

# RCEME GEMRC

## RETIREMENT MESSAGE



**WO Thomas (Tom) Hicks, CD**

After 20 years of loyal and dedicated service to Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and the RCEME Corps, Warrant Officer Thomas (Tom) Hicks retired on 15 May 2019.

WO Hicks joined the CAF on 09 April 1999. He attended basic training in St-Jean followed by BDT, CET, CETT and QL 3 in CFB Borden. Once that was completed he was posted to 17 Wing Winnipeg. While at 17 Wing he managed to complete his OJT package with many trips across the street to 2 PPCLI Maintenance Pl and one trip out to Wainwright to work on Cougars. Once his OJT was completed, it was back to Borden for his QL5. Upon completion of his QL5, it was back to 17 Wing for a short time and then he was promoted to Cpl and sent to 2 PPCLI just in time to participate in the unit moving to CFB Shilo. He was lucky enough to miss most of the fun of relocating a major unit by deploying to Afghanistan in summer 2004 on a Mission Draw down team, where he received the General Campaign Star. He returned just in time to move into the brand new maintenance building.

The next several years saw innumerable gun camps, ranges and exercises, as well managing to find the time to marry his wonderful wife Melanie and complete a CF PLQ just before the RCEME Corps fell under Army command. In 2007, 2 PPCLI started training as the lead mounting unit for TF 01-08 to Afghanistan. Tom was promoted to MCpl during the summer of 2007, and completed his M777 maintenance course in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He then deployed as part of the NSE on TF 01-08 and spent the majority of the tour outside of KAF. Shortly after his return from Afghanistan he ended up at CFB Gagetown on the ICT for the new NANUK RWS.



**Arte et Marte**

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In October 2009, Tom and Melanie welcomed their awesome daughter Catherine to the family. They decided this major change wasn't enough and in the summer of 2010 saw them posted to CFB Esquimalt. After three years, Tom was posted to the RCEMES Det in Gagetown. Tom worked diligently in the development and instruction of the Wpns DP3 Supervisor and Security containers courses. He also worked with the DP3 Supervisor and Res F Wpns DP2 courses.

Upon promotion to WO, Tom was posted back to Shilo as the Con O at 1 RCHA. During his tenure at 1 RCHA, Tom was heavily relied on by the Tech Adjts and ETQMS's for his knowledge of the inner workings of the Regiment. For a short period of time in 2018, Tom assumed the roles of Tech Adjts, ETQMS, and Bty SM. In Jun 2018, Tom earned a Bde Comdr's coin for exemplary work acting as a Casualty Assistant for a member of the Regt. Tom was an integral part of CFB Shilo WO and Sgt's mess committee where he volunteered as VPMC and helped host multiple events. Tom's hard work and dedication will be missed by the members of 1 RCHA and 1 RCHA LMT where his mentorship was a key to its success. We wish him and his family the very best in their future.

Tom would like to thank those who he served with throughout the years, especially those he considered as mentors. Upon retirement, Tom has secured a job with CP Rail in Winnipeg where he will continue to hone his DRMIS skills as a Production Supervisor.

A relaxed DWD function will be held at the CFB Shilo WO's & Sgt's Mess on 7 Jun 2019 starting at 1430 hours to thank him and his family for his outstanding service to the Corps and CAF. Please send congratulatory messages, stories and anecdotes to [KELVIN.BANKS@forces.gc.ca](mailto:KELVIN.BANKS@forces.gc.ca).



Arte et Marte