



RCEME FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg meets CWO Alessandro Pellizzari in Latvia as part of Operation Reassurance

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

This picture of CWO Pellizzari reminds us of all the Canadian Forces and RCEME members deployed on peace and security operations around the world. We thank them for their service and wish them all a safe return.

In this third issue of our quarterly Newsletter you can read about the huge digitization project undertaken by Library and Archives Canada. You will learn about the Canadian Forces' Eagle Staff and most importantly, hear about the real progress we've made on our priority projects, notably, the Book of Remembrance and the Museum website. Don't forget to try and answer the Quiz!

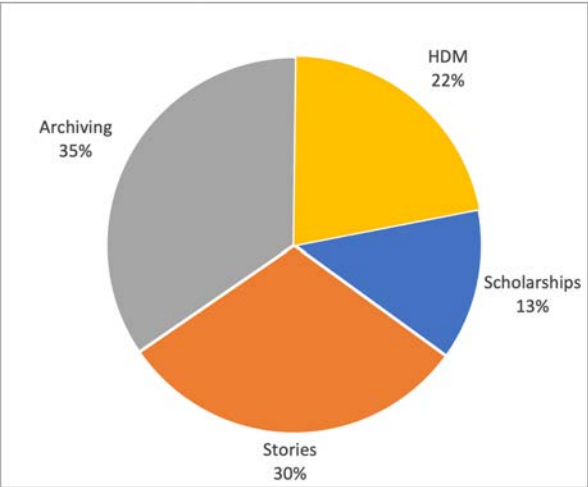
LGen (Ret'd) Bob Fischer
Chairman



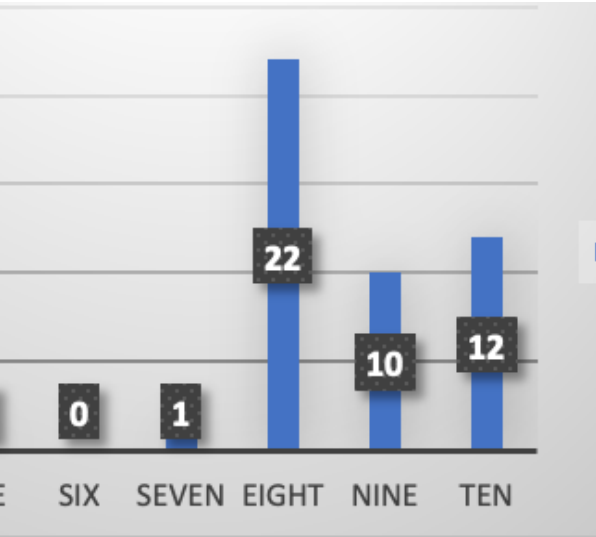


Foundation Survey Results

In June we sent out a general survey to approximately 100 non-donors as well as first time and recurring donors; we received a total of 45 responses. Our respondents offered some good suggestions which we are looking into. Our digital project priorities are aligned with those of our respondents. We thank all of you who participated.



Project Priorities



Overall Performance Scores

RCEME Golf Tournament

The 57th RCEME National Golf Tournament, run by LAD 103 Borden, was held from 3-5 August. It was a great success with 96 on the course, almost twice as many as the last tournament held prior to COVID.

A tournament like this does not happen without a great Organizing Committee under the very capable direction of Lorne Eastaugh and Tom Murphy. Fred White, Sue Wehling, Helen, and Fred Martin made up the team.

The RCEME Foundation sponsored four \$150 prizes for "Closest to the Hole" which was presented by Steve Pool, a Foundation Director. The winners are pictured below with Steve on the left.



Lacey Theoret - Kyle Thompson - Holly Polasek
Zbigniew Menartowicz



RCEME Museum Signs

How many times have you driven by Kingston along Highway 401 and wondered why there are C&E Museum signs but none advertising the RCEME Museum? The Foundation has taken steps to have RCEME Museum signs on highways 401 and 15; they should be installed by early October.



Rendering of the RCEME Museum signage



RCEME Foundation Coin

RCEME Foundation Coins

Founded in 1898, Woods Manufacturing Company Ltd produced most of the tents used by the British Army during the South African campaign. They also produced the first gas masks and countless canvas products for the Canadian Army during the First and Second World Wars.

