



# RCEME FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

The Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical  
Engineers Heritage and Museum Foundation

## *In this Issue:*

**Year-End Fundraiser**

**Page 2**

**Digital Transformation**

**Page 5**

**Online RCEME Stories**

**Page 7**

**Online Honours Project**

**Page 8**

**The BoR needs your help**

**Page 9**

**Our Museum is now open**

**Page 11**

**Cadet scholarships**

**Page 13**

**In their own words**

**Page 14**

**RCEME Quiz #4**

**Page 15**

**Donor Wall**

**Page 18**



*"Contended Cow", commanded by Sgt Gord Hunter  
Imjin River, Korea, 1951*

## **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

2022 has been a productive year for the RCEME Foundation. Thanks to your generous support we have launched the Museum website which provides online access to the RCEME Book of Remembrance as well as two new online RCEME stories. We worked with the Corps staff to hire a part-time Museum archivist and set the stage for implementing the online Honours, Decorations and Medals project early next year.

We hope that we can continue to count on your support to keep this momentum going in the coming year.

LGen (Ret'd) Bob Fischer  
Chairman





In November of 1943, newly promoted Capt Tony Kingsmill was settling into his role leading the 61st RCEME Light Aid Detachment in support of the Calgary Tank Regiment. He and his soldier-technicians had just arrived in Italy from the Sicily Campaign, and like many RCEME soldier-technicians since then, he would prepare for the holiday season in a dangerous place a long way from home...more about Tony later.

As we approach this Holiday Season, many of you will be looking to continue the great Canadian tradition of generosity by supporting charitable and social causes of importance to you. The RCEME Foundation hopes that you will consider supporting RCEME Heritage programmes as part of your year-end donation planning.

Over the past year, the small staff of volunteers at the Foundation, supported by our technology partners and sponsors, and in partnership with the RCEME Corps and RCEME Guild, have delivered several exciting new Digital Heritage projects, including the popular Museum Virtual Tour:



[https://rcemefoundation.org/  
museum-virtual-tour/](https://rcemefoundation.org/museum-virtual-tour/)



You can visit the RCEME Book of Remembrance and search for a friend or relative, just click on the link below:



<https://rcememuseum.ca/en-ca/We-Remember>



<https://rcememuseum.ca/en-ca/Our-Stories/The-Kingsmill-Bridge>

*"Thank you so much for this account of the crossing of the Gustav line in the war. It is beautifully told, and the live interview with him is extremely special. Thanks again for creating such a living memory of such historical events for Canada's war efforts."  
Mrs. Judy Day, Tony Kingsmill's daughter.*



In 2023, we look forward to developing our next series of Digital Heritage projects, including the online version of the RCEME Honours, Decorations and Medals document, the RCEME Digital Collections, and more RCEME stories of bravery, leadership and engineering innovation. These Digital products will allow all serving and former RCEME members, their friends, and families, as well as Canadians everywhere, to explore the history of Canada's military technology, and to appreciate the successes and sacrifices of members of the RCEME Corps.

If you would like to support our efforts to preserve, celebrate and share our RCEME Heritage, ***you can donate to the RCEME Foundation by clicking on the link below.*** Consider us as part of your year-end donations. All donations qualify for a tax deductible receipt. You can also set up a recurring donation via our website. Please contact us via the RCEME Foundation Website if you would like to learn more about the Foundation and our plans for the future.

<https://rcemefoundation.org/donations/>







In this new digital era, the Department of National Defence and Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) are keenly aware of the requirement, alongside our allies, to facilitate digital interoperability that will enable our national and international mandates. Canada is on the right trajectory as seen by the various Information Management and Digital Strategy policies, plans, and directives released within the last five years.

These new publications outline how critical this next pan-governmental transformation will be to the Canadian Armed Forces. Just as the public sector is utilizing technology, data, and digitization to evolve traditional methods of capturing, cataloguing, and displaying information, so too can historical institutions. These new technology-led programmes are the foundation for future operational success.

Technologies such as 3D displays, videos, recordings, slideshows, and interactive exhibits on mobile or tablet applications (apps), can be utilized to engage all ages. These stimulating experiences capture wandering visitors' attention and spark their curiosity. Capitalizing on personal visitor engagement programmes reciprocal interactions through visitor engaging programmes and activities can generate a lasting appreciation for history. This does not prevent the retention of more traditional displays where visitors are able to search for information of interest.



