

President's Remarks - 2020/21 AMM - 16 Sep 2021

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon and thank you for joining us. As members of the Friends, you contribute significantly to our work including today participating in the governance of our federally incorporated registered charity.

This AMM deals, of course, with our work in the fiscal year ending in 31 March of this current year. You were all furnished electronically with my annual report for the year and it has also reached a broader audience via our newsletter. My report embraces the broad themes of achievement, commitment, sustainment and appreciation.

The work of the entire year was carried out in the face of the most difficult health and wellness challenge facing Canadians in more than a century. Nevertheless, donor and membership support continued and under the leadership of your Board of Directors working virtually for more than a year, solid progress was made in our purpose of supporting the Canadian War Museum (CWM). I am extremely proud of the work which has been done: from the development of a full suite of policy, procedure and guidance documents to the inauguration of an impressive new website, the commitment, dedication and leadership of your BOD were in evidence. Financially we remain in a sustainable position due to the generosity of donors together with prudent financial management. We the Friends have not suffered the catastrophic losses experienced by some other charities and we were able to make a generous donation to the CWM programs. I would like to express my appreciation to you all your continuing support throughout the year.

And here we are almost half way through fiscal year 21/22 and while some restrictions have been relaxed, the horizon is by no means clear. Nevertheless, with your support and that of donors we not only continue to sustain the effort but also to move forward. In the spring we launched our newsletter fully linked with our new website and available through both email and social media. It continues to attract much favourable attention as it matures in scope and depth.

And to be sure our material contribution to the CWM continues unabated and in late July at an event at the museum, we presented a cheque in the amount of \$104,000 reflecting our contributions over 2 years.; I do hope you have seen the photo in the August newsletter; the smiles tell the story.



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Dear Friends, donors and supporters, thank you for continuing to stay the course. Collectively we all share in the significant efforts and achievements all of which are products of your commitment. Before I close, I would like to quote the appreciative remarks by Caroline, our DG which appear in the frontispiece of our website:

“The fundraising and volunteer support the Friends provide to the Canadian War Museum has been invaluable, enabling us to enlighten present and future generations about Canada’s military history in a number of meaningful ways”

Frankly, I think our work is on the side of the angels, it’s an easy sell but nothing would be achieved without your continuing support. Thank you so much - please stay with us.

Yours aye.

Robert Hamilton

President



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