



EME Journal

Issue 2/2008

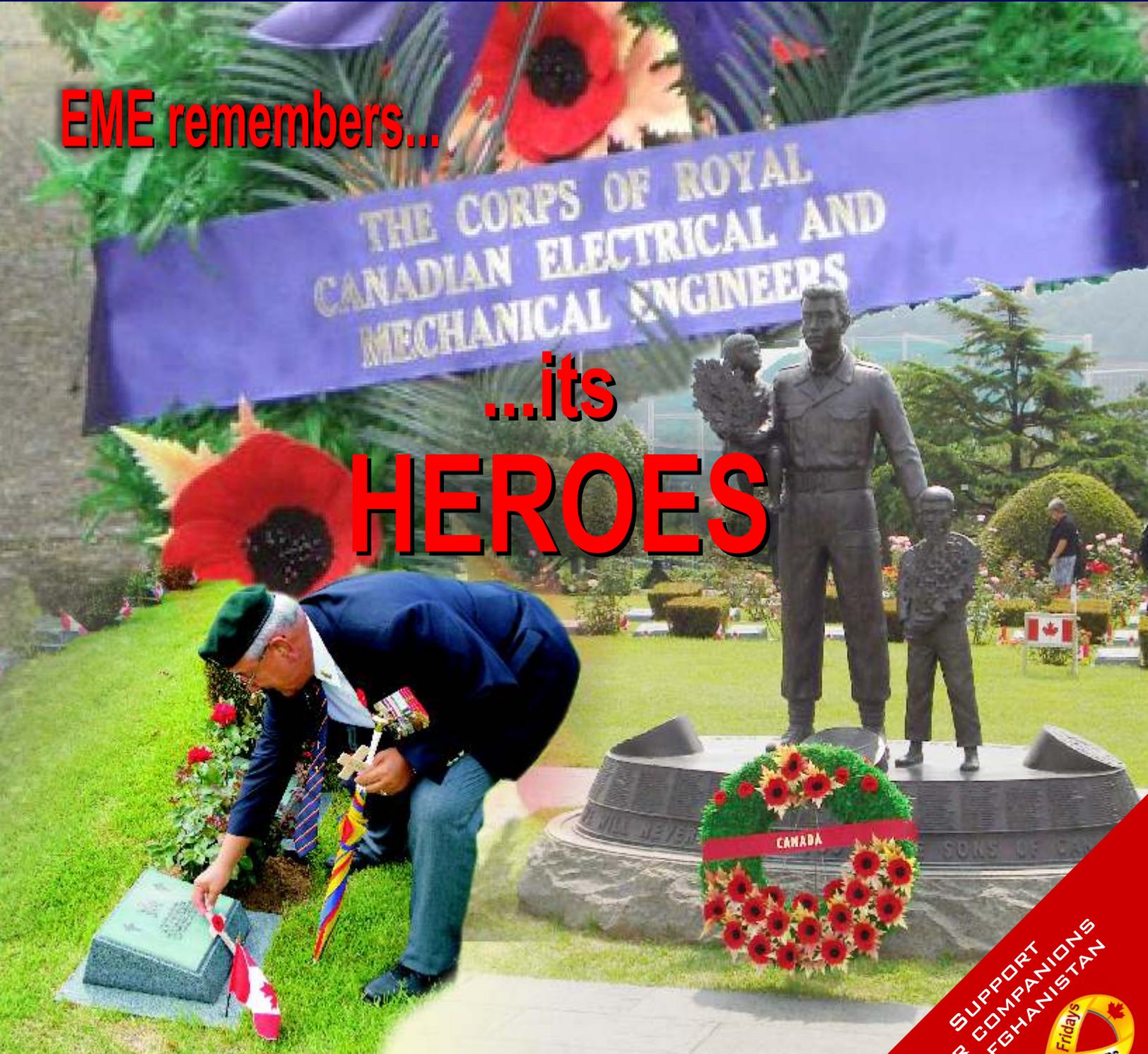
The Magazine of the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Branch

EME remembers...

THE CORPS OF ROYAL
CANADIAN ELECTRICAL AND
MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

...its

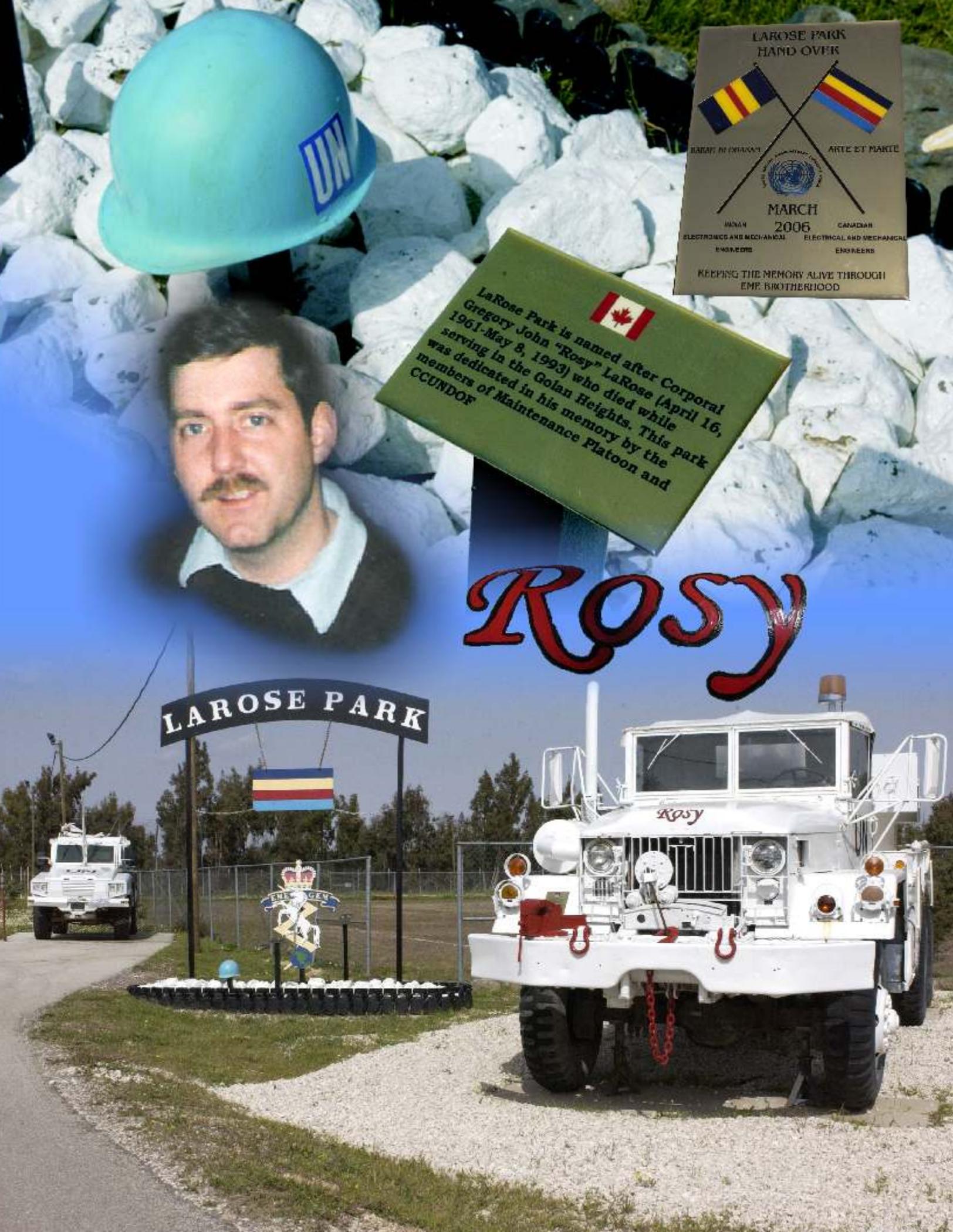
HEROES



National
Defence Défense
nationale

SUPPORT
OUR COMPANIONS
IN AFGHANISTAN





LAROSE PARK
HAND OVER

BARAKAT AL-DIKHAYRI
ARTE ET MARCE

MARCH
2006

IRAQI
ELECTRONICS AND MECHANICAL
ENGINEERS

CANADIAN
ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL
ENGINEERS

KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE THROUGH
EMP BROTHERHOOD

 LaRose Park is named after Corporal Gregory John "Rosy" LaRose (April 16, 1961-May 8, 1993) who died while serving in the Golan Heights. This park was dedicated in his memory by the members of Maintenance Platoon and CCUNDOF

Rosy

LAROSE PARK



EME Journal

The Magazine of the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Branch



Branch Formation: 15 May 1944
Branch Motto: Arte et Marte
Branch Patron Saint: Saint Jean de Brébeuf
Branch Colonel Commandant: BGen (retired) P.J. Holt, OMM, CD
Branch Advisor: Col S.P. Myers, CD
Branch Chief Warrant Officer: CWO J.R.D. St-Jean, CD

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Call for Articles Edition 2-2008

Theme for the next issue : **EME Around the World**

We invite you to send your stories relating to the above mentioned theme (maximum of 800 words). Other articles that are non-related to the theme are welcomed as well, and will be published if space is available. We also invite you to send **photos** to accompany your articles, and if you do, **please send them in a distinct JPEG format** file rather than directly in the 'MS Word' document used for the text. The photos must be at least 300 dpi (dots per inch), and 5"x7" of size or more to qualify for the cover page. Depending on the size of the photos, it might be necessary for you to send them in more than one e-mail (MS Outlook can take only 5 Mb per e-mail).

The author of the article and people portrayed in the photos should be identified, without exception at the end of the article as follows: Rank, initials, family name, trade and unit.

The deadline for submitting your article is September 30th, 2009. The Journal staff reserves the right to select articles and to modify the texts according to the space available.

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Branch Advisor's Message

By : Col S.P. Myers, EME Branch Advisor



This being my first opportunity to write for the EME Journal as your Branch Advisor, I would first like to say how

pleased and honoured I am to lead our 'regiment of many small units'. Over the years, I have served with many of you, both at home and abroad, and one thing has never changed: I am always fiercely proud of what we, in EME, can achieve, no matter the odds. You truly embody what it means to be soldiers first and technicians always.