-2-

In other countries, such as the Netherlands and Britain, curators have utilized programs to both creatively showcase their exhibits online and assist visitors to maximize their future visiting experiences by personalizing their tours. This is done by collecting data while prospective visitors peruse the museums' websites. The information gathered on the exhibits that were visited, combined with visitor feedback, support the design of the layout of the exhibits. Other museums have even opted to create virtual tours. This creates viewing opportunities for those with severe accessibility issues ranging from physical to psychological, such as agoraphobia – fear of crowded / open spaces. Virtual tours are ideal options in the current COVID environment as they reduce personal health risks.

Digitizing archived physical records into data optimizes museum floor space. With Virtual Reality for example, one space offers endless potential where curators could develop numerous simulated historical scenes, experiences, or events for visitors. Using digital data in these ways facilitates the transition between periodic or special exhibits by reducing reliance on physical labour, storage space, and transportation costs. By minimizing handling of artifacts, their longevity can also be preserved.

Ground continues to be broken in the digital application to museums across the world. Canadian historical institutions can easily build upon their examples and lessons learned to capitalize on increased exposure and improve the visitor experience.



## Kingsmill Bridge

The Kingsmill Bridge story can now be seen on the RCEME Museum's new website. These online RCEME stories will pay tribute to the officer's and soldier-technician's whose bravery, leadership and engineering innovation underpin the rich heritage of the RCEME Corps. In our first story you will hear Captain Tony Kingsmill MC, describe the events leading to the successful crossing of the Gari River in May of 1944 by the 1st Canadian Armoured Brigade during the Italian Campaign.



<https://rcememuseum.ca/en-ca/Our-Stories/The-Kingsmill-Bridge>

## Korea: The Forgotten War Remembered

Our second online story, "Korea: The Forgotten War Remembered" is now available on the RCEME Museum's website. This story reminds us of the Canadian Army's contribution to this conflict, including that of 300 RCEME Craftsmen who served in the Korean War. Although politicians described it as a "Police Action", 516 Canadian soldiers died in the Korean War, including 5 RCEME Craftsmen.

You will hear a RCEME Veteran describe how one of the five RCEME casualties was killed.



<https://rcememuseum.ca/en-ca/Our-Stories/The-Forgotten-War>



Did you know that two former RCEME members are recipients of the **Order of Canada**? That RCEME received a **Chief of Defence Staff Unit Commendation**? And in WW2, a RCEME officer was awarded two **Mentions in Despatches** within 4 months?



You will be able to read about these stories and search hundreds of other interesting facts on the upcoming **Honours, Decorations and Medals (HDM)** Portal. The HDM Portal is expected to be available online on the RCEME Museum's website in the Spring of 2023 alongside the Book of Remembrance which is already accessible online.

Major (Ret'd) David Laffradi has agreed to lead this important project that honours the hundreds of RCEME members who have been recognized for their bravery, their devotion to duty and for a lifetime of outstanding achievement and service to Canada. He will work with our industry partner, Blue Rhino Design who was instrumental in the delivery of the Book of Remembrance project.



# HOW YOU CAN HELP US UPDATE THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

By Gilles Nappert and Graham Lindsay



The RCME Book of Remembrance (BoR), available online or at the kiosk at the Kingston Museum, contains over 367 records of members of the Corps who died while serving, or whose death was directly attributable to their service.

Of these, at least 69 records are missing information such as the individual's Service Number, the last unit in which they served, or the names of their immediate family. While a small number of researchers are continuing to search for this information, finding it is not easy since access to official records is very limited. In addition, the Corps wants to have each of those grave sites or memorials visited by a serving or retired member of the Corps, to visibly recognize the individual's affiliation and sacrifice. You may be able to help address one or more of these shortfalls.

Local research is one way of filling these gaps and it's something that you, as a member of the RCME community at large, may be able to do. You can easily go online using the link <https://bor.rcememuseum.ca/en-ca/> to see who is buried in your local area. In the drop-down menu for Country of Burial select 'Canada' and then look at the listing of cemeteries, to see if a cemetery in your vicinity is included.



