

NCR LAD #104 - NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2021



Presidential Ponderings

Bob Vincent - President NCR LAD # 104

Dogs chase cars. What do they do when they catch one? We have been weathering a pandemic and are now trying to figure out what we are going to do afterwards because things will not be exactly the same. Optimists among us, and I am one, believe that by September we will be able to have in person meetings. Maybe masks off but maybe not. Consequently we, the LAD executive, have been working to develop a program for the 2021/2022 period which involves real people doing things together. We are going to begin our year on 23 September with a meet and greet at the Holland Armoury on Walkley Rd. The aim is to congratulate each other for being survivors and to welcome new members. If we can't have a "reality" meeting, we will have a "virtual" one if for no other reason than to introduce new members and present our proposed program. A couple of the people we hope to introduce is our new Regional Rep, LCol Marc-André Brassard, accompanied by CWO Todd Greening.

As we prepare for the coming season we are wrestling with a number of considerations.

How many formal meetings should we have? The constitution says one at which the members confirm the executive.

How many and what kind of activities should we have or participate in? Bluebell is one where we participate. Helping out at the Army Run was another. Should we help Kingston with the RCME Reunion?

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How many mixed social events should we have? Our traditional Christmas charitable fund raiser has been one. Should there be an LAD 104 dinner?

What about things educational? What's happening at the War Museum that we should take advantage of? Can we get Col (Ret'd) Jardine, our Veterans Ombudsman, as a guest speaker?

The LAD Executive can use help in putting a plan for the coming season together. Input from serving members is particularly desired. Otherwise we end up with a program that is retiree oriented and we miss out on the opportunity to socialize with multiple generations of RCME members. The following is a strawman of meetings/events that we are looking at. These are up for discussion at our planned meeting on September 23rd.

- 11 November: War Museum for a remembrance observance – mixed event.
- 09 December- Annual Christmas charity fundraiser & bottle exchange, with proceeds to a charity – mixed event.
- January/February – no meeting
- February - RCME Museum visit to Kingston – mixed event.
- March – Meeting at Holland Armories – Guest speaker – mixed event.
- April - no meeting
- May – no meeting
- June – to be discussed.

I see our task at the LAD as bringing the NCR RCME family together in such a way that we all have a good time and benefit from knowing each other. Let's all try to make the 2021/2022 LAD year positive and memorable.

Bob

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Secretary/Treasurer's Perch

Terry White

Reference: CONSTITUTION OF THE GUILD OF THE CORPS, BY-LAW NUMBER ONE

First let's start with all of the lawyer talk (due diligence), **By-Law One should be consulted for full details of the benefits and restrictions.**

Part 2 is a continuation of the benefits provided by your membership dues.

BENEFITS FOR THE CORPS COMMUNITY

Director RCME Awards The intent of this benefit is to foster esprit de corps and recognize outstanding efforts by members of the RCME Corps Community, including the RCME Cadets and to provide the recipients with a cash award. Nominations are to be submitted as required in the annual call letter.

Regular Force Awards for the best regional nominee from each of the following; 4 Divisions, NCR, Northern & OP Commands and the people in blue, the RCAF The selected person receives an award of \$200 and a framed certificate.

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National award of \$500 and framed certificate will be awarded to the best over recipients one of the seven regional nominees.

RCEME Army Cadet Award. The National Office of the Army Cadet League of Canada nomination for the top RCEME Army Cadet from across Canada will receive a cash award of \$200 and a framed certificate. The runner up will receive a cash award of \$100 and a framed certificate.

Reserve Craftsman Award The best Reserve RCEME Craftsman from Canada will receive a cash award of \$200 and a framed certificate.

Retiree Award The retiree who among his/her peers is deemed to have made the most significant contribution to the RCEME Corps community over the past year will receive a cash award of \$200 and a framed certificate.

RCEME Craftsman/Second Lieutenant Team Sponsorship This benefit is to support and encourage the participation of Craftsmen and Second Lieutenants in the Regional Golf and Curling RCEME Sporting Events. The sponsorship award will cover the team registration cost or \$300, whichever is less.

