



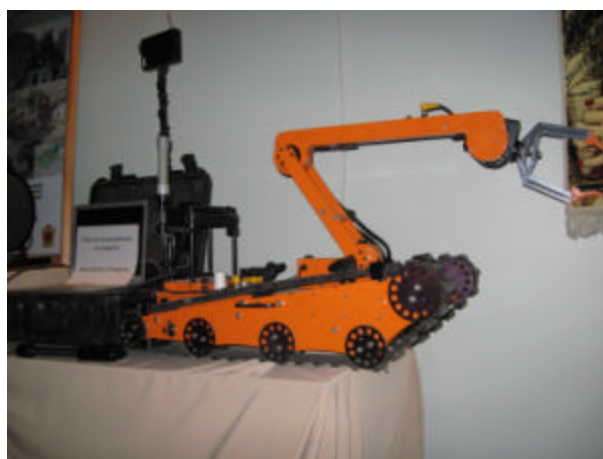
The Canadian Military Engineers Museum Newsletter



July 2008 (Summer Edition)

The Canadian Military Engineers Museum collects, conserves, interprets and exhibits materials reflecting the history of the Canadian Military Engineer Branch and its antecedents to educate Branch members of their history and to inform the public of the contributions of the Canadian Military Engineers in peace and war during the development of Canada.

Vanguard ROV Arrives from Afghanistan



The Museum received a Vanguard Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) that had been used in Afghanistan to clear Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). The vehicle was damaged beyond repair by an explosion and returned to Canada in 2007.

The vehicle, its command console and peripheral devices arrived in the Museum in February and all have been installed in the Modern Operations exhibit about Engineers in Afghanistan.

New C.N. Mitchell, VC Artefact

A brick removed from the curtain wall of one of the bridges defended by Captain C.N. Mitchell and his small troop the night of 8-9 October 1918 arrived at the Museum in January. It was immediately installed in the Mitchell's Victoria Cross exhibit.



Private Cash Donations Used for Artefact Purchase

Monetary donations to the Museum in 2007 and 2008 has allowed for the purchase of new artefacts. DHH funding to CF Museums cannot be used for artefact purchase, so individual donations were utilized to acquire items that would not otherwise have been

accessible to the Museum. Cash donations to the Museum are used in other areas as needed by operational demands.

In June, the Museum was able to purchase a barking spud (left) to install with the rosser in the Pioneer Tools Exhibit and to acquire an Edward VII Royal Canadian Engineers ranks cap badge (right). This compliments the officer's badge already in the collection.



New Exhibit Cases and Mannequins Purchased

The substantial grant received in 2007 from DHH was further expended this winter to purchase new cabinets for the exhibition hall. The Museum was granted a MILIP Project in June that saw students on Construction Tech Apprenticeship (DP-1) Session 0035 install the new cases and finish preparations to a new exhibit area.

The medals collection on exhibit is being moved from large Victorian cube cases to the new wall-mounted cases. This will allow for better interpretation of the medals and will show them to better advantage. The Victorian cases will be used in other areas of the exhibition hall.

16 custom-made clothing conservation forms and articulated mannequins were also purchased to exhibit more uniforms. To date, only 16 uniforms had been on exhibit, leaving a large gap in uniform interpretation.

New Museum Executive Officer Arriving Soon

Major Andre Tondreau, Museum Executive Officer since June 2007 has been posted to Ottawa. His successor has yet to be named. **Captain J.N. Mahoney** of the Army Dive Centre is Acting MXO until Major Tondreau's replacement arrives.

Museum Staff and Volunteers wish him and his family all the best in their new home and look forward to meeting the new Executive Officer.

New Title for Training Resource Centre/Museum Sergeant

Sergeant John Wilt assumed a new title in January. He is now **Chief Instructor, Heritage and Culture** and staffs the Training Resource Centre that co-exists in the Museum's Administration office. This reflects the work he does providing tours and heritage instruction to courses at CFSME.

In addition, Sgt Wilt looks after all logistical liaison in support of Museum activities and tasks too numerous to list.

Co-Op Student Chris Bourne Joins the Museum



Oromocto High School student **Chris Bourne** joined the Museum on a Co-Op placement during his final term at school. Interested in joining the Canadian Forces, Chris was also interested in learning first hand what was involved in the museum business.

Chris assisted staff with research, starting a periodicals index, and scanning images for the new Photograph Index system. He also learned about cataloguing procedures and assisted with the updating of exhibits installed in 2007. His crowning achievement was identifying a set of very touching photographs of a Tunnelling Company during WWI that were submitted to a Toronto production company who are creating a Remembrance Day documentary for the History Channel.

Chris has begun the process of enlisting in the Canadian Forces and is thinking of Communications or Heavy Equipment as trade options.

Volunteers, Taskings and Behind-the-Scenes Workers

Holding Troop provided four Personnel Awaiting Training to the Museum this winter. **Privates Reid, Cole, MacCann and Dickey** provided assistance with artefact administration, conservation treatment and updating the Sappers Biography Index.