# HOW YOU CAN HELP US UPDATE THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Cont'd

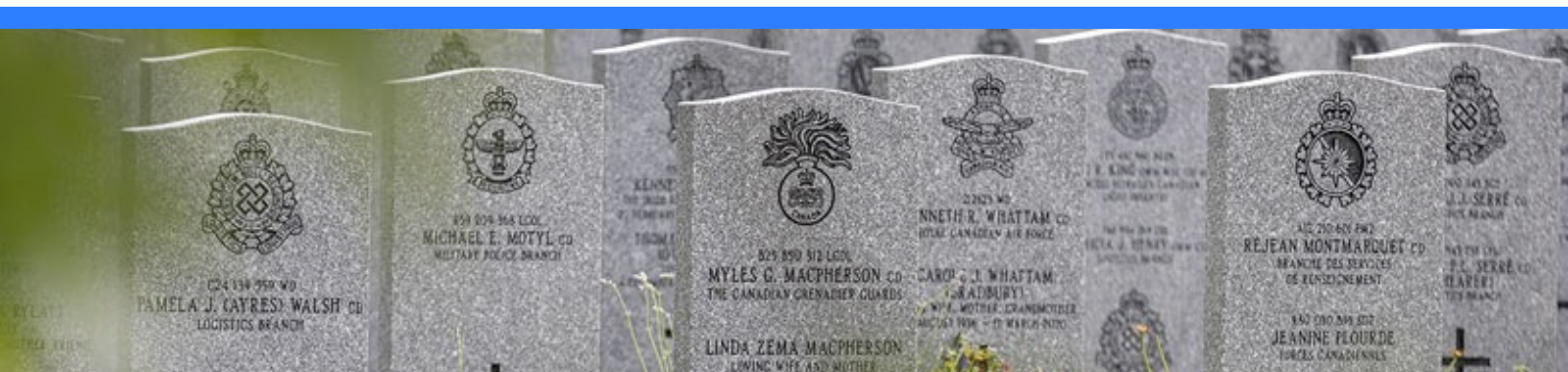


If so, you can then click the “Search” button and then the “View” button to see each of the records of RCEME soldiers who are resting in that cemetery.

By viewing the record, you will know if there is missing information, and whether there has been a visitor. If you are planning a foreign trip and have some interest, you can search for Corps members who may be buried in the country you are planning to visit.

If there is no photo, or no visitor in a photo, or if no visitor name is given, or the caption indicates an ‘unidentified visitor’, then the Corps is looking for someone who is willing and able to visit that grave or memorial. If there is information about the member that is missing, you could help look for local records by contacting the cemetery administrator. This may lead directly to finding the missing information or it may help identify relatives of the soldier. You could then use your “Sherlock Holmes” skills to try to contact local relatives who may have some of the missing information.

If you can find any of the missing information or are interested in becoming a representative visitor to a particular grave or memorial, you can use the “Contact Us” button at the top right corner of the BoR search page to submit missing information that you have found, or to confirm that there is still a need for a visitor.





# THE RCEME MUSEUM IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

By Bill Brewer



It was a bright sunny day on the 22 October, when the RCEME museum opened its doors for the first major event since 2019. Covid had put things on hold for far too long. The purpose of the ceremony was three-fold: first, to provide an overview on the Museum's Digitization and the Book of Remembrance (BoR) project, second, to induct the next three "Leaders and Trailblazers" (L&T), and finally, to inaugurate the new Museum BoR kiosk.

Following short briefings on Digitization and the BoR project, the ceremony honoured the three new L&T inductees, who over the course of their careers and their retirement demonstrated outstanding commitment to the values of the Corps, the RCEME community and the country. This year's recipients were Major Norm Graham, Chief Warrant Officer Lee Faulkner and Warrant Officer Tex Leugner who attended by videoconference from Calgary. The Corps Director, Col Gauthier, and the Corps Sergeant Major, CWO Northorp presented plaques to the families or their representatives.



