



The Canadian Military Engineers Museum Newsletter



December 2008 (Winter 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.

Thank You to Our Donors and Friends

The Canadian Military Engineers Museum thanks all the individuals and organizations who have supported us in the past year. Be it through volunteering time, assisting with research, donating artefacts, financial gifts or providing services, the continued well-being of the Museum depends on the support of Friends.

1st Field Company, RCE, Veterans Association
David Appleby
Atlantic Retired Sappers Association
Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering sections that provided services and personnel for Museum projects
Canadian Forces Units that transferred artefacts and documents and provided other support services
Canadian Military Engineer Units that transferred artefacts and documents
Canadian Military Engineers Association
Canadian Military Engineers Museum Association
Canadian War Museum
Tony Chevalier
Archie Demeria
Adele Dibben
Directorate of History and Heritage
Don Duplisea
Elizabeth A. Grant
Ken Holmes
L. Martin LeSage
P.D. Madic
Ralph McKinnon
Ian McLeod
Non Public Funds Section, 3 Area Support Group
Retired Sappers Reunion – Chilliwack
Mr. & Mrs. Laurie Robichaud
Royal Military College of Canada
John A. Summerfield
Ruby Tondreau
Linda Waite

And those who wished to remain Anonymous.

New Curator Joins Staff



Photograph by Joanne Boyd

In July 2008, Sandra Johnson Penney was hired as Curator. Sandra holds a Bachelor of Arts in Mediaeval History and Renaissance Literature and a Diploma in Museum Studies. She also underwent extensive apprenticeship training under Gordon McLauchlan, Conservator and former Curator of the Shearwater Aviation Museum.

Sandra began her Museum career in 1990 as a researcher at the Shearwater Aviation Museum while still a student before being hired there as the Registrar and later as a Collections Manager.

After three years as a volunteer in several eastern Ontario museums, she was hired as a Project Co-Ordinator at the Allan Macpherson House in 2000 and was appointed Curator/Director in 2001. She served in that post until her husband was posted to Gagetown in 2004 when she began as a volunteer at the CME Museum. After several short contracts as Assistant Curator, she was hired in July 2008 in the post of Curator.

The Sappers' Wall

Created in 2003 as part of the 100th Anniversary of Canadian Military Engineering, the Sappers' Wall is a monument to those who served in Canadian Military Engineering units. The Sappers' Wall is located on the grounds of the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering near the Museum.

As of October 2008, 147 bricks had been sold and engraved with the names and service dates of past and serving members.

The sale of 256 more bricks will finalize the cost of building the Wall and all further bricks sold will directly support the operation of the Museum.

Bricks can be purchased by contacting the Museum for an order form at the addresses at the end of the Newsletter.

A New Engineers' Vehicle Park is on the Way

The Museum is undertaking a new project to get the vehicles in the collection on exhibit to the public. We are planning a park on an area of land near CFB Gagetown's South Gate, opposite the Explosives Dry Training Area, that will feature Engineer vehicles and bridges currently in storage away from public view. The first phase of refurbishing the vehicles has begun with a grant from the Directorate of History and Heritage.

The new park has yet to be given a name, but one will be chosen that is inclusive of all aspects of Canadian Military Engineering and will not be confused with Sappers Park at Chilliwack, British Columbia.



This crane now stored at a Base vehicle compound is only one of several vehicles awaiting installation in the new outdoor exhibit area being developed.

Other vehicles are being stored around the Base in areas inaccessible to visitors.

90th Anniversary for C.N. Mitchell's Victoria Cross

On October 8th, a parade was held in front of the Mitchell Building at the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering to commemorate the actions that Captain Coulson Norman Mitchell undertook the night of 8-9 October 1918. His dedication to the mission that night earned him the Canadian Military Engineers' only Victoria Cross.

To mark the occasion, the Museum brought out the Victoria Cross to be exhibited in the main hall of the School under the watchful eye of an honour guard of Engineers awaiting trades training as part of Holding Troop.



The Holding Troop honour guard with the Coulson N. Mitchell medals - a rare opportunity in a young Engineer's career.

The Nova Scotia International Air Show

In September, the Museum sent a contingent to the Nova Scotia International Air Show at Robert Stanfield International Airport at Halifax, Nova Scotia. Sandra Johnson Penney, Sgt John Wilt and Pte Kathryn Cole set up and manned a travelling exhibit to bring the CME Museum to the Nova Scotia aviation enthusiasts' community.

Exhibiting as part of *Camp CANADA*, the Army portion of the ground display, the Museum nestled among the *Aardvark* mine-clearing vehicle and other Engineering vehicles from 4 Engineer Support Regiment and the Canadian Forces Armoured School. In spite of deteriorating weather with the approach of Tropical Storm Hanna, about 775 people walked through the Museum's tent to see what the CME Museum had to offer.

Scheduled as a two-day event, heavy weather kept Saturday's aerial display to a minimum and cancelled the Sunday show completely.



Pte Kat Cole sets up the souvenirs and the touch exhibit inside the CME Museum tent.



The Museum tent at *Camp CANADA*.

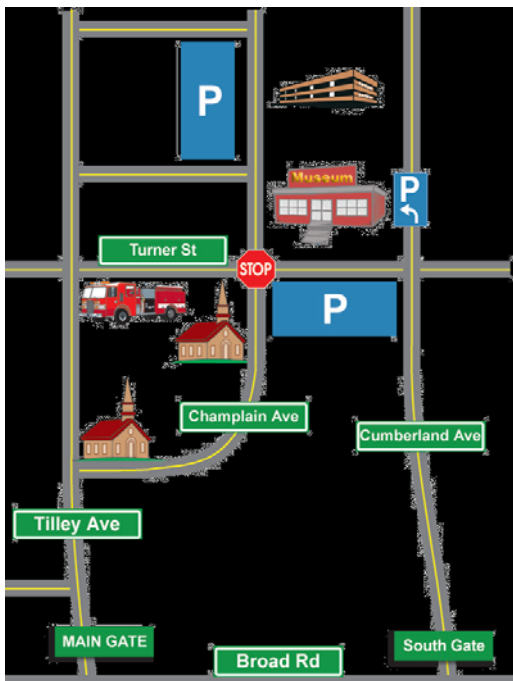
The Year In Review

2008 has been a banner year in the Museum's development, and the numbers show it!

Total visitation to the Museum was 2220, up from an average of 1379 over the previous three years. An additional 1200 people visited exhibits mounted at other locations.

105 acquisitions were added to the artefact register in 2008, with in excess of 660 items being added to the collection.

How to Find and Contact the Canadian Military Engineers Museum



Canadian Military Engineers Museum

Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering
J-10 Mitchell Building
Canadian Forces Base/Area Support Group Gagetown
PO Box CP 17000, Station Forces
Oromocto, NB E2V 4J5

Website: www.cmemuseum.ca

E-mail: General: CMEMUSEUM@forces.gc.ca
Or cfsme@nb.aibn.com

Curator: Sandra.Johnson-Penney@forces.gc.ca

Telephone : (506) 422-2000 local 1897

Fax: (506) 422-1220

The map shows our location in the Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering at Base Gagetown at the corner of Turner Street and Champlain Avenue.