Light Aid Detachment Network Disbursement This benefit is to support and foster the establishment and growth of the Light Aid Detachment (LAD) network across Canada by providing an annual disbursement. The disbursement is an amount equal to 50% of the LAD dues paid to the Guild.

Board of Directors Support to Light Aid Detachments. Funds are set aside to assist travel by the Chair or a designated RCEME senior officer to a LAD requested function that cannot be achieved by concurrent official travel.

Annual Stables benefit is to foster the bonds of comradeship and the traditions of the RCEME Corps, as well as to offer an opportunity for retired members and serving particularly apprentices and subalterns, to meet and interact by holding an Annual RCEME Stables, normally in the fall, to include a day programme and closing dinner.

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Arte et Marte Artwork Competition is presently dormant.

National Remembrance Day Wreath is to provide a RCEME Guild wreath annually to be laid at the RCEME Gates on Remembrance Day

RCEME Army Cadet Corps Outreach programme is to foster a positive public image as well as the traditions of the RCEME Corps as they are embodied within the RCEME Army Cadet Corps across Canada.

Cadet Unit Award has not yet been developed.

Support to Cadets provides for the purchase of accoutrements.

Courtesy Gifts

43. **F**rom time to time the RCEME Corps will receive or host visiting members of foreign forces, dignitaries or other honoured guests on occasions of special significance. In accordance with NPP guidelines. Annually, the Guild will establish an amount to procure or maintain a small supply of suitable mementos, the distribution of which will normally be authorized by the DRCEME or the Chair of the Administrative Committee. Requests for courtesy gifts for visits occurring outside the NCR or CFB Borden should be forwarded to the Corps Adjutant by the Senior Regional Representative of the hosting area no less than 30 days before the anticipated visit.

Terry

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Veteran's House - The Andy Carswell Center

Joel Vansnick

It is well known that homelessness is on the rise in Ottawa and across the country, among those are hundreds of Veterans, individual's that at one time signed on the dotted line and served their country. A veteran is a person who has served in the Canadian Arm Forces, Reserve Force and the RCMP. The Royal Canadian Legion has been advocating and offering help to homeless veterans for decades, but it was apparent that even with all the services that the legion provides, that they need help with housing.

In 2001, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Ottawa came together with Jewish and Muslim communities to take action against the rising problem of homelessness and lack of affordable housing in the city of Ottawa. Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) was established as a Canadian non-profit charitable organization in 2002 and has since grown into a coalition of over 80 faith communities including Christian, Jews, Muslims, Hindu, Unitarians, Baha'i and other faiths from across the city of Ottawa. These members are dedicated to achieving MHI's goal to create more affordable housing in Ottawa while promoting tolerance and respect among residents of all faiths.

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As of 2021, MHI owns and operates 179 affordable rental units across the city, providing safe, secure rental housing for some of Ottawa's most vulnerable population, including veterans. The units are home to more than 450 people, many of whom are children, and they are supported by the MHI faith community members as well as members from various veteran associations who give countless hours of volunteer support to maintain our properties as well as provide individual support to each household to help maintain a positive residency.

Over 6 years ago, MHI's Executive Director Suzanne Le pitched an idea to Canada Lands Company to build some affordable housing units on the former Rockcliffe Airbase. Several years later, with support from the Surplus Federal Real Property for Homelessness Initiative (SFRPHI), MHI acquired approximately one acre of property on which to build a dedicated Veterans' House: the Andy Carswell Building.

On September 3, 2019, MHI began construction of a three story 40-unit supportive housing community that will ensure veterans have access to stable housing and supportive services to recover from their physical health, mental health and addiction issues. Built on the former CFB Rockcliffe (now renamed Wateridge Village), we feel strongly that serving our veterans who are most in need - those who are living rough on our Canadian streets - is the absolute best way of commemorating the military history of that land.