Before speaking to this year's theme, I would first like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of two prominent leaders of our Regiment who have recently retired, our Branch Advisor and Colonel Commandant.

Colonel Doug Wingert, who served as our Branch Advisor for the past three years, officially retired on 15 Oct 08. Under his tenure, we have successfully returned to being an Army Branch, and we have been intimately involved in some of the most challenging support to operations in recent history. Throughout, Colonel Wingert has guided the Branch with a steady hand on the present yet always with a clear vision for the future, and embodied the family sense of the Branch. As well, on 1 Sep 08, Col Gilles Nappert officially retired from the military for the second time in his life! Volunteering for the past four years as

our Colonel Commandant, Colonel Nappert worked tirelessly to ensure serving and retired members were recognized for their contributions to the Branch. We are all incredibly grateful for their dedication and support to the entire EME Regimental family.

Now, in the spirit of this year's theme, I would like to touch on EME Heroes. Clearly, in reading the articles in the last and this journal edition, there are many fine examples of EME heroes, both throughout our rich history and continuing through to today. We have proven, time and again, that we are more than up for the challenge to achieve In-Mission Effects – be it maintaining equipment on the battlefield and fighting alongside our combat arms brethren, or delivering the equipment support necessary for mission success. So what strikes me when talking EME heroes is that regardless of the specific job each of us may be doing at any given time, from front line to institutional support, our sum effect is incredible and, let there be no doubts, it is making a real difference in operations. So as we take time to reflect on the heroic actions of those that have gone before us, understand as well that the professionalism and pride you bring to the job today is very much a continuation of this proud EME heritage. What you are accomplishing right now is not only a source of inspiration for us in the present, but also for our future generations.

Now, as we move forward and tackle each new challenge, let's also remember to take the time to mentor

and develop our new EME soldiers and officers, to communicate and bring together our regiment of many small units, and to celebrate our people and our accomplishments as a regimental family through dedicated EME events. After all, LEMS is what we do, but EME is who we are. I very much look forward to getting out and seeing each of you at these events during the coming year. Arte et Marte

Branch Chief Warrant Officer's Message

By : CWO J.R.D. St-Jean, Branch Chief Warrant Officer



As I already addressed the Heroes theme in the last issue (1-2008), I would like to simply talk about ordinary people, well at

least not heroes by definition.

Just recently we said goodbye to Colonel (Ret'd) Nappert and Colonel (Ret'd) Wingert. I had the privilege to work closely with both, one as our Colonel Commandant, the other as our Branch Advisor.

I got to know Col Nappert only in the past year as we traveled together on a regular basis. I discovered a man of great integrity who was down to earth and really cared about people. Always the voice of reason, he had a way of always keeping things in perspective. He graciously accepted to extend his mandate despite health issues. Not bad for a man we pulled from retirement to do a demanding job without getting paid for being there for all of us.

I met Colonel Wingert for the first time when I was new in the career manager job. He simply dropped by to say "hi" as he was in the building on other business. I thought to myself at the time, "it has to be the first time a Colonel makes a detour just to shoot the breeze with little old me". Needless to say, this kind of candor carried through, as we became the Branch Command team. Don't make

the mistake of telling him that being the Branch Advisor was a secondary duty. The Branch was always first and foremost in his mind and in his heart and he guided us through very challenging times despite the fact that his main job was to be second in command to the Director General.

Speaking of old people, the three of us attended the 30th RCEME Reunion in June. This was a memorable weekend for me as I saw people I had not seen in a very long time. One of them was none other than CWO (Ret'd) John Vass. He was playing the bagpipes in a very good pipe and drum band. As he was doing his thing, I was having flashbacks of him, as the Branch CWO, visiting 1 GS Bn somewhere in a little village in Alberta during an exercise. He and Mr Johnston (Colonel Commandant at the time) arrived unannounced in the middle of chaos. Although we did not know each other, he probably figured out I was the CSM and pulled me aside to ask a few questions. Beside the usual questions about troop morale, surprisingly, he asked me if I believed in the CS/GS concept and, more importantly, if the troops believed in it. A few years later, I find myself asking the same kind of questions when I travel. Mentoring (or lack of) is the flavour of the day in our Branch but obviously, Mr Vass had mastered that art of mentoring by the example he did set for the unsuspecting future Branch CWO.

As you can see, these three people do not fit the official definition of heroes but they certainly influenced me. Now, look at yourselves. You might not realize it but each and everyone of you

continued page 31 ...CWO Message

Military service medal



Colonel Eldaoud will receive the Meritorious Service Cross for his exemplary leadership and dedication as the CO NSE, Joint Task Force Afghanistan, from July 2007 to February 2008.

The Meritorious Service Cross recognizes: a deed or an activity that has been performed in an outstandingly professional manner, or with uncommonly high standards; the activity is often innovative, sets an example for others to follow, improves the quality of life of a community and brings considerable benefit or honour to Canada.

CONGRATULATIONS COLONEL!

EME on the Golf Course

By : MCpl J.M.J. Veilleux 5 CDN SVC BN



August 20, 2008 is a day that will remain forever etched in the history of the EME Branch. As in past years, we were able to take part in a wonderful branch golf tournament; this year was special, however, because at the same time we were able to assist in the retirement of the current branch Col Cmdt, Col Nappert, and the arrival of our new Col Cmdt, BGen Holt.

We started this beautiful day by getting reacquainted with staff members from a variety of different places, including CFB Bagotville, Ottawa, Montreal and, of course, the units from Valcartier Garrison. A number of distinguished guests honoured us with their presence, including BGen Giguère and Col Ritchie from 5 ASG.

Once the participants arrived at Centre Plein Air Castor golf course, we were all invited to the dining room, where a good breakfast was waiting to help us get the day off to a good start. Even at 6 o'clock in the morning, there was no shortage of

smiles on the faces of our fellow members, as they enjoyed a copious meal before heading off for the start of the tournament.

And now it's 7:00 o'clock and time to start off on an 18-hole round that will see the golfers experience a full range of emotions. But whether happiness or disappointment there's always a spirit of competitiveness. And to ensure that every player has a good time, regardless of his or her

golf skills, the formula is simply best ball of the four played. A whopping five and a half hours of golf replete with friendly little challenges, including two holes-in-one and the longest drive, played out in warm temperatures under sunny skies.

Once the golfing was done, all the tournament participants and other members of the EME branch in the region headed to the MCpl's Mess for the Change of Command Parade of



EME on the Golf Course (continued)



the EME Col Cmdt, a ceremony that resembled nothing so much as a family gathering where one member of the family is leaving to be replaced by his successor. Col Nappert had commanded the Branch for the last four years, during which time he left his mark in a number of areas, like the history of the EME branch and the veterans. Quite a challenge now awaits our new Col Cmdt. As we so rightly say, a new ambassador involves new challenges and on behalf of all our brothers and sisters in this big family, I wish you good luck, BGen Holt, in your new position.



The parade ended with the announcement that our branch advisor, Col Wingert, will be retiring shortly. It was with a touch of

nostalgia that he received the 5 ASG retirement gift from Col Ritchie. After the parade, we returned to the festivities and to the meal the 5 Svc Bn cooks had so lovingly prepared for us. We discovered the secret formula: a pleasant BBQ in the sun with bar service provided by the MCpl Mess.

And we had the sun and warmth of each other's company. The last note was sounded as participation awards were distributed to everyone who had shared in this beautiful day. Gradually, the participants drifted away to begin the long Labour Day

weekend while Col Wingert, BGen Holt and CWO St-Jean paid a visit to the new training cell facilities for our vehicle technicians (ViTV). The visit brought the day to an end, just like "mission accomplished" stamped on the bottom of an order!!!



Heroes

By : Anonymous

“Heroes”, now there is a tough topic to write about – it's a term sometimes overused and other times not used enough (how many unsung heroes are out there we'll never know).

Heroes come in all shapes and sizes and people can be considered heroes in many circumstances; perhaps for what they do in a single dramatic point in time, or for a steady commitment over a great period of time. But I would bet to a person, anyone that is considered a hero by others, probably does not feel him or herself worthy of the title – this seems to be a common trait of heroes – selflessness and humility.

There are more than a few things that come to mind when I look for heroes of the EME Branch and this article contains two nominations which are related.

The first nomination is a former member of the Branch that certainly meets the criteria of being a Branch hero. The person in question has done a remarkable thing, he has singularly rallied us as a Branch in support of a noble cause, and while doing so he not only united us, but also brought us together the with our EME relations from another country. He also reminded us of the importance of our Branch family, and to remember and support the families of our fallen members.

A remarkable achievement, but even

more remarkable still is the fact that this person managed to accomplish these feats thirteen-years after he had passed away... my first submission as an EME hero is Cpl Greg LaRose, Vehicle Technician.

I'm sure if Greg could reply to this nomination, he would refute what he has accomplished as “just doin his job” - probably he would blush and state “it wasn't a big deal” – he would respond this way, because this is what heroes do.

Inspired by Greg's memory and his families request to visit LaRose Park, the EME Branch was rallied to this cause, as were Canada's replacements in the Golan Heights, the Indian Electronic and Mechanical Engineers. Ultimately, Sonia, Ashley and Tarah received their wish and visited the LaRose Park in 2006, just in time to see the closing ceremonies of Canada's tenure in the Golan Heights. There they saw where Greg worked during his last days, LaRose Park, and it was there that they received the closure that was so sought after. Citation as follows:

*For Cpl LaRose's inspiration and message of maintaining strong tangible ties to our past and to our EME family,
I nominate him as an EME hero.*

(Lest We Forget)

My second nomination as an EME hero is also a little unusual, for it's not



so much a person, but a thing - or more precisely an attribute. It's the attribute of those people in the EME Branch (present and past), and friends of the EME Branch, who selflessly and with compassion, gave donations, set up events and held raffles in order to raise enough funds to get Greg LaRose's family over to the Golan Heights. These people - you people - fall among the larger group of “unsung heroes” that are out there, and who are now reading this and probably saying to yourself “geeze, it was nothin” – and you say this, because this is what heroes do.

