

39 COMBAT ENGINEER REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi all, the Board has been reviewing some tentative plans for actual in-person meetings and social gatherings for our members and with the Regiment. I think we are all waiting for many of the restrictions to be finally lifted for good.

Chimo

Bill Wenman
President

TRAINING

First Aid Training

On 22-23 Jan 2022, 54 ES and 6 ES joined forces to run a Military Standard First Aid course at the JP Fell Armouries in North Vancouver. With instructors from the Seaforth and 39 Signals, 20 soldiers were trained (16 from 39 CER, 3 from Seaforth and 1 from 39 CBG HQ). This course is part of the Individual Battle Task Standard (IBTS) that soldiers are required to complete every three years. As we have a few members that will be deploying in the upcoming months it is extremely important that this course is up to date, as such, 39 CER was happy to provide extra spaces to other units.

EXERCISES

Ex COASTAL SAPPER - 21-23 January 2022

This exercise was conducted in the Columbia Valley Range Training Area (RTA). 6 ES deployed 10 personnel total – an 8 pers section and a 2 pers C2 / OPFOR element.

The troops practiced infantry skills including section attacks (10), patrols (5), point recces (3), establishing and collapsing a patrol base, and break-contact drills.



The section in an all-around defence while patrolling as seen through NVGs



The section patrolling at dusk

39 CER SAPPER SUMMIT 2022



Over the weekend of 4-6 February, 39 CER held its annual leadership conference, Sapper Summit at the Vernon Military Camp, in Vernon, BC. With the Regiment being spread out over four physical locations and an 850 km highway network; the opportunity for all the senior leadership and Regimental Support Staff (RSS) to meet face to face at least once per year is extremely important to build and maintain relationships and foster unit cohesion. This years' focus included an in depth review of the upcoming 2022/23 training plan, discussions on the continued implementation of the new Performance and Competency Evaluation (PaCE) system (replaces the PDR/PER system), and the traditional "Round Table Discussion" an open opportunity for Sqn OC's to discuss successes and challenges facing their garrisons with the broader leadership group.

IN THE NEWS – HLCOL REBECCA WEATHERFORD

Industry leaders make generous connection with Kootenay-Columbia school

Jim Bailey Grand Forks Gazette



Fruitvale Elementary School students Peyton Hollis and Hayden Demoskoff will make good use of their new Chromebooks thanks to support from ATCO Wood Products and REN Energy

Two West Kootenay companies purchase Chromebooks for Fruitvale Elementary School
Jim Bailey Feb. 3, 2022

Beaver Valley businesses made a generous and timely connection with Fruitvale Elementary School (FES) to help students and staff upgrade their technology while navigating the pandemic. ATCO Wood Products and REN Energy provided funding so the school could purchase a classroom full of 30 Chromebooks to help Grades 4-7 with in-class and remote learning. “ATCO and Rebecca Weatherford (ATCO president) have been exceptional in our school for years,” said FES principal Mike Page. “After Christmas she said, ‘touch base,’ because we were looking at trying to increase our technology at our school. But with another wave of COVID, our whole district had to plan for going online and what that will look like.”

The pandemic forced educators to think outside the box and beyond, and with the constantly changing COVID protocols it made learning without technology all but impossible. Scott Weatherford, ATCO chief executive officer, gives full credit to wife, Rebecca, for her work at FES and initiating their company’s involvement with the program. “It goes to the heart of the vision of our company, we are here to create a better future for our employees, our community, our forests, it’s our vision to look generations down the road and create those improvements,”

said Weatherford. Scott works closely with REN CEO Philip Viggiani and the development of a Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) facility at Park Siding near Fruitvale, so their partnership in this initiative only made sense. “One of the aspects we’ve talked about is how to work together on community support projects, so when Mike (Page) submitted this idea to us, I thought this was a great project for ATCO and REN to partner with,” said Weatherford. For Viggiani, with the state-of-the-art RNG facility set to break ground in the spring, the 50/50 funding for FES proved a positive introduction to the West Kootenay community. “We are all excited, it’s a great project, a great initiative and we’re all happy that we can help make an impact,” said Viggiani. “And this is a great way to do that.”

Viggiani saw first hand how technology as a learning tool helped his own daughter engage with her studies and improve her marks. “COVID is one of the triggers that got me involved with this,” he said. “I’ve seen what an iPad and a Chromebook can do for her.” All FES curriculum has been downloaded onto Chromebooks so students can access regular course work and assignments, with assistance from teachers and educational aids. “It’s good for kids to become digital citizens and really use technology as a tool, and not just YouTube or Minecraft,” said Page. “They are learning how to use Skool and Excel, and they are becoming proficient users in a real world context.” ATCO has been part of the Fruitvale landscape for 70 years, and both companies’ investment in FES will undoubtedly reap future benefits when those same students join the workforce. A positive result for the school, the community, and future generations. “Our teachers and staff here at FES have been fantastic, their willingness to learn overnight has been amazing, a real team approach,” said Page. “And, when you have a community approach too, it is awesome.” Once the current COVID spread slows, FES has invited the Weatherfords and Viggiani for a tour of the school and a big thank you from the students.

