

# Max Stahlbaum

## ***Veteran & Red Seal Carpenter***

To kick things off for 2023, we will be doing a feature on Max Stahlbaum: a Veteran, who, through the help of Helmets to Hardhats, has joined the Carpenters District Council of Ontario. Max worked as a non-unionized carpenter through much of his twenties, until he joined the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (3-PPCLI) at age 28.

After serving in a mountain division of 3-PPCLI out of Edmonton for several years, Max made the decision to retire from the CAF and return to civilian life so that he could be close to his family in the Durham Region, just east of Toronto.

Upon resuming work as a non-unionized carpenter, Max realized that it would be a wise decision to have the kind of benefits and pension plans that he had had while in the CAF.

As such, he contacted Helmets to Hardhats, who put him in touch with Mike Humphries – a Veteran-turned-carpenter himself – at the Carpenters Council. Within 24 hours of speaking with Mike, Max had joined the union. Three months later, after completing some safety training, Max was working unionized gigs. Now, a mere two and half years later, Max is a full-fledged, red seal carpenter.

Join us in the next issue to hear Max tell of mountain lions, mountaineering, and rappelling from the rooftops of stadiums during NHL games and rodeos! But most importantly, Max explains how the military prepares its members for life in the civilian world by instilling in them stress-management skills, and the ability to prioritize tasks. Max is a shining example of why Veterans make excellent tradespeople.