True, not everyone contributed to this cause, and there is a message in this as well. There may be times when the hat gets passed around – times when you may not think your donation will make a difference, but this is not the case. Greg's family made the trip to LaRose Park through the accumulation of small individual acts of a great many people, whose combined effort positively changed the lives of three ladies and respected a fallen member's memory.

Heroes (continued)



Citation as follows:

For those many that proved that the EME Branch is a place where deeds, not words, still win the day and where the word "family" is more than just a catchphrase – I nominate them all as heroes of the EME Branch.

Note. For those of you that don't know his story, Greg was sent on a UN Tour to the Golan Heights in 1993 and while there died from an aneurism – something wholly unexpected given his penchant for sports and level of physical fitness. He left behind his wife, Sonia, and two young daughters, Tarah and Ashley; he also left behind a lasting impression on everyone that knew him and a unique legacy – "LaRose Park".

LaRose Park is a sports field in the Golan Heights bearing his name which was put in place in his honour by EME maintainers at the time of his passing and improved upon by successive rotations of maintainers over the years. The Park was, and is a centerpiece at the camp that proved very popular with the troops of many visiting countries. Soon after his passing and hearing of the existence of LaRose Park, his family voiced a hope – a hope to someday visit the place where Greg lived and died – a hope to someday visit LaRose Park, which was achieved in 2006.

Today, some years after Canada's departure from the Golan Heights, LaRose Park is maintained by another EME Branch, the Indian

Electronic and Mechanical Engineers, who stand vigil over the Park in our absence. Under their watchful eyes Greg's legacy continues to live on. Some time after Canada had departed the Golan Heights, word was sent back by Major Mridul Sharma, OC of the Indian EME contingent:

"The Larose (Park) is in good hands with the new contingent. We celebrated "Diwali – "The festival of lights" in the park. Almost the whole of UNDOF turned up to attend it. It was a great experience".

Arte et Marte

Cpl J.M.D. Couture awarded the meritorious service medal (MSM)

By : Capt K. Rosenkranz



During Rotation 4 in Afghanistan, several members earned distinction through their extraordinary accomplishments. This was especially the case with Cpl Couture, weapons technician with NSE Maintenance, who was awarded the military service medal (MSM) in recognition of his relentless determination, remarkable dedication and for the impact of his performance on artillery operations in general and Battery X, particularly this past year and during the mission. The following paragraphs describe the events that earned Cpl Couture such a reward for his efforts.

First of all, very few people have experience on the M777 because Canada is the very first country to buy the howitzer and the first to use it in operations. Cpl Couture's feats started back in October 2006 when he was attached to the howitzer

section with NSE Maintenance. At that time, knowing that he wasn't qualified, he took it upon himself to quickly copy all the technical publications in order to study them on his own time and familiarize himself with the equipment. When the first howitzers arrived in November 2006, he was already familiar with them, and he was present during the first firing of M777 howitzers at Valcartier. As the only weapons technician familiar with the M777, it was partly owing to his major involvement in their repair in intense cold (-25C) that the gunners' qualification was successful. During the exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas, Cpl Couture completed specific training on the M777 at Fort Sills, Oklahoma, from 27 January to 17 February 2007. When he returned from Fort Sills, he was deployed with the artillery in support of the howitzers and immediately put his new knowledge into practice. When the artillery had an accident with one of its howitzers (the M777 had tipped completely over, Cpl Couture hurried to take charge of the scene, and, under his control, the M777 was set upright on its wheels again, thus avoiding any additional damage to the gun.

When he arrived in the theatre, Cpl Couture was deployed on the Sperwan Ghar advanced operations base (AOB), where the working conditions, infrastructure and

equipment are clearly more limited than on the Kandahar airfield. During the mission, Cpl Couture quickly distinguished himself from his peers through his ability to get several Alpha, Bravo and Charlie troop mortars and M777 howitzers upright again at critical times. Alpha, Bravo and Charlie were in sad shape at the beginning of Roto 4. He reacted in an especially effective manner when, during maintenance after a fire mission, he discovered a crack in the mounting ("cradle") of an M777. By himself, he prepared photos and video in order to clearly demonstrate the scope of damages to the chain of command in order to avoid any ambiguity and questioning that the manufacturer could have before responding about the repairs to be conducted. He then proceeded effectively with the specified corrective measures. His conduct was worthy of an experienced senior technician and allowed additional damage and the definite deactivation of that howitzer to be avoided. Furthermore, he made emergency repairs on Charlie troop mortars, so that they could remain operational, by using vehicle parts. Remarkable! The only weapons technician on the AOB, his actions allowed the artillery to be operational at all times on the ground and support BG and JTF Afg operations in Zhari and Panjwayi districts. From the start of Roto 4, and for the first time in CF operations in

Cpl J.M.D. Couture awarded the meritorious service medal (MSM) (continue)

Afghanistan, M777 howitzers were maintained at a 100% operational level thanks to Cpl Couture's boundless ingenuity and dedication. Furthermore, Cpl Couture even found the time and energy to organize rudimentary shooting ranges several times for the benefit of Battery X soldiers and to extend his services to the repair of Afghan National Army (ANA) guns. His actions allowed the ANA to improve its operational level and to be more capable of supporting Canadian troops during different joint operations that the ANA led. The application of his skills to the service of the ANA certainly had a positive impact on our relations with it and on the perception it has of the Canadian Forces. Simple, concrete, altruistic gestures like Cpl Couture's ensure that, with time, the CF will be recognized as allies wholeheartedly involved in the reconstruction of the country, which can only do honour to the CF and Canada.

Cpl Couture was also recognized for his performance above and beyond his own duties as soon as he was deployed in Afghanistan. Under terrible conditions of heat and fatigue, he was continually at the service of gunners by conducting additional tasks besides his duty as weapons technician. On the day of 17 September 2007, under fire from Chinese 107 mm rockets and from RPK machine guns from two different

directions, Cpl Couture lent his help to gunners, who were short on personnel. Of his own initiative, he demonstrated quick, energetic and unparalleled action under very high stress by positioning his Bison vehicle in a run-up position and staying there for several hours with his C6 machine gun. His initiative allowed another vehicle to be placed in a run-up position in a particularly vulnerable spot in the Sperwan Ghar AOB defence plan and to put some eyes on the ground and permit collective weapon arcs of fire to criss-cross. The battle raged for four to six hours. Besides his limitless efforts to help his brothers-in-arms, Cpl Couture continued to use his extraordinary skills to keep the guns operational at all times. Cpl Couture won the unconditional trust of Battery X gunners for his ability to make the new out of the old.

Cpl Couture is one of the most qualified Canadian weapons technicians on the M777, and his skill definitely contributed to maintaining the operational capacity of the artillery with 100% of its guns available at all times during the mission. He has been in his rank only two years but has already proven that he is a young yet seasoned soldier and a technician with foolproof morale. Always ready to assume the duties with which he is entrusted, he pushes the standard of the soldier-

technician model to the limit with his extraordinarily analytical mind as his repeated successes attest. Cpl Couture's battle exploits in training and in operations are an example of gallantry, altruism and unflagging loyalty to Canada. The above-cited examples are only some of the remarkable points that could be mentioned with regard to the mission and throughout last year because Cpl Couture's impact on the cause of the artillery mission and its operational objectives is priceless. Cpl Couture's feats have not only contributed to the BG's numerous tactical successes but have definitely saved Canadian lives on the battlefield.

“Arte et Marte”

23 Base Workshop REME - Wetter/ruhr, Germany

By : LCol (Ret) KR Joslin, CD, RCEME, EME Association

The writer, as a major, was the Officer Commanding the Canadian Detachment, 23 Base Workshop REME from 1961 to 1963.

Headquarters, 23 Base Workshop REME
The entrance to the workshop is through the headquarters building.



The detachment consisted of two officers, 13 RCEME and RCOC WO's and NCO's and 34 German civilians. It was accommodated in the British Base Workshop located in Wetter/Ruhr about 60 kilometers from Headquarters, 4 Canadian Independent Brigade Group (4 CIBG) in Soest. The detachment was an increment of Headquarters Canadian Base Units Europe (HQCBUE) which was co-located with HQ 4CIBG. Col (Ret'd), JC Boughton, CD, RCEME was the DADEME as a major, at this time in Soest.

23 Base Workshop provided repair and rebuild support for the British

Army of the Rhine (BAOR), which included 4CIBG. The Canadian Detachment's role was to provide engineering, management and spare parts support for the equipment backloaded from 4CIBG. Support was provided for the complete range of equipment for which RCEME was

responsible – from wrist watches to tanks. The major part of the workload was vehicles, both wheeled vehicles and tanks.

Equipment was defined as “common user” if it could be supported by the British repair and spare parts system or “non-common user” if it required



A Vehicle Assembly Line
Conqueror tank rebuild line.

23 Base Workshop REME - Wetter/ruhr, Germany (continued)

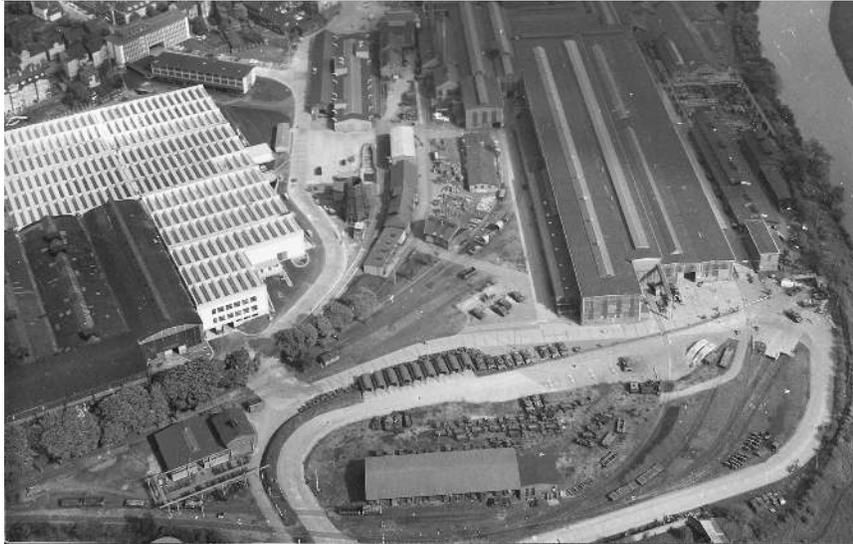
Canadian engineering and spare parts support. To this end the Spare Parts Stores Section of the detachment carried some 10,000 line items housed in a 1900 square meter warehouse. Replenishment, warehousing and control of spare parts was managed by the 2IC of the detachment, a Capt RCOC.