In addition to the private bachelor units there will be an emphasis on communal spaces, designed specifically to meet the "grouping" needs of the military culture. Outdoor spaces will include quiet sitting areas as well as space to accommodate the needs of residents with service dogs and outdoor garden space for the adventurous veterans that wishes to grow their own vegetables.

The Royal Canadian Legion (RCL) has identified \$200k for peer support, they have an agreement with Algonquin College Dental Section to provide dental services, they also have an agreement with the Ontario Provincial Police that once a person living rough has been identified, as a Veteran that the RCL will be notified and

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support will be administered. ***Donations to the RCL Veterans House Office of Primary Interest and District G Veterans Services are welcomed***, these donations are to help the Veteran with their Day-to-Day issues and needs.

Veterans' House will target the needs solely and specifically of homeless veterans who are living rough. The supportive housing model will help these individuals:

- Gain stable housing
- Recover from health, mental health and addiction-related issues
- Improve their overall quality of life, as well as the lives of their families who are unable to provide them with the support that they need.

Joel

Editor's note: Joel is the recently retired Commander of District G - Royal Canadian Legion-Ontario Command. He is also one of our esteemed LAD members. Joel was intimately involved in helping to make The Andy Carswell Center a reality. He is currently still actively involved with support and has graciously offered to arrange a tour of that wonderful facility for interested LAD members. As your V Pres, I have had the pleasure of a tour, it is beautifully designed, functional and fitting for veteran needs. If you are interested in a tour contact Joel directly, at 613-447-1957.

Phil

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RCEME Officer Update

From the desk of the RCEME Officer Advisor – Major Greg King

OFFICER – The EME Officer trade is currently filled at approximately 92%, with the bulk of unfilled positions residing at the Major level. The imbalance is a result of a limited pool of qualified senior Captains. The challenge lies in managing the distribution of vacancies while allowing sufficient time for Junior Officers to develop. The current plan is to continue to ensure input levels are maximizing the throughput capacity of the RCEME School each year. Effort is also underway to revamp the current Officer Development Program (ODP) to better sequence courses to employment roles by introducing an ODP 2.1 as a pre-Maintenance Officer course. This training alignment will also see greater emphasis on LEMS Domains and Engineering Tasks to better position EME Officers for the future operating environment.

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LEET – The Land Equipment Engineering Technologist (LEET) occupation, MOSID 00388, was formally created on 31 May 2021. LEET is based on a Feeder-Receptor model where the four RCME trades will merge into LEET upon promotion to the rank of WO. This change in occupation reflects the requirement for our Senior NCOs to generalize their knowledge as they move off the production floor into more managerial positions. Secondly, it creates and standardizes a training program to evolve technicians into technologists, which will come with a new set of responsibilities with higher levels of technical authority. The next major activity for the LEET occupation will be the creation of the new training courses for WOs and MWOs.

Arte et Marte

Greg King



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Materials Technician Update

*From the desk of the Materials Technician Trades Advisor – Major
BWN Wagner*

Materials Technicians continues to provide excellent support to the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and its broad scope of equipment. Despite certain challenges, the trade continues to posture itself to remain the material experts, and to provide the right operational effects for the CAF.

With the implementation of the revised trade structure from the recent Military Employment Structure (MES) review, and creation of the Land Engineering Equipment Technologist (LEET) trade for Warrant Officers and above, the trade finds itself well-staffed. As of 20 August 2021, there were 287 trained Material Technicians from Craftsmen to Sergeant, reflecting a CAF staffing level of 121%. To align with the new MES, the RCME School is revising the Materials Technician training path over the next several years. Development Period (DP) 1 and 2 will be updated to reflect new materials tasks, including computer aided design (CAD), rough carpentry, protective coatings, and machining. Additionally, a DP 3 course will be re-implemented, with a focus on failure analysis, technical investigations, and developing repair weld instructions.