In 1989, Guthrie Woods, founded Guthrie Woods Products Ltd. Thanks to the generous support of his son, Gus Woods, the RCEME Foundation now has its own collector coin which will be used as a Donor recognition gift.



The young officer in the painting is Capt Jack Woods, a member of the Coldstream Guards who died in 1916 at the battle of the Somme during the First World War.



By Sylvain Bélanger, Senior Director General and Chief Information Officer, Library and Archives Canada

Our experience over the past few years, with the pandemic lockdowns and challenges we have all faced, has demonstrated the importance of sharing our history and collections in ways that will reach Canadians where they are. To reach our goals, galleries, libraries, archives, and museums use digital technologies and are digitizing vast amounts of collections. Digitization, which reaches citizens more broadly and democratizes information, has become key to the success of organizations such as Library and Archives Canada (LAC) and the RCME Museum.

At LAC, digitization efforts have been ongoing for almost 2 decades. Large or small, our digitized collections have a great impact on people, places, and the history of our nation. Our efforts to expand digital access to collections have meant that LAC digitizes between 5-10 million items per year.

As Canada's premier memory institution, our holdings grow faster than we can digitize, but a strategic focus on the most in-demand collections means digitizing those items that have the greatest impact on our society.



DON'T LET THE DIGITAL AGE PASS YOU BY

Cont'd



One particular effort, which has great historical significance in military corners, are the efforts by LAC, over a five-year period, to digitize every soldier file from the Canadian Expeditionary Force, our first war soldiers. In numbers, this was over 650,000 soldier files and over 32,000,000 images digitized over a five-year period. The scale of digitization by LAC is second to none in Canada, but we are only one example of how digitization can create value and increase interest in the collections held by museums large and small. Many institutions from coast to coast have taken up the banner and are digitizing their collections to expand access.

Digitizing does not require heavy dependence on infrastructure and exorbitant start-up costs. As part of a proper digital strategy, start small and scale up while keeping it simple, to meet your own needs. Also, take advantage of the experience of other institutions and digitization standards that are available through LAC and other institutions in Canada.



DON'T LET THE DIGITAL AGE PASS YOU BY

Cont'd



Digitization is more than simply taking digital images of documents and objects that form part of the RCEME Museum, but this work does not need to be a complex undertaking.


As part of the process, the RCEME Museum, as others have done, will ensure it considers the effort required to prepare each individual object before it can be digitized, scanned, or imaged. Examples of this process include staff removing fasteners and clips, as well as addressing rips, folds, or the challenge of glare in object imaging. It can be a tedious process as you begin, but it opens the doors to the museum's collections for millions of people in a way that no other program has been able to do.

The RCEME Museum is part of the nation's network of galleries, libraries, archives, and museums that are preserving our heritage.

Our thanks to Sylvain Bélanger for contributing this article and for offering to provide continuing advice as the RCEME Museum embarks on its digital journey




The Book of Remembrance (BoR) is now available to view online. The BoR features detailed, searchable online information about the 381 RCEME, LORE and EME soldier-technicians who died in the line of duty in WWII, Korea, Peacekeeping and Peace Support Operations. Cemeteries in Canada, Europe and the Middle East are featured and honoured by serving and retired RCEME soldier visits. A ceremony officially opening the BoR Kiosk at the Museum will be held in Kingston on the 22nd of October.



RCEME Book of Remembrance

[Home](#) [Search](#) [About RCEME](#) [About the BoR](#) [Contact Us](#)



The RCEME Book of Remembrance

The Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' Book of Remembrance (BoR) honours the RCEME personnel who gave their lives in the service of their country.

This digital version features a searchable database that allows families, friends, and visitors to find information about individuals who are listed in the RCEME Book of Remembrance.

Each record includes the soldier's name, date of death, age at the time of death, cemetery location, and other biographical information. In many cases, the record also includes a photograph of the grave site being honoured by another member of the Corps.

