

SOMM TIMES

TO PRESERVE, HONOUR, PERPETUATE AND EDUCATE
IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO SERVED

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Issue No. 5 - May/June 2014

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COUNTING DOWN



76
DAYS

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**THIS SUMMER
EXPERIENCE LIVING HISTORY**



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2014 SOUTHERN ONTARIO MILITARY MUSTER

AUGUST 16TH AND 17TH

ESSEX ONTARIO



ARENA AND GROUNDS, 60 FAIRVIEW AVE. W. • **GATES OPEN 9:00 AM**

WHAT'S NEW?



KEVIN McMAHON IN THE WW1 TRENCH

WEBSITE - www.militarymuster.ca

We thank everyone for their patience.

Things do not always go as planned and we thank those behind the scenes for their time, assistance and guidance.

The updated website is now up and running.

Check out the brand new photo gallery, the Korean Veteran biographies and photos under the "Special" tab and the latest newsletters.



Our new partners and Donate Button will be added in the very near future.

Vendors/Re-enactors/Vehicle Owners:

Please send in your applications so we can start planning the layout of the arena and grounds.

Reserve your space by completing the appropriate application form. Remember to fill in all the required fields and submit to us. It is easy and we can confirm that it really does work as the first vendor application has been received.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!



The SOMM congratulates **Ralph Mayville** who fulfilled his life long dream of officially earning his wings on May 24, 2014.

Check out the story and video of the jump on the CBC News site -

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/world-war-ii-paratrooper-veteran-finally-takes-his-1st-jump-1.2653396>.

On June 8, 2014, the SOMM will join many other groups and organizations to witness the "Ralph Mayville - Black Devil Pinning Ceremony" to celebrate this once in a lifetime event and to commemorate all those who 70 years ago jumped on the night of June 5 as the prelude to the "Longest Day" - D-Day June 6, 1944.

VETERAN BIOGRAPHIES NEEDED

Veteran biographies are needed for our 2014 commemorative program. Among the commemorations this year, are the start of the Great War, D-Day +70 and the return from Afghanistan.

If you are a Veteran or someone who has a relative who served in any conflict - please share your story with us, provide a photo and a biography (including birthplace, regiment, rank, specialty and where served). Please include photos of any remembrances you might have - papers, medals, souvenirs. Also indicate in which month you would like the biography to appear (i.e. birth date or anniversary). Take a look at the Korean Veteran biographies on the website to see how they can be presented.

We are looking for the biographies of the fallen Essex County Airmen and also those who returned to our community upon discharge. See Essex Memorial Spitfire Project featured on page 6.

With your signed permission, these biographies will be published in the program and featured on the website.



STAN SCISLOWSKI - "In remembering one ... you remember all."

On March 23, 2014, we lost a friend and a very special man.

The SOMM is proud to present our guest contributor, **Matthew Drouillard**, who accepted our invitation to submit his reflections and remembrances without hesitation.

"I had first met Stan in my early teens while helping my father with a presentation he was giving to an Amherstburg based Army Cadets unit. I was immediately entranced with his storytelling abilities, the moment he began to recall a memory of his time during the Second World War, he would spring to life with the same vivacity he once had while in uniform. Even after meeting him, I did not have to look very far to find his words in print. Stan always said that writing about his time overseas made it easier to think about and from his published book to Legion and frequent newspaper articles, anyone who had read his words understood the power behind them."

"Stan also had a playful side that he shared with many people he met. I remember reading a story that he wrote about his time in England during training, he had said that he discovered a very long stick that he was able to toss around in the air, much like a drum major's mace. He became so very good at it that eventually a jealous fellow soldier stole it and he never saw it again. About five or six years ago, I saw Stan out for a walk with his son Jerry and I could not help but smile; I saw Stan walking with his usual stride and while he had a cane with him, he wasn't using it for walking. While he wasn't throwing it up in the air, he was still about to spiral it around his body with as much enthusiasm as he must have had all those years ago in Windsor."

"Stan will be missed by any who knew him, he was quick to smile and had a charm that was unparalleled by any other. My father and I proudly represented his wartime regiment (Perth Regiment, 5th Canadian Armoured Division, 11th Infantry Brigade) and I will personally continue to keep the memory of men like Stan alive."

"As we approach the future, we need to keep men like him in mind, as an example of duty, sacrifice and the ability to find time to smile in between."

"He is with the balance of his platoon now, after years of service, both in the field and out of it."

"Goodbye Stan, you were an incredible man."

