



CWO Jean-Paul Rioux, “JP” CD



CWO J.P. Rioux was born in Sherbrooke, Québec. One of seven children, he was the youngest out of the four boys. In February 1975, he joined “Les Fusiliers de Sherbrooke” (as a Reservist). In 1976, he was able to take a summer employment as a full time reservist with the 3R22R for the Montréal’s Canada Olympic-Jeux Olympiques (COJO) and had to postpone his education to later years. After that summer, he realised that the CF was his way of living and joined the Regular Forces in November 1976 as a 651 Firefighter. After Basic training in Saint-Jean, Québec and, Firefighter Qualification Level (QL) 3 at CFSAOE / Firefighter Training Company in Borden Ontario, he finally saw his first Fire Department (FD) at CFB Toronto, “Downsview” Ontario in Jan 1978 as an apprentice.

Upon completion of QL 5, in 1980, he was the first Private ever posted to CFSAOE / FF Trg Coy as an instructor. He was appointed the rank of MCpl in 1983, with a transfer to Halifax, NS to serve as 2nd I/C on HMCS Algonquin and later, Senior Firefighter on HMCS Margaree. In 1985 moved on to CFB Summerside, Prince Edward Island (PEI) as a Deputy Platoon Chief, he had so much time to spare that he finally completed and graduated high school. During that posting, was heavily involved with sports, marathons to broomball playing, coaching, referring and worked his way up to the PEI Broomballs Association Chief Referee. He was one of the première to be selected for the first CF Readiness Challenge Team to compete in a world competition after three years of intense training. Summerside is where he met his wife Evealena, a CF Air Traffic Controller (ATC) at the time and both stayed until CFB Summerside’s closure.

In 1991, they were transferred to 8 Wing Trenton Ontario. After spending a year with the Wing Fire Department, moved with Air Command Mobile Repair Team (MRT). Shortly after this move, he was promoted to Sgt as the Senior Firefighter, Team Leader and co-ordinator for all deployment of the Mobile Arrestor Gear (MAG’s) during the Air show season in support of tail hook fighter aircrafts safety. During off season, he was the first firefighter to be appointed as Maintenance Supervisor for the overhaul of many types of Aircraft Arresting Systems through out the country. Over his four-year term with the MRT, held various positions including, Asbestos removal project inspector for many closing radar stations and completed several career courses.

September of 1995, JP was posted back to Halifax to serve on HMCS Fredericton as Senior Firefighter until 1998. Once his sailing years were completed, he was transferred across the channel to 12 Wing Shearwater FD where he stayed for the following two year as a Platoon Chief and Training officer for the FD. In 2000 he was promoted to Warrant Officer and made his way across the country with his family to 19 Wing Comox, BC as a Platoon Chief.

July 2004, (21 years later) he returned to CF Fire Academy (CFFA) previously known as FF Trg Coy, as a Lead Instructor for all 0149 Trade Qualification Courses. In February 2005 during the amalgamation of CFFA and CF Nuclear Biological and Chemical School (CFNBCS), he was promoted to Master Warrant Officer and took over the duties of CFFA CWO. In September 2005 was appointed School Master Warrant Officer for CF Fire & Chemical Academy (CFFCA) as the CWO position was down scaled to School MWO until his departure in 2007.

In July of 2007, he made his way back to 8 Wing Trenton to fulfill the position of Deputy Fire Chief. A year later, July 2008 he was promoted to CWO and headed to 17 Wing Winnipeg with the 1 Canadian Air Division, Air Forces Training. Ten months later, loving every minute of Winnipeg weather, he couldn't resist and accepted a position transfer to Construction Engineering, Force Generation as the RCAF Deputy Fire Marshal just to stay in Winnipeg. In January 2010, he was deployed to his second Canadian Olympic Games (JTFG 2010) as the Lead Engineer with the Air Component Command Head Quarter in Vancouver, BC.

In 2011, was offered a Special Requirements Commissioning Plan (SRCP) to fulfill the Chief Instructor position at CFFAC in a Captain position. Plans were changed, he accepted the offer to help the NDFS and make room for the junior trade members to progress in rank.

His spouse, Evealena originally from Fenelon Falls, Ontario is employed at Air Command Academy as program developer. JP and Evealena are proud parents of two lovely girls, Chelsea born in Belleville Ontario 1995 presently at University and Kendra born in Halifax NS 1998.

Out of seven reachable NCM rank, Borden Fire Training Establishment has seen JP on staff as a Pte to MCpl, WO, and MWO. Even as a CWO he was involved with training with AF Trg. The training, development and progress of the National Defence Fire Service personnel is something JP always had at heart and enjoyed doing through out his career with pride and ownership. He's ultimate goal as a member of the NDFS was to serve the Firefighter trade, CF and Canada to the best of his ability and now after 38 + years of service it is time for him to say,

“Thank You and Good Luck to all and may God be with you always”

The goals were reached, the passion for the trade will stay and the plan is to stay in Borden area until their youngest finish high school the rest will be history and only time will add to it.

CHIMO!

