthew**

Hayden: In the summer of 2016, I was hired by the 8th Hussars Museum as a Museum Assistant. Since that time, I have had the opportunity to interact with a multitude of visitors, each sharing a unique experience with me. Besides this, I have had the chance to work with the Museum's archive and artefact collections over the winter months. I graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of New Brunswick in May of 2019. I majored in Political Science and Psychology. During the upcoming academic year, I will be attending the University of New Brunswick's Faculty of Law, in pursuit of my Juris Doctor.

Matthew: I have been blessed to be at the 8th Hussars Museum since the summer of 2014, and I am very grateful for the myriad of experiences my time here has afforded me. In May, I graduated *summa cum laude* from St. Thomas University and received the university-wide award in Economics. My academic work focused primarily on



Russian foreign policy, and on the macroeconomic policies of governments. This fall I will be attending McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario to pursue a Master's degree in International Relations and to work as a Teaching Assistant. I subsequently hope to work in national intelligence.

Makayla: I graduated from Belleisle Regional High School in 2017 & just completed second year of studies at Saint Mary's University in Halifax. I am pursuing a double-major in History & Geography with plans to pursue a career in education. I would like to eventually complete my masters and PhD. Hoping that my education and research will continue to present opportunities for me to travel. I had the opportunity to travel to The Gambia, West Africa this past November with the Saint Mary's Geography department. With the international field study, we had the opportunity to honour the 10 little-known graves of Canadians serving in The Gambia as a part of the RCAF in WWII, on Remembrance Day. In my third year I will be participating in another international field study which will take me to Southern England in November. With the Saint Mary's History department, I will study the landscapes and monuments that commemorate both World Wars in Britain. I will complete my second semester of third year abroad at Glasgow Caledonian University in Scotland.

Spring Programs - To date in 2019, the museum has held two events; The 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of WW II on 05 May and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D Day Landings on 06 June. As in past years the anniversary of the end of the war is conducted at the Sussex Town Hall and the flags of the Regiment and the town of Tynarlo, Netherlands are flown at the town hall to mark the anniversary of the wars end for the 8<sup>th</sup> Hussars in that community in 1945. Correspondingly Tynarlo flies the Town of Sussex Flag and the Regimental Flag on the same date. Following the short ceremony at the town hall the audience then moved to the museum and Sussex Middle School presented the results of their history project for 2018-2019 school year where they selected Canadian soldiers and told their story. One remarkable co-incidence was that one of these soldiers would be the model that James Bond's story of Intrepid would be based on.



**The CO and the Deputy Mayor**



**The Flag Raising Ceremonies**



**The Guests**



**Book presentations to the Town of Sussex, the Member of Parliament and the Member of the Legislative Assembly**



The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D Day was a shared effort with the Royal Canadian Legion Br 20 in Sussex and the story of the D Day landings was presented by Dr. Brian Clancy. All attendees received a D Day commemorative pin courtesy of Veterans Affairs Canada and both our MLA and our MP took time out from their busy schedule to send best wishes to the attendees. We were honoured to have in attendance a D Day veteran, Kenneth Newell, who went ashore in the afternoon of the first landing day. We thank both Mr. Newell and DR. Clancy for their contribution and time towards making this a special event.



**Kenneth Newell**  
**a D Day Veteran**



**Dr. Brian Clancy,**  
**Sussex Middle School**

Summer programs – The main focus of the museums summer program is to tell the story of the role Sussex and its local regiments such as the 8<sup>th</sup> Hussars has played in Canada's military history. Our summer staff have conducted numerous guided tours and we are hoping that we can reach the 3000 visitors mark this summer. In addition to these tours they have been assisting researchers and developing blogs on a series of events from the history of the 8<sup>th</sup> Hussars, such as peacekeeping, NATO commitments and support and a focus on individuals from the Regiment who have shown leadership and diplomacy in the face of adversity in both war and peace. These blogs will be posted periodically throughout the fall and winter on the museum webpage. Recently a

number of the museum's volunteers decided to write a book on Camp Sussex as part of the University of New Brunswick Gregg Centres New Brunswick history series. Even while they are guiding tours, assisting researchers and conducting daily routines the summer students have also moved the research program for the book forward significantly.

Two fund raising events will be conducted this summer to support the financial requirements of the museum's day to day operations. Supported by the Regiment, the application to DND for the use of the field close to the Milton Gregg Armouries was approved and volunteers will be parking cars during the annual August flea market and the Balloon Fiesta in September. The funds from these two events are shared by the museum, and three of the Regiments allied cadet corps. Without these two events the museum would be hard pressed to continue to operate. The days are very long for these volunteers and it is not uncommon to park over 1000 cars in a day starting at 0600 hrs and going though until 2000 hrs at night.

During the fall the museum will support the Association with the annual Memorial Service during the AGM weekend and Remembrance Day services in November.

Recently we received \$3000 in funding from the provincial government to hire a project employee over the winter to update the museums latest artefacts that have been donated and to up load them to a national database which allows digital public access Canada wide to the museums holdings which now exceed over 4000 artefacts as well as over 18 meters of archival documents.

Tom McLaughlan

Chair

The 8<sup>th</sup> Hussars Museum

Association and Museum Webpage: <http://www.8chassociation.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.com/groups/249320194490/>