

# RCEME FOUNDATION

The Royal Canadian Electrical and  
Mechanical Engineers Heritage and Museum  
Foundation

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## CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

First and foremost, a special thanks to those of you who supported our inaugural fundraising event.

This first issue of the RCEME Foundation Newsletter describes in more detail how we intend to start the digital transformation of the RCEME Museum. If you share our vision for an online museum, then you're in for an exciting year as you'll read in this newsletter.

Our mission is to preserve the Corps' Heritage and History, you can help us by getting involved with the digitization of our artifacts or by lending us your expertise when we call for it. The Foundation needs your support to succeed.

LGen (Ret'd) Bob Fischer  
Chairman



# YEAR END FUNDRAISER - BY THE NUMBERS

by Jean Forget, Treasurer

*"Our inaugural Year End fundraising campaign raised an impressive \$22,284 exceeding our \$17,000 goal by \$5,284"*

- The Foundation's Board pledged **\$5,396** in matching donations
- The RCEME Council pledged **\$3,430** in matching donations
- We solicited donations from **570** contacts
- **16%** contributed for a grand total of **\$22,284**

These funds will help us launch several of the digital transformation projects you will read about in this newsletter. A special thanks to all of you who participated in our inaugural fundraising event, we hope we can continue to count on your support.





# BRINGING OUR ONLINE MUSEUM TO LIFE

by Steve Poole, Digital Working Group Lead

*"A Digital Museum allows anyone in the world who has access to the internet to visit the museum and its collections 24 hours a day"*

Just over six months ago the RCEME Foundation's Digital Working Group focused on getting our museum online to complement our limited physical museum space in Kingston. A Digital Museum allows anyone in the world who has access to the internet to visit the museum and its collections. It also allows for the display and research of many artefacts, documents, photos, and archives that cannot fit in our museum space or still need to be catalogued and "digitized". A Digital Museum is not limited by physical space and it's accessible 24 hrs a day. Within a couple of months, we had launched a world class Foundation website: <https://rcemefoundation.org/> with a secure donation capability <https://rcemefoundation.org/donations/> We created a Virtual Tour of our Kingston Museum on the website <https://rcemefoundation.org/museum-virtual-tour/> and joined forces with the Museum Committee to work on the Book of Remembrance (BoR) project which will include an online version of the kiosk which will be located at the Kingston Museum later this year.



# BRINGING OUR ONLINE MUSEUM TO LIFE

## Continued

Some of the content can be seen in the photo gallery on our website <https://rcemefoundation.org/gallery/> By the time the BoR is commissioned later this year, we will also have a museum website which will rival any military museum website in Canada. In consultation with the Heritage Committee, we have more projects planned to start this year; Honours, Decorations and Medals (HDM) is a logical follow-on from the BoR project. Starting the cataloguing and “digitization” of all our RCEME artefacts, documents, photos and archives, no matter where they are, is key. There are many modern ways to do this, but we will need the help of the RCEME Community (active, retired, families). One exciting opportunity is to link members of our community to items, by displaying their names and even use Non-Fungible Tokens (<https://enjin.io/blog/nft-beginners-guide>). A little further down the road we will begin 3D Imaging and perhaps Virtual Reality renderings of our equipment, technologies, and maintenance techniques.

These important projects represent the first important steps towards the digital transformation of our museum. Please visit our website regularly to see how we’re doing.



# THE VOICES OF CANADA'S SOLDIER-TECHNICIANS

By Scott Kennedy, Director

*"We will use modern digital techniques to bring to life exploits of our RCEME soldier technicians since WW2"*

Late last year, the RCEME Foundation submitted a proposal to Digital Museums Canada for a significant financial grant. If approved, these funds will be used to accelerate one of our major Digital History initiatives by helping us create a multi-media, online documentary called: ***"By Skill and By Fighting - The Voices of Canada's Soldier-Technicians."***

The goal of our Digital History project is to share the history of the Corps through stories that capture the remarkable exploits of our soldier-technicians and engineers, told in their own words. These interactive visual and oral libraries will help to explain our "esprit de corps" and the pride we have in the accomplishments of the Corps from WW 2 until the present. We also hope to provide our Canadian youth (and Canadians of all ages) with an understanding of the history of Canada's military technicians and engineers, as well as the range and complexity of military technology over the past eight decades.