Matthew Drouillard
Amherstburg, Ontario

**AUGUST 11, 2013 - SOUTHERN ONTARIO MILITARY MUSTER,
ESSEX, ONTARIO**

OUR "PLAYFUL WALKING STICK" PICTURE

**STAN IN THE CENTRE, HIS SON, JERRY ON THE LEFT and
LINDA ILER ON THE RIGHT**



Thank you

SOMM IN THE COMMUNITY



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MAY 3/14 - WINGS AND WHEELS, WINDSOR AIRPORT



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**MAY 4/14 - BATTLE OF LONGWOODS,
LONGWOODS ROAD CONSERVATION AREA**



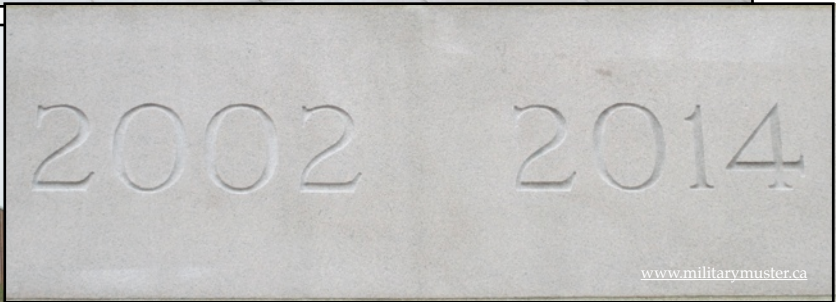
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**MAY 9/14 - CIVIC DAY OF HONOUR AND MEMORIAL SERVICE,
WINDSOR CENOTAPH**

“CIVIC DAY OF HONOUR”

COMMEMORATING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICES MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES AND NATO PEACEKEEPERS IN AFGHANISTAN, AND TO RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE FRIENDS AND FAMILIES OF THE FALLEN.

THE WINDSOR CENOTAPH WAS REDEDICATED TO INCLUDE THE ADDITION OF THE YEARS 2002-2014.



www.militarymuster.ca



THE ESSEX MEMORIAL SPITFIRE COMMITTEE

The Essex Memorial Spitfire Committee is governed under the Southern Ontario Military Muster which is a Not-For-Profit Charitable Organization affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society.

The SOMM introduces our new standing committee and their project to "Preserve, Honour, Perpetuate and Educate - in the memory of those who served."

ESSEX MEMORIAL SPITFIRE MISSION

The Essex Memorial Spitfire Committee's mission is to erect a full size replica Spitfire to Honour our 400+ Essex County Airmen. A stone plaque listing their names will be placed at the base of the Memorial.

On April 7th, 2014, Essex Town Council's approval in principal to erect the Essex Memorial Spitfire was received and they have agreed to donate a parcel of land to mount the Spitfire on its plinth and maintain the grounds once completed.

A location for this high monument is still to be determined, but the Committee is requesting the new Silo District Plan Project, close to the Train Station.

Donations are greatly accepted and appreciated.

Coming Soon - Donate Button on www.militarymuster.ca

or Send Cheque or Money Order to:

Southern Ontario Military Muster
1390 Drouillard Road, Windsor, ON N8Y 2R7

Please state *Spitfire* in memo section

* Tax receipt available upon request

For further information go to the Essex Memorial Spitfire Tab on the SOMM website

Contact Information

Co-Chair Michael Beale 519-735-4633

mbeale1@cogeco.ca

Co-Chair Robert (Bob) Swaddling 519-733-3696

Robert.swaddling@sympatico.ca

Erik Billing 519-945-4692

eriksbilling@gmail.com

The Spitfire will be a full size replica of the Spitfire that was flown by our Essex County Ace, Jerry Billing on D-Day, June 6th, 1944.



Jerry Billing volunteered for service in the RCAF in November of 1940 at the Windsor Recruiting office. After training in Mountain View and Dunnville he was posted overseas to Tern Hill, England and the RAF. After a short advanced course flying Miles Magisters and Hawker Hurricanes, he got to fly his first Spitfire, a MK1 K9929, one of the first 310 production Spitfires.

He was first posted to #19 Squadron, Biggin Hill, England. Later, he was posted to #185 Squadron on the tiny island of Malta, from October 1942 to May 1943, having been shot down twice. After Malta he went to Kirt-on-Lindsay, Lincolnshire to train pilots on Spitfires.

In early 1944 he was posted to #401 Squadron, again, at Biggin Hill, England. Jerry then went to Beny-Sur-Mer France (B4 Airfield). Jerry flew many combat sorties and was shot down July 1st 1944 behind the enemy lines. He escaped and evaded the Germans, being hidden by the French People where he joined the French Resistance to combat and sabotage the Germans any way they could. Eventually, Jerry returned to England and finished his tour flying Spitfires, fighting the Germans.

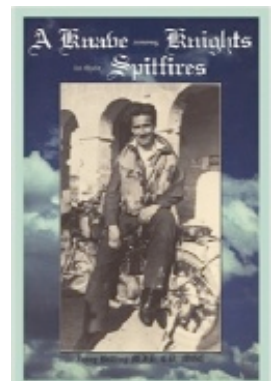
After the war, Jerry continued to fly Spitfires in air shows doing a low level aerobatic routine until 1996 when he retired from the air show business.

*A Knave among Knights
in their Spitfires
by Jerry Billing*

M.I.D., C.D., M.G.C.

