

## **HCol James (Jim) R. Happer CD (1939-Current)**



Jim Happer was born in Tasmania and educated in the United Kingdom. He emigrated to Canada with his wife Julia in 1970. He was employed as Plant Engineer at the Wire Rope Industries Plant in Vancouver for 9 years after which he moved to Abbotsford where he was employed as the Assistant Manager at Turners Building Products. In 1988 Jim moved from plant engineering into design engineering and started work as a Senior Designer at Tree Island Industries from where he retired as Senior Project Engineer in 2004.

In 1973 Jim joined 6th Field Squadron, RCE as a Sapper. The following year he was granted a direct commission and given the rank of 1st Lieutenant. He was promoted to Captain in 1976 and in Nov 1980 he had qualified in the rank of Major. He served in the unit until 1990 when he retired and transferred to the Supplementary Reserve.

In 1997 Captain Happer transferred to the CIC to take command of 861 Silverfox Squadron in Abbotsford for a three year term. He was promoted to the rank of Major in September of that year. Major Happer relinquished command of 861 Silverfox Squadron and transferred back to the Supplementary Reserve in 2000.

On his retirement in 2004 he succeeded Captain Michael Wood as Liaison Officer for the affiliation between 6 Field Engineer Squadron and the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) in the UK.

In 2005 Major Happer was appointed Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of 6th Field Engineer Squadron and in 2009, following the stand up of 39 Combat Engineer Regiment he was appointed as the first Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of the new Regiment.

He was promoted to Honorary Colonel of the Regiment in January 2012 and in December he was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. His appointment ended in January 2015.

Jim now volunteers on various committees at his church and is an active member of Branch 15 of the Royal Canadian Legion where he emcees the Remembrance Day Parade, Battle of Britain Day Service and the Vimy Ridge Candlelight Service.

Jim and Julia now spend more time with their 3 sons and their son's families in Langley, Edmonton and Niagara-On-The-Lake. They now have 6 grandsons.