# THE VOICES OF CANADA'S SOLDIER-TECHNICIANS

Continued

The modernized RCEME Museum in Kingston has an excellent collection of RCEME memorabilia and plays an important role in preserving and sharing our heritage. However, only a small percentage of our artifacts are on display. The Digital History project will expand access to our artifacts and extend the reach and the impact of the Museum. Using modern digital and media techniques, we will be able to bring to life some of the key exploits of RCEME. Our current “storyboard” of stories under consideration includes the Kangaroo Infantry Carrier and the Olafson Footbridge from WW 2, the RCEME Army Air Maintenance organization, the modified M113 T-LAV from Afghanistan, as well as many personal stories of bravery in action throughout our history.

Whether used as material for this Project or as part of our long-term goal of collecting and preserving RCEME Heritage Artifacts and Stories - we want to hear from you! The Digital History Project storyboard will need to be finalized by Summer 2022. If you have photos, artifacts, or stories to share, please contact the RCEME Foundation at [info@rcemefoundation.org](mailto:info@rcemefoundation.org) and we will be in touch.



# CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM PROJECT

By Michael Petrou, Historian, Canadian War Museum

*"The Canadian War Museum is launching an oral history project to collect the experiences of veterans from the Second World War right up to the present day"*

Museum historians involved in the project, titled *In Their Own Voices*, are especially interested in learning about veterans' experiences after the war or deployment. In addition to speaking with veterans, they are keen to interview family members of servicemen and women to hear their perspectives and to learn about how conflict affected the loved ones of those who served in it. Excerpts of the interviews may be made available to the public through a digital portal. Complete interviews will also be available to researchers.

If you or anyone you know are willing to be interviewed by the museum, please contact Michael Petrou, the historian leading the project, at: [michael.petrou@warmuseum.ca](mailto:michael.petrou@warmuseum.ca)



# CORPS HISTORY TRIVIA QUIZ

By Bill Brewer and Doug Knight

*"We hope this Corps history quiz will encourage our readers to further explore the fascinating details of the events, individuals and units that have contributed so much to our remarkable Heritage"*

Since the RCEME Foundation has as its primary focus, bringing our Heritage and History to life, we have decided to include a RCEME Trivia Quiz as a regular feature in our newsletters. We hope that this will encourage our readers to explore the many details of the events, individuals and units that have contributed so much to our remarkable story. Our intent is to publish the answers to each quiz on our website once you've had time to consider and research your answers. We hope you will enjoy and learn something from this inaugural RCEME Trivia Quiz.

***Good Luck!***





# CORPS HISTORY TRIVIA QUIZ

Continued

1. Approximately how many trades became part of RCEME in 1944?

☐ 23

☐ 46

☐ 70

2. Where was Sadie “liberated” by the Allied Forces?

☐ Nijmegen, Holland

☐ Lanciano, Italy

☐ Normandy, France

3. In WW 2, what Canadian Light Aid Detachment had a huge impact on destroying the German 7th Army during the closing the Falaise gap?

☐ No. 88 LAD

☐ No. 123 LAD

☐ No. 131 LAD

4. Who or what was Digger?

☐ RAEME liaison officer in 1 Canadian Corps in May 1944

☐ Maintenance platoon mascot in UNDOF, Golan Heights peacekeeping ops

☐ Centurion tank ARV in Korea



# CORPS HISTORY TRIVIA QUIZ

Continued

5. How many RCEME officers were awarded the Canadian Army flying badge and flew as pilots in the Canadian Army?

- ☐ 5
- ☐ 13
- ☐ 15

6. World War 2 Canadian Army Armoured Recovery Vehicles were crewed by?

- ☐ Royal Canadian Armoured Corps
- ☐ RCEME
- ☐ Both of the above

7. Maintenance Troop 1 CER, operated in a peacekeeping operation that became known as the "Black Lung Campaign". Where was this peacekeeping activity?

- ☐ Kuwait
- ☐ Korea
- ☐ The Congo

8. What Canadian Light Aid Detachment of the British Commonwealth Armies was unique as far as the equipment it supported?

- ☐ 136 LAD
- ☐ 94 LAD
- ☐ 131 LAD



# THE LAST WORD

If you were not able to participate in our Year End fundraising campaign, please consider supporting our Foundation by clicking on the WW2 Soldier-Technician below.

## ***Arte et Marte***





