



ARMS2ARTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SMALL ARMS SOCIETY

Autumn 2014

www.arms2arts.ca

Volume 1, Number 3



Different from the British poppy that influenced our Remembrance Day icon, the Flanders Poppy, above, inspired John McCrae's timeless poem.

Authentic Flanders Poppies at Port Credit Cenotaph

Just in time for a special event honouring the soldiers of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry on September 7, the Port Credit staff of the Recreation and Parks Department at the City of Mississauga managed to obtain authentic Flanders poppy seeds, and they have planted them at the Port Credit cenotaph.

The timing, and the location, are perfect. The cenotaph is located across the street from Trinity Anglican Church, and it is here that the "Princess Pats" will hold a special . . . Continued on Page 4

A Personal Invitation to Join Us for Two Special Events

Bob Cutmore, SAS Chair

September has always been a special month for the Small Arms building, with the hosting of our *Doors Open* event. This year will be even more so with Small Arms Society hosting the public reception for the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, to commemorate their 100th anniversary. The theme is consistent with *Doors Open* recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Great War.

The PPCLI event starts at 11 a.m. on Sunday, September 7, 2014. *Doors*

Open is on Saturday, September 27, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Full details are posted in the media and at our website at arms2arts.ca. Both events have a full slate of activities for the whole family. We look forward to your participation.

The Small Arms building is the most popular venue for such events.

As a member of the Small Arms Society from its inception in 2008, *Doors Open* will have a bittersweet element for me as this will be the last opportunity to see the building in its

current, as-close-to-original state. The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority has initiated an Expression of Interest process to assess the feasibility of going ahead with an adaptive reuse of the building and we hope that every effort will be made to preserve many of its features.

For those of you who worked at the facility, or had family and friends who did, I'm sure you share my nostalgic sentiments. Please join me and my fellow SAS members for these two important events.



September 7, 2014: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

National Baton Relay Will Make a Stop in Mississauga to Honour Regiment's First Canadian Commander

They're called the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, and they're noted for being the first Canadian regiment to arrive in Europe in the early months of World War I. The PPCLI is also one of only three regiments of the Canadian Armed Forces made up of full-time, active duty soldiers. (Most other regiments in Canada are reserve battalions.)



**The Rt. Hon. Adrienne Clarkson,
Colonel-in-Chief of the Princess Pats**

To honour the centenary of the historic regiment, the "Princess Pats" began a relay on August 10, at Edmonton, to carry a baton across Canada, with the names of the 1,866 PPCLI soldiers who have died in action.

Edmonton is the headquarters of the PPCLI, and is also the HQ for the 1st and 3rd battalions. The baton will arrive in Ottawa on September 18. It was on that day 100 years ago that Canada's historic regiment formed.

Along the way, the baton will make a stop in Mississauga, where the PPCLI will honour Agar Adamson, who was the first Canadian to command the regiment. Agar led the PPCLI longer than any other officer, and was in command during this country's first great military victory, at Vimy Ridge in April 1917.

The Princess Patricia's will attend a service at Trinity Anglican Church, 26 Stavebank Road, Port Credit. After the service, a plaque will be unveiled at the Adamson family crypt by current colonel-in-chief of the PPCLI, Adrienne Clarkson. The right honourable commander was governor-general of Canada from 1999 to 2005, and was well known to Canadians before then as a newscaster for CBC.

Space in the church cemetery is limited, but the public can see the unveiling from Memorial Park. The Adamson crypt is at the bottom of the hill at the church, facing the park.

From here, the baton will be run along Lakeshore Road to the Adamson Estate at 850 Enola Avenue.

Then everyone is off to the Small Arms plant for a friendly reception.

The church service is by invitation only, but the celebration being hosted by Small Arms Society is open to the public. Come by to meet the Pats.

The PPCLI will bring along several items for the public to see up close, including an eight-metre armoured vehicle, a WWII Bren gun carrier, and a 15-metre tractor trailer mobile museum of the history of the PPCLI.

There will be fun for kids, too. The PPCLI is bringing along its *Kiddie Commando Camp* which includes an

obstacle course and bouncy castle. There will also be camouflage face painting.