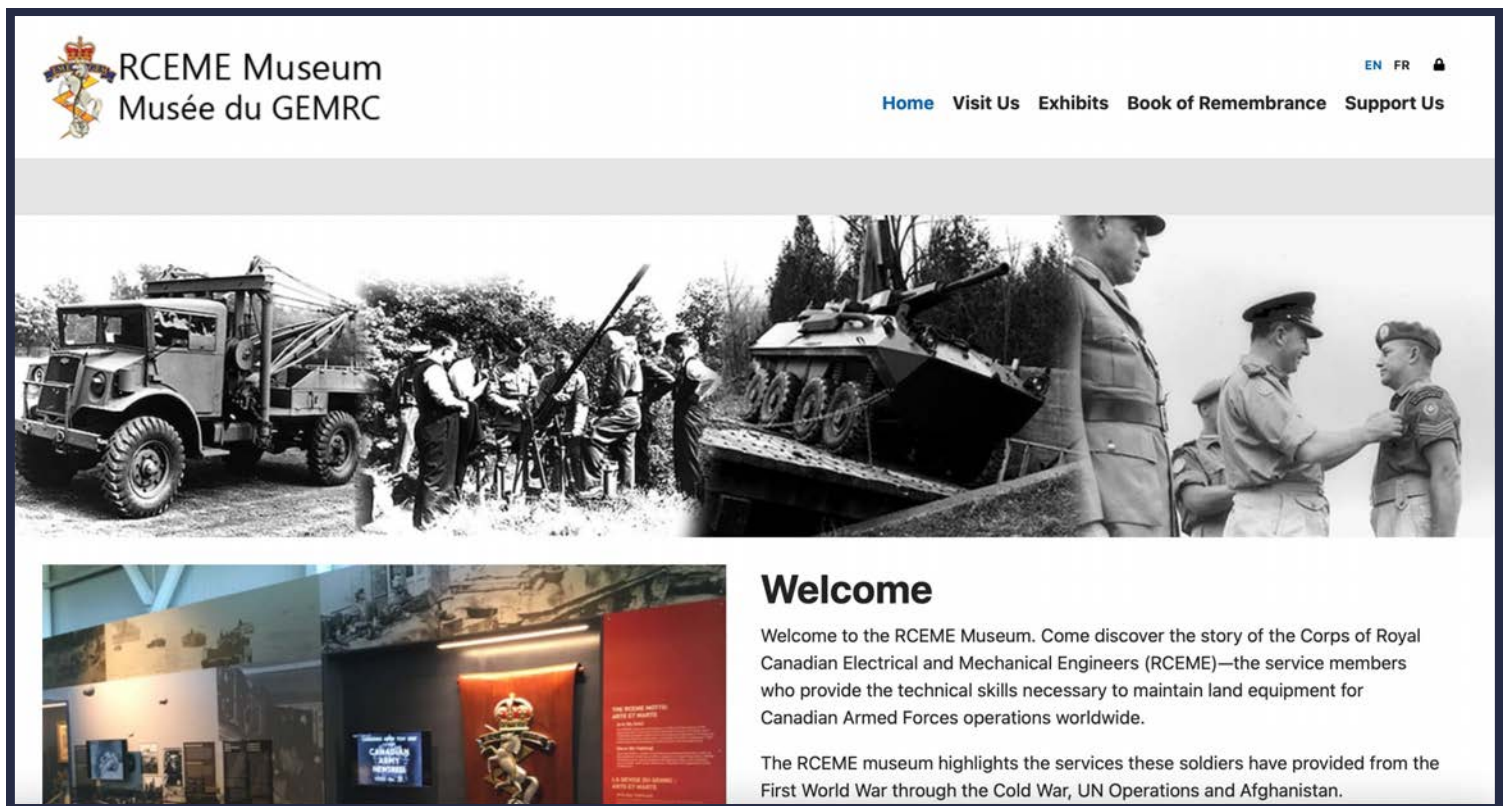
The database can be searched by name, historical time frame, or year of death.

Click the button below to search the database.

To visit the Book of Remembrance website click [here](#)



The new Museum Website is now available to view. Digital plans are coming together! Our partner, Blue Rhino Design (BRD) is doing a great job! The Museum Website will continue to grow and showcase our Collections and more projects like the BoR. You can also take our popular Virtual Museum Tour, get information on visiting the museum, and of course, donate to the RCEME Foundation.