*Maj (Ret'd) Adams and Col (Ret'd) Nappert accepting on behalf of Maj Graham's family*



*LCol (Ret'd) Ken Faulkner and his wife accepting on behalf of his father, CWO Lee Faulkner*

# THE RCEME MUSEUM IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Cont'd



*Maj (Ret'd) Dwayne Atkinson accepting  
on behalf of WO Tex Leugner*



*BGen Dundon and Col (Ret'd) Nappert standing  
by the new Book of Remembrance Kiosk*

The ceremony then moved to the Awards area of the Museum where the Director General, BGen Dundon, presented larger plaques which will be permanently displayed. Following the L&T ceremony, the BoR kiosk was officially unveiled by Col (ret'd) Nappert and BGen Dundon.

This state-of-the-art kiosk is the culmination of an outstanding effort by the BoR project team, it allows museum visitors to search through over 367 members of the Corps of RCEME. The Base Chaplain recited a short prayer in remembrance of all of those who gave their lives in the service of Canada and the RCEME Corps.

Following completion of the ceremony, a "recovery exercise" was held at the CFB Kingston, WOs and Sgts Mess, capping off a great day!

***A special word of thanks to Steve Karpik and  
his team at Blue Rhino Design for helping bring  
this project to fruition***



Today's youth represent the future of Canada and the continued success of RCEME. To build this future, our youth are encouraged to learn skills integral to the RCEME Corps by pursuing an education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). STEM skills not only ensure the success of our youth, but they will help promote the economic future of Canada.

Historically, many Cadets have expressed an interest in pursuing a career with the Canadian Armed Forces. The RCEME Foundation would like to encourage those cadets with an interest in a STEM education by awarding annual Scholarships. This will assist and encourage the pursuit of a post-secondary education in an accredited college or university STEM related academic programme.

The RCEME Foundation will be providing up to four scholarships beginning in 2023 to selected members of RCEME Cadet Corps that are enrolled in their first year of an accredited STEM programme. These scholarships will serve as an incentive towards pursuing a STEM based career.



# IN THEIR OWN VOICES

## Stories from Canadian Veterans and their Families



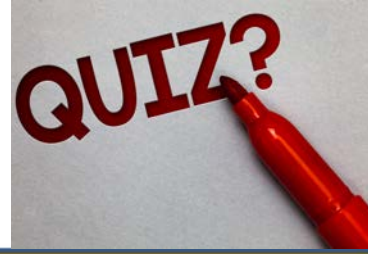
*In Their Own Voices* is a Canadian War Museum initiative aimed at capturing new accounts of the veteran's experience after war or military service. Presenting the collective and individual stories of veterans and their families, *In Their Own Voices* focuses primarily on those who served in Canada's military from the Second World War to the present day. It seeks to explore the enduring impact of military service, as well as how armed conflict and war have shaped the lives of veterans, their loved ones, and Canada itself.

Through hundreds of interviews conducted by historians from the Canadian War Museum, this project will expand the Museum's collection of oral histories and include a curated online portal. When finished, *In Their Own Voices* will become a comprehensive resource for students and scholars, as well as a legacy for future generations. By humanizing the individual behind the veteran, the project will bring history to life for all Canadians, helping them to better understand the personal stories and struggles of those who have served their country in times of war and peace.

Your story is important to all Canadians. If you're a veteran, or the family member of one, we want to hear from you. Our historians will be conducting hundreds of interviews for this project. If you'd like to participate and share your experiences with us, please complete the online form below.

<https://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm-mcg/in-their-own-voices/online-form/>

# CORPS HISTORY TRIVIA QUIZ #4



**1. The EME Journal used to have a regular news column called the "Hair Trigger". Which of our Craftsmen technicians was it aimed at?**

- ☐ All Craftsmen
- ☐ New recruits undergoing basic craftsman training at the School
- ☐ Weapons Technicians

**2. In Nov 1998, two Vehicle Technicians were deployed on Op Central to provide disaster assistance to Honduras. Where were they from?**

- ☐ CFB Winnipeg
- ☐ CFB Gagetown
- ☐ CFB Petawawa

**3. Where and when did the Corps of RCEME conduct its first ever National Level Repair and Recovery competition since its formation in 1944?**

- ☐ RV 89 in Wainwright, Alberta
- ☐ During the Corps 75th Anniversary near the town of Gibbons, Alberta
- ☐ 1993 in the Petawawa training area