RECRUITING



OC 44 ES Maj Nils French swearing in the newest member Pte Jacob Anderson 27 Jan 2022

HONOURS AND AWARDS

On Thursday 27 January 2022, 44 ES conducted an on-line presentation of squadron awards. The recipients of the 2021 awards are as follows:

Top Shot:	Cpl Weir
Sapper of the year:	Cpl Mark
Warrior of the year:	Cpl French
Top Other Trades Member of the Year:	Cpl Krenz
NCO of the Year:	WO Hill (It should be noted that WO Hill won NCO of the year once before as a MCpl in the 1990s. In 2004 WO French transferred from the Primary Reserve to the Regular Force)
OC's Cup was awarded to:	Capt Helmer-Smith



Cpl Mark receiving his award from Maj French



Maj French (OC) pointing out that as a MCpl, WO Hill had won the same award back in 1990's

“BREWED UP”, BY F.T.V. SAVARD, PRINT 92/1000



CO 39 CER LCol James Julien posing with the “Brewed Up” print

The Story Behind “Brewed Up”

D.M. Kennedy LCol RCE/CME

James Street Armouries, Hamilton Ontario – home to several Canadian Army units including the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada (Princess Louise’s) (A&SH of C) and 18 Fd Company/Squadron, RCE.

A&SH of C (Princess Louise’s) – supported by C Coy, South Alberta Regiment (SAR) (legacy carried on by the South Alberta Light Horse) fought in the Hochwald during Op BLOCKBUSTER, March 1945. The A&SH of C returned to the James Street Armoury after WWII; In the Argyll Officers’ Mess is a room dedicated to Pte Savard.

Pte Fred T.V. Savard – member of the A&SH of C Intelligence Section. He was an artist before the war. When the Battalion found out about his artistic capabilities, he was moved from a line company to the Int section. During Op BLOCKBUSTER, the Argylls attacked Veen, Hochwald. On 06 March, during the Veen attack, an SAR Sherman “Firefly” was knocked out; the crew evacuated safely. During a lull in the battle, Pte Savard was able to make a sketch of this tank. Savard captured many such scenes in sketches (charcoal and paint) done on wood “shingles”. Several adorn the walls of the room dedicated to Savard in the Argyll Mess in Hamilton. After the war, Savard turned a few of his sketches into full paintings; “Brewed Up” is one and features the disabled SAR Sherman from the 06 March, 1945 combat action.

Black Yesterdays – is the story of the Argylls during WWII. It was published in 1996 and features “Brewed Up” on its cover. Coinciding with the release of “Black Yesterdays”, the Argylls offered up limited edition reprints of “Brewed Up”. Florence Kennedy bought three copies of both the book and the prints.

Lt Florence “Betty” Kennedy (nee Bain) – born and raised in Hamilton. She had a long association with the A&SH of C, because many of her immediate family paraded with the Argylls before and after the war. She was commissioned into the Red Cross (as Florence Bain) and deployed to England as a Nursing Lieutenant. She married Lt Milton Kennedy (RCE) whilst deployed overseas.

Lt Milton Kennedy – a mechanical engineer with Westinghouse in Hamilton. He enlisted in the RCE in 1942 and underwent his officer training in several locations including Chilliwack before being posted overseas (6th and 16th Field Companies, possibly others as Engineer units were formed and re-formed). After the war, he re-enlisted with 18 Field Squadron, RCE, retiring as its OC. These happy days with 18 Field were centered on the James Street Armoury. Milton passed away in 1963. He had a son who joined the RCE, then CME – Donald Kennedy.

The link with “Brewed UP” – both “Betty” and Milton Kennedy were very familiar with the officers and men of the Argylls – “Betty” most of her life, and Milton through close associations at the Armoury. They were both familiar with Savard’s work. It was only natural then that Florence would purchase the “Black Yesterdays” books and “Brewed Up” prints. At the time, her son was posted to Chief of Land Staff, Infrastructure Engineers. He was the Housing Officer for the Army Ottawa Officers’ Mess (AOOM), which harboured an Engineer stand easy. “Betty” Kennedy decided that it was apropos to frame and dedicate a copy of “Brewed Up”, in memory of Major M.M. Kennedy, RCE, to the Engineer stand easy in the AOOM. Witnessed by then Maj D.M. Kennedy, the print was accepted by the BGen Ed Fitch, RCE/CME.

Donation – LCol (ret'd) D.M. Kennedy recovered the print from the AOOM Engineer stand easy in 2010, because other donations were incoming. LCol Kennedy's "final posting" is now in Vedder Crossing, and, with downsizing being a strong feature of any final moves, he determined that the best "final posting" for "Brewed Up" was across Keith Wilson Road with 39 CER. The Commanding Officer of 39 CER, LCol James Julien, had a better plan. The Sherman "Firefly" in the print represents the South Alberta Regiment's brave efforts in NW Europe, and therefore, a home with the SAR/SALH would be most fitting. LCol Kennedy could not agree more; he posits that "Betty" and Milton are totally onside with this recommendation.

MEMBERSHIP

For those wishing to become members of 39 CER Association, a membership form can be acquired from: membership@39cer.ca

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The 39 CER website can be accessed at: <http://www.39cer-museum.net/>

For more Engineer news please visit the Canadian Military Engineer Association website at: <https://cmea-agmc.ca>