Replenishment was from Base Ordnance Depots in Canada.

The Base Workshop operated on an annual forecast repair/rebuild programme in support of BAOR. To this end the detachment provided an annual forecast of the repair/rebuild load of components, assemblies and complete vehicles based on the training activity forecast by 4CIBG and managed the scheduling of this in conjunction with the Base Workshop Control and Production staff.

The Base Workshop also had the capability of providing non-programmed major repairs beyond the capability of the Field Workshop in 4CIBG such as accident damage to major equipments which existed in small quantities such as Honest John

Aerial View of 23 Base Workshop REME
The workshop covers the entire area of the picture with the exception of the houses in the upper left corner. The Ruhr River is on the right. The light coloured buildings are post war construction. The Canadian detachment is in the upper right corner.



missile launcher or crane vehicles.

23 Base Workshop was commanded by a Colonel REME and was located in a pre-war German factory, with post-war REME additions, on a 19.5 hectare site. The covered floor space was 38,000 square meters and the personnel establishment was 13 officers, 26 WO's and NCO's, 18 British civilians and 2,103 German civilians. The rebuild of major assemblies and equipments was carried out on a production line basis which started out with complete stripping and cleaning which reduced equipments/assemblies to their component parts, inspection and repair of these parts and rebuild of components/assemblies. Insofar as vehicles were concerned the only item that went through rebuild unchanged was the Canadian Army

Registration Number.

During the time I spent with the detachment we had two particularly interesting programmes; the up-gunning of the Centurion tanks in 4CIBG to fit them with the 105mm tank gun and the rebuilding of the 32 Ferret Scout Cars used by the Canadian Army during their service with the UNEF in Egypt.

The pictures show the Tank Rebuild Line on

which both Conqueror and Centurion tanks were rebuilt, the last vehicle of a ¾ ton truck production run, an aerial view of 23 Base Workshop and the entrance to the Base Workshop through the Headquarters building.



B Vehicle Assembly Line
The last vehicle of a ¾ ton truck production run. Hence, the assembly line cannot be seen.

2 CER Maint Tp Professional Development Trip to the Canadian War Museum

By : MWO Mark McDonnell, 2 Combat Engineer Regiment, Maintenance Troop

For those of you that have had the opportunity to visit the new Canadian War Museum, incredible isn't it? For those of you that have been inside it's hallowed halls recently, does breathtaking begin to describe it? For those of us representing 2 Combat Engineer Regiment, Maintenance Troop on 9 February 2007, being personally escorted through the wondrous galleries by Col. (Retd) Murray Johnston and his assembled crew of RCEME / EME veterans, it was an experience that will be remembered by all twenty-one technicians as a distinguished career highlight.

The newly opened Canadian War Museum, located at 1 Vimy Place, LeBreton Flats, Ottawa is a dramatic showcase for its vast art collection of some thirteen thousand pieces. It stands as one of our countries most visited museums, attracting close to one million visitors from across the world since opening it's doors in May 2005. An architectural masterpiece that rises eastward from the ground, culminating to a massive fin clad in copper that mirrors the rooftops of the other prominent buildings in the nation's capitol. Small windows upon the fin spell out *Lest We Forget* (in English) and *N'oublions jamais* (in French) both using Morse code. The Canadian War Museum chronicles the history of armed conflict from a purely Canadian perspective, from pre-Columbian times in Canada to the

Gulf War and our participation in all peacekeeping efforts.

After a quick welcome from our previous Branch Colonel Commandant and a thought provoking introduction to the difference between good and evil, one that each member uniformed in the Canadian Forces must forever engrain in their souls and follow with pinpoint precision, we were introduced to a most distinguished gathering of ex RCEME and EME veterans. All museum volunteers emblazoned with EME pride and accoutrements.

Normally not considered a portion of any of the museum tours, Col Johnston provided an insightful and timely message to us all about the necessity to control our emotions and actions wherever we maybe stationed. All were embodied in three separate portraits hung in the foyer of the Remembrance Hall. First was a distressing portrait of Kyle Brown, in his hands were two blocks, one representing blood and one truth. Second, was a portrait of a despondent Senator Romeo Dallier, staring out through the canvas in an open glared look of anguish, which could only represent the striking questions he has never been able to answer about the genocide he witnessed in Rwanda. The final portrait was of a young, battle weary, disconsolate soldier pictured sitting upon the steps of a five-quarter ambulance, head in hands suffering

terribly alone with the onset of PTSD "The Silent Killer".

Of greatest interest to the Vehicle Technicians was The LeBreton Exhibition. A superb collection of military technology in the form of numerous land based vehicles. Except where the damage to the vehicle was intended to be included, all displayed in excellent condition after years of laborious restoration. Pieces on display include, two variants of the Leopard tank, a Chieftain tank, a fully restored Soviet BMP Infantry Fighting Vehicle, many Iltis ranging from a TOW Missile variant to the exact one used during peacekeeping operations in Croatia in 1995, where on New Year's Eve, two Canadian soldiers were ambushed resulting in over forty bullets penetrating both the vehicle and unfortunately, the occupants as well. Col Johnston explained to us that when the vehicle was first displayed, two mannequins sat in the front seats , in complete combat uniform with old style webbing. The display raised such a controversy with visitors, museum officials decided "discretion being the better part of valor", to remove the soldiers, and utilized them in other exhibitions. There is the restored remains of a Valentine tank destroyed in Russia during World War Two, which just recently was recovered, refurbished and placed on display. Of much interest to our Weapons Technician, Corporal (soon to be

2 CER Maint Tp Professional Development Trip (continued)

Master Corporal) Fred Gagnon was the many assorted artillery pieces ranging from The Boer War to the Second World War and the many naval artillery. It would be remiss of me not to mention the dismay Cpl Gagnon felt upon sighting a decommissioned MacMillian Brothers Sniper Platform and a perfectly restored Soviet Draganov 50 caliber rifle. A CF-101 Voodoo mounted upon a pedestal was a crowd favorite with

from this vehicle to be used repeatedly in theatre. There was also a piece of aircraft wreckage from the World Trade Center terrorist bombing and materials from the 2004 Afghan Presidential election. Most unsettling to nearly all, textbooks bloodstained and charred, which had been recovered from a school boorishly burned to the ground by the Taliban. It encourages visitors to see the war in Afghanistan through the experiences

several of their visits to Afghanistan. This exhibition provides a hard look at an unfinished history.

In a moment of reflection, Col Johnston has charged us all, Corporal to Captain, to be exceptionally aware of the form in which our comrades, peers and dearest friends return to us from TFA theatre. His undying respect, knowledge of and love for the common soldier, be they either EME



all the EME personnel who have served previous tours with Canada's Air Command

The Afghanistan display encompasses a number of important artifacts to convey the experience of the current struggle. These include the wreckage of a Canadian G Wagon destroyed by a roadside bomb, which wounded three Canadian soldiers in December of 2005. As a side bar and once again connecting the museum to us, our own MCp. Wear removed the engine

of Canadians who have lived it and allows them to respond creatively and critically to the display by adding their own voices, memories or thoughts to the exhibition in several interactive stations. This compelling exhibition reminds visitors of the immediacy of history and the importance to their lives. Based principally on photographic and video records captured by Canadian journalists Stephen Thoren of The Canadian Press and Garth Pritchard, a freelance documentary filmmaker, during

technicians or Infanteers, has never been more openly displayed by the passion with which he insisted, now more than ever, we are a Family under Siege. One that must be protected nurtured and remembered until the very last soldier has eventually returned to his or her country, unit, family and home.

ARTE ET MARTE !!!

Leaving CFS Alert for the last time

By : Sgt L.C.M. Gilbert, Veh Tech, CTC HQ, CFB Gagetown

Mechanics have served at CFS Alert in the most northern part of Canada since the station's creation in 1958. This September, CFS Alert will be 50 years old, but the EME Branch will mark history by thinking about how we have to focus on other horizons. In May and June 2008, our vehicle technicians left CFS Alert for the last time on official tour because 70% of the military positions have been given to a civilian contractor. The people of the branch who have served in this part of the country have and will surely keep a very fond memory of their 182 days spent at the station. I have had the opportunity to serve twice in this very beautiful part of Canada, but this last time, I had the "real tour." After serving in Operation

Hurricane in Eureka in 2005, I wondered if I would have the chance to have a complete tour at Alert. In 2005, rumours were already circulating that several military positions were contracted out. In July 2007, I got the good news that I was going to have my chance at last.

Life at Alert was special. Everything revolved around the weekly supply flight that depended on weather conditions. Everyone from all the different trades had to work together as a seasoned team, or things would have turned out badly otherwise. Alert is no longer an isolated location. It is closer to Oslo, Norway or Moscow, Russia than to Edmonton, the largest and closest Canadian city . The technician team was comprised of five members, one sgt (S Maint O), one MCpl (2 IC) and three corporals (mechanic, craftsman, handyman, improviser, welder, caretaker,

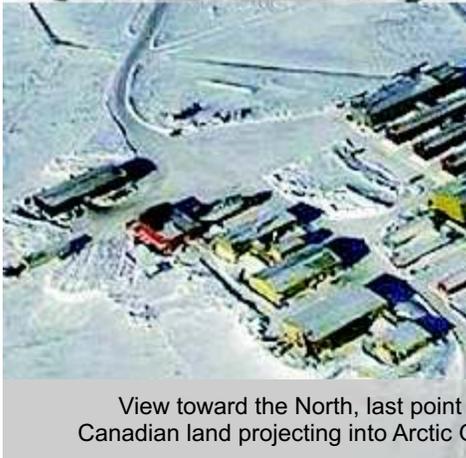
electrician, carpenter, plumber, snow remover and heavy equipment operator, to name some of the section members' sub-tasks). No matter our rank, we all had to lend a hand so that the station could operate. The time of year when I served is one of the worst: from November to May. The snow conditions are very different from those we experience to the South. Equipment breakdowns were frequent, and we had to work at night to keep the equipment going so that we could be ready before 8:30 and see the CC-130 Hercules land as it brought us our weekly supplies from CFB Trenton.