The Materials Technician trade faces several challenges, most notably the struggle to update training and remain material experts of constantly developing materials, such as composites, across the whole scope of CAF equipment. To maintain their operational relevance, additional qualifications for Materials Technicians are being explored. A titanium welding course has been developed to support the M777 Howitzer, which will be implemented once COVID-19 restrictions permit. Work continues with the Quality Engineering Test Establishment (QETE) to implement a formal non-destructive testing (NDT) certification, which will provide Materials Technicians the tools to support wider Material Assurance initiatives, such as armoured hull cracking investigations. Materials Technicians continue to push the boundaries with grassroots Additive Manufacturing (AM) capabilities as well, providing local support to their units. As

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AM technology matures and is more widely adopted by the CAF, Materials Technicians will have a pivotal role to play in the design and creation of AM parts.

As seen during COVID-19 with the emergency production of personal protective equipment, Materials Technicians provide a unique capability integral to the CAF. Despite the health of the trade though, their workload remains high. With the increased containerization of many fleets, including the new Medium Support Vehicle System and upcoming Logistics Vehicle Modernization Project, more and more inspections will be needed as well. The RCME Corps is monitoring this challenge and will assist as necessary, but is proud that the trade has forged an excellent reputation and is in such high demand.

Looking to the future, the strength of the Materials Technician trade will continue to be in its technicians' ability to innovate. Following in the footsteps of their predecessors, the next generation of Materials Technicians will also be the material experts the CAF needs. With developing materials technologies, such as composites and AM, it is certainly an exciting time to be in the trade!

Arte et Marte

B Wagner



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Weapons Technician Update

From the desk of the Weapons Technician Trades Advisor – Major EA Wong

Overall, the Weapons Technician trade is doing well and not experiencing any staffing issues, with over 90% of positions filled as of July 2021. As always, there are a few challenges facing the trade, the main ones being foreign weapons training and support to high security containers.

The support framework for non-service and foreign weapons (NSWs) was written in 2000 and no longer reflects the current situation. Currently, the majority of NSWs held by units do not have a designated Technical Authority (TA). The absence a TA, when combined with an outdated support framework, leaves Weapons Technicians without adequate guidance on repair and disposal for the weapons in question. Previously when the NSWs were acquired, they were likely cataloged with either the repair code of A (Non-repairable), or D (Repair 2nd line workshops only). However, since the implementation of DRMIS this is no longer an option as DRMIS requires specific repairability lines. In efforts to provide a better support framework, the RCEME Corps is working with Canadian Army Headquarters to establish a viable sustainment framework, to include direction on authorization to fire NSWs.

The Weapons Technician Trade is continually reviewing their training to ensure that it is accurate and up-to-date. An ongoing initiative is to examine the Developmental Period 3 (DP3) Course, as it includes a portion on NSWs. Once a new support framework is established, it will be integrated into the DP3 course. Ideally the new support framework and course revision will facilitate the procurement of ammunition and parts for the NSWs as both are required for the Certification to Fire and the range portions of the DP3 course. The Assistant Occupational Advisor is working with instructors and Weapons Technician Senior

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Occupational Advisor at the RCME School to determine what the impacts to the course will be should the availability of spare parts and ammunition not improve.

Weapons Technicians are multi-talented, and one such role includes support to high security containers. However, the ability to support these containers is changing. The RCMP are the responsible authority, setting the standards regarding the production of high security containers as well as policies and procedures for forcible entries. With most of the containers currently in use by the CAF no longer in production, the ability to teach entering and repairing the security containers is in question. The RCME School, the Occupational Advisory Team, and other subject matter experts are working together to find a viable solution which will teach students this skill without unnecessarily destroying limited resources

With a look to the future, some organizations are beginning to harness new technology in new and innovative ways. As an example, Additive Manufacturing is being used to create a training-aids for Weapons Technicians. With continuing advances in technology, it is exciting to see what the future will bring for the Trade.