To visit the Museum website, click [here](#)



He will also use his knowledge and expertise to immediately review the status of our Borden Collections, he will setup a professional collections management system and plan their preservation and digitization. Imagine being able to eventually see all the CFSEME Course Photos online! As well, we are taking advantage of the offer from Library and Archives Canada to leverage their extensive experience in digitization.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The original Book of Remembrance (BoR) was a four-volume set called the EME Honour Roll. Much of the research for that edition was carried out by Colonel Murray Johnston when he was Colonel Commandant in the early 1990s. Under his leadership, each gravesite was visited by a RCME representative(s). A photograph of the visit was included with the record of most of the soldiers listed in the EME Honour Roll. The name was changed to the RCME Book of Remembrance in 2014 and in May 2016, a project was launched to update and digitize the BoR. We are trying to identify the names of the eight RCME visitors shown below. If you recognize any of these eight individuals, please contact the RCME Foundation Secretary: info@rcmefoundation.org



Visitor #1



Visitor #2

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Cont'd



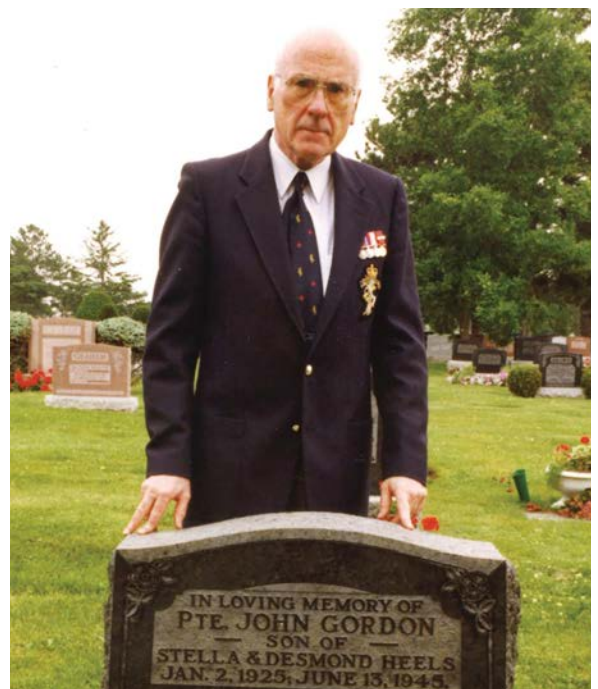
Visitor #3



Visitor #4



Visitor #5



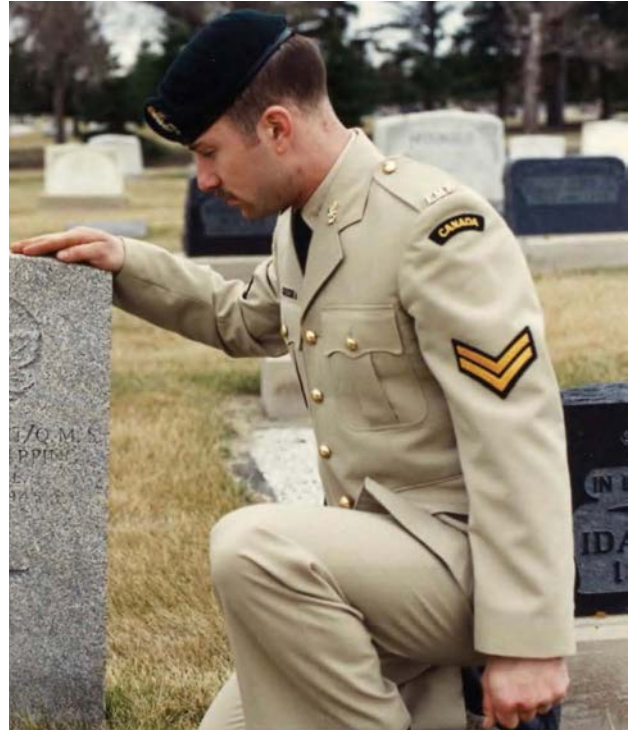
Visitor #6

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Cont'd



Visitor #7



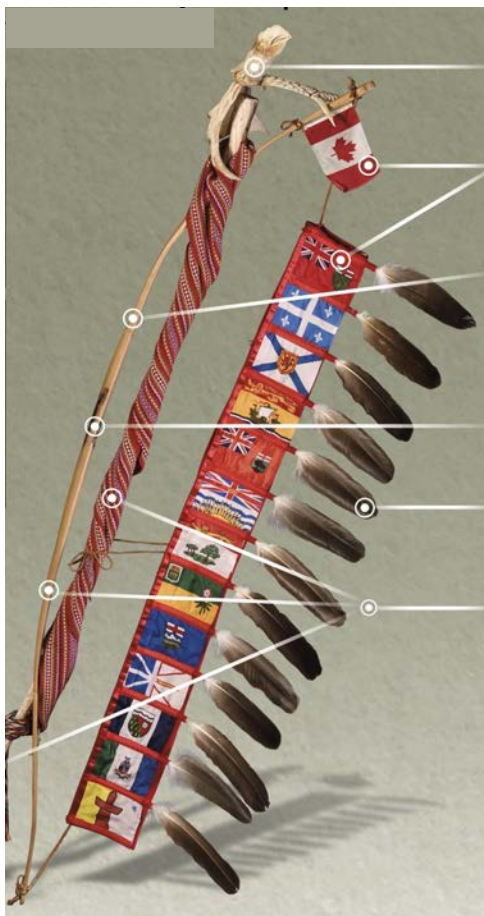
Visitor #8





Some of you may be aware of the significance of the Eagle Staff to Indigenous cultures but are you aware of the extent to which members of RCEME have and continue to be responsible for the safekeeping of the Canadian Armed Forces/DND Eagle Staff?

The Eagle Staff is a unique, sacred symbol that represents traditional Indigenous culture and clans. It is used at ceremonies and celebratory functions, much like a nation's flag. The Eagle Staff was created in 2002, the staff represents Aboriginal traditions and reinforces the values of inclusivity and respect for all members of the defence family, both past and present. It's a symbol to unite and rally Indigenous CAF / DND members. Veterans and Warriors are specially chosen as Eagle Staff Carriers based on qualities of honesty, bravery, humility, wisdom, integrity and respect for First People's traditions.



An Eagle carving graces the top of the Staff, flying towards the Creator to offer prayers.

13 Eagle feathers, Canadian provincial and territorial flags, a narwhal tusk, an ash bow, Metis Sash representing First Nations, Métis, and Inuit members of the Canadian Armed Forces and DND public servants.

At any given time, depending on the event, there is only one appointed Keeper and several Carriers of the CAF/DND Eagle Staff.