To honour the future men and women who will serve in Canada's armed forces, the PPCLI has invited the cadets the #2824 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps: Cadet Organization Police School, which encourages youth, age 12 to 18, to participate in



**Lt.-Col. Agar Adamson, D.S.O,
first Canadian PPCLI commander**

community events. COPS once drilled at the Small Arms plant.

Members of the Arms2Arts team will conduct tours of building.

Special thanks to Judy Tutty, People's Warden at Trinity Anglican Church in Port Credit for her help in planning this historic event.

Please join us to celebrate the centenary of Canada's first WWI regiment, and Mississauga's connection to this historic regiment.



September 27, 2014: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Come Join Us for Our Biggest and Best *Doors Open* Yet, with Music, Art, Words, Dance and Historic Reenactments

It's our latest *Doors Open* event, and this year's is going to the biggest yet. This year will be a celebration of the past and the future. SAS is moving forward with its effort to see the building converted into an arts, science and community centre. Of course the building has a rich history, so *Doors Open* will also look back to the past.

We'll have more, and new, artists displaying and demonstrating their talents this year. Keep your eyes, and ears, perked for live music and dance performances. Several authors will be at the Small Arms building to sign books and do special readings.

Jane Fairburne has produced an extraordinary account of Toronto's waterfront experience in her book, *Rediscovering Toronto's Waterfront Heritage*. Nicole Porlier's book *Bumpy Roads Have Soft Shoulders*, tells of the author's personal experiences living with a disabling disorder. Dave Cook is a familiar name in Mississauga. The former councillor and mayoral candidate will be at the Small Arms plant with his recent books, *Fading History, Vol. 1 and 2*, and *From Frozen Ponds to Beehive Glory*.

We'll also have artists from *Spent Pencils* on hand to greet fans and sign the latest edition of their comic series on Mississauga's history. Their latest work is a secret, for the moment, but you'll find out what it's all about at the launch, which will be at Small Arms during our *Doors Open*. We'll give you one hint. There is a connection between Small Arms and the subject of their latest comic.

Mississauga-based performance company *Frog in Hand* will have a

special, one-time performance of their latest stage presentation. Sisters Noelle Hamlyn and Colleen Snell tell us that *Frog in Hand*, "comes together to create multi-disciplinary performances in unusual spaces", and you're not likely to find a more unusual performance space than the same factory shop floor where weapons were once inspected. But that's what SAS's *Arms2Arts* initiative is all about!

Spent Pencils and *Frog in Hand* will be participating courtesy of Heritage Mississauga. HM is an important addition to our program this year. They will have their own historic displays, and have invited local reserve regiment, The Lorne Scots, to bring their regimental museum along. Also thanks to Heritage Mississauga, Thompson's Company of the Second York Regiment will practice their drills, 1812-style, and will fire their muskets (whether permitting) to fend off attacking Americans.

Colonel Gerald Haddon will discuss the aerial exploits of his legendary grandfather, John A. D. McCurdy, who

was manager of Mississauga's, and Canada's first flight school, and is well-known as the first Canadian to fly a plane in Canada, in 1909.

Small Arms Society, in conjunction with the Mississauga South Historical Society, will have a display of the history of Small Arms Ltd., and of the thousands of women who worked there during WWII, assembling Lee-Enfield rifles and Sten submachine guns, and performing the meticulous work of loading ammunition into bomb casing assembled at other plants across Canada. Thanks to Marcello Pazán, of *Pazán Gallery* in Port Credit, for helping MSHS and SAS assemble this special presentation. Marcello will have an arts presentation, as well.

There will be science and environmental displays and information exhibits on Rebuilding our Waterfront, Lake Ontario Integrated Shoreline Study, the Lakeview Waterfront Connection, the Hanlan Feedermain Project and *Inspiration Lakeview* in the big hall. Thanks to Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Credit Valley Conservation Authority, Region of Peel and the City of Mississauga for their support with our exhibit area this year.

You'll also have a chance to see construction of the Hanlan Feedermain first hand. McNally Construction, which is undertaking the tunnel boring project, is building a raised platform which will allow *Doors Open* visitors to see the tunnel project. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see a major tunneling project underway.

There's plenty for the family to see and do at the Small Arms plant for *Doors Open*. We hope to see you there.



A sneak peek at *Spent Pencil's* latest Project, to be launched at Small Arms.

