

NATIONAL CAPITAL LAD #104 – NEWSLETTER - MAR 2021



The President's Corner

Bob Vincent (aka: La Grand Pubba)

This Pandemic is getting a bit wearing, don't you think? I know we are all looking forward to the day when life gets back to normal although I don't think the new normal will be exactly like the normal, we hope to return to. From my perspective as President of LAD 104 it is challenging to look forward and forecast what we, as a group, would like to do.

I think a very important part of our LAD life, is social. This part of our lives has been sporadic since the pandemic started. We have a number of activities involving retired RCEME members such as Spanner Bowling (no skill required) and monthly coffee gatherings (which take place weekly in normal times and you have to attend to learn how monthly became weekly). We don't have enough activities involving both the retiree community and those still in uniform.

There are also informal yet important activities which have been ongoing such as word of mouth passing of information when a member, especially in the retiree community, needs help for whatever reason. It's hard to shovel a driveway when your leg is broken.

Your executive has been busy while in lockdown. Terry White has been wrestling with the Corps Adjutant over which members are in good standing (dues paid) and the transfer of members from one LAD to another (people may be retired but they still move around). Terry is a key player in passing information around. Phil Whitehead has been working on projects such as this newsletter and working with me on Honours and Awards. Before Christmas we submitted two nominations for Lifetime Membership in the RCEME Guild, both of which were successful. Congratulations go out to Doug Knight and Ron Roy.

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I would be remis at this time, if I did not welcome our newest member of the NCR LAD, Colonel (Ret'd) Nishika Jardine, our new Veteran Ombudsman. Welcome back to the City of brotherly love and home of Paul Anka.

“What to do next?” is a question that continues to haunt me. Several members have asked why we don't have more Zoom meetings. We could, especially now that Howie Higuchi has made himself available to act as Moderator and set things up. The two Zoom meetings that we have had were needed to pass important information and to get approval for the expenditure of LAD funds. I see no immediate need for a “Business” meeting but am quite open to a more “Social” meeting, perhaps once a month. I would like some feedback on having more Zoom meetings. In the meantime, here are some events that should be coming up as the months move on. It is wise to keep in mind during these pandemic times that good advance planning takes time and thought. Cancellations, not so much, so with that in mind here are some upcoming events to look for.

Opening of RCEME Museum -TBA

LAD 104 NCR zoom meeting – 15 April 2021 at 1900 hrs.

Blue Bell in May

Kingston LAD reunion early June – planning in progress- TBA

RCEME National Golf Tournament- plans are underway for 4,5,& 6th August.

Our first LAD post pandemic- in person ‘meet and greet’ October 2021- Timing TBA

Should we as an LAD undertake projects? For example, Doug Knight who has devoted a lot of time to the RCEME Corps Archives, has suggested the following: “It might be useful to have an index or table of contents for the EME Journals. There are a couple of partials (a four-year index in the RCEME Quarterly 1949 to 1952 and an EME Journal index from 1968 to 1994 (under all the journal names). Some of the individual issues in the other years have a TOC and some do not. All the periodicals are on the Internet Archive, so access is easy for download. Spreadsheet works. A bit soul-destroying drudgery, but also some cool memories. If the spreadsheet is set up right, then you can make a searchable pdf of the spreadsheet and use your pdf search engine as an index.” If there are members of the LAD who are interested in helping out with Doug's suggested

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project or have other Corps related projects in mind, please let us know what you think.

I would like to close this column by ordering everyone of you to a Needles Parade, but I can't. I am optimistic that we will all have had our "jabs" by July and be able to get together in person, without masks, shake hands and have a drink. Until then share your good news and not so good news. Let me and the other members of the LAD Executive know what you think the LAD should be doing and how you would like to actively participate.

Arte et Marte

Bob

*'Just saying...*In democracy your vote counts, in feudalism your count votes.

Secretary/Treasurers Perch

Terry White (aka: Pubba comptroller)

Our RCME Guild business year runs from 1 Jan to the following 31 Dec each year. It's that wonderful time of the year to issue the call for your 2021 LAD dues. We would normally do this at an actual, in person meeting, but you know that story. So, if you've not done it yet, now is the time.

Ah, Great! How much do I owe, how do you want it and where do I send it? We're now geared to take e-transfers to the LAD. Give me a call 613-841-3740 for details. For those of you retirees who are paying by cheque to the LAD, Secretary/Treasurer, I am eagerly waiting. Please send cheques for \$24.00, made out to the RCME Guild. Send them via snail mail to **Terry White**

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(white.ta@rogers.com) Sec/Treasurer NCRLAD#104, 1783 Hennessy Crescent, Orleans, ON., K4A 3X1.

I deposit the \$24.00 into the RCEME Guild bank account, next January the Guild remits \$12.00 back to the NCR LAD for each paid up retired member to cover 2021.

Terry

'Did you know?' BUYING THE FARM - This is synonymous with dying.

During WW1 U.S. soldiers were given life insurance policies worth \$5,000. This was about the price of an average farm, so if you died, you "bought the farm" for your survivors.

