



PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

2025 - 2026

As this is my first address for the Annual General Meeting, I still feel like a newcomer. Over the course of the past year, your executive board has performed their normal and often overlooked long hours of work behind the scenes, and they also hunkered down with the additional work that I levied on their plates. The focus of the past year is growth and putting the CSMMI name back in the forefront of military collecting organizations. This is the direction that the Society will need to focus on and plans are in place to continue to pursue this initiative in the future, with plans already in place for the Fall.

The Society partnered with the Ontario Military Vehicle Association (OMVA) in the Spring of 2026 at their "Market Place" in Oshawa. As an organization we have committed to and look forward to October's "Market Place" in Kingston ON. Both Executive Boards believe that using Kingston as the location for this event will provide our combined membership from Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec with the opportunity to participate in a show closer to their homes. The Executive of the CSMMI has started conversations with OMVA to find a date for the Monthly Burlington show where we would welcome their vendors and membership to our venue. I have reached out to other similarly minded organizations looking to explore opportunities where both clubs could find mutually beneficial exchanges. There are a number of other hobbies that have crossovers without either party stepping on the other side's toes.

Working towards the goal of expanding our membership and our presence in Southern Ontario, the Board authorized a trial project that sees the CSMMI renting a table at local gun shows to highlight and advertise our Society. The hope is that by attending these and other similar events, we will promote and populate an interest in joining the Society. There are current plans to continue in the year 2026-2027. Additionally, we created a benefit to our membership who bring new members. For every new member (up to three people) that existing member brings in a \$10 reduction to the sponsor's membership. An enthusiastic member may only have to pay \$5 for their renewal.

The Executive has agreed to provide a permanent home for a long-term project to store and share digital ephemera, like our MILART holdings. The project aims to digitize Canadian Militia General Orders and related documents and make them freely available for research. There will be no immediate changes to our website, as the project is still in its initial stages and the project owners are first ensuring a secure, lasting platform is in place before the full launch.

Over the past 61 years that our Society has been in existence, we have had seven logos. The last major change in logo was back in 1990. At this year's Annual Meeting, we will launch the newest version of our logo. While maintaining the look and feel of a C.E.F. badge, the ribbon on the logo has expanded from a simple C.S.M.M.I. to the fully spelled out name. This new logo will debut during the meeting and look for an article in the Fall Journal. Using the format of a General Order the new logo will be as follows.

“On a darkened bronze maple leaf, the Guelphic Crown in the upper lobe, floats above a silver beaver couchant, resting on a log, facing sinister. A furled split blue enamel ribbon crosses the leaf slightly below the beaver reading “CANADIAN” on the left segment and “SOCIETY” on the right. Below the segments, a full width, blue enamel, furled ribbon reads “OF MILITARY MEDALS & INSIGNIA.”

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to all members for their support of our Society and hope for your continued involvement in the CSMMI.

Chris Warnick
President and Chair