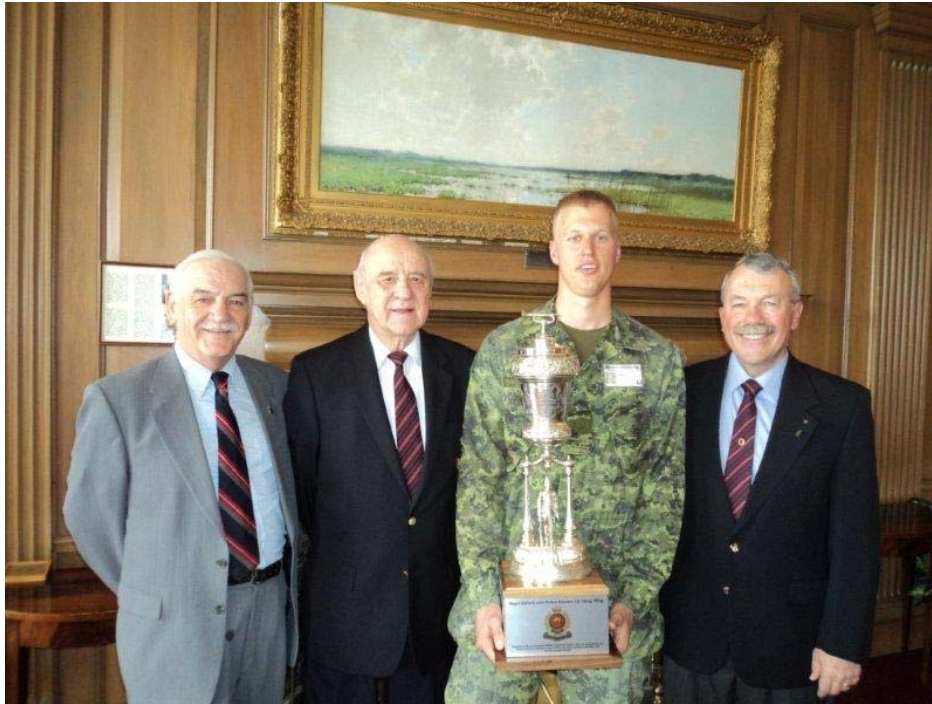


## The Major General John Arthur Stewart Trophy

By 9802 Col John Lesperance (Ret'd), VP CMEA



Left to right: Col Dave Carney (Ret'd), MGen JA Stewart (Ret'd), OCdt Christiaan Bouwman, Col John Lesperance (Ret'd)

Christiaan Alexander Bouwman (25285) is awarded recipient for The Major General John Arthur Stewart Trophy by MGen (Ret'd) JA Stewart, D Eng, P Eng, CD. The award was presented at a luncheon on 4 May 2012 held at the Senior Staff Mess at RMC in the presence of the Commandant, BGen Eric Tremblay, Dr Sokolsky, the RMC Principal, Dr Stewart, the Vice Principal (and son of MGen Stewart) and all the engineer cadets from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4th year. Colonel (ret'd) Dave Carney, Executive director of the CMEA, and Colonel (Ret'd) John Lesperance VP CMEA, represented the CMEA.

### Summary

The Major General John Arthur Stewart Trophy is awarded to the top Military Engineer cadet in his graduating year whose occupation classification is Engineer (MOSID 00181) or Construction Engineer (MOSID 00189). Sponsored by the Canadian Military Engineer Association, the award is based on high standards of proficiency in each of the four components of the RMCC: academic studies, athletic capability, military performance and bilingualism.

The trophy is a recognised official award in the RMC Calendar. It is recommended by the Prizes and Award Committee and approved by faculty council.

3173 MGen John Arthur Stewart is a past commandant of RMC, Chief of Construction and Properties (now ADM (IE), and Colonel Commandant of the CME. He has received the Honorary Doctorate of Engineering from RMC and is a Professional Engineer.

### **Background of the Award**

The award replaces two previous RMC awards:

- the previous Canadian Military Engineers Association Award (CMEA) which was presented to the highest standing Second Year Officer Cadet in Military Engineering,
- the Military Engineering Prize, that had been given to the top cadet in all of the engineering disciplines combined. As such, this cash prize was misnamed 'Military Engineering'. It had lost its original sponsor, Honeywell, a number of years ago.

### **Background of the Trophy**

This trophy was originally presented to the winners of an Engineer Training Company competition in 1944 by Captain Coulson Nicholas Mitchell, VD (Volunteer Decoration, predecessor of the Canadian Forces Decoration). Captain Mitchell served with the "Little Black Devils" or the Royal Winnipeg Rifles from 1885 to 1919. He was the father of Lieutenant Colonel Coulson Norman Mitchell, VC, MC. Lt Col Mitchell was a former Commandant of RCSME in Camp Chilliwack and won his Victoria Cross when a member of the First Tunneling Company, RCE, for action in 1918 at Canal de l'Escaut, north east of Cambrai, France. He had previously won the Military Cross for action in 1917 with the same unit.

In 1974 the trophy was mounted on a wood base and renamed the CFSME Cadet Proficiency Award. In 1975 it was accessioned into the CME Museum collection, but continued to serve in active service until 1979 after four presentations. The trophy will be on display at RMC although it remains on loan from the permanent collection of the Canadian Military Engineers Museum in Gagetown, NB.

In 2012 the trophy will begin its new life as the MGen JA Stewart trophy presented annually to the top Canadian Military Engineer cadet at RMC in his or her final year.

The Trophy will remain at RMC. A separate plaque is provided to the winner as a memento of the award.