

OUR ORPHANS ARE HOME – 04 March 2015

ALL SAPPERS MEMORIAL PARK - CHILLIWACK

By the CFB Chilliwack Historical Society



“Operation Homecoming”

Lifting the 23,000 lb Bell Tent



Summer of 2009 was a wonderful time – Sappers “Everywhere” rejoiced when Canada lands Company Ltd agreed to renovate The Cenotaph grounds here in Chilliwack. Final cost – almost \$2 million. Two of the CFB Chilliwack historical monuments were removed to 54 ES compound for safe keeping at that time.

Several new homes for these babies were considered, even promised, but circumstances did not permit.

City of Chilliwack now owns the land, (All Sappers Memorial Park) and when proposed, they welcomed the two monuments with open arms. Their Operations Department gave us the green light and provided their personnel and operational assistance.

CME Branch Advisor gave CFB Chilliwack Historical Society (CFBCHS) permission to request “Sapper” support from 192 CEF (Aldergrove), 19 Wing graciously provided equipment, manpower, knowledge and assistance. Without them, this project would never have succeeded.

MWO Robert Petty was their ‘hands on’ supervisor coordinator, always with a tool of some sort in his hand while ably directing and teaching his charges – excellent leadership style - BZ

We knew the move would be at least \$5K so Chilliwack Foundation was approached and they presented CFBCHS a cheque for that full amount.

Loading the 50 year Memorial (\$700 / hr)

When we approached Eagle West (Abbotsford), their estimate was \$8,250.00 – Oops! But, they realized the purpose and importance of this initiative and donated the excess – many, many thanks. Their 280 ton capacity crane easily handled the 33,000 lb 50 year monument and the 23,000 lb Bell Tent. All that equipment was \$700 per hour. Thank heavens things went smoothly, and for that we appreciate the hard work of CWO (Ret'd) Mike Boughner – very well done.



Bell Tent – significant of first camp



50 year Memorial – 1942 - 1992



View of Cenotaph facing Promontory Hill

