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At last count, almost 2,000 Canadian Forces (CF) members were living with some kind of physical injury, sustained during their tours of duty in Afghanistan. The injuries date from the beginning of the mission in April 2002 to December 2010.

In an effort to better accommodate injured CF members, the Department of National Defence (DND) has for many years been providing barrier-free military homes. However, due to the more complex type of wartime injuries...

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Construction of the new \$24.5 million LAV III 14,000-sq-metre facility in Montreal will house over 100 LAV III vehicles.

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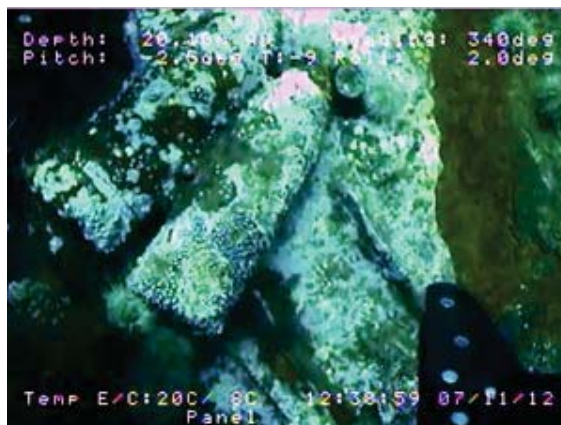
Seventy Canadians lost their lives in the waters off Conception Bay, Newfoundland during the Second World War in two battles with German U-Boats that many Canadians may not even be aware of. It was the fall of 1942 and two iron ore carriers (SS Saganaga and SS Lord Strathcona) were sunk by the Germans because of their strategic importance to the Allied war effort.

The site of the attacks, which included the sinking of two other ships later that year – the SS Rose Castle and the Free-French freighter PLM27 – was Bell Island, the only North American location to be directly attacked by German forces during the war. Today, the waters off Conception Bay are a watery grave for both the men who were lost, and the ships that went down with them.

Defence Construction Canada (DCC) has been asked by the Department of National Defence (DND) to manage the contract to survey two of the underwater wreckages to determine the exact locations and quantities of unexploded munitions for eventual removal.



Underwater photo of a gun mounted on the wreck of the SS Saganaga off Bell Island, NL that was sunk as a result of torpedo hits by German submarines during WWII.



Unexploded projectiles found on the wreck of the SS Saganaga in Conception Bay, NL.

Austin Baird, Manager, Environmental Programs, is spearheading the contract for DCC during the survey phase.

"We typically don't think of war graves from WWII hostilities being located on Canadian soil or waters but they do exist, particularly on this site. As we proceed through this initial survey, we are very aware and cognizant of the fact this is a Canadian heritage site and these are war graves," says Baird.

"Every precaution must be taken to ensure the underwater survey by

the contract divers is done to the exact specifications and safety requirements under the *Explosives Act*, while preserving the integrity of this important Canadian heritage site. We are there to make sure that happens.”

Under DCC’s Environmental Services service line, Baird and his team are providing quality assurance oversight of the contractor’s team of divers as well as liaising with an on-site archaeologist.

“The process is quite stringent as far as monitoring goes to ensure we are not causing any damage. Of course there is always the potential for human remains to be found so that has to be handled delicately.”

Part of the job entails identifying a safe and effective pathway to remove any unexploded explosive ordnance that may be found originating from fitted equipment such as anti-aircraft guns that were mounted on the ships.

“These ordnances do not necessarily have the concerns of munitions which have been fired and failed to function, but they are sitting on the ship and accessible so there is concern over them being mishandled or getting into the wrong hands. Under the right conditions, there is potential for them to go off, so the main thing for DND is to mitigate the potential exposure pathway by removing the item or verifying that for now the item is in an area that cannot be reached.”



Team of underwater divers from GEMTEC Limited of Fredericton, NB, the prime contractor who conducted the initial underwater survey work.

Baird explained that once the initial survey is completed, phase two of the project will be initiated. Next year, DCC will begin managing contracts for survey of the remaining two ships and assisting DND by contracting for the removal of ordnance as required.

“This project has been extremely interesting both from a professional perspective and because of my own personal interest in the wartime activities in and around our coastal waters. We have had some challenges with weather and that sort of thing, but overall the project has gone extremely well,” Baird concluded.

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The Longue-Pointe Garrison warehouse in Montreal has just been completed, becoming one of the largest army investments in Quebec in more than a decade, thanks to the support of Defence Construction Canada (DCC). This imposing structure worth \$24.5 million is now housing the third generation light armoured vehicle (LAV III) fleet, just back from its mission in Afghanistan.

Jean-Marc Dubé, DCC Manager, Construction Services, assisted by Alain Schneider, DCC Coordinator, Construction Services, managed this large-scale site, which took 24 months to build.



