

# SOMM TIMES

*TO PRESERVE, HONOUR, PERPETUATE AND EDUCATE*

*IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO SERVED*

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No. 12 - March 2016

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**THE MILITARY MUSTER**  
is coming to  
**WINDSOR**  
in **2016!**

Hope you have heard the news and are telling everyone you know about this year's show.



We are delighted to be at the Windsor Sportsmen's Club and are working hard to present an event which will have something for everyone. This will be the 7th show and the first in Windsor.

**July 9 & 10**



Windsor Sportsmen's Club  
2401 Dougall Avenue  
Windsor, ON

Back to the basics and starting off fresh in new surroundings.

**128 days!**  
... four months sounds better.

**COUNTING DOWN**




[www.militarymuster.ca](http://www.militarymuster.ca)

**128**

**DAYS !!!**





**WHAT'S NEW? .... it's March already!**

First of all, I must apologize for the absence. We all know what they say about good intentions ... there are several half finished newsletters on the computer to prove that. Blink and it's Friday again. This month we catch up on lost issues.

AWOL, yes, but we all needed a well deserved break. The 2015 show was disappointing - a lot of hard work and not the outcome we anticipated. The June date was too early in the season and even after six years, there are so many people who have never heard of us.

Thank you to all those who attended; it was a great show and we had a good time in spite of the mud, rain and threatening skies. We tried some new things, not everything worked out as planned, but the poor attendance forced us to re-evaluate our future plans.

Our 7th show brings us to Windsor where many have not had the opportunity to experience our event. We are grateful to the Windsor Sportsmen's Club for allowing us to hold the 2016 Military Muster on their property and for working with us. Remember the first show? Back to the basics - the venue offers a grass field, trees and a bush lot - vehicles, re-enactors, displays and Veterans.

This venue gives us the opportunity to create visual effects.

**We are looking for volunteers who can help us build the props, displays and scenery needed. Planning to have some weekend get togethers for members & volunteers to paint and build things for the show.**

**We are also looking for material donations. We will need bales of straw (lots), corrugated steel, 4'x8' sheets of chipboard and scrap lumber for the World War I trench (above ground) and the battlefield scenery.**

This year we will honour 75 years of Women in Canadian Military Service. Our opening ceremonies on July 9th will honour local women who served - World War II to the present day. If you know someone who should be honoured, please contact us.

We are getting sponsors for our commemorative show program and plan to add photos of all the local women being honoured.

Other themes we explore include 100 years of the TANK and the Battles of the Somme and Beaumont-Hamel.

The annual Military Muster is our primary event but it is not the only thing that we do.

In 2015, we attended 32 events and brought vehicles to many of them. Highlights of some of those events will be featured in this and future issues.



**SOMM Members Please Note:**

**Our Annual General Meeting will be held on March 9, 2016 at the Windsor Sportsmen's Club at 7pm.**

**The Windsor Sportsmen's Club is holding a pasta dinner fundraiser that night between 4pm and 7pm to raise money for a new furnace they installed.**

**Cost is \$10 and SOMM members are encouraged to see our new venue, have dinner and then attend the AGM.**

If you have not been on our website recently, take a look. Changes are gradually being made to improve the site.

One major change is the SOMM Remembers Page - our online project that we hope will be a lasting memorial to those who served in Windsor-Essex County.

The SOMM began collecting Veteran biographies in 2014 but unfortunately there was no time to do anything with them.

At the 2015 Military Muster, I met the great granddaughter of Lt. Walter Frank Cole, the WWI Veteran who I have featured in previous issues. Sherry Cole came to Canada to say thank you in person for honouring her family member. It was after this meeting and the response to our photo display of the fallen WWI Veterans named on the WWI Memorial in Windsor that confirmed how the project would be presented on the website.

We see the list of names on the memorials but what if we could place a face to a name? A photo creates a bond allowing you to visualize them, where they were and what they did. If available, a photo of the Veteran is so important. A note or a story from a Veteran, a wife, daughter, son, or grandson adds emotion.

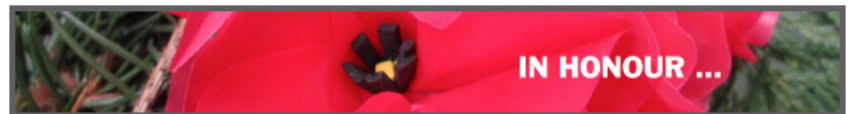
We are not going through the historical records and listing the names of those who served. Instead we ask Veterans to share their stories and the general public to share the names, photos and stories of their loved ones who served.