Sgt Connors of the Army Dive Centre worked on improvements to the Combat Divers exhibit. Due to the operational requirement for the equipment exhibited in 2007, the exhibit was partly dismantled until decommissioned equipment could be secured for the exhibit. The equipment now seen was used until about 2000.

Mrs. Linda Waite is the unsung hero who makes sure all of our exhibit labels and other literature is properly translated into French. She provides translations for small items and co-ordinates larger items with the Translation Bureau. With exhibits being updated regularly and with the Sappers' Loft Exhibit Case changing quarterly, the Museum relies heavily on her skills.

Off-Site Researchers are Busy Beavers

The CME Museum regularly receives requests to assist in research via the RESEARCH feature on the web site. Such requests arrive about every second week for **Ken Holmes** and his Canadian Military Engineers Association network assist with answering an array of questions.

In addition to the numerous requests for service records of Engineers who served in World War II, these active seekers have taken on a number of distinct projects, including:

Cpl James Hendry, GC: In August, a Memorial Cairn to Cpl Hendry will be unveiled in Scotland.

Major John J. Denovan: As a young officer he was largely responsible for the early concepts of the family of Armoured Engineer vehicles and personally led much of the trials and development.

Sapper John Duncan: One of those 'needle in a haystack' requests that may see some success. Just before he died in 1988 he told the family his name is on a plaque in England but he couldn't find the name of the town.

Major General Roger celebrated his 100th birthday 30 November 2007. He is one of the finest staff officers produced by the Canadian Army during WW II. We collaborated with Vic Johnson on the research that resulted in the release of a CHIMO Communique to recognize the general's contributions. See http://www.cmea-agmc.ca/info_Communiqes_e.asp

23rd Field Company – Operation BERLIN: We have been working for several years to assist researchers of this operation. A feature book on the unit and Operation BERLIN will be published this fall. Recently, we were able to assist an Ottawa-area Junior School with their research for an *Historica* (history fair) competition. Their research won them the Ottawa competition and took them to the provincial history competition.

Sappers Biography Project

The large number of biographical sketches and *curricula vitae* held in the Museum are being indexed for easier access by researchers. They had been collected over the past fifty years through donations and research on individuals. New entries are being added monthly through the Atlantic Retired Sappers Association project to collect biographical material on the service of its members. This effort is headed by long-time volunteer **David Appleby**.

Several members from Holding Troop have been doing the data entry from the Museum's files, as has **Ms. Jacqueline Martin** of the Area Engineer's Office who has been volunteering her time to the project.

Saint John River Floods – AGAIN!

Museum Staff stood-by to assist the Lord Beaverbrook Gallery in Fredericton to deal with the rising Saint John River. The Beaverbrook Gallery has a well-established disaster response programme, but as the CME Museum was in no danger, its staff decided to offer themselves as volunteers to agencies that might need them.

As it turns out, the CME Museum did not have to deploy.

Record Numbers Visit the Renovated Museum

2007 saw the number of visitors to the museum begin to climb again after an almost 9% drop in traffic in 2006 over 2005. 2007 numbers were slightly higher than the average traffic for the previous two years.

The first third of 2008 saw the number of visitors reach over 75% of the annual average number of visitors for the previous three years. By the end of May, the number of visitors reached 89% of the traffic average for the previous three years with the busiest season for visitors yet to happen.

Museum visitors include serving and retired military members, including CFSME students; civilian tourists and children's and adult groups. The Museum also travels into the community with small exhibits for special events.

The Museum Goes on the Road

The CME Museum was invited by the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) to present a small exhibit for a formal tea to honour the Female Veterans of World War II and the Korean War at Saint Anne's Court in Fredericton on May 20th.

In addition to the VON and Royal Canadian Legion Branch 4, guests on hand to honour the servicewomen were the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, The Honourable Herménégilde Chaisson; the Mayor of Fredericton, His Worship Brad Woodside and CFB Gagetown Commanding Officer, Colonel K. Chadder.



Artefacts exhibited (pictured at left) included walking sticks, mess china from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, a knitted Izzy Doll that had travelled to Afghanistan and letters received by Canadian Military Engineers serving in Afghanistan that were written by Ontario school children as part of the *Write to the Troops* programme .

New Monument Added to the Museum's Guardianship

On 20 June, the CFSME unveiled a renewed monument to the memory of those lost in the 1988 Sleese Range Incident. The plaque that had previously been mounted to their memory was re-located to the central crossroad hallway of the School after being re-mounted on an attractive black granite monument.

Members of the Engineer community and relatives of the people commemorated were in attendance for the emotional unveiling ceremony.

The Museum provides care and guardianship to memorials, monuments, mascots and trophies on behalf of the Branch and School.

Coming Soon to the CME Museum

Visit our Armed Forces Day exhibit at Old Government House, August 4th.

Mitchell VC Night, 8-9 October, marks the 90th anniversary of Captain Coulson Norman Mitchell's heroic action at Cambrai that earned him the Victoria Cross.