The LAV III facility provides indoor, temperature and humidity control parking for 102 LAV IIIs, 18 maintenance bays, 6 kitting bays, and 4 wash bays. The building follows the guidelines for achieving LEED Silver.

"The Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces can now count on a modern building that meets the new requirements. The warehouse was built in compliance with Silver LEED environmental certification standards, which includes using geothermal equipment and white roofs and maximizing natural light," said Jean-Marc Dubé, member of the Quebec order of engineers.



Inside the new facility, the vehicle kitting line can accommodate up to six LAV IIIs at a time.

The new building, covering 14,000 square metres, can store over 100 LAV III vehicles. It is divided into four areas: storage, maintenance, deployment and one area reserved solely for

cleaning the vehicles. Four vehicles can be washed simultaneously in the cleaning bay, as per the norms established by the Departments of Environment and Agriculture. A complete water treatment system has been installed to ensure that all impurities and bacteria are eliminated when the vehicles return from missions abroad.

What sets this building apart is that the LAV III storage is in a moisture-controlled area, which facilitates vehicle deployment. The maintenance area consists of 18 work bays for general work. Office space has been set up for administrative staff on the second floor.

In a few weeks, Jean-Marc Dubé and his team will be able to say "mission accomplished." The last of the preparations will have been completed and the Longue-Pointe Garrison warehouse will play a major role in deploying overseas operations.

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DCC takes its job of supporting its Client-Partner, the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces, very seriously. It was no surprise, then, that more than 60 DCC employees—the most ever—took part in the annual Army Run on September 23, 2012, in Ottawa.

DCC runners and walkers joined President James Paul and 18,000 others to raise money for Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency programs, including Soldier On and the Military Families Fund. Many employees travelled from Toronto, North Bay, Kingston, Montréal and Valcartier to be part of this amazing experience.

Eleven teams (the "DCC Bolts") hit the starting line at 8:00 a.m. for the 5-km run, while three more set out at 9:00 a.m. for the 21.1-km half-marathon. With their bright-orange wrist cuffs, the DCCers stood out in the crowd.



DCC President, James Paul, with a group of DCC Army Run runners and walkers.

Before the starting cannon fired, participants heard encouraging words from Governor General David Johnston, who is also Commander-in-Chief of the Canadian Forces. Lt-Gen Peter Devlin, Commander of the Canadian Army, and Minister of National Defence Peter MacKay also took their turn inspiring the athletes.

At the finish line, DCC achieved respectable results once again, with a number of teams finishing in the top 10 in their category. Of particular note were a first place in the civilian mixed team 5-km category and third place finish in the men's civilian 5-km category.

Congratulations to all! We look forward to another great show of support for our Client-Partner next year!

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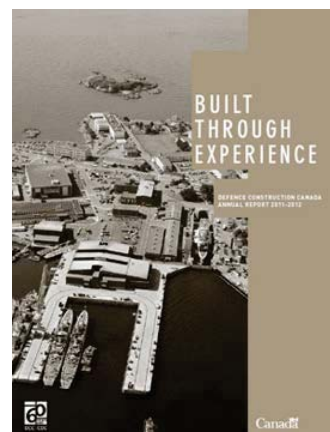
Reflecting DCC's 60th anniversary in 2011-12, our latest annual report showcases projects past and present that demonstrate how DCC has been a dedicated and responsive partner to government and industry since 1951. The report also shows that by being flexible and guided by our experience and corporate memory, DCC is effectively serving the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces (DND/CF), today.

This commitment to supporting our Client-Partner is exemplified by our strengthened capability and breadth of expertise. "In 2011-12, DCC embarked on a period of significant change and optimization, which will result in a greatly enhanced service delivery model," said James Paul DCC President and CEO. "These changes will enable DCC to act more efficiently and effectively than ever before."

The report contains further accounts of our adapting to suit the changing demands of DND/CF and sets out our work to meet a number of Government of Canada objectives. DCC's results for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2012, captured in the report, document our accomplishments over that period as well as our progress towards our strategic goals.

As always, DCC looks ahead as it continues to respond to the evolving needs of its Client-Partner, protect the interests of the Crown and generate value for Canadians, all while creating a challenging and rewarding workplace for its people.

Please visit the [DCC website](#) to view the report on-line or contact the [Communications Department](#) for a print copy.



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DCC at Work is our Corporate Services newsletter, delivered bi-monthly to our public- and private-sector partners and the public at large. The articles in *DCC at Work* focus on service-delivery success stories, from the most complex projects to innovative ideas that save time and money.

To suggest story ideas or to comment on the newsletter, please contact [the Editor](#).

Look for the next issue of *DCC at Work* in December 2012.



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