# CORPS HISTORY TRIVIA QUIZ #4

Cont'd

**4. During the 75th Anniversary of the Corps of RCEME in 2019, the last official event was the internment of a time capsule at the RCEME School in CFB Borden. When is it planned to open the time capsule?**

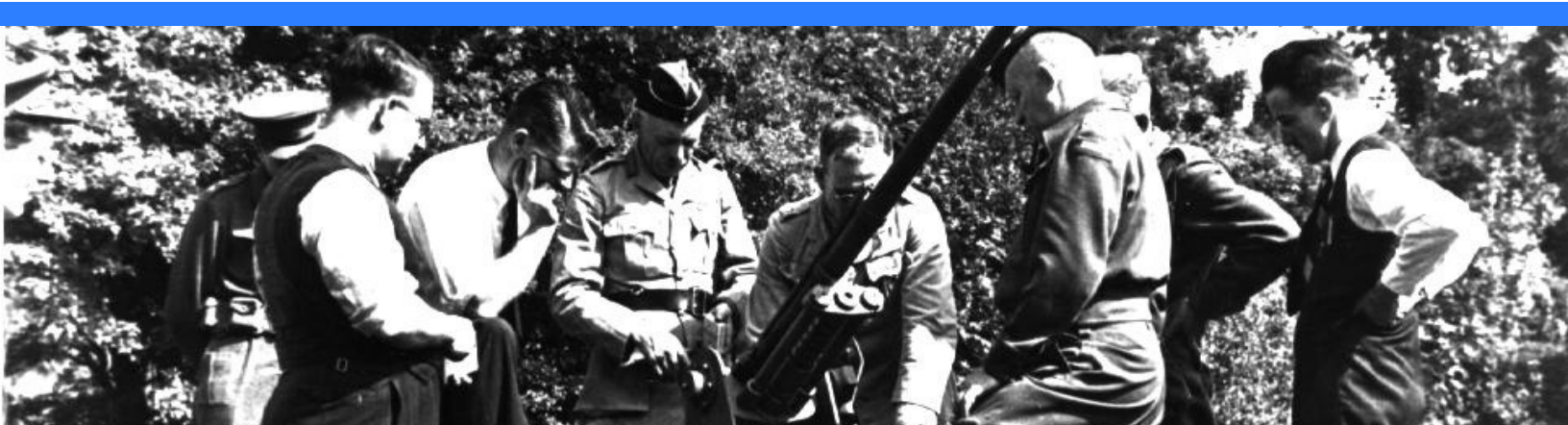
- ☐ 100th Anniversary of the Corps of RCEME in 2044
- ☐ 125th Anniversary of the Corps of RCEME in 2069
- ☐ Not yet decided

**5. The Canadian Army had about 10,000 tradesmen deployed in Northwest Europe from D-day, 6 June 1944 to VE-day, 8 May 1945. How many armoured fighting vehicles did they repair during that time?**

- ☐ 56,000
- ☐ 28,000
- ☐ 14,000

**6. St-Jean de Brébeuf is the Patron Saint of RCEME. Whose initiative was it to start the process that ultimately led to the confirmation of our Patron Saint?**

- ☐ Comdt CFSEME
- ☐ Chaplain General
- ☐ DGLEM(DGLEPM)





# CORPS HISTORY TRIVIA QUIZ #4

Cont'd



**7. What was affectionally known as the "Tin Tabernacle" during WW2?**

- ☐ 1 Canadian Base Workshop's portable service and prayer shrine
- ☐ Church of Saint George in Bordon, England
- ☐ Church in CFB Borden, ON

**8. On 21 Dec 1943, two members of the Three Rivers Regiment LAD earned Battle Honours for action just outside of Ortona, Italy. What did they do?**

- ☐ Rescued soldiers from behind enemy lines
- ☐ Recovered tanks under enemy fire
- ☐ Defended a vital point



# DONOR WALL

CONSIDER COMMEMORATING SOMEONE ON OUR DONOR WALL. YOUR  
DONATIONS ARE CUMMULATIVE

As of 20 November 2022

## \$10,000 AND ABOVE

Col Murray Johnston & Mrs. Joan Johnston	The former EME Association	In Memory of D96196, Craftsman George V. Holdron. WW2
--	----------------------------	---

## \$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		