This community has a proud military heritage, let's display that pride for all to see.

- Editor



OUR WEBSITE PROJECT TO REMEMBER ALL LOCAL VETERANS



IN HONOUR ...



#### AIMS OF THE PROJECT

1. To gather the names, photos and stories of the **WORLD WAR II VETERANS** from Windsor-Essex County **WHO SERVED AND RETURNED**. They will be added to THE SOMM REMEMBERS page on [www.militarymuster.ca](http://www.militarymuster.ca).
2. To be included the Veteran honoured must have either been born in, lived in, enlisted in, returned to or emigrated to Windsor-Essex County.
3. To gather the names, photos and stories of **ALL VETERANS** from Windsor-Essex County. Whether from the War of 1812, World War I, Korea or Afghanistan, they will ALL be remembered on the website.
4. The short term goal is to thank and acknowledge the living for their service and to remember the fallen.
5. The long term goals are to help preserve the historical records before they are lost and to make them accessible to everyone through the internet.

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**JUNE 17, 2015 - 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRYSLER CANADA**

SOMM President, Geoff Bottoms, was among several local vintage vehicle owners who were invited to display at the anniversary celebration on the waterfront. The 1952 Dodge M37 was the only military vehicle at the event and caught the attention of FCA Canada CEO, Reid Bigland, who mentioned the role of the vehicle in Korea in his speech to the office employees gathered there.



Dodge Brothers emblem. - First World War Comes To Life exhibit - 1918 Ambulance.



www.militarymuster.ca

**JUNE 20, 2015 - ESSEX - THE TRENCH REMOVAL**



The final pieces of the muster show to be removed. The trench was lifted, the hole filled and sandbags loaded on to the trailer back to Windsor. Many thanks to Jamie at Reg Clark Trucking for the excavation work.

The lonely figure standing in the rain below is Michael Appel - saying goodbye to his trench and threatening to never do it again. ....

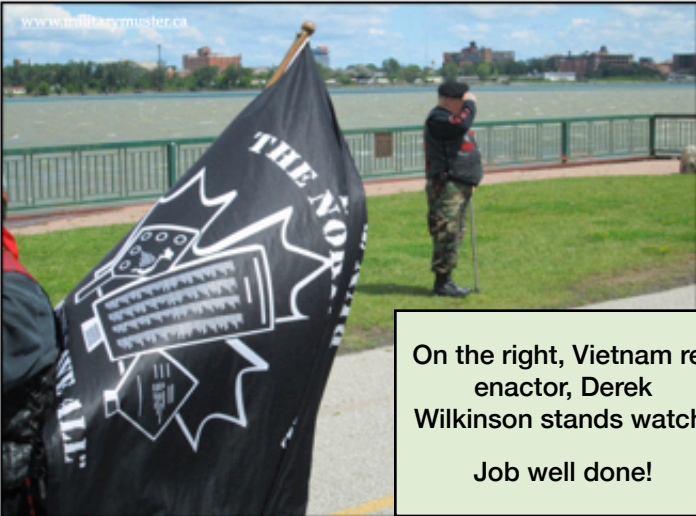
this year something completely different - the trench will be above ground.



www.militarymuster.ca



**JUNE 28, 2015 - RIDE TO THE NORTH WALL XX - VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL**



On the right, Vietnam re-enactor, Derek Wilkinson stands watch.  
Job well done!



**JULY 25, 2015 - WOUNDED WARRIORS CANADA FUNDRAISER AT FOX GLEN GOLF COURSE**



Thank you to the local Wounded Warriors Canada members for inviting the SOMM to display at their fundraising event.