Different sections support Alert issue, and without their support, the station's survival could be compromised. All EME members had to go through Trenton in order to meet with personnel and be familiarized with their system before flying on to Alert. In this way, when we spoke on the telephone, we were familiar with the person at the other end of the line. When you are that far away from everything, it is very important to have a good relationship with those who support you when you need it in order to carry out your mission. Throughout our tour, the support of Trenton EME personnel was exemplary.

Besides the station's heavy equipment, the vehicle fleet is



Left to right (MCpl Martin Auger, Sgt Martin Gilbert, Cpl David Fortin, Cpl Nick Teske) and Cpl Tim Crews



View toward the North, last point of Canadian land projecting into Arctic Ocean

Leaving CFS Alert for the last time (continued)

comprised of F-350 trucks and BV-206's for different tasks, two 20-passenger buses, blower units for Case 621 loaders, some snowmobiles and four wheels for Environment Canada employees. Snowplows and blowers have been the major parts for our technicians. From Cpl to Sgt, everyone worked to ensure that the mission would be carried out. The task was also greatly eased with the help of our drivers during the busiest times. Having experienced drivers went a long way toward our success. Despite rocky starts for some individuals during their first days at the station, things went very well overall.

It is noteworthy that CFS Alert is the most northern permanently inhabited settlement in the world. Now that most of the military positions have been contracted out, life at the station will no longer be the same. Before these major changes occurred, the station was comprised of members of DND and Environment Canada

civilian employees, who formed the total population of CFS Alert, about 72 people. The last people to have served there are: Cpl Mike O'Kane (Gagetown), Cpl David Fortin (Valcartier), Cpl Nick Teske (Trenton), MCpl Martin Auger (Bagotville), Sgt Martin Gilbert (Gagetown) and Cpl Tim Crews (Petawawa), who came to help us for 10 weeks.

For the last time, EME technicians left CFS Alert. The only trace of them we could find in the near future is that the EME at CFB Trenton supports the station. Annual technical inspections will continue, and surely additional

support will be necessary at some point. No one can see the future, but one thing is sure: it will be full of challenges, and without the support of Trenton EME, all operations could not be as effective. No one knows if the EME may have another tour there. However, wherever we are, we will continue to honour our motto, "by skill and by fighting," and in the case of CFS Alert, it was a battle against the elements of nature Inuit Nunangata Ungata (beyond Inuit lands.)

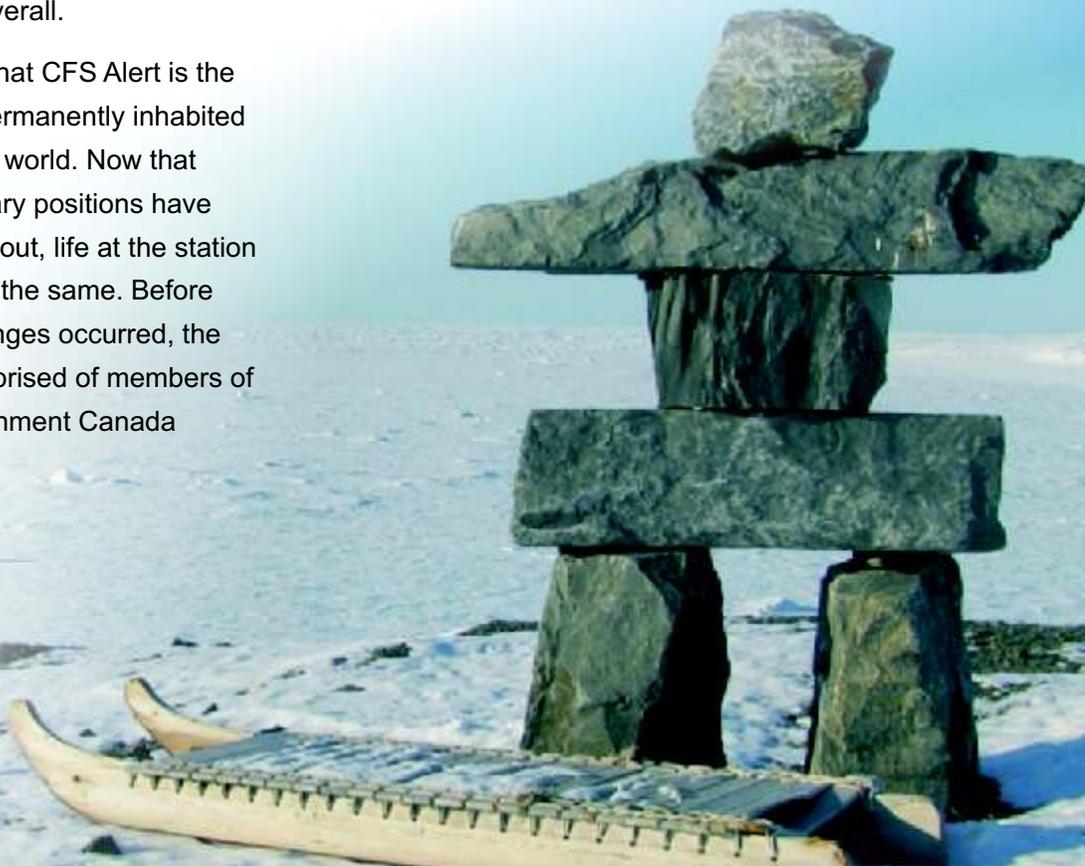


Photo d'un inuksuk en pierre (7248A)

Photo of an inuksuk very close to the station and erected by quarry members who work in the summer only. (Photos Sgt Gilbert)

The 55th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice

By : Larry Culos

Larry Culos, (RCEME Machinist), Delegate, and wife Marilyn, Caregiver, had the distinct honour to represent the RCEME Corps, and participate, for the first time, with the official Government of Canada Delegation that travelled to Korea to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice.

The delegation consisted of 5 Veteran Affairs Canada (VAC) Ministerial Staff, 4 Parliamentarians, 6 Veterans' Organization Representatives, 1 Canadian Forces Veteran, 36 Korean War Veterans of Canada, 22 Caregivers, 2 Youth Ambassadors, 3 Media Representatives, 4 Veterans Affairs Communications, 20 Veterans

Affairs Canada Staff and 7 Partners consisting of an Emcee, DND Directorate of History, DND Piper, DND Padre, DND Bugler and an RCMP representative totalling 110 pers. DND Military pers were also present in the capacity of present day Regiment or Corp representatives of those units engaged in the Korean War. The EME rep was Veh Tech Cpl. Dufour-Desgagnes, 5Bn du C, Valcartier PQ.

Never having participated in a function such as this where each Veteran was representing his or her Corps or Regiment, and Canada, the whole of this trip operated on a 7 STAR level of concern and solicitude

for both the Veteran and their Caregiver by the 20 Veterans' Affairs Canada Staff. We wanted for nothing and all concerns were rapidly dealt with to the person's satisfaction.

Transportation flights from Vancouver to Korea and return with a stopover in Anchorage Alaska for refuelling, and the flight from Seoul to Busan, was by DND Airbus. Land transport in Korea to all functions was by motor coach with Korean Police escort. Hotel accommodations, baggage, meals, and flights in Canada to and from home towns, were arranged by MKI Travel from Ottawa. All "out of pocket" expenses were reimbursed.



The 55th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice (continued)

Daily detailed timings were adhered to so that we could arrive at each function at an easy pace (top speed = 80 km/hr max) and also have time to observe the area we were visiting. Special permission was given to Stuart Gunn, RCR, to walk half way over Freedom Bridge, in the DMZ, as he had walked across it when he was released from captivity in north Korea. A Sunrise Ceremony at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan by the National Aboriginal Vets, National Metis Vets and First Nations Vets was held in the MicMac language prior to the Delegation ceremony at the same Cemetery. Visits to the DMZ Panmunjeom buildings where the Cease Fire was signed and Hill 355 where the PPCLI and RCR and R22R had significant battles were very stirring, and visits to the 6 Cemeteries, Korean War Memorials and Museum and Canadian Korean War memorial Gardens kept us very busy.

The weather for the entire trip was hot and humid and played havoc on pressed creases. One day our shirts were soaked and dried 3 times without taking them off!

We were supplied with pin-on Canadian Flags which the Vets distributed to the young children. The courtesy displayed by these children was very moving. Each Veteran and caregiver was presented with a fresh corsage by young girls and boys as

we debussed at the ROK National Cemetery, thanking us for what we did for their country which brought tears to many eyes.

The areas that the RCEME Workshops were in such as Sinsan-ni, Parani and the Chogam-ni Valley

are all under American or South Korean Armies coverage due to their proximity to the DMZ. The only town I remember is Munsan-ni and it is now the last town accessible without military permission, going north from Uijeongbu on MSR 1 (Main Supply Route).

Every one of the Vets commented that the country did not smell as it did 55 years ago! The agricultural areas are abundantly producing rice and ginseng and vegetables.

North American vehicles are almost nonexistent. Highways and bridges are of the latest design, inner city roads are 6 lanes going each way to accommodate all the traffic. All the cities and venues we visited are very clean and modern and you have a very secure feeling walking



anywhere.

This encapsulated write-up does not give the trip the description and lauds that it really deserves especially to those from VAC who organized and saw it to fruition. If further comments or photos are desired, just let me know.

As you can see from the pictures the RCEME Colours and Badge were on prominent display at each function whether indoors or outdoors, on our clothing, our luggage and the ever present RCEME coloured umbrella.

Again, thank you for this once in a lifetime opportunity.

