

Weymouth cadets 'most improved corps'

By Karla Kelly FOR THE DIGBY COURIER, Published on the 14th February 2011



Major Ken Hynes, left, vice-president of the Army Cadet League of Nova Scotia, presents RSM Hannah Potvin and commanding officer Capt. Eben Sabean of the Weymouth cadet corps with the award as most improved army cadet corps. Karla Kelly photo

The 603 Weymouth Royal Canadian Army Cadet corps has received an award as the province's most improved army cadet corps award.

Major Ken Hynes, cadet inspector and vice-president of the Army Cadet League of Nova Scotia, presented the award in a ceremony Thursday in Weymouth Consolidated School, and congratulated the cadets for their achievement.

"The younger members of this cadet corps have done well with having so few senior cadets to train them," said Hynes.

The award was accepted by Regimental Sergeant Major Hannah Potvin on behalf of the cadet corps.

Potvin, who has been in the corps for five years, said she has watched the Weymouth corps improve over that time, but was still surprised to hear of the award.

"The award was so unexpected because I've seen how much the other army corps throughout the province have improved," she said.

Also attending the ceremony was Col. Bob Baxter, president of the Nova Scotia branch of the Army Cadet League of Canada.

Baxter inspected the corps, speaking personally to each cadet, before addressing them and others in attendance.

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Training officer and deputy commander Robbie Sweeney said the Weymouth corps was notified of the award in December.

“It was an honour as well as a surprise to receive the award,” he said. “There are 28 army cadet corps in the province so to receive this recognition was quite an accomplishment.”

There are 35 registered cadets in our local West Nova Scotia Regiment, including members from the former Saulnierville cadet corps.”

The role of the Weymouth cadets has expanded over the years to include assisting the Weymouth Legion’s color party and laying of the wreaths at Remembrance Day ceremonies.

“In the 1990s when I was a young cadet, we played a significantly smaller role but over the years they have come to depend on us,” said Sweeney. “It is an honour to represent the veterans and a good experience for the cadets.”

Weldon Francis, sergeant-at-arms for the Weymouth Legion branch, noted the improvement of the local cadet corps and expressed his thanks for the cadets’ involvement with the Legion.

“The cadet program has been operational in Weymouth for many years and the cadets have been involved in the Legion ceremonies including the unveiling of the restored monuments last November,” Francis said. “As the Legion members age, we rely on the cadets to assist us with important aspects of our Remembrance Day ceremonies including the colour party and laying of the wreaths.”

Commanding officer Capt. Eben Sabeau said the award reflects the commitment of the cadets to improve. “Everything the cadets achieve makes me proud of them,” he said.



Cadet James Gaudet tells Col. Bob Baxter, center, president of the Nova Scotia branch of the Army Cadet League of Canada, that he enjoys every aspect of being a cadet. Karla Kelly photo



Col. Bob Baxter speaks with cadet Kailyn Williams during the ceremony. Karla Kelly photo