Corporal Zachariah (Makoyi'nitsitsikin) White Elk

During Pope Francis' recent visit to Canada, he was welcomed to the Citadel in Quebec City by the Governor General and other dignitaries. Among the members of the Pope's Guard of Honour was Corporal Zachariah White Elk, a RCEME Materials Technician with 5 Service Battalion, Valcartier and a proud member of the Blackfoot Confederacy. Corporal White Elk held the Canadian Armed Forces and DND Eagle Staff for "all survivors of the Residential School System".



Cpl Zachariah White Elk in front of the Governor General's residence at the Citadel of Quebec, 27 July 2022



Master Warrant Officer Stanley Mercredi

Retired Master Warrant Officer Stanley Mercredi joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1982 as a RCEME Weapons Technician. A proud member of the Mikisew Cree First Nations, he became the keeper and carrier of the Canadian Armed Forces / DND Eagle Staff in March 2016. In July 2016, MWO Mercredi was one of five Aboriginal members to accompany a contingent of 149 Canadian Armed Forces personnel to Belgium and France, to honour the contribution of Indigenous peoples from Canada and Newfoundland in the First World War. It was the first time the Eagle Staff had left Canadian soil.

Retired Master Warrant Officer Stanley Mercredi is seen here carrying the Eagle Staff. In an interview conducted in August 2016, MWO Mercredi said: "I'm a proud Aboriginal Canadian Armed Forces soldier". That pride was never higher than when MWO Mercredi was entrusted with the care and custody of the CF/DND Eagle Staff. Stanley Mercredi is currently the National Civilian Co-Chair for the Defence Aboriginal Advisory Group (DAAG)



Retired Master Warrant Officer Stanley Mercredi carrying the Canadian Armed Forces/DND Eagle Staff



Sergeant Brent Thompson

Sgt Brent Thompson from Thompson, Manitoba, is a proud Indigenous soldier with an Ojibwa-Metis background and 22 years service with RCEME as a Vehicle Technician. Sgt Thompson is currently a Reservist with 38 Service Battalion in Winnipeg. He is a proud Carrier of the Canadian Forces/DND Eagle Staff which he has taken to the First World War battlefields of Vimy Ridge in France and Passchendaele in Belgium and most recently, in Victoria, British Columbia for the 75th Anniversary of the Canadian Rangers. Sgt Thompson is a long standing member of the Defence Aboriginal Advisory Group (DAAG)

In an interview conducted in July 2020, then Master Corporal Thompson said: "It's a huge honour to be selected to carry the CF/DND Eagle Staff on behalf of all Indigenous soldiers but also the Indigenous soldiers that have not come back." During World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Gulf War, nearly 12,000 Indigenous soldiers fought to defend Canada. Nearly 500 of those soldiers never returned to their families.