EME Heritage Collection Welcomes Warrant Officer Digger

By : Capt R.J.G. Daviau



In the early 1990s, during the Canadian involvement in the Golan Heights, a dog born in or near the camp was found and adopted by EME Technicians. Over the years, he was promoted through the ranks to the rank of Warrant Officer in 2003. Like Sadie and Christine, Warrant Officer Digger is well known by many of our Technicians who have served throughout the years. His presence has done much to enhance the esprit de corps of the EME Branch.

After spending over 12 years in location, Warrant Officer Digger relocated to Canada and spent the last years of his life in Winnipeg under the comfort and care of Master Corporal (Retired) Brad

Belbin until his passing on 9 June 2006. The EME Branch Fund Board of Directors decided that Warrant Officer Digger should have a permanent home within the EME world.

Ms Dawn McCullough of Hughenden, Alberta volunteered her services to preserve Warrant Officer Digger. Warrant Officer Digger arrived on 9 October 2007 at Home Station,

Borden. During the 2007 Annual General Meeting of the EME Association, Master Corporal (Retired) Belbin officially presented Warrant Officer Digger and some of his personal effects to the EME Heritage Collection. The Branch Advisor, Colonel D.L. Wingert, accepted on behalf of the Branch. Warrant Officer Digger has taken his place in the EME Heritage Room.



Colonel Wingert accepting Warrant Officer Digger from Master Corporal (Retired) Belbin.

Cpl Benjamin



Cpl Benjamin currently works in 2 RCR Maint PI and was awarded the Millar Trophy for 2007. This award recognizes the top overall Cpl in 2 RCR, and is not normally awarded to tradesmen. Cpl Benjamin also

received a Task Force Commander's Accommodation for his dedication and hard work during deployment on TFA 1-07.

The RCEME Association's 30th Annual Reunion

By :Murray Johnston - Photos by Colin Cherry

"We are all family", noted Colonel Doug Wingert, the EME Branch Advisor. He was speaking at the Saturday evening Dinner-Dance of the RCEME Association's 30th annual reunion. "Yes indeed", I thought to myself, "He's right. The



EME Branch is a family. All of its Craftsmen, regular, reserve, retired, their families, EME units and associations such as the RCEME Association relate well with each other and, most importantly, help each other. That's what families do. It all stems from the high esprit de corps of all of our Craftsmen, their work hard - play hard team spirit, their cohesiveness and, perhaps most importantly, their pride in keeping equipment going - no matter what. It gives us a sense of purpose to all that we do. "In fact, on the basis of events at this reunion", I concluded, "You could say that the RCEME Association is a regimental association of the EME Regimental family."

The RCEME Association was formed in 1978 to preserve the RCEME name and RCEME traditions. It does

this by holding annual reunions each spring. A key to its success is that as a reunion closes, planning starts for the next. Another key is that there is a standing Reunion Planning Committee. This ensures planning continuity and consistency.

The 30th Annual Reunion was held from June 6 to 8, 2008 in Branch 560 of the Royal Canadian Legion on Montreal Road in Kingston. About 170 members, spouses or friends participated in the Reunion.

As Friday dawned, volunteers decorated the Legion Hall with a RCEME/EME theme, the EME Kitshop from Borden set up a sales display and the Reunion registration team prepared to welcome participants. The Reunion got underway in the afternoon as participants arrived, greetings were exchanged and refreshments ordered. Soon a noisy story-telling camaraderie settled over the hall as old friendships were renewed. Set out for all to see was a display of EME memorabilia including a special list of Corps and Branch Senior Appointments from 1935 to 2008. (This list, prepared under the leadership of Colin Cherry, will be posted on RCEME web sites.) As was expected several small changes were needed as a result of the close scrutiny of the list by many experts.

A group of 30 Craftsmen-Apprentices currently on course at CFSEME

arrived at 5:30 on time for the start of serving of the steak dinner. After introduction of the group by Armando Sabelli, the Association President, the Craftsmen-Apprentices were able to mix with other reunion participants, hear a few war stories and get to know some of them. (The Association has hosted groups of Craftsmen-Apprentices to reunions for the past several years as a way of helping them informally learn what a Craftsmen's life is like.)

The Association's Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday



morning. It opened with a moment's silence for fallen comrades led by Don Chisholm, the Association's Padre. After that, Don read out the names of approximately 120 former Craftsmen who had passed away the past year. These names have been added to the Association's Honour Roll which is a growing list, currently 872, of the names of deceased Craftsmen, RCOC(E), RCEME, LORE, EME. (This list is maintained by Don and is available on the RCEME Association web site.)

The RCEME Association's 30th Annual Reunion (continued)

The meeting then considered the financial statement and committee reports. A motion by one member proposed that the RCEME flag be flown regularly at the RCEME Gates and the EME Flag only on special occasions. After some intensive discussion it was decided that the proper flag to fly regularly was the EME flag because it represented all Craftsmen, pre-RCEME, RCEME, and post-RCEME.

This was followed by the election of new officers for the coming year. The Colonel Commandant, Col Gilles Nappert then swore in the new executive. The President for 2008-09 is Murray Johnston and the Vice-President is John Vass.

The meeting concluded with a comprehensive, informative update



Helen Chrisholm gives her meditation.

on EME Branch affairs by the Branch CWO, CWO Dan St-Jean. His presentation included many photos of EME Craftsmen in Afghanistan.

Saturday evening was the time for fun - the Dinner-Dance with the Past President as the host for the evening and LCol Louis Cyr, the Acting Base

Commander, and his wife as special guests. After the meal was served the President presented a special Certificate of Appreciation to Jerry Griffin thanking him for the special service that he

had given to the Association as a charter member, past President, past Reunion Committee Chairman and past Association Director. The guest-of-honour, Colonel Doug Wingert, then spoke about the "EME family" and presented, on behalf of the Branch, a special plaque to Don Campbell recognizing his service to the Branch as the Branch CWO during the early 1970s.

With speeches over, Don Wood the MC for the evening, got things rolling on the dance floor. With good music - some slow, some fast - and several spot prizes and lucky draw prizes, everyone relaxed and enjoyed themselves.

On Sunday morning the Reunion moved "up the hill" to McNaughton Barracks (the site of the old RCEME School) in Barriefield for a church parade. Those not marching gathered at the RCEME Gates. The marchers



Dorothy Kingston lays a wreath.

The RCEME Association's 30th Annual Reunion (continued)

formed up at the Thompson Drill Hall. Then under command of the President they marched to the RCEME Gates with the PWOR Pipe Band under command of its Pipe Major, John Vass, leading.



At the RCEME Gates Don Chisholm led the memorial service which included the laying of four wreaths in memory of; 1) Departed Comrades by Dorothy Kingston assisted by Gord Semegen, 2) RCEME Association by Danny Lyle assisted by Cpl Chris Irvin, 3) Serving Members by Col Doug Wingert assisted by CWO Dan St-Jean and 4) Families by Colin



Cherry assisted by his son, David Cherry. As a meditation Helen Chisholm spoke about families and their role to-day in support of the CF (see separate article elsewhere in this magazine). The parade then marched past and the Colonel Commandant, Colonel Gilles Nappert, took the

salute. All then moved back to the Legion for breakfast and farewells.

As I write this, Cliff Farmer, a charter member and Past President of the Association and Chairman of the Reunion Committee, is hard at work with his committee planning the next reunion, May 29 to 31, 2009. See you there . . .



The RCEME Association marchpast

Presentation of Duke of Edinburgh's Award to Pte C.K. Gervais

On 7 June 2008 Pte Carolyn Gervais was awarded the Gold Award of Achievement by His Royal Highness, Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex at a ceremony conducted at Havergal College in Toronto.



The Royal Highness The Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, KG, KCVO, SOM, presenting a Gold Award to Pte Carolyn Gervais on 7 June 08 at Havergal College, Toronto. (Credit: Grant W. Martin Photography)

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an individual achievement program tailor-made to help young people develop a sense of responsibility to themselves and their community. The Program now operates in over 108 countries and has been operating in Canada since 1963. The Award was founded by His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, to encourage personal development and community involvement for young people. The Program is open to every one between the ages of 14 and 25.

Pte Gervais first joined the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in 1999 as a member of St John's Ambulance 1041 Division. As a first aid instructor and first aider in support of numerous large-scale events, she has successfully achieved all three Award

levels. She is a Serving Member of the Order of St John and has a 12 year Service Medal. She has been involved in providing first aid coverage for events such as the Ottawa Super Ex, Canada Day celebrations on Parliament Hill and the Queen's Jubilee.

Pte Gervais has been a member of the CF since August 2007 and is currently undergoing Vehicle Technician training at the Canadian Forces School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (CFSEME) in Borden.

Winners of the EME Branch Fund Scholarships and Bursary Awards for 2008

EME Branch Bursary awarded to Ayla Radies



From left to right:

Mrs W. Radies (Mother), MWO D.L. Radies, (Father), Ayla Radies, Maj G.H. Edwards (OC Maint Coy 1 Svc Bn) & MWO R.C. Waugh (LFWA EME Branch Rep).

EME Branch Bursary awarded to Blake Williams



From left to right:

Mcpl D.D Williams (Father), Blake Williams, Maj G.H. Edwards (OC Maint Coy 1 Svc Bn) & MWO R.C. Waugh (LFWA EME Branch Rep)

Other Winners for 2008

LFCA - Ms Sonia German, Petawawa, ON

LFQA - Mr Mikael Landry, L'Ancienne Lorette, QC

NCR, Air Force & Navy
Ms Amy Belliveau, Trenton, ON

LFDTs - Mr Derek Gagnon, Wasaga Beach, ON and,

Ms Bethany Read, Barrie, ON

Barrie Dragon Boat Race 2007

By : Maj Ray Wong, OC Veh Coy, CFSEME

CFSEME entered a team in the 5th Annual Barrie Dragon Boat Race which was held on 25 Aug 07 at Kempenfelt Bay in Barrie. The 21 person all-rookie team, sporting red CFSEME T-shirts and so aptly dubbed Crimson Tide, placed second in both its race heats. Due to ongoing stormy weather, the race was called early and team finishes were tabulated based on aggregate times. The first heat was over a 500m distance and then reduced to 400m for the second heat as the waves became choppy. The Crimson Tide finished the second heat with a time of 2:12:15 minutes, which placed the

team the first amongst the five CFB Borden military entries and an amazing fourth overall from a field of 58 teams, many of which were seasoned competitors. As the top military entry, CFSEME won the Calian Challenge Trophy. The fourth place overall finish had the team slotted in the Platinum Division, the elite of 6 Divisions. The Crimson Tide missed third place overall by only 3 seconds and first place by 10 seconds! CFSEME intends to enter a team next year to recapture the Calian Challenge Trophy and to top its fourth place finish!