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EVENT CALENDAR

JUNE

JUNE 1	<p>MEMORIAL SERVICE - CENOTAPH IN CITY HALL SQUARE, WINDSOR The Windsor Veterans Memorial Service Committee (WVMSC) will be having a Memorial Service at 11:00 am to remember the Veterans and Comrades that we have lost in the past year. After the service there will be a banquet at RCL Br. 143. Tickets are \$15.00 each and available from any WVMSC member.</p>
JUNE 6	<p>70th ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY, WINDSOR ...</p>
JUNE 7	<p>CHATHAM KINSMEN FAIR, CHATHAM The SOMM will be attending this event. Go to www.chathamkinsmenfair.ca.</p>
JUNE 15	<p>NORTHWALL RIDERS ASSOCIATION STEAK BBQ FUND RAISER This year on Father's Day, great food for a great cause, held at RCL Br. 143 - 1570 Marentette, Windsor. BBQ from 4pm to 7pm, live entertainment until 8pm - \$20/per person - Tickets available until June 8 - from Legion Bartender or call Dan Hayes 519-256-6797.</p>
JUNE 21	<p>ECHRS MILITARY OPEN HOUSE, ESSEX The Essex & Community Historical Research Society will be holding their Open House at the Carnegie Library, 18 Gordon Avenue, Essex. The SOMM will be bringing military vehicles. 11am to 4pm</p>
JUNE 22	<p>THE REAR ADMIRAL HOSE MEMORIAL UNVEILING AT HEAVENLY REST CEMETARY HMCS Hunter, Royal Canadian Naval Association, Navy League of Canada and Naval Association of Canada dedication at 11:00 am, reception at RCL Branch 594 to follow.</p>
JUNE 29	<p>RIDE TO THE NORTH WALL XIX - VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL - AMBASSADOR PARK, WINDSOR (foot of Patricia and Riverside Drive) The annual run to the North Wall in honour of the Canadians that served with the U.S. Military during the Vietnam War - 12:00 pm</p>

JULY

JULY 12	<p>ESSEX FUN FEST PARADE - ESSEX The SOMM will be in the parade with several vintage military vehicles. Starts at 11:00 am. Details to follow.</p>
JULY 20	<p>FORT MALDEN EVENT - AMHERSTBURG Theme - World War I - more details to come</p>
JULY 27	<p>KOREAN MEMORIAL - DIEPPE PARK 1:00 pm. Details to follow.</p>

If your group or organization has an upcoming event, please send us the details and we will be happy to announce it in the next issue.

RECENT FINDS

This time we talk about scrapbooks. Remember the large books filled with blank newsprint paper that had the glue and scissors on the cover? Mainly used for school projects but some people transformed them into a snapshot of the time they lived in.

I am sure that the unknown author of these three scrapbooks could not have imagined that sixty years later they would be found for sale in a local antique store.

The set consists of three books which cover World War II from 1939 to 1945. One is mainly Europe with several Essex Scottish clippings from the Windsor Star. One covers the War in the Pacific - a mixture of Life magazine, Detroit and Windsor newspapers. The third one covers Africa, the Italian Campaign and Japan. Unfinished there are several articles and newspaper pages that were never glued - the reverse of an article is sometimes more interesting.

So who was this author? Few clues exist but the last page in one points to the R.R #1, Tecumseh area. Several articles on the fire death of a foster child and the February 2, 1944 casualty listing and picture (neatly outlined in blue and red pencil crayon) of Pte. Robert Wilson, former Essex Scottish, who served with the Perth Regiment in Italy.

Next issue, we will take a closer look at the post D-Day coverage. To our dismay, there was no local coverage found for D-Day, June 6, 1944.



(If you are the owner or inheritor of such items, please consider donating them to a museum or to a charitable organization such as the SOMM to help preserve our heritage. The monetary gain is pale compared to the historical value that could be gleaned. The scrapbooks were personally bought and will be donated to the SOMM in the future - Editor's note.)

“Lest we forget!”

SOUTHERN ONTARIO MILITARY MUSTER



PARTNER PROGRAM for BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

As a partner, we offer you the opportunity to not only assist us in presenting a living history event but also to be part of an ambitious project that will honour local Veterans and help the SOMM to “preserve, honour, perpetuate and educate”.

To coincide with the 2014 Southern Ontario Military Muster, we will issue a free commemorative program which will be distributed to the public at the show. These programs will also be available to the public at various locations and to partners to distribute to their clients, employees and members.

The program is dedicated to Veterans - local Veterans whose families want to share their pride with everyone.

These men and women fought for our country, some may have paid the ultimate sacrifice, others may have returned to civilian life and never spoke of their service. We are trying to rescue the history and artifacts of past generations to share with the future ones.

We offer several options for every budget; each option includes print and web exposure. Please visit our website or email us for a PDF copy of the Donor/Partner booklet.

We will remember so they are never forgotten.

**THIS ADVERTISING SPACE
IS AVAILABLE FOR OUR
ARENA VENDORS**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE SOMM AT
somm.militarymuster@gmail.com**

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE

**The SOMM prepares for the Military Muster
Event - August 16 and 17, 2014.**