

"IZZY" BRIDGE

IN MEMORY OF

MCPL MARK ROBERT ISFELD

KILLED IN THE SERVICE OF PEACE
WHILE REMOVING LANDMINES
KAKMA, CROATIA, 21 JUNE 1994

CONSTRUCTED BY HIS FELLOW SAPPERS
CANADIAN MILITARY ENGINEERS
SEPTEMBER 1999



**ARMY
COMBAT
ENGINEERS**

Creston Valley Advance TV Magazine and The East Kootenay Weekly included in this issue.

Show of strength bridges the gap

By Rose Matjasic
Advance Staff

More than two years after it was washed out, there's a new bridge over Summit Creek for the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area.

The much-anticipated replacement project featured 75 Canadian military sappers from Trail, Vancouver and Calgary squadrons spending almost 24 hours constructing the bridge over two days.

In doing so they restored the CVWMA's only direct access to almost 1,000 hectares of wetland, which was cut off when the high spring run-off in 1997 destroyed the old span.

Between 300 and 400 local spectators showed up to witness the effort Friday and Saturday.

"I can't explain the great sense of accomplishment that we feel," said CVWMA manager Brian Stushnoff. "We all feel very excited.

"Everything worked out well and we are so amazed with the bridge. We're pleased with the quality and we're so pleased with the public support we received on the project.

"I want to say a very big thank you to the community



Photo by Rose Matjasic

Female sapper wields a mighty sledgehammer to pound a pin into a section of Bailey bridge.

for the many forms of support they've offered and to the military for the incredible job that was done. The bridge is now open and I hope it will be

well-used."

The 140-foot Bailey bridge has been named the Izzy Bridge after Master Cpl. Mark Isfeld of the Trail squadron,

who was killed in 1994 while attempting to disengage land mines in Croatia.

Commanding officer Maj. Brent Warne of the 44 field

engineer squadron of Trail, which oversaw the operation, hopes the bridge will not only be used to serve the memory of Isfeld, but also the Creston Valley community for years to come.

"The project was a resounding success," Warne said Monday. "This is one of the best bridges that we've ever done and we're glad that we could be of use. The soldiers did hard but skilled work and had a great time doing it. It was a good training exercise for us but it meant a whole lot more.

"We want to thank the community for coming out — the soldiers worked 50-percent harder because of the crowd — and between the hospitality we received from the town (businesses) and having (Mayor Lela Irvine) bake muffins, the moral support meant a lot. I've never seen so much support in any community as I have from this one."

Warne added that he hopes to offer his services to the CVWMA again, hopefully as soon as next year.

"The support from the town was overwhelming," he said. "Everyone is looking forward to coming back."

More photos on page 16.



LEAVE-NO
 Inspired by the support of more than 300 onlookers, 75 military engineers from B.C. and Alberta raised a Bailey bridge over Summit Creek west of Creston on Saturday, employing heavy equipment such as a bulldozer (directed at left by bridge commander Sgt. Sharman Thomas of Trail), hydraulic jacks (below, right) and plenty of good old-fashioned elbow grease.

Photos by Rose Matjasic



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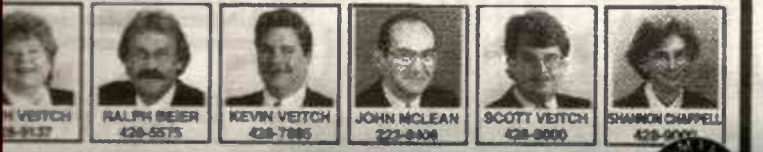
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THE IZZY BRIDGE



