

Major Robert A. (Bob) Irvine, CD (Retired)



Major Irvine was born in Vancouver and at a young age he moved with his family to North Vancouver. His involvement with cadets began at age 13 when he joined 103 Thunderbird Squadron in 1965. He later transferred to 525 Pathfinder Squadron in West Vancouver where he rose to the position of Squadron Warrant Officer. As a cadet he twice attended summer training at CFB Penhold, Alberta, and was selected for an exchange visit to CFB St. Jean, Quebec, during Canada's Centennial where he toured "Expo 67" in Montreal. In 1971 he joined the 6th Field Squadron Royal Canadian Engineers where he qualified as a field engineer, driver and storeman. While a member

of 6th Field Squadron he volunteered as an instructor with the 2573 Royal Canadian Army Cadets, eventually leaving 6th Field Squadron to join the Cadet Instructors List.

Enrolled in the Cadet Instructors List as an Officer Cadet, Major Irvine was assigned the job of Assistant to the Training Officer during the introduction of the army cadet "Star" program. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in June 1976 and served the corps in the positions of Supply Officer, Administration Officer and Training Officer. In June 1979 he was promoted to the rank of Captain and appointed Commanding Officer of 2573 RCACC. He was awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration in 1986. Shortly thereafter he transferred to the Supplementary Reserve.

In September 1998 he transferred from the Supplementary Reserve to North Vancouver's 105 Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps "Lonsdale" where he held the rank of Lieutenant (Navy). He served the corps for 2 years as Executive Officer before being appointed Commanding Officer, a position he held from September 2000 until July 2003. He then went back to work with 6th Field Engineer Squadron as the Transport Officer and Cadet Liaison Officer.

Returning to 2573 RCACC in February 2004 as Deputy Commanding Officer, Major Irvine was then appointed Commanding Officer of the corps for a second time, a position he held from November 2004 until June 2008. Afterward, he remained on corps strength as the Administration Officer.

Major Irvine was promoted to his current rank in March 2012 upon being appointed an Area CIC Officer with the Regional Cadet Support Unit (Pacific) responsible for 5 army cadet corps in the Coast/Fraser Training Group. In September of 2016 he was given the new position with cadet headquarters of Elemental Area Advisor. At the same time he continued as Cadet Liaison Officer for 39 Combat Engineer Regiment until his release in July 2017.

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Now retired, Major Irvine remains active as a Director of the 6th Field Engineer Squadron Museum Association having previously served terms as Secretary, Vice-President and President. He spent 2 years on the 100th Anniversary Organizing Committee, formed to arrange celebratory events for the 6 Engineer Squadron centenary in 2011 and served as treasurer on the mess committee for 12 years. He was awarded the Eric Hartley Award two years in a row in recognition of service to 6 Field Engineer Squadron. In April 2008 he was awarded the first clasp to his CD and in April 2011 received a commendation from the Commanding Officer, Regional Cadet Support Unit (Pacific) for his work with the cadets of North Vancouver and the cadet corps affiliated to 39 Combat Engineer Regiment. For several years he represented the local cadets as a delegate on the North Shore Veteran's Council of Canada.

Pursuing an interest in local cadet history for many years, Major Irvine has accumulated a great deal of historical material on the 18 different cadet corps and squadrons that have called North and West Vancouver their home.

He resides in North Vancouver with his wife Beverley and has two grown children, David and Rebecca. In his civilian occupation, from which he has now retired, he was involved with the design and manufacture of products used in professional audio and recording studios.