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Sgt Ralph Bridge prior to the incremental launching of its replacement, Oromocto, New Brunswick.

The Sergeant Ralph Bridge at [5th Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown](#) (formerly known as Canadian Forces Base Gagetown) is one of the most frequently travelled thoroughfares on the entire base. Troops and tanks on their way to the base's massive range and training area, which covers approximately one eighth of New Brunswick, travel across the bridge pretty much every day.

The specifications of the Sgt Ralph Bridge had been more than satisfactory, up until recently when the Canadian Armed Forces acquired [Leopard 2A4 tanks](#) for the Canadian Army. Simply put, the Leopard 2A4 tank is a much heavier armoured battle tank with an optimal combination of firepower, protection, mobility and controllability. In other words, the new Leopard 2A4 tank at more than 67 tons is too heavy to cross the Sgt Ralph Bridge, which was never built to withstand the weight of such a heavy vehicle.

Whereas military engineers would have normally been the ones to dismantle and construct the new bridge, operational requirements did not allow for that to happen, so DCC has been working diligently with contractors to complete the job. Base personnel continue to be briefed on the progress of the project and so far everything is on time and on target.

"Up until now, this whole project has existed on paper so I am quite excited to see the crews disassemble the old bridge and the new bridge get launched," says Nathan Stewart, DCC Coordinator, Construction Services.

"When you talk about engineering everyone thinks of bridges. It's the stereotypical thing you think of. So the fact I'm working on a bridge capable of supporting these massive tanks, it doesn't get any better than that." One of the more unusual aspects of the bridge replacement

is the way it is being done. Unlike other bridge construction methods, where workers are suspended over the bridge continuously building it in place using equipment that can be invasive to nearby land, water and sanitation systems, the Sgt Ralph Bridge is being built in a far more efficient, less disruptive way.

The process, known as an [Incremental Bridge Launch](#), has been used by military engineers for more than a century. Although it is a tried and true bridge building method, it is still rather unique for non-military type bridges. The process is safer, less disruptive, less invasive, more cost-efficient and greener. With this method, bridges such as the Sgt Ralph Bridge are built on site, adjacent to the new bridge span, and then nudged into place an inch at a time, using massive industrial rollers.

The bridge launch is of course the final phase of a much longer design and site preparation process, which involves reinforcing the new abutment to hold a longer, wider bridge. The new bridge is 10m wide and 60m long, significantly larger than the old bridge.

In the spirit of environmental stewardship, the base provided the rock used to reinforce the new bridge abutment by blasting rock from an existing quarry on base property. That allowed the project team to save the client time and money by sourcing the rock internally.

The new Sgt Ralph Bridge is expected to be finished in late fall 2015.

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Real property planning has become one of DCC's key services in the last few years. To date, the team has completed real property plans for the Royal Canadian Navy and Defence Research and Development Canada, and others are ongoing across Canada.

The NCR plan, which was approved by DND last September, was particularly complex and required more than two years' work by Jeff O'Neill, Team Leader, Real Property Management, and his DCC colleagues, led by senior staff from the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff and DND's Infrastructure and Environment (IE) Group.

The region is home to more than 20,000 DND and Canadian Armed Forces employees. The real property portfolio encompasses more than 1,800 hectares of land, 72 sites and more than 250 major buildings, totalling roughly 600,000 m² of floor space. Having a long-term plan in place is key to ensuring that real property is used effectively and efficiently over time.

The first stage of developing the plan required taking stock of the current real property situation—cataloguing assets, as well as noting how they are used, their condition and any environmental and heritage issues.

Extensive consultation with stakeholders came next. For the NCR plan, that meant speaking with representatives from the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau, the National Capital Commission, as well as Public Works and Government Services Canada, and the Ottawa Airport Authority as well as DND organizations.

"These consultations were very important to the planning process," says O'Neill. "We wanted to see what stakeholders' long-term plans were for the areas of the region that are the current or future locations for DND activities, to see whether there were any conflicts or opportunities for cooperation."

During the final step in the process, options for moving forward were developed. They looked at what buildings are to be built, land repurposed or other infrastructure changed—to take advantage of opportunities for consolidation and promote efficiency.

