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DEFENCE CONSTRUCTION CANADA

# DCC At Work

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## Supporting the Canadian Forces in Kabul

Seeing firsthand what the CF is dealing with in Afghanistan was on the mind of DCC President Ross Nicholls when he travelled to Kabul this past January. Mr. Nicholls had the opportunity to join BGen Steve Irwin, J3 Engineer and Col Denis Bouchard, J4 Log on visits to Camps Mirage and Julien when they went to evaluate the logistic and engineering support provided to Operation Athena by civilian contractors.

As part of its support service for deployed operations, DCC has an employee, Keith Dyer (from 8 Wing Trenton) working at Camp Julien with the Engineering Support Squadron (ESS). He is also working with the Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) platoon to help rebuild Kabul's infrastructure. Mr. Dyer brings with him contracting expertise along with other technical skills



According to Ross Nicholls (centre), pictured here on a recent trip to Kabul, working with deployed ops is an excellent hands-on opportunity to learn about the CF.

that are proving useful for the Operation. By making this journey, Mr. Nicholls was able to gain a sense of comfort with the working and living situation of DCC employees.

From what Mr. Nicholls saw, "excellent facilities have been established under difficult circumstances and the resulting living/working conditions are relatively comfortable. For any DCC employee with a sense of adventure, broad technical skills and ability to work independently, working on deployed ops is

an excellent opportunity to learn what the CF is really all about."

This trip was also a chance to identify any gaps in scope of contracted support to the CF and potential ways in which DCC could further assist deployed operations. In feedback received during the visit, both ESS and CIMIC staff acknowledged how Mr. Dyer was able to augment their ability to deliver projects by writing project specifications, applying sound tender practices and establishing quality assurance processes.

## BOMA Certifications Fill Another DND Need

DCC is always looking for new ways to assist DND in managing its infrastructure. Darrell Stewart (506-357-1204), a contract coordinator at CFB Gagetown says, "Property management can be a bit of a challenge, so it's a role we can help out with."

This is a niche that DCC can fill, and it supports employees who want to be certified by the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) of Canada, which bills itself as "the voice of the Canadian commercial real estate industry."

Trevor Rogers (902-765-1761), a project engineer at CFB Greenwood, agrees that

certification is important. "It's hard to go to the client and say that we can do the job unless we have somebody lined up who has proven abilities." Both Stewart and Rogers spent 13 months earning their BOMA certification.

Rogers says he and Stewart "cranked out the courses as fast as we could," and both earned marks in the high 80s. The pair adopted a self-study regimen that included regular, monitored tests that were supervised by BOMA officials at university campuses. They also attended accelerated programs, which were four-day blitzes of classroom time.

Stewart says that it helped that the pair went through the program together, even though they were in different provinces. They attended the accelerated programs together (two in Ottawa, one in Halifax and one in St. John's) and were able to help each other understand the material and pass the tests. Stewart jokes, "I'm over 40, so I hadn't been back to school in a long time."

Rogers says the next step for DCC now is to look for opportunities to assist its client with property management. This should be under way early in 2004.

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### DCC AT WORK

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## Environmentalist 24/7

By day, Patricia Isnor is an environmental project manager for DCC, responsible for environmental resources in the Atlantic Region. In her spare time, she volunteers her expertise to help keep Springfield Lake clean.

Located just outside Halifax, Springfield Lake is imperilled by the community that has grown up around it. Residents such as Isnor have banded together to form Springfield Lake Watch.

Of concern is a condition referred to as eutrophication. Nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen are normally good for lakes, but when human activity causes a rapid increase in these nutrients, the lake “ages.” This is eutrophication. Enrichment leads to excessive plant growth, including pond scum and reeds. Shallow lakes such as Springfield Lake are especially vulnerable. The committee is trying to raise awareness of environmental concerns. If the issues are not addressed, the lake will be unfit for public use and decrease property values.

“My work experience in assessing causes and impacts as well as dealing with regulators and sampling requirements has benefited the committee,” says Isnor, who spends several hours a week gathering information and helping the committee communicate its concerns to residents.

The group even has a Web site <http://users.eastlink.ca/~springfieldlake/>, to identify committee progress, inform the public and to encourage community involvement. One hopes that, thanks to the efforts of people like Isnor, those trends will reverse.



Pictured above at the December 5th luncheon, are, from left to right: Ron de Vries (VP Contract and Client Services at DCC), Margaret Bloodworth (DM), Karen Ellis (ADM IE), BGen Irwin (DG Realty Policy and Plans), Col Stewart Moore (DCPEP), and Ross Nicholls (DCC President and CEO).



Pictured above at the Gagetown groundbreaking ceremony are, from left to right: Darrell Stewart (DCC), John McCallum (Minister of National Defence), Robert Guthrie (Architect at AMEC Consultants), and a media representative.



Richard Lee (left) and Jordan Semeschuk discuss preparations for the civil works to be done.

### Teaming with Success

A DCPEP and DCC contracting services lessons-learned session was held in Ottawa on December 5, 2003. Topics on the agenda included procurement and solicitation planning, best practices and areas of improvement, as well as a celebration of recent ISO certification.

**Gagetown, NB**—On November 26, 2003, DND announced that two contracts were awarded to Maxim 2000 and Pomerleau Inc. for the construction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Royal Canadian Regiment's (2RCR) new Garrison Facility. DCC is providing contract management services for this \$11 million project.

**Nanaimo, BC**—The \$5 million design-build Nanaimo Armoury is underway with a scheduled completion date of March 1, 2004. DCC is involved in the contract management of this project. Jordan Semeschuk is working at a satellite office in Nanaimo (250-741-0933) and Richard Lee is the electrical commissioning coordinator.

## DND Innovation in Windsor

As governments explore new and innovative ways to work together, DCC is pleased to be involved with a DND project in Windsor where this is happening. There, the local police and DND are sharing a training facility.

Police training operations are normally conducted during the day, whereas Reserve operations mainly occur during evenings and weekends. Rather than have two buildings, each of which would be empty much of the time, more than 500 Army Reservists (from the Windsor Regiment, the Essex & Kent Scottish Regiment, 21 Service Battalion and Windsor's Army Reserve) will join 550 police members to train at a joint facility.

“This joint project with the City of Windsor is a concrete example of how the federal government is looking for creative initiatives with different levels of government to make the most effective use of taxpayer dollars,” said local MP Susan Whelan.

The costs of construction will be shared between DND and the City of Windsor, with the city owning the facility and DND entering into a 20-year lease arrangement. Construction for the new building began this summer and will be completed in spring 2004.

Patricia Baker (519-675-3477), a site manager from Area Support Unit London, and Doug Buckley, contract coordinator, work as the “eyes and ears” for the DND project manager in Ottawa. For DCC, this is an unusual project, in that the City of Windsor is handling the contracting and DCC is simply observing and providing quality assurances for its client.

“There are a lot of agencies involved,” says Pat Baker. “There are a lot of levels of authority and it can be tricky to define everyone's roles. As tenants, we have limited input, but it's a new situation for them as well.”