

Georgetown Rappel Tower

On May 4th 2015 members from 24 Field Squadron 4 Troop of 2 Combat Engineer Regiment Based out of Garrison Petawawa, arrived in Georgetown ON for the purpose of deconstructing an out dated unsafe rappel tower. The tower is located in the back compound of the “Lorne Scots” a reserve infantry regiment. Originally constructed in the 90’s by the members of 32 CER formally known as 2 Field Engineer Regiment also a reserve unit within the area. It was mostly comprised of timber, with minimal metal used as bracing. It stood 30 feet high with 2 platforms to rappel from, as well as a helicopter skid on the side used for mock helicopter training.



Members of 2 Combat Engineer Regiment rappel down and prepare the high wall for deconstruction.

The tower maintained its service for nearly 20 years until it was deemed unsafe for training this past year. The Section from 2 CER that was tasked with the deconstruction was led by Sgt Lynch and his 2nd in Command MCpl Bard, plus additional heavy equipment assets. They were given a unique opportunity to not only remove this tower, but to conduct Basic Mountain Operations training concurrently. As the Section utilized there specialized skills to rappel down the sides of the tower, they also had to manage their lines and tools that they needed to deconstruct it.



Cpl Fugere of 2 Combat Engineer Regiment works to remove the last decking board while stabilizing between two supports.

Having the soldiers working with tools while rappelling added a whole new aspect to the already daunting task. Once the soldiers removed all of the exterior components of the structure, they moved on to the top platform. With the help of a crane the top platform was easily removed. The remaining structure was then cut down with chainsaws and removed using heavy equipment. This task proved to be a very complex, one with many great opportunities to hone the skills of the Sappers from 24 Field Squadron.



Sappers from 2 CER removing the last of the support bracing before the posts are cut and removed.