

CENTENNIAL CLASS OF '76
LEAD DONOR FOR A NEW CANADIAN MILITARY COLLEGES (CMC) MUSEUM

Background:

The Royal Military College of Canada has used the Martello Tower in Fort Fredrick as a museum for College artifacts for decades. The tower is neither climate controlled nor large enough to house the ever growing collection of valuable artifacts that ex-Cadets and graduates of the Military College system have donated and are donating.

Proposal:

The College's Museum and Heritage Committee (M&HC) has proposed that a new purpose-built museum be built on the College grounds in Kingston that would represent all three Colleges and the former versions of each College. Cmdre (Retd) Ed Murray (Cmdt 1982–85) is the Chair of the M&HC, and along with MGen (Retd) Frank Norman (Cmdt 1987–91) and Prof. Ron Haycock, are its principal movers and shakers. It also has the endorsement and support of the Commandant. Prof. Jim Barrett is also a member of the M&HC. He wrote an article which was published in the recent issue of the RMCC's magazine 'Veritas' that defined the need for the museum and copies are available upon request.

Potential Class Involvement:

Although the project is in its early stages, the Committee has already sponsored a Feasibility Study (Image of cover attached) that proposes a two-story building with 14,000 sq ft of usable space at the foot of Fort Henry hill near the new RMC gate, with six exhibition halls, ranging from 500 to 1500 sq ft. The total cost of the new Museum would be about \$12M, which is to be raised from major donors, significant Class gifts, and contributions from individual Club members. The M&HC is preparing a prospectus for Classes interested in making a significant gift to the College. Committee members are excited about the prospect of having a Class, and in particular the Centennial Class, taking an early interest in the Museum project, and thus establishing itself as a "Lead Class" and laying down a challenge for other Classes. This is a tremendous opportunity for the Class to leave a lasting legacy for future generations, by putting its name on one the new exhibition halls, and helping to determine the hall theme. That opportunity exists now, before these decisions are set, and while the M&H Committee has the flexibility to consider creative ideas.

Initial Donation: \$400,000 – this would give the Centennial Class of '76 the naming rights to a room as mentioned above. A larger donation of \$1M would ensure our legacy.