

# Museum Happenings!

Hard to believe but spring is right around the corner! We’ve been busy at the museum since the summer and it is time to celebrate our Fall/Winter season and give you an idea of what is coming up this spring and summer.

As always, the museum played host to our soldiers during C&E Week in October. It is always an honour to show the changes and accomplishments of the museum to our biggest supporters. We hope to do the same again this year with a temporary travelling exhibit on the Last 100 Days of WWI, courtesy of a donation from the 33 Signal Regiment Foundation. For the summer, we are opening Camp X on June 15. The Line exhibit will also start undergoing rejuvenation thanks to a donation from the Linemen. Thank you so very much. Finally, C&E Reunion Weekend celebrating 115 years is Labour Day Weekend!

On the professional museum front, the museum has been busy showing off what we do well to other museums! In September, we hosted the International Association of Museum Facility Administrators (IAMFA) for a Q&A session / tour and then we went to the Vimy Officer’s Mess for lunch. In October, the museum was a host site for the Ontario Museum Association Study Tour, focusing on renewal. The new extension was a big hit! In January, we were able to attend the Museum Enterprise Conference put on by the Canadian Museum Association. We talked to other museums from across the country about issues such as visitor services, tour buses and how to get them, wayfinding, volunteer management and whether charging admission is a good idea or not.

As part of ongoing remembrance of WWI, this past summer we mounted Hill 70 and in the fall, just before Remembrance Day, unveiled the Third Battle of Passchendaele. Both exhibits have been very well received. Passchendaele is one of our first travelling exhibit, courtesy of a donation from the 33 Signal Regiment Foundation. We hope that regiments across the country will be interested in hosting the exhibit. If you are interested in hosting please contact Annette Gillis at 613-541-5130.


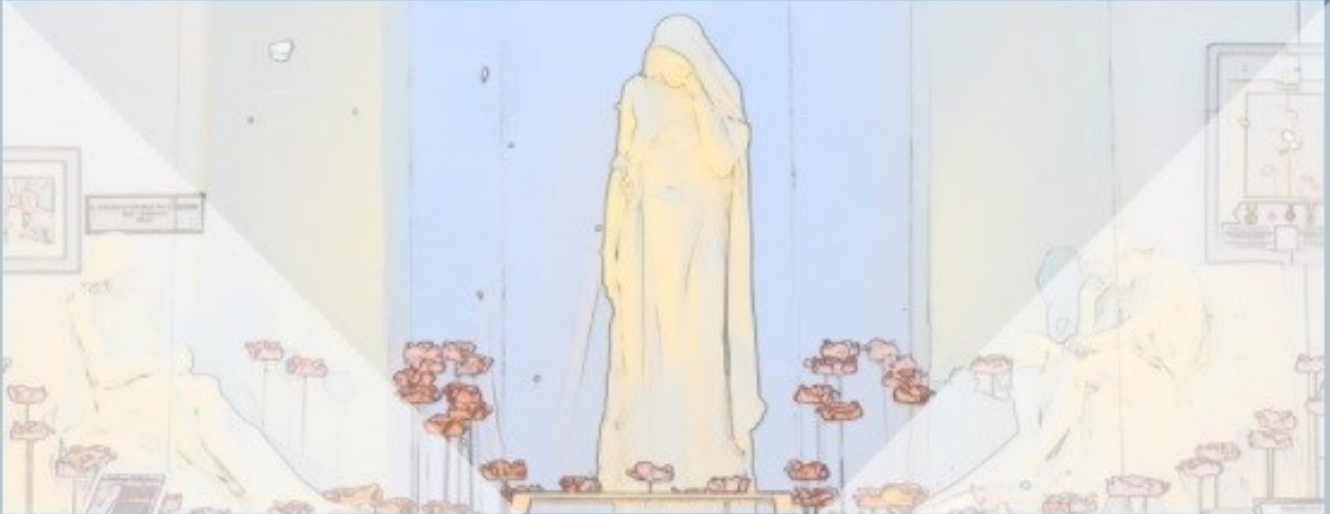
Programming in November 2017 always revolves around Remembrance Day and this past year was no exception. It was also the second year of Beyond Classrooms at the museum. Teacher Alana Overvelde from Molly Brant Elementary School brought an enthusiastic group of Grade 5/6 students for a week of hands on learning at the museum. We have two new interns from Queen’s University supporting ongoing research into WWI. The two projects are “Reconstructing Vimy Ridge” and the “WWI Signals Personnel Database Project.” Both projects are designed to enhance our knowledge of WWI soldier’s activities and will end up being great public reference material. We also have a new website so check out [candemuseum.org](http://candemuseum.org). It is a work in progress.

