



# ARMS2ARTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SMALL ARMS SOCIETY

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A new mural, *A Century of Heroism*, brightens the Small Arms site and reminds us of the role Lakeview played in the Great War. (Lee Tovey photo)

## Our 4th Annual *Doors Open* Event

The former inspection building of Small Arms Limited will be open Saturday, September 27, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Small Arms Society is excited to once again be participating in *Doors Open* Mississauga. This year we are looking forward to building on the success of the past two years where we hosted approximately 4,000 visitors. Our mission is to promote arts, heritage, culture and science.

This is a unique opportunity to visit an Ontario heritage-designated building and discover its history and future. Come out and enjoy a fun day of activities, including tours of the historic building, art exhibition and sale with 30 local artists, lots of live entertainment and refreshments, *Hits of the Blitz* performances, and local performers from *Frog in Hand*.

*Frog in Hand* was founded by two sisters, Noelle Hamlyn and Colleen ... Continued on Page 4

## 'A Century of Heroism' Unveiled

On Saturday, May 10, Ward 1 councillor Jim Tovey hosted a special ceremony to unveil a new mural titled *A Century of Heroism* to mark the centenary of the commencement of World War I in August 1914.

The murals were designed by Alexandra Kaske, and painted by fellow students of the Peel Alternative School South, which is located only a few hundred metres west of the small arms building, in the former S.S. #7 *Lakeview Park* school. Peel Alternative School offers special programming for Peel students in Grades 7 to 12 whose needs are better addressed in a smaller educational setting.

Alexandra worked with the City of Mississauga's parks and forestry staff, Anna Ferguson. The murals were truly a Ward 1 community effort. In addition to students from the Peel Alternative School, painters included participants from the Mississauga Senior's Centre and summer camp participants at the Carmen Corbasson Community Centre. Over 600 volunteer hours went into the murals. The aerodrome and the Rifle Ranges, which were both located in ... Continued on Page 4

## Chair's Message

**Bob Cutmore**

On behalf of your Small Arms Society, I hope that you found, and will continue to find our quarterly newsletter to be informative. The intent of this newsletter is two-fold.

One is to keep us all connected with updates and status of the project. The other is to be a resource base to catalogue stories, experiences and background information about the facility and its workers. The timing is important so that we can get first-hand accounts, recognizing the reality that we continue to lose these resources with the passage of time; as I personally recently experienced with the passing of my mother, who worked at Small Arms.

This interactive dialogue also assists with a more complex issue, as with any heritage project, and that is adding the personal inspirations to complement the historical feeling of the building itself. We add a voice to the spirit of the facility by adding faces to its character.

We hope that many of you will be able to contribute to this effort by submitting anything you can share with us.

In order to better network these efforts, we are expanding our exposure with the update of our website and the addition of our information on Twitter and Facebook.

The Small Arms Society will continue our efforts to ensure that these memories are preserved and recognized. We look forward to your input and assistance.

# Canada's First-into-Battle WWI Regiment is Coming to Small Arms

On September 7, the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry will be marching into Mississauga. They're arriving here as part of a nation-wide ceremony to honour the regiment's 100th anniversary; and Mississauga was an important part of the regiment's storied history.

The "Princess Pats" was formed immediately after World War I began, when a Montreal textiles merchant, Andrew Hamilton Gault approached the government of Canada with an offer of \$100,000 (about \$2.5 million today) to raise a battalion to be the first Canadian unit to serve in the battlefield. The regiment was named in honour of Princess Patricia, the daughter of the Duke of Connaught, who was then Governor General of Canada. Although based in Western Canada today, the regiment continues to draw soldiers from all parts of the country.

A Memorial Baton will be carried by soldiers of the PPCLI from Edmonton to Ottawa between August 10 (the date of the regiment's call to service) and September 18, when it was formed in Ottawa. The Memorial Baton Relay will end in Lansdowne Park in Ottawa. The Memorial Baton will then be taken to Frezenberg, Belgium for a ceremony on May 8, 2015 to rededicate a memorial there honouring the PPCLI. The regiment played a critical role in stopping a German offensive here that threatened to overrun allied lines. The regiment commenced the battle with 547 soldiers. Only 154 survived.

The Memorial Baton Relay will pass through the following communities, between August 10

and September 18:

Alberta: Edmonton, Camrose, Wainwright, Calgary, Suffield and Medicine Hat

Saskatchewan: Regina and Moosomin

Manitoba: Brandon, Shilo and Winnipeg

Ontario: Thunder Bay, Elk Lake, Espanola, London, Toronto, *Highway of Heroes*, Trenton, Kingston and Ottawa. The ceremonies in Port Credit and Lakeview will be on September 7.

Quebec: Montreal and Mont St-Hilaire

The Memorial Baton contains the Roll of Honour of the regiment, symbolizing the national character of the Princess Pats. The passing of the torch represents the enduring character of the regiment from generation to generation. The Roll of Honour is a list of the 1,600 soldiers of the PPCLI killed in action since World War I.

September 7 will be a special day in Mississauga for the baton relay. The first Canadian commander of the PPCLI was Agar Adamson, whose home still stands at the south end of Enola Avenue. Adamson's wife, Mable Cawthra served as a nurse.