Master Cpl. Brent Thompson travelled the world with the Canadian Forces Eagle Staff



Captain Dustin Lebel

Captain Dustin Lebel enrolled with the Lake Superior Scottish Regiment in 2006 and became a RCEME officer upon his graduation from RMC in 2011. He draws his Indigenous heritage from the Qalipu First Nation, a Mi'kmaq band that was only recognized by Newfoundland in 2011. Like so many others across Canada, Capt Lebel grew up separated from his culture. He says that through the Indigenous network within the military he was able to learn and reconnect with that history. Embracing the Canadian Armed Forces Eagle Staff teachings, he was selected to be a Carrier in preparation for the 2016 Centennial Nijmegen marches. Since then he has been a CF/DND Eagle Staff Carrier at many other events at home and abroad. "The CAF Eagle Staff helps represent past, present and future serving Indigenous military members. It's an incredibly humbling honour."



Captain Dustin Lebel at the Beaumont-Hamel memorial in France. Here soldiers from the Royal Newfoundland Regiment suffered massive losses on one of the bloodiest days of the First World War, 1 July 1916





Indigenous Representation in the Canadian Forces

Based on self-identification figures from January 2019, there were approximately 2742 Indigenous members serving in the CAF Regular Force and Primary Reserve Force combined, or a representation of 2.8 per cent.



This former RCEME member was in the audience during the Pope's visit to Maskwacis, Alberta on 25 July 2022



Master Corporal Talbot (right) with the Eagle Staff which was presented to the Base Commander, CFB Borden, on August 10, 2018

With apologies to any RCEME Eagle Staff Keepers/Carriers we may have overlooked



CORPS HISTORY TRIVIA QUIZ #3



1. What was the popular name given to the Headquarters Building at the RCEME School in Kingston?

- ☐ The White House
- ☐ The Head Shed
- ☐ The Bluebell House



2. On 15 May 1991 a new CFSEME school crest was approved to reflect the training of what technicians?

- ☐ Materials Technicians
- ☐ Ammunition Technicians
- ☐ Fire Control Systems Technicians

3. Which of these is correct, the Canadian Army's Light Support Vehicle Wheeled (LSVW) was designed by _____ and built under license in Canada by _____:

- ☐ Designed by Mercedes Benz and built under license by Kenworth
- ☐ Designed by Volkswagen and built under license by Freightliner
- ☐ Designed by Iveco and built under license by Western Star



CORPS HISTORY TRIVIA QUIZ #3

Cont'd



4. How many former RCEME members have been awarded the Order of Canada

- ☐ 2
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 3



5. Who was the last Commandant of the RCEME School in Kingston?

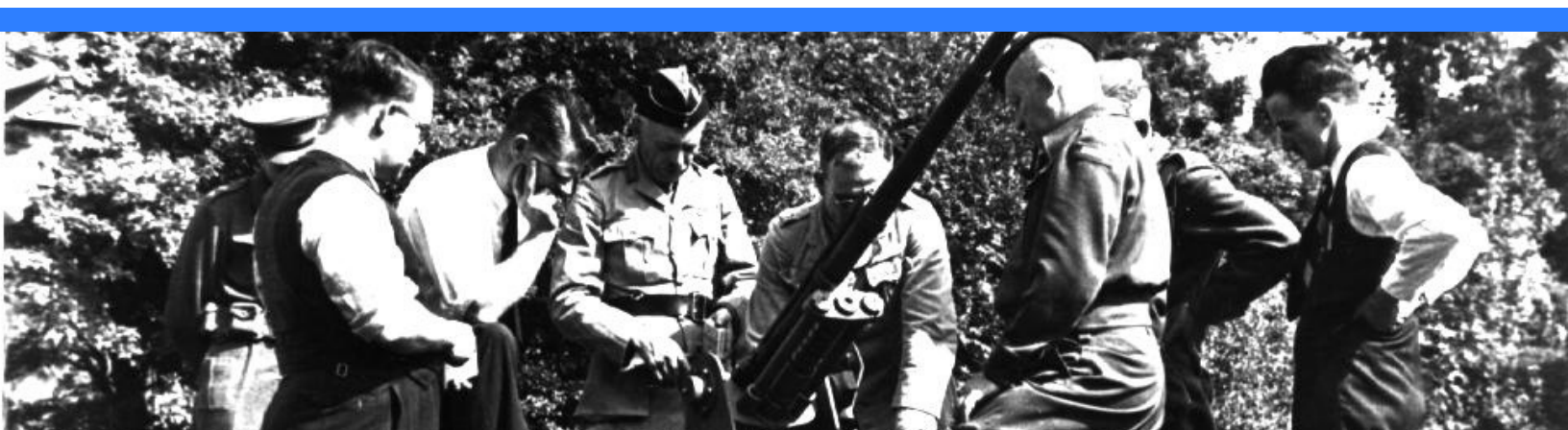
- ☐ Col Isbester
- ☐ Col MacLean
- ☐ Col Johnston