ARTE ET MARTE

Erica Wong



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RCEME Heritage & Museum Foundation

Bob Fischer - Chairman

Some of you may not be aware that the RCEME Heritage and Museum Foundation was approved by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) as a registered charitable organization in January 2019 with the primary purpose of supporting programs that recognize the rich history and traditions of our Corps and was incorporated by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada in June 2019 as a registered, Not-for-Profit organization. The RCEME Foundation will solicit support from a wide range of Canadians, including serving and retired RCEME members, other private donors, and corporate as well as public sponsors. This financial support will be used to fund a wide range of RCEME heritage and museum projects that include the operation of the RCEME Museum, museum facility improvements and expansion, the preservation of artifacts, and the conduct of major Corps celebrations in keeping with CRA guidelines.

The Foundation's current Board of Directors consists of the following retired members of the Corps:

Chairman, Bob Fischer

Vice Chairman, Bill Brewer

Secretary, Ken Jones

Treasurer, Jean Forget

Director, Ken Beselt

Director, Malcolm Campbell

Director, Charles Jansen

Director, Guy Roy

Director, Ryan Jestin

Director, Scott Kennedy

Director, Peter Holt

Director, David Thompson

Ex-Officio Member, Tom Temple

Ex-Officio Member, Camil Giguère

Ex-Officio Member, Dan Roy

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In addition to the Board, the Foundation is fortunate to have access to a large pool of technical and managerial expertise from volunteer retired RCME members. Think of them as Friends of the RCME Foundation. Our thanks to Alec Patch, Steve Poole, Chuck Shawcross as well as Nishika Jardine for their contributions. If you're interested in getting involved and lending us your skills and expertise, please contact Ken Jones: jones_ke@hotmail.com

At their spring 2021 meeting, the RCME Council approved the Foundation's proposal to make the RCME Museum one of the first digitized museums among the more than 70 military museums supported by the Canadian Forces. This will exponentially increase access to the physical museum as well as provide online access to many RCME artifacts which the museum has been unable to display because of space constraints. One of the first manifestations of this project will be the digitization of the "Book of Remembrance" which originated with Murray Johnston and Doug Knight and more recently, developed as a digital project by Tom Temple, Gilles Nappert and Lindsay Graham. The next step will be to digitize the "Honours, Decorations and Medals" document and make them both available on the museum's future website. We are also in the process of developing a "Virtual Museum Tour" which should help attract more in-person visitors. To help us fund these and other exciting digitization projects, we have taken the first step towards applying for a grant from Digital Museums Canada, as well, we're hopeful that the Corps will receive financial support from the Directorate of History and Heritage at DND. Notwithstanding the possibility of obtaining DMC and DHH financial assistance, we will still need your support to achieve our vision for a state-of-the-art digital museum which we can all be proud of.

This brings me to the most important topic; fundraising. If any of you have been involved with a Not-for-Profit organization, you know that to succeed, the organization relies heavily on its volunteers and their ability to reach out to various donor communities to raise the funds required to achieve its goals.

Unfortunately, reaching out to the thousands of RCME retirees has been challenging. We're working with the Corps Adjutant to find a way to reach out to members of the RCME Guild which will also respect privacy considerations. We've tried to take advantage of various RCME Facebook Groups to spread the

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word about our Foundation (and will continue to do so) but social media platforms are not ideally suited for fundraising. Until we launch the Foundation's website later this fall, we have created a donor account with CanadaHelps, if you would like to make a donation, you can find us on the Corps website <https://rcemecorpsgemrc.ca> or go to the CanadaHelps website at: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/explore/charities/?q=RCEME>.

Why not consider making a \$25/month donation, you'll be surprised how easy it is on your pocketbook and because we are a Not-for-Profit organization, you will be issued with a tax receipt.

Bob



This edition will be the last in our series of interim newsletters. The NCR LAD Exec hopes that you've found them an effective communication medium and had as much fun reading them as we had, in putting them together. Effective September 23, 2021 in person meetings will be re-instituted at the Holland Armoury Officer's Mess, on Walkely Road at 1900 hrs., providing that Covid protocol doesn't intervene.