At 11 a.m., a plaque will be unveiled at the Adamson family crypt at Trinity Anglican Church at 26 Stavebank Road North in Port Credit by Adrienne Clarkson. The former Governor General of Canada is the colonel-in-chief of the PPCLI; carrying on the tradition from the first days of Princess Patricia, that a woman will always be the honorary commander of this honoured regiment.

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On September 7, the Princess Pat's will honour its first Canadian commander, Lt.-Col. Agar Adamson, with a ceremony at his historic Mississauga home.

## “One Thin Dime” for Veterans

Ron Baldwin is from Port Credit, but he began his initiative to raise money for veterans in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. Ron's campaign is titled *One Thin Dime*, and Lunenburg's claim to fame, the *Bluenose*, adorns Canada's dime. Ron's goal is to have

as many Canadians as possible donate just one dime to support *Wounded Warriors Canada*; a non-profit organization that helps wounded soldiers. Ron will be at the Small Arms plant for *Doors Open* on September 27.

## The PPCLI Regiment is Coming

... Adamson commanded the regiment from June 1916 until May 1918, and lead the troops in several battles including Canada's historic victory at Vimy Ridge. Agar's ashes, and those of his wife, are interred in the family crypt.

After the plaque dedication, the Memorial Baton Relay will head to the Adamson Estate, 850 Enola Avenue, where a second plaque will be unveiled. The relay will continue to the Small Arms building, arriving at about 11:30 a.m., where the Centennial Display Team will

showcase the regiment's history. This showcase includes a 25-foot light armoured vehicle, a flying kitchen, a 50-foot tractor trailer mobile museum and a *Kiddie Commando Camp* with obstacle course, bouncy castle and camouflage face painting. There will also be a Bren gun carrier. Brens were made at Small Arms building after WWII. Ron Baldwin of *Wounded Warriors* will have a display, as will Army, Navy and Air Force, Lakeview #262.

Hope you can join us for this family-friendly event.

## The Future of the Small Arms building

Small Arms Society continues to move forward with its initiative to revitalize the historic weapons facility as a community arts centre. The building will include artist studios and performance spaces, galleries, workshops, meeting rooms, community space, food service outlets, living quarters for artists in residence, along with university field offices for brownfield remediation and environmental studies. Mississauga's contribution to the great wars and the history of Lakeview will be showcased in a specially designated heritage display area.

Artists will find a safe, productive haven to work, live, play and display their work in the flexible use spaces. It's a place to connect with other artists and like-minded people in a thriving arts space. Mississauga art school graduates will be able to live and work in this pioneering facility which will also offer close access to cycling and walking trails and the many lakefront parks in Mississauga. No longer do talented and creative artists need to make an exodus to Toronto.

By putting the Small Arms plant to use, and opening it up to the public, the historic building will no longer be a target of repeated vandalism.

The Small Arms building is located close to public transit. The Waterfront Trail winds its way through the property.

## Our 4th Annual Doors Open Event: September 27

... Snell, in 1990 with a backyard performance featuring a frog circus. The artists of *Frog in Hand*, which includes dancers, musicians, actors, textile and visual artists, believe that art is a lived experience and can be found in the most humble places.

The *Frog in Hand* company members have national and international professional experience in Canada, US, Japan, China, Korea, Ireland, Israel, Australia and UK.

*Doors Open* will also include a presentation by Honourary Colonel Gerald Haddon, who is the grandson

of John A. D. McCurdy. In 1909, McCurdy became the first Canadian to fly a plane. He was later hired as manager of Canada's first flight training school, which was located on the Rifle Ranges in Lakeview.

Heritage Mississauga will also be joining us at the Small Arms plant for *Doors Open 2014*. They'll be here to distribute their latest heritage-themed comic book. The hot-off-the-presses second edition will be about the World War One flying aces that trained at a flight school at the Lakeview Rifle Ranges.

There will also be displays by the Lorne Scots, *Wounded Warriors*, Lakeview Waterfront Connection, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Credit Valley Conservation Authority and Inspiration Lakeview. There will also be a display on the Hanlan Feedermain project. And don't miss the biplane flyover!

The Small Arms building is located at 1352 Lakeshore Road East, at the foot Dixie Road. It's just a short walk west of the Long Branch Go Station. There will be parking at the rear of building .

## New Mural Honours Canada's Heroes of the Past

... Mississauga, were the inspiration behind the murals.

Guests included Mississauga South MP Stella Ambler and honorary colonel Gerald Haddon. Also in attendance were men and women who worked in the small arms factory during World War II, and after the war when the factory provided weapons and munitions for

Canada's peacekeeping forces. Linda Wigley was present for the unveiling. She was one of over 5,500 people to work for Small Arms Limited during the war. About two-thirds of the workers were women. Linda's husband Ed remembers participating in shooting competitions at the nearby Rifle Ranges, where soldiers took basic training during WWII and

those with special skills were trained to use the machine guns manufactured at the small arms plant.

Thank you to *Tim Horton's* for supplying refreshments.

The murals will be on display outside for about a year, and then will be moved indoors when the small arms building rehabilitation project is completed.



Ward 1 councilor, and City liaison for the Small Arms Society, Jim Tovey (left) had a chance to chat with Linda and Ed Wigley at the unveiling of *A Century of Heroism*. Linda worked for Small Arms Limited, and her husband entered shooting competitions at the nearby Rifle Ranges. (Lee Tovey photo)