

# Master Corporal John Stinson

## Canadian Armed Forces

### Family Life:

John was born in January of 1964 to Wilfred Stinson and Isabell Stinson (nee McCracken) in Pictou, Nova Scotia.

Before joining the service John lived in New Hamburg from 1965 to 1980 and Milverton from 1978 until 1983. He attended Holy Family School in New Hamburg, Perth Central School and Northwestern Secondary School at Stratford, Ontario. John married Karen Campbell on April 5, 1986. They had two children, Steven in 1987 and Brittany in 1989.

He retired from the military in 2003. He has been a car salesman ever since and is currently employed at the Baywest Toyota Dealership in Owen Sound.

### Military Service:

MCpl. Stinson enlisted for military service right out of high school in November of 1982 at Kitchener, Ontario.

He completed his basic training at CFB Cornwallis followed by a driver training course. In 1985, MCpl. Stinson took a Basic Para course. He was promoted to Corporal in 1987 followed by Master Corporal in 1993.



### Decorations:

Canadian Forces Decoration

Special Service Medal

1992: Soldier of the Year at 706 Communication Squadron.

### Military Service:

During his service MCpl. Stinson was with the 2 Combat Engineer Regiment, 4 Canadian Mechanised Brigade Group Signal Squadron, 706 Communications Squadron, Canadian Forces School of Communication and Electronics and 1 Canadian Signal Regiment.

MCpl. Stinson was posted to Petawawa, Base Borden and Kingston. He served in Germany during the entirety of the Gulf War and was also deployed to Eritrea, Africa.

MCpl. Stinson finished his TQ5 in November of 1986, qualifying as a Radio Operator. He completed his Combat Leadership Course in 1988 and his Facility Control Centre in 1991.

While on maneuvers in Germany MCpl. Stinson and a colleague pulled into a location in the middle of the night with a tracked Radio Rebroadcast. At first light they opened the back hatch and, to their dismay, found they were located in the middle of an American Regiment.

As a young paratrooper MCpl. Stinson had a jump into Goose Bay, Labrador, for a 2 week exercise in the middle of February. It was so cold that the soldiers were confined to their tents for a 24 hour period.

### Lessons Learned:

Always work as a team!