

RCEME GEMRC



Warrant Officer Ian MacDonald, CD

WO MacDonald will retire on 9 Jul 18 after 41 loyal and dedicated service to the CAF and the RCEME Corps. He was recruited in Regina, Sask as a Veh Tech and signed the dotted line on 8 Feb, 1977. On 18 Feb he headed to Cornwallis for Basic Training, and after graduation on 6 May, he was posted to Borden for his NTD and Veh Tech QL3 courses. His first posting was to CFB Gagetown where he rotated through the various workshops to complete his QL4 training, working on all types of equipment from staff cars to Centurion tanks. When an opportunity arose for him to be posted a bit closer to home, he accepted a posting to 3 RCHA in Shilo, MB in Aug 79. During his time with 3 RCHA, he completed his QL5 course in 81, was promoted to Cpl, went on his first overseas deployment to Cyprus from Apr to Oct of 82, and completed his JLC course in 84.

In Jun 84 he was posted to V&R platoon, 4 Svc Bn, Lahr. During his time in V&R platoon he spent two years in Recovery section putting over 18,000 Miles on a 5 Ton Wrecker, and two years in 2nd Line wheeled section. Promoted to MCpl in 1988, Ian was posted to FMSU where he worked out of Reigel maintaining the European Type Tractor/trailers and Cargo Trucks.

After a total of six years of beer and bratwurst, Ian was posted in Jul 90 back to Canada, back to where he started, in CFB Gagetown. Ian again rotated through several workshops including Mobile Section (2nd line tracked), AV platoon (1st Line tracked), Arty Det, K1 Back Shop (1st line SPV), and finally the consolidated K-Lines tool Crib. He completed his QL6A in Jul 93.

In Jul 96, Ian was posted to the Light Infantry Battalion in Petawawa (The remnants of the Airborne Unit) and went through the reformation of 3 RCR as a Reg Force unit. During his time with 3 RCR he deployed on TFBH to Zgon from Mar to Sept of 01 where he was I/C AFV section.



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On return from this tour, he was posted to CFSEME Veh Coy in Nov 01. Ian spent about 3 years instructing QL3 & QL5 students in Unique & Common section, spending most of his time with Track and Recovery classes, and about 2 years in the scheduling office juggling course schedules around constantly changing course loads, and trying to fit STEP students into the mix. Promoted to Sgt in 2006, Ian was posted to PRETC as a Platoon 2IC looking after recruits awaiting training.

Having done his time in positions with a 1st line Arty unit, a Svc Bn, a Base Maintenance, a 1st line Infantry Unit, and the CFSEME school, the career managers decided Ian should round out his employment with an Air Force unit, so in Jul 2007 he was posted to 17 Wing Winnipeg. After about a year and a half working as I/C Commercial Vehicle Section, Ian got dragged into the Control Office. While working as Planner, Ian oversaw the Rollout of DRMIS, prepping data prior to rollout, organizing the training, and acting as the DRMIS Site Manager for the workshop. He finally got the opportunity to complete the Nijmegen March in July 2009, something he had wanted to do for many years. From Nov 2012 to Jun 2013 Ian deployed with the R22R on Op Attention as a Mentor at the KMTC Motor Pool.

Promoted to his current rank in Jun 2014, Ian was posted to 32 Svc Bn as the Ops WO. After about a year and a half in that chair, his DRMIS expertise led to a chair-swap with the 32 CBG HQ G4 Maint-2, where he is employed until his final release on 9 Jul.

Ian is currently spending some of his long-ago accrued leave getting his house in order for sale and doing some local travelling before moving to his final home out west. He will be moving with his wife Evelyn to a dryer climate in Taber AB to be a bit closer to family. He intends to keep himself busy after retirement with computer repairs and wood-working.

Ian's DWD will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion, Wilson Branch 527, 948 Sheppard Ave W, North York, ON, on 11 May 2018 at 1230, and his last official day will be 9 Jul 2018. Please confirm attendance and send any congratulatory messages, anecdotes, etc. to WO Aviado at phillip.aviado@forces.gc.ca prior to 01 May 2018.



Arte et Marte