6. Which of these RCEME named buildings is NOT located in CFB Borden?

- ☐ Cpl William Oliver Pearson
- ☐ Sgt Frank Carson
- ☐ Col H. G. Thompson
- ☐ Capt Lloyd George Rupert

7. Where was Canada's first overseas Workshop and what was its designation?

- ☐ Scotland, 2 Army Field Workshop
- ☐ Borden, England. 1 Canadian Base Workshop
- ☐ Germany, 194 Canadian Infantry Workshop



CORPS HISTORY TRIVIA QUIZ #3

Cont'd



8. Can you identify which of these WWII era tools is which?

- ☐ Valve Spring Compressor
- ☐ Wire Splicing Crimper Tool
- ☐ Piston Ring Groove Cleaner



#1



#2



#3



DONOR WALL

As of 20 August 2022

\$10,000 AND ABOVE

Col Murray Johnston & Mrs. Joan Johnston	The former EME Association	In Memory of D96196, Craftsman George V. Holdron. WW2
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\$5,000 TO \$9,999

Thales Canada

\$1,000 TO \$4,999

Mr. David Geary	Col Gilles Nappert	Col Jean Forget
BGen Bill Brewer	CWO Art Rest, in Memory of Col Murray C. Johnston	CWO Ron Roy
LAD Ottawa/NCR – 104	LGen Bob Fischer	Stooke Family and Friends, in Memory of CWO Bob Stooke
Mr. Paul Martin, in Memory of Maj John C. Martin	Mr. David Martin, in Memory of Maj John C. Martin	Mr. & Mrs. Quinn, in Memory of Cpl John D. Carmichael
Col Garth Ray	Mrs. Tina Creber, in Memory of MGen E.B. Creber	Mr. Jean Barbosa
Col Marc Grondin	Pennant Canada	LCol Ken Kirkland
KWESST Micro Systems	BGen JGR Doucet, in Memory of Col Murray C. Johnston	BGen Scott Kennedy
Col M.A.C. Campbell, in Memory of MWO M.A. Campbell	Maj Wayne Yee	Col Gerry Walsh, in Memory of MWO Gerard Walsh and MWO JWP Grouette
Computacenter TeraMach Inc.	Guthrie Woods Products Ltd	

\$500 TO \$999

Mr. Mike Giffin	LCol Gilles Langlois	BGen Peter Holt
LCol Ken Jones	Col Bryan Davidson, in Memory of Jim Kennedy	Capt Ernie Wallace, in Memory of CWO Ernie Wallace
Col Tom Temple	Col Patrick Heebner	LCol Charles Jansen
Maj Alton Adams	Ms. Jenny Janes	LCol Bob Herbert
LCol Steve Poole	CWO Bill S. Demkiw	Maj Greg Barnes
CWO Guy Roy	Capt Peter Glynn, In memory of Col A. L. Maclean	LCol Pete Kerr
BGen Rob Dundon	Col Alex Gillis	Maj Christian Fillion
Col Barry Code	LCol W. Doug Armstrong	Col Hari Panday, Honorary Colonel 32 Service Battalion
The Kingsmill family, in the Memory of Capt Tony Kingsmill, MC		

Thank you!