We look forward to this year's event which will be held on

July 23rd  
Sutton Creek Golf Course





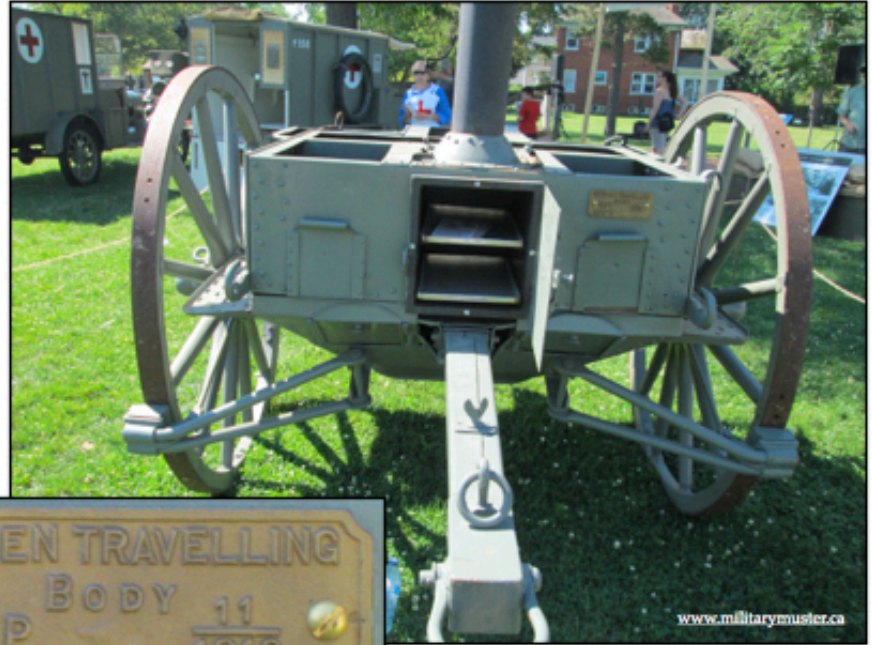
JULY 26, 2015 - FORT MALDEN - THE GREAT WAR ENCAMPMENT

A few of the SOMM members played tourist for the day and visited Fort Malden. The "First World War Comes to Life" is a traveling exhibit featuring the largest private, operational collection of First World War vehicles in Canada including cars, trucks, ambulances and motorcycles.

From Lindsay, Ontario, they will be touring until 2018 and the SOMM hopes that they will return to the area again.

Follow them on:

 [facebook.com/1stWorldWarComesToLife](https://www.facebook.com/1stWorldWarComesToLife)





**JULY 27, 2015 - KOREAN VETERANS MEMORIAL SERVICE**



The 2016 ceremony will be held on July 27 at 11:00 am at the Monument



**AUGUST 1 - 2, 2015 - MILITARY HERITAGE DAYS - FORT MALDEN**



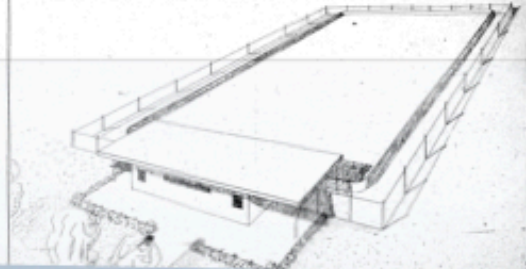
The SOMM brought the 1942 Universal Carrier MK 1 and the photo display of Windsor-Essex County's World War I fallen. The 2016 show at Fort Malden on July 30 & 31 promises to be a spectacular event with many new surprises.





**FAREWELL TO THE ESSEX MEMORIAL ARENA, ESSEX, ONTARIO**

**The Essex Memorial Arena Campaign**



The Essex Memorial Arena is now a memory.

It was a community effort - newspaper clipping is dated January, 1957. Officially opened in 1961, the arena was named in recognition of Veterans. The Honour Roll plaque dedicated to the fallen WWI and WWII Essex area service men is now displayed in a glass cabinet in the foyer of the new twin pad arena. Many Veterans donated funds and their labour to the project. One such Veteran was Cliff Iler, father of Linda Iler, our SOMM secretary.

The SOMM used the arena at our first show in Essex in 2013 to house our vendors and displayers.

All the vintage vehicles transported to the 2015 Military Muster show were stored in the arena before the show. A fitting final use of the building that was built by Veterans.

We would like to thank the Town of Essex, Mayor McDermott, Town Council, RCL Branch 201, the Essex BIA and the citizens of Essex for giving us the opportunity to hold three Military Musters in your town.



June 15, 2015 - the last transport of military vehicles to leave the site before demolition began.

[www.militarymuster.ca](http://www.militarymuster.ca)



Essex Free Press Photos - July 30, 2015