THE PADRE'S PARABLES Reverend Don Chisholm CD

After 30 years in RCEME (1952/1982), I would like to share some personal insights available to RCEME techs. While servicing a vehicle on exercise, a senior officer "under the influence" came to take a vehicle. When he got into the vehicle, I informed him that the vehicle was "*grounded for safety reasons*". He said "I will take another one" I said they are ALL grounded. He said "you can't do that" I took a Grounded Sticker and said if you take one you will have to sign here that you have taken an *unsafe vehicle* and you will be responsible for any accident. I remember him mumbling something as he stumbled away.

When I was called out on a recovery call in Camp Utopia, NB, on arrival I found a 3/4 ton, laying on its side in the ditch. While I was preparing to recover it, the Battery Commander and Battery Sgt. Major came along and stopped to see what was going on. I explained what I was doing, and they said I wasn't doing it right. I asked if they wanted to do it themselves. They said yes. So, I unhooked everything, packed up and drove back to camp. Upon my arrival, the LAD officer

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was at the front on our building waiting for me. He had received a call from the Battery Commander that I had left. I said, they told me that they could do it better than me. It seems that is not true. He said I would have to go back. I said, not until those two are back here. You can send someone else. My officer called them back and told them that. I left to complete my job when I saw them coming through the main gate.

I travelled to Norway (ACE Force) on the **HMCS Provider** and while unloading in Bardufoss, Norway, a Black Watch soldier was tasked with moving the trucks as they were being unloaded into a Landing Craft. A deuce ½ was in the Landing Craft and it was not moving. The ship's XO screamed down at him and he yelled back "if you can do better, you come and do it". I recognized that this wasn't going to turn out great so I jumped aboard the Landing Craft and grabbed the soldier and put him in the Coxswain's waiting room. I moved the 21/2 ton just as the XO arrived on board. "Where is he?" "I don't know sir". I went to the Capt. of the Landing Craft and asked him to wait for a few seconds before he sailed so that I could get my friend back on board. I told the soldier that I would complete his task.

There will be times when your sense of responsibility and your authority will be tested.

Until next time,

Blessings.

Padre Don

OK...are you ready for this?

- Remember.... Practice safe eating - always use condiments.
- And, finally some good news. . That man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered..

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CORPS OF RCEME deaths in 2021

Apps, Gerald, “Gerry“ Carl	Jan. 21, 2021
Atkinson, Kenneth “Ken” W	Feb. 11, 2021
Dunsmore, John Duncan, “Dunc”	Feb. 22, 2021
Glassford, Timothy “Tim” Robert	Jan. 31, 2021
Hurgett, David “Dave”	Jan. 18, 2021
Hutson, Frederick George	Jan. 23, 2021
McWilliams, Donald “Don”	Feb. 5, 2021
Miller, Gordon Wilfred	Jan. 28, 2021
Pilgrim, Ronald “Ron”	Jan. 06, 2021
Plaster, William “Bill” Henry Sheldon	Jan. 4, 2021
Stooke, Robert “Bob”	Feb. 12, 2021

Did you know ? BARRELS OF OIL- When the first oil wells were drilled, they had made no provision for storing the liquid so they used water barrels. That is why, to this day, we speak of barrels of oil rather than gallons.

RCEME Heritage and Museum Foundation Update January 2021

Col (Retd) Tom Temple. Secretary

The RCEME Heritage and Museum Foundation achieved official charitable status from CRA on 18 January, 2019 with our first Board of Directors meeting following in October. The official purpose of the Foundation is:

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“To preserve and perpetuate the heritage of the RCEME Corps of the Canadian Armed Forces by financially supporting the RCEME Museum facilities, heritage projects, and related educational programs with a view to commemorating the RCEME Corps Legacy and educating the public about it”

As you may all be aware, there is already a RCEME Heritage Committee (the museum is part of this) responsible for preserving and perpetuating the heritage of our Corps. The RCEME Guild has oversight of this committee, and the RCEME Council has oversight over them all. So, what is the difference between the RCEME Corps, Guild and the Foundation?

The RCEME Corps and Guild will jointly decide, plan, and execute all heritage priorities. The Foundation is there primarily to assist financially and also provides advice in establishing heritage priorities. The Foundation can seek financial donations unencumbered by DND Non-Public Property limitations, although still constrained by CRA rules, regulations, and bureaucracy. The most significant limitations are that the Foundation support must be within the approved purpose, and must remain at arms-length from the RCEME Corps.

Our immediate focus is to address the sustainment of the present museum and support to other heritage projects, with a view to long term projects such as the RCEME 100th, and the next phase of the RCEME Museum. As a Foundation BOD of RCEME Retirees, there is a wealth of professional expertise in managing problems, but a significant void of experience in the complex world of big-league fundraising. So, as we move forward, we will continue to work with the Corps and Guild to develop the financial requirements, and concurrently have engaged some industry professionals to help develop both a strategic fundraising plan and the right team to help us meet our goals.

Arte et Marte

Tom

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Remember...Never buy flowers from a monk. Only you can prevent florist friars.

Ok, enough with the groaner puns, eh? We'll close off this edition of the NCR spring news letter with a gentle reminder to set your clocks ahead one hour this Sunday, March 14th, at 0200 for daylight savings time. We can all use a little more light each day, especially if it is sunny and warm. Stay safe.

Arte et Marte

Phil

VP (aka: da mini pubba)