For all real property plans, the DCC team works closely with DND staff and senior managers at every stage. In fact, DCC staff were embedded with their DND colleagues at times while developing the NCR plan. DCC Geographic Information Systems analysts supported the effort by providing the maps and other illustrations that make up a large part of the very visual plan.

The plan was very well received and has helped solidify the good working relationship between DND and DCC in the area of planning, O'Neill says. He and his colleagues are currently finishing a plan for CFB Halifax, have begun assisting ADM(IE) with their national

plan for DND, and continue to help individual DND bases/wings with their local plans.

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57B St. Louis Street is a special rehabilitation project for DCC. Previously home to a quality testing laboratory, the site was ceded to Parks Canada by the Department of National Defence because of its heritage value.

"Our goal was to make this site compliant for Parks Canada, by protecting its extensive archeological remains," said Simon Flamand, DCC Coordinator, Environmental Services in Valcartier, who has been running the worksite over the past few weeks.



This involved major challenges for the DND UXO and Legacy Sites Program in Ottawa. In addition to archeological issues, the DCC team had to contend with the rigours of winter and atypical topography of this historic neighbourhood, which significantly complicated the transport of contaminated soil off-site. Thankfully, heavy snowfall in recent months prevented the soil from freezing deeply, thereby facilitating its excavation.

In all, over 2300 metric tonnes of soil contaminated with heavy metals and aromatic hydrocarbons were excavated in four weeks. The project also helped dispose of some reinforced concrete as well as excavate and protect several archeological remains. Accordingly, the foundations of a former military hospital dating back to the war of 1812-1814 were excavated.

"This was a serious coordination challenge. We did some careful planning and we are happy with the results," concluded Simon Flamand.

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Shawn Bindon, DCC Site Manager and commander of the 33 Canadian Brigade Group, the Army Reserve in Eastern Ontario, James Paul, DCC President and CEO, Steve Cromwell, DCC Borden Site Manager, Ontario Region Director John Graham and Alfred Lai, Technical Specialist, Real Property Management and also major in the Reserve Force (32 Signal Regiment).

DCC has been recognized by the Canadian Forces Liaison Council (CFLC) for supporting employees as they carry out their duties as Canadian Armed Forces Reservists.

Alfred Lai, Technical Specialist, Real Property Management, DCC Borden, who is also a major in the Reserve Force (32 Signal Regiment), nominated DCC for the Council's Employer Support Award. The award honours organizations that provide active support to individual Reservists in their employ and have Reservist-friendly human resources practices.

Among Lai's roles as a Reservist is that of Designated Assistant (DA), which he trained for after returning from a tour in Afghanistan in 2006–2007, when he served as a full-time Reservist. Designated Assistants work with the families of deceased or seriously injured or ill soldiers, helping them get the support they need with administrative and personal matters.

In the summer of 2013, Lai learned the military was looking for a qualified Designated Assistant who spoke Cantonese. Lai, who is originally from Hong Kong, volunteered. Thus began several months' work with the family of a soldier with a terminal illness. Lai's duties included helping the soldier's family members, who didn't speak English, with all the administrative staff work and procedures associated with the soldier's care and benefits at the final stage of her life, and upon her death making cemetery arrangements.

"The family was really appreciative that I could deal with DND and speak their language," Lai recalls.

To make this assistance possible, Lai had to be on 24/7 standby and available from time to time during regular business hours. Finally, upon the soldier's passing, he supported the

family on a full-time basis for several weeks. And, that's where DCC's support of Reservists came in. Lai's supervisor, the late Mike Drake, as well as DCC Borden Site Manager Steve Cromwell, and others within DCC, set up a pre-approved leave arrangement that allowed Alfred to temporarily step away from his DCC duties as soon as the family needed him.

"This kind of support is above and beyond expectation from any employer," Lai says.

"It is an honour and a privilege to receive this award as recognition of the support we provide to our employees who participate in the Reserve," said James Paul, President and CEO. He received the award on behalf of DCC from Ontario Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell at the ceremony in Toronto on March 11, 2015, also attended by Alfred, Steve and Ontario Regional Director John Graham, as well as Shawn Bindon, a colonel in the Reserve Force.

The Canadian Forces Liaison Council is a national group of business and educational leaders who volunteer their time to promote the benefits of Reserve Force training and experience to the civilian workplace.

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

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