In addition to its work on the water, the Crimson Tide raised \$1000 in support of the Borden Family Resources Centre.

Arte et Marte
(By Skill and By Fighting)

Dragon Boat Photo

CFSEME Dragon Boat Team "Crimson Tide" during School PT Parade on 26 Sep 07, proudly displaying the Calian Trophy and individual medals as the top military team in the 2007 Barrie Dragon Boat Festival.

Kneeling (L-R): Lt Shing-Fai Yuen, MCpl John Hibbert.

Front row (L-R): Lt Jessica Ross, WO Diane Gallant, LS Linda McGill, MCpl Julie Leblanc, Maj Ray Wong (Team Capt), Maj Paul Hallett, Capt Shaun D'Souza.

Back row (L-R): Sgt Darren Cassell, MCpl Don McGill, Sgt Michael Sparks (Team 2IC), Capt Karen Poirier.



Missing from Photo:
Capt Roger Cairns, Capt Yaw Dankwa, WO Chris Brown,
Sgt Denise Smith, Pte John Sommers, Ron Smith, Tracey Coleman, Sara Hallett.

The EME Branch, Regional and National Awards

The Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Branch, Regional and National Awards are presented annually to a deserving regular or reserve military member of the EME Branch, to an associated civilian employee, or to a unit or sub-unit in recognition of a significant and outstanding contribution to the EME Branch within each of the Regions. The evaluation period was from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. The contribution is recognized by awarding a \$200 prize to the winner of the Regional Award along with a certificate. The National award winner is presented with a \$500 cash prize and a certificate of recognition. The award recognizes achievement or performance that is outstanding in nature and which has contributed significantly to any aspect of EME Branch activities (may result from a unique occurrence); or outstanding performance that is not adequately recognized by any other incentive awards.

LFWA

Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Maintenance Troop, represented by: Cpl Poelzer and MCpl Banks.



Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Maintenance Troop is awarded the EME Branch Advisor LFWA Region Award. Responsible for preparing tanks for theatre and developing the scale of parts to be shipped into Afghanistan, Maintenance Troop of the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) played a pivotal role in supporting Canadian Forces objectives. For the past two years, the members of Maintenance Troop have dedicated themselves to supporting LdSH(RC) Leopard Squadrons deploying to Afghanistan by providing

personnel to each and every rotation while supporting continuous training cycles in support of deployment preparations. The 'lead by example' professionalism, strong morale and the innovation of all members of Maintenance Troop LdSH(RC) have been essential to successfully deploying and employing this critical capability during operations in JTF Afghanistan and has brought credit to themselves and the EME Branch.

Air/Maritime Command

A.W. Stutzinger is awarded the EME Branch Advisor Air and Maritime Command Region Award in recognition of his professionalism and untiring dedication. His extensive trade knowledge and extraordinary work ethic has enabled him to balance the inherent administrative duties and an increased workload in the absence of subordinates within the Weapons Section. These traits were noted by the



countless hours that he has devoted outside of the normal working day in order to ensure the completion of priority tasks and that all deadlines were met without exception. Sgt Stutzinger takes on all challenges with an unwavering professional attitude and a tireless desire to achieve optimum results

CFSEME, LFDTS, CFSTG CFSEME

Material Platoon, represented by MWO Osbourne.



Material Platoon and their associated standards staff are awarded the EME Branch Advisor CFSEME / LFDTS and CFSTG regional award for their dedication, enterprise and hard work in producing technical training of the highest quality. They have produced

The EME Branch, Regional and National Awards (continued)

innovative suggestions, overcome significant resistance to change, and delivered training that is operationally focused, effective and cost effective. They have proved exceptionally loyal, professional and fiercely proud of their trade and their cap badge.

LFCA

MCpl Keeping is awarded the Branch Advisor LFCA Region Award for the exemplary leadership and job performance,

which allowed 2 Fd Wksp to meet mission requirements and help with force generation. His



contributions to the Coy improved training and tracking of over 250 personnel. MCpl Keeping's contributions over the past year have been invaluable. At every opportunity, he worked to uphold the Branch's core characteristics and pass them on to others.

202 WD, NCR, Northern Region

Cpl Gagnon is awarded the Branch Advisor National Award for the National Capital Region, 202 Workshop Depot and



Northern Region. Cpl Gagnon performed exceptionally well and gave proof of an outstanding work ethic. As section assistant, he supervised his subordinates with consummate skill, infecting them with his zeal and his pride in carrying out complex tasks. He served as an ongoing inspiration to his troops, his peers and even his supervisors, displaying unswerving loyalty to all levels of the chain of command.

LFQA / National Winner

MCpl Veilleux is awarded the Branch Advisor LFQA Region Award. He served as leader of the Mobile Repair Team in the National Support Element Maintenance Company during Op ATHENA ROTO 4. MCpl Veilleux's actions helped to spread the fundamental values of the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Branch through all training and operational phases of Joint Task Force Afghanistan. Through his leadership, his professionalism and his skills as a craftsman, he has proven to be a model "leader-soldier-technician" for his comrades at arms in the EME Branch.



LFAA

Cpl Benjamin is awarded the Branch Advisor LFAA Region Award for his dedication and outstanding knowledge, which greatly contributed to the successful deployment of 2 RCR BG on TF 1-07. Cpl Benjamin's contribution to the H Coy Combat Team during Sustained Combat Operations exemplified the EME motto "Arte et Marte". His hard work earned him a TF Commanders Commendation and respect of all members of 2 RCR as seen when he was recently awarded the Miller Trophy, as the 2 RCR soldier of the year.



64th anniversary of the EME Branch in Afghanistan

By : Cpl S.T. MacDonald, Veh Tech, NSE Maint Coy

It was the 64th anniversary of the EME Branch, and here at KAF, the day started out right for us. Our flag mysteriously appeared in a place of honour, flying from the highest point at Kandahar Airfield (KAF). It is unknown who the perpetrators were, but they should be proud of a job well done.

As can be expected in theatre, there is a ton of work to be done, but as the morning progressed, the focus shifted

shot to pieces. This was followed by an opportunity to test our marksmanship with 9mm handguns and to try out the 12 gauge shotguns. It was an excellent start to the festivities and everyone had a great time. Many thanks to WO John Yoshida, Ancillary Platoon Warrant Officer, for taking the time to set that up for us and for his fine introduction.

Back at the RG shop, the grills were fired up and the cooking began. Our

Before digging into supper, we engaged in a little relay race planned by Sgt Dana Andrews, IC A Veh. It involved a Bison scramble, creeper race, spikes pounded into wood with the round end of a ball peen hammer, field stripping a C7, water carries, along with a lot of cheering, suggestions from the crowd and laughter by all.

As we bellied up to the table for supper,



and preparations began for our EME Day celebrations. Supplies were gathered, the RG shop was prepared, and volunteers came in from all over to help set up. The work never stops though, so a few of the boys kept wrenches in hand to provide service to our loyal customers.

The afternoon began at the ranges with a turkey shoot, targets generously provided by the ET, MWO DeRuiter. The ET dressed up in costume for the target picture and the targets were then

chefs for the evening were Sgt Brian Holmes, Vehicle Platoon Warrant Officer, Zack Kidd, an EROC FSR specializing in the Buffalo, and Al Brown from the American FSR group, a friend of Zack's working in the American compound who came along to help out. These fellows absolutely outdid themselves, turning out a feast of lobster, steak, chicken and bratwurst. Thanks to Zack and Al for volunteering their time and grill skills, and to Sgt Holmes for all his efforts in putting our EME Day celebrations together.

there were a few speeches and a presentation to the winner of the turkey shoot. A beautifully sewn EME flag, donated by Major Rogers, OC of NSE Maintenance, was presented to Holger Seesko, a Leopard FSR and new turkey shoot champ.

With full bellies and drinks in hand, everyone sat back and enjoyed a well-earned evening of conversation and relaxation.

continued page 31 ...Anniversary

Exercise BV-Tale

By : WO Lomond, 17 Wing Winnipeg

During training operations on 16 April 2008 conducted by Canadian Forces School of Survival and Aero Medical Training (CFSSAT) students were being transported from the training area near Nopiming Provincial Park at the end of their Basic Survival Course. The BV206 broke through the ice after crossing over top of a beaver dam and proceeded to take on water through the empty hull plug holes. Extreme warm temperatures from the previous week followed by cool temperatures had left the instructors with poor ice conditions on their regularly traveled routes.



True to tradition, EME was quick to respond to the challenge. First to respond was Cpl Paul Kuras and Cpl Vance Taylor who quickly loaded up a second BV206 and headed off to the casualty. Upon arrival it was quickly realized that the swamped BV206 was unreachable. Standing between them and the casualty was a river crossing that proved to be too much for the BV206 to navigate, or so they thought.

A map recce was conducted of the area, and a secondary route was established. Another attempt was made, this time the BV206 was able to



The ET was presented with an appropriate hat on 16 May

make the river crossing although at times it seemed like everyone inside would learn to swim. We were able to follow the tree line and make our way to the casualty. Several recovery attempts were made utilizing the self recovery winch on the BV206, we were unsuccessful due to our own BV quickly sinking into swampy marsh surrounding the casualty. It became apparent that we were going to require more assets to perform this recovery.

Like all good EME Techs not wanting to give up or admit defeat, we decided to make one more attempt. Unfortunately with the continuing thaw, this time the river showed who was boss. The result was almost losing our own vehicle and going for a swim in the process. (Sgt now WO Lomond the author of this article left out a few details. He neglected to mention that he was

driving on this attempt see picture as to why our D6 dozer was called into play after this attempt.)

After some thought and debate the only plausible way to recover the BV206 was a joint operation between EME and the Air Force and to have the BV air lifted to dry ground.



