

# *2 Combat Engineer Regiment*

## *110 Years of the Canadian Military Engineers*

Article by Maj B.D. Lafave

2 Combat Engineer Regiment celebrated the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canadian Military Engineers on 26 April 2013. Formed as the Royal Canadian Engineers on 1 July 1903, the engineer family has become a diverse collection of trades including combat engineers, firefighters and construction tradesmen. Along with its local Engineer brethren from 2 ASG, the sappers of 2 CER celebrated their heritage through a gruelling day of team competitions, personal challenges and general merriment.

The day kicked off with the Chimo Mudder Challenge, an 8 km, hour-long obstacle course that snaked through the woods surrounding the Neder Rijn Engineer Park. Ten competitive teams from 2 CER and 2 ASG raced to climb through tree-obstacles, scale walls, splash through mud, crawl through tunnels, and swim under logs in order to claim the honour of victory. The entire Regiment, along with invited guests, also partook in the exciting and challenging course. The final obstacle, which involved a complete submersion into frozen water, will be remembered by all for years to come.





After a well deserved and necessary shower, the Engineers enjoyed a BBQ and competed in several skills-based challenges. The teams were tested on their skills in logging, construction, knots and lashing and, most enjoyably, singing. The afternoon's activities were concluded with a parade that was highlighted by the presentation of a pristine 1943 EVINDRUDE 50 hp boat motor. This model was used by 23 Field Company, the ancestors of 2 CER, to rescue over 2000 airborne soldiers stranded across the Neder Rijn river during Operation BERLIN of World War II. This gift was given graciously by Bill McVean, a military history enthusiast who has actively supported the Canadian military both at home and abroad.



From Left to Right: CWO Madore, CWO Patterson, EVINRUDE Motor, BGen DesLauriers (Ret'd), Bill McVean, LCol Pilon

The 110th birthday celebration concluded with a field mess dinner, the guests of honour being Canadian Military Engineer Col Commandant, BGen DesLauriers (Ret'd), and Canadian Military Engineer Branch CWO, CWO Patterson. Several veteran sappers also honoured the Regiment with their presence, dressed in historical Royal Canadian Engineer uniforms. Remaining true to Engineer mess dinner etiquette, there were no speeches, the beer flowed freely and the company was boisterous. It was an outstanding end to a day that truly honoured and celebrated the history and spirit of the Canadian Military Engineers. Chimo!

