

# Tim Pembleton, Acton's U.S. Marine

By Justina Pembleton

Growing up in Acton, I lived in the Kingham town-houses most of my life. My aunt, uncle and two cousins lived at the other end of our street in the detached houses, and so I was pretty close to them. My family and I spent many afternoons having BBQ's and swimming in their pool. For many years my aunt cared for my brother and I before and after school. Although my cousins, Andrew and Tim, were much younger than me, I loved being there.

When I was seven, Tim was just a baby, but he was already developing his own "I do what I want to" personality. More than often that my aunt would have to call her in-laws to come watch the us while she rushed Tim to the hospital. There was the nail in the foot incident, the teeter-totter handle to the face and, the one I'll never

forget, the near drowning in the pool. Tim was a daredevil, the complete opposite of his older brother Andrew, who was so reserved; never a dull moment with Tim.

As he got older, I saw that attitude develop into a go-getter attitude. I knew when Tim said he was going to do something, he was going to do it. So when he told me he was going to enlist in the United States Marine Corp. the minute he turned 17, I knew there was no talking him out of it.

Andrew and Tim both had dual citizenship, their mom was an American Citizen, and both had always dreamed of enlisting in the US services.

I tried to talk him out of it more than once to repeated laughs. Both Tim and Andrew had made up their minds, and there would be no going back. I remember the last time I saw Tim before he enlisted. We both worked at



**HEAVY GEAR:** Tim Pembleton of Acton poses in his US Marine gear while on tour in the province of Al Asad airbase in Iraq -Submitted Photo

the Acton arena, and, again, I tried to change his mind. No dice. Seven months later, Tim was on his way.

Tim enlisted on March 8, 2004. Not being 18, both his parents had to sign a release form so that he could do it. On November 1 of that year he left for boot camp at the Marine Corps recruit depot in South Carolina. There, he learned "the basics" such as

close order drills (marching), marksmanship (shooting), first aid, martial arts, gas chamber and, of course, physical conditioning.

After boot camp, Tim came

home for 10 days, before he headed to the School of Infantry in North Carolina's Camp Lejuene. He learned how to do day and night patrol; city patrol; day and night land navigation; how to fortify a position (fox-hole); how to shoot other weapon systems including: the Rocket Launcher and machine guns and how to throw grenades. He went on forced marches ranging from 3-10 miles in length and how to fight in chemical, biological and radiation containment environment.

Tim was then stationed in California at Camp Pendleton where he was with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. During this time, he had to complete training for

the readiness of a particular mission with which his unit could be tasked. The Marines take their orders directly from the President instead of Congress, such as HAO (Humanitarian Assistance Operation), NEO (Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation), and others. Throughout all of this, Tim's particular job was to train as a Field Radio Operator, which meant he had to make sure that most of the vehicles can talk to each other during convoys, called Internal Communications. He also had to be sure that they had communication with other FOB's (Forward Operating Base) and of course, his own, called External Communica-

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Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them."*

Hugh Calderwood, CFP, Branch Manager

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