

Greg Pearson



Hard to summarize 50 some years but here goes. After leaving OBHS I joined the Canadian Forces and like many others I attended UVIC for 5 years graduating with a BEd and was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Canadian Army. My postings included CFB Chilliwack, CFB Toronto and CFB Gagetown as the Base Physical Education and Recreation officer.

In 1977 I was posted to National Defence HQ in Ottawa where I met the love of my life Nancy Cousens, a physiotherapist in the CF. We were married in 1977 and I was immediately sent overseas to Ismalia Egypt for a 7 month tour with the United Nations peace keeping force. Upon returning to Ottawa I was promoted to Major and posted to CFB Winnipeg responsible for Air Force Physical Education. I served in Winnipeg for 3 years where Nancy and I were blessed with 2 of our three children – Victoria and Jamie. In 1983 the whole family moved to Toronto where I attended the CF Command and Staff College. Upon graduation in 1984, we were posted to CFB Borden and I became the Commandant of the Canadian Forces School of Physical Education and Recreation. In Borden Nancy and I were blessed with our third child, Brittany.

In 1988, I endured one year of language training in Ottawa and was subsequently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and became the Director of PE&R and head of the 500 member fitness branch of the CF. I served in this capacity until 1996 when CF downsizing resulted in the elimination of many uniformed military functions including physical education. I therefore retired from the CF and headed up an initiative to provide PE services using civilian staff. Our bid was accepted by the CF and, in 1997, I became the first civilian Executive Vice President of Personnel Support Programs for the CF. For the next 12 years I was responsible for the delivery of fitness, sports, recreation, family and support to deployed operations to the CF across Canada and around the world. This was a challenging task involving considerable travel in Canada and abroad including Bosnia and Afghanistan. The overseas tasks included the normal PE&R activities and also the provision of travel services, canteen services and entertainment shows for the troops. The year before I retired we opened the Tim Hortons in Kandahar Afghanistan.

I retired in 2008 and now Nancy and I spend our days enjoying our children and three grandchildren. We are members of Hylands Golf Club in Ottawa and, when not golfing, enjoy travelling.