We were fortunate to receive another City of Kingston Heritage Fund Grant, for the “Curtiss JN-4 Canuck Airframe.” This will allow us to build a display that will show the first air to ground communications that will be unveiled in November 2018 as our finale tribute exhibit to WWI.

A big thank you to all who support the museum through donations to the P070, donate your volunteer time, donate through our donation box or sponsor an exhibit display. Without your donations of time and money the museum would not be the jewel that it is.



Winter 2018



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THE MILITARY

Communications and

Electronics

MUSEUM

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# Latest Acquisitions!

In September the museum was extremely fortunate to receive the donation of Liesbeth Langford’s sweater from when she was a small girl in Holland. Liesbeth came to Kingston at the invitation of retired Brigadier General William Richard, the Colonel Commandant of the C&E Branch. Her parents were part of the Dutch Resistance and like everyone else in Holland at the time they lived through the Dutch famine of 1944-45. During the Liberation of Holland, Liesbeth was fed breakfast by the members of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals. Before the troops moved on, Liesbeth was made an honorary captain in the RCCS. Her mother sewed the badges on her little blue jacket. Liesbeth has used the jacket as a teaching tool to remind people of the horrors of war ever since and the joy of freedom, but at 80 years old felt the jacket was best donated to museum where the story of her liberation and the kindness of Canadian soldiers could be shared. It was an honour to receive the jacket.

Earlier in 2017, the museum received a small metal biscuit box containing the original letters that Signaller George Burley MM wrote to his sister in 1915. They were found by his great-grandniece in the attic of their family home. These letters have been added to our Passchendaele exhibit.



Liesbeth Langford holding her jacket with the RRCS patches she received as a seven year old girl. The sweater has been donated to the museum and will be part of our 2020 exhibit on the Liberation of Holland. The CO of the museum, LCol Robichaud and the Colonel Commandant of the Branch treated Liesbeth to breakfast at Routledge Mess Hall while she was here.

George Burley was born on December 23rd, 1885 in Birmingham, England. He served seven years with the Royal Engineers and worked as an electrician before enlisting on September 26th, 1914 at Valcartier, Quebec. Signalman Burley was married to Mary Beatrice Florence Burley in 1915. He served with the 1st Canadian Divisional Signals Company.

Like so many other Canadians soldiers from the First World War, George Burley’s early enthusiasm for the war is demonstrated in letters to his sister from dated from 1915:

May 6                    1st Canadian Sig Coy  
Canadian Div  
BEF

*“All that we pray for out here is “Let us use Gas people at home do not realize what we have gone thro [sic] for 12 days, but we have been very lucky not to have lost more than we have, but as the chief said, we must be made of steel to have stood what we have for the time we did. With us it is not so much rifle fire that gets us but shells & shrapnel & I can tell you I am quite an adept at Ducking & rolling into ditches...”*

# Signalling the Season: A Sensory Celebration

A first time event for 2017 was Signalling the Season: A Sensory Celebration held on December 16th the event offered activities for the whole family. Partners included Circle of Wellness Drum Circle, Once Upon a Princess Party, Blue Canoe Theatrical with seasonal singing and Bricks-4 Kidz interactive Lego® projects. There were season crafts such as make a Morse code candy cane and even a direct radio link to Santa’s workshop provided by the volunteers from the Kingston Amateur Radio Association. Partnering with the Kingston Military Family Resource Centre, the Museum offered a special session for families with kids with special needs in addition to being open to the public all afternoon. A great event for kids of all ages, look for this recurring event in the fall of 2018.

# March of the Museums

For March Break 2018, the Military Communications & Electronics Museum partnered with other local museums to host March of the Museums. The Royal Military College of Canada Museum, the Frontenac County Schools Museum and Murney Tower National Historic Site joined forces with us to provide a free, fun-filled week-long interactive pop-in program for children of all ages and their families. Activities included: Elenco Snap Circuits® Station, Morse Code Beading, Semaphore Signaller marionette, Jimmy hat (Military Communications & Electronics Museum), Easter egg paper weaving, historic games station with Crokinole, Jacks, Pickup Sticks (Frontenac County Schools Museum) paint and build a Martello Tower and Build a Fort Friday (Royal Military College of Canada Museum and Murney Tower National Historic Site). We also had an Interactive Signalling station, Historical Costumes table and emojis masks provided by the Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries and National Historic Site. All the activities proved popu-





## 2017 IN REVIEW

**30000+**

VISITORS TO THE GALLERY

**5**

NEW EXHIBITS

**4**

SPEAKER'S Series  
Events

**2**

TRAVELLING EXHIBITS  
CREATED

**10000+**

VOLUNTEER HOURS

**4**

PUBLIC EVENTS

**4**

OUTREACH  
PROGRAMS

**672**

STUDENTS