Phase one of joint operations was conducted on the 5th May by 17 Wing 435sqn SAR and EME represented by WO Roberts and MWO Karsten. An

Exercise BV-Tale (continued)



aerial Recce was conducted to determine if there was any other access route available and to get

photos of the current scene.

A team was assembled on 12th May to make their way into the recovery site

and prepare the BV206 for air lifting. They utilized ATVs by floating them across the river on top of a zodiac but the swampy terrain proved to be too much.

Two days later we were back at it. The only vehicle able to make it all the way to the casualty was an Argo driven by our own ET, MWO Duke Karsten with Cpl Paul Kuras as co-driver. Together they installed the lifting eyes and prepared the vehicle to be air transported.

Currently the BV206 sits in its water tomb waiting to be rescued. Stay tuned for the last chapter or a four seasons picture of "BV-Tale". Many details that are better left unpublished to come in a power point presentation, available end of summer 2008.



EME Soldiers Compete at World Lifesaving Championship

By : Cpl P.E. Miller, Mat Sec W&E

During the recent World Lifesaving Championship in Warnemunde, and Berlin Germany, 1/3 of the CISM men's team competing for the Canadian Armed Forces Team was made up of EME personnel from CFB Petawawa's 2 Service Battalion, myself, Cpl Peter Miller and Lt. Alex Bronson. Third and first year CISM swimmers respectively.

The World Lifesaving Championship consisted of both pool and beach events over an eight day time frame. The competition showcased the expertise of the competitors in all aspects of lifesaving events, from paddle board race circuits to beach sprints and 2km beach runs, conducted at Warnemunde Beach, to pool events ranging from 25 to 200 meters done in the forms of relays and/or individual events, held at a pool in Berlin.

During the course of the competition both Lt Bronson and I performed at a level that enabled us to advance to both quarter and semi finals against professional athletes from around the world. Competing at this level requires both a dedication and commitment which would not have been possible without the support of 2 Service Battalion.

What has come out of these types of competitions for me is the knowledge that the opportunity to compete is available to all members of the Canadian Military. Not only at the

international level, but at the grass roots level as well. The realization that more personnel should have this opportunity, has encouraged me to get involved in the early stages of developing a "Multi Sport Club", in Petawawa for military

members. The main objective of the Multi Sport Club is to gather athletes from various backgrounds including, but not limited to running, biking, swimming and/or lifesaving & triathlon events to train together. The Multi Sport Club would enable athletes from multiple sports backgrounds to share their strong points with others, while training in a team atmosphere, a first in the Canadian Forces. We are hoping to have the club up and running by mid Oct 08.

The military has taught each of us many lessons on teamwork and commitment. With sport we can improve the knowledge base we have acquired as individual soldiers and/or technicians. Involvement in sport will not only improve our personal fitness level, which enables us to carry out our daily duties as soldiers with the



Canadian Military, it also brings us a little closer to accomplishing some of our personal goals, leading to a more confident soldier. Whether that goal be competing in your first triathlon and/or Ironman competition on an international stage, or simply feeling better in your abilities to perform the physical aspects of your respective trades, or anything in between.

For more information on the Multi Sport Clubs standing and how you can get involved while posted to or visiting CFB Petawawa, please feel free to contact me at millerpe@forces.gc.ca , or you can contact the Military Sports Department at DDH.

She was an EME officer destined to be a pioneer in the CF

By : Lt (N) Michèle Tremblay, Public Affairs Officer 5 ASG

In memory of Colonel Karen Ritchie



We the military community have lost a highly professional EME officer and most of all, a role model for men and women who were inspired by her ethical leadership. Colonel Karen Ritchie who was in command of 5 Area Support Group, passed away suddenly in a tragic car accident last 13 October 2008. The military and civilian community remembers her as an 'Army girl' who was genuine, kind, giving with a strong character.

After 28 years of service, Colonel

Karen Ritchie was a highly devoted army officer who made an impression everywhere she served. Most notably, her intuitiveness, sense of innovation and dynamic personality were key during her posting to Director General Land Equipment Program where, with the assistance of the Munitions Experimental Test Centre, she developed an extensive program to rapidly increase the survivability of the numerous Land Force armoured vehicle fleets, explained her engineering colleague and RMC classmate, retired Colonel Serge Carignan, Director Combat Support Equipment Management.

Since June 2007, Colonel Ritchie was in command of over sixty sites, the three Garrisons in Quebec and approximately 4000 military and civilian members, all part of the 5 Area Support Group. "Un commandant valorisé et adoré, un leader charismatique, empathique..." were the words expressed by Lieutenant-General Andrew Leslie,

Chief of the Land Staff.

Originally from England, she moved to Canada with her family in July 1973 and settled in an Ontario community where her options in life seemed limitless. "My parents had instilled in me the concept that I could do anything that I chose in life," stated Colonel Ritchie during an interview last year for e-Veritas, the RMC club of Canada newsletter. Since her enrolment she was destined to be a pioneer in the CF as she was among the first woman to graduate from the Royal Military College of Canada with an engineering degree and reach the senior officer ranks. Notably, she became a role model for many young women by sharing her personal experiences. In her own words for e-Veritas, she had described her start in the CF, "I entered RMC as a young, naïve teenager and graduated as a 21 year old army officer. Although I had traveled extensively as a child, I still had led a rather sheltered life and RMC certainly introduced me to the realities of a professional career. My self confidence and self discipline improved vastly over the five years I spent at the College and on summer training. I learned a second language that has opened my eyes to an entirely new Canadian culture."

... Col Ritchie

Throughout her career, Colonel Ritchie was a key contributor in such portfolios as gender integration in the CF and for participating on a NATO committee regarding fair treatment of women. In a speech captured by Army News about gender integration, Colonel Ritchie stated, "I think we have come so far. Today, I work in an army formation where, I see youth men and women working together in complete teams and gender doesn't seem to be an issue at all." Her observation on the issue she explained, "Men and women are different; that is a fact of life. We share many common abilities but we also bring different skill sets and approaches to the table..." Her message to young leaders was to always be proud of who and what you are. "Most of all, you must be yourself," shared Colonel Ritchie with her audience. Colonel Karen Ritchie will be remembered for being an outstanding and proud army officer, woman and genuine friend to many.

... CWO Message

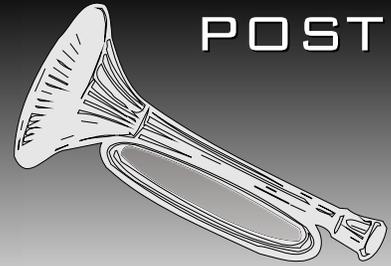
is influencing someone right now. It's up to you to make it a positive experience to unsuspecting future leaders.

Arte et Marte

... Anniversary

All in all, it was an excellent EME Day celebration. It gave us all an opportunity to get together, swap stories, relax and be proud of the EME Branch and all of our accomplishments.

LAST POST



ROBERTS, Scott Michael (Corporal)

At the age of 25 years, passed away after a bike accident north of Edmonton, on June 14, 2008.

KIMMERER, Oliver 'Kim' (Retired Captain)

At the age of 79 years, passed away while sleeping after a pneumonia and ailments from diabetes at the Southlake Regional Health Center, on July 18, 2008.

LUNDRIGAN, Michelle (Master Corporal)

Died suddenly after a car accident on July 25, 2008.

SHAW, Wilbert 'Bert' (Retired RCEME Major)

At the age of 84 years, World War II veteran, died from cancer, on August 19, 2008.

DURETTE, Gino (Retired Corporal)

Passed away at the Oromocto Hospital on December, 17, 2008.

RITCHIE, Karen (Colonel)

It is with deep regret that we inform you of the death of Col. Karen Ritchie. At the age of 45 years, was killed in a car accident in Burlington, on October 13, 2008.

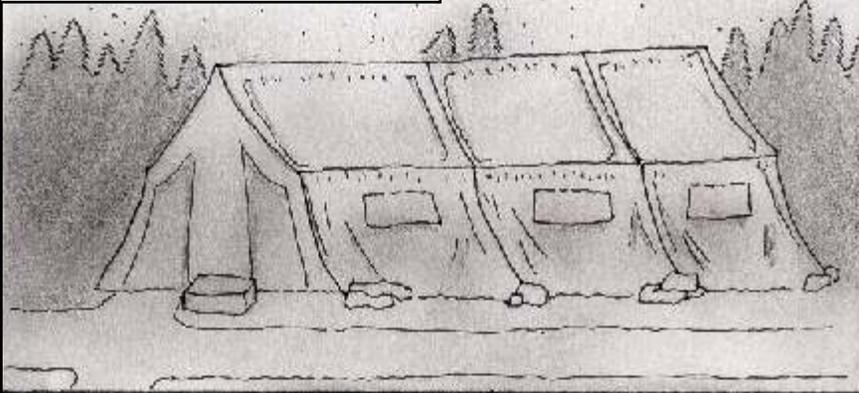


Murphy's law

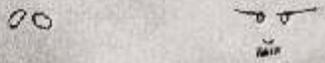
The adventures of Sgt Murphy and Cfn Bloggins by Mcol A. Courchesne

The important things are always simple - The simple things are always hard

Exercise alpha, delta, charlie,
Maintenance Tent, O'dark silly, black out...



is it ready ?



Won't be
much longer Sgt...



It wasn't going
to be much longer
10 minutes ago...

I'll run the food
to the others...



FINE

Ouuu food...

OM
NOM
NOM
NOM

I see that
the quality of
rations hasn't
improved
over the last
20 years...

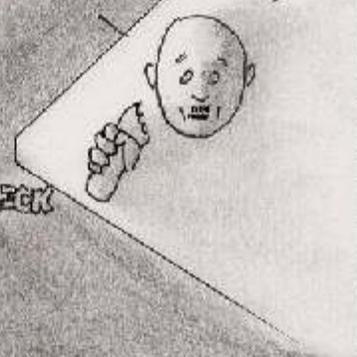
NOM
NOM
NOM

Back with
your food Sgt



What?!
I already have
my food...

What are you
doing with
boot Insole ?



GLEEK