

## BIOGRAPHY

### **J.E.L. [Larry] Gollner, OMM, CD – CPVA Patron**



Brigadier General (BGen) J. E. Larry Gollner OMM CD (retired) hails from Vancouver. His distinguished career began when he joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry (2 PPCLI) as a private soldier in 1956. He became a non-commissioned officer in 1957 and was commissioned as an officer in 1959. After commissioning, BGen Gollner served in a number of regimental appointments, including an exchange tour with the British Army Rifle Brigade and two tours in Germany with NATO. He attended the Canadian Army Command and Staff College in 1968/69. He served as the Deputy Commanding Officer of the 2 PPCLI before being appointed Commanding Officer (CO) of the regiment in 1976. As CO 2 PPCLI he also commanded the United Nations Sector 4 in Nicosia, Cyprus, as part of the Canadian Contingent of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

Afterwards, BGen Gollner was posted to the Directorate of Land Requirements in National Defence Headquarters (NDHQ) and elected Chair of the NATO Infantry Panel. This NATO Panel is responsible for the infantry weapons and ammunition within NATO armies. On promotion in 1981, he was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff Operations at Army HQ. During his time in Montreal, BGen Gollner was active in planning Canada's contribution to the UN mission to Namibia. In 1983, after graduating from the National Defence College, BGen Gollner was appointed Director of Infantry / Director of Land Operations at NDHQ. In this appointment, he also was Canadian Army Secretary to the Canada -United States Military Cooperation Committee and Permanent Joint Board of Defence. In 1985 he became Chief of Staff Pacific Area and Commanding Officer Regular Support Staff, Pacific. In 1987 he was appointed Director General of Reserves and Cadets. In 1989 he became Commander Northern Region. BGen Gollner was made an Officer of the Order of Military Merit (OMM) in 1980.

After retiring from the Canadian Forces, BGen Gollner settled in Victoria and went into business. He served as President of the Victoria Branch of the Alzheimer Society of British Columbia for several years. In 2003 he chaired the Veterans Affairs / Health Canada Falls Prevention Programme for Vancouver Island. The same year he became active in veterans' care issues which lead to his being recruited into the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association (CPVA).

BGen Gollner was an active member of the CPVA team that successfully argued for and secured many of the CPVA's positions on veterans' issues into the New Veteran's Charter. The CPVA team was at the forefront of veteran's organizations in initiating and successfully pressing the federal Parliament and Veterans Affairs Canada for the creation of the Veteran's Ombudsman and the Veteran's Bill of Rights as well as the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal (CPSM). Over time the Veteran's Bill of Rights and Ombudsman will help to ensure that all of Canada's veterans are treated with respect and receive their rightful entitlements and benefits.

In 2006 the Minister of National Defence appointed BGen Gollner as the PPCLI Colonel of the Regiment. Recognizing that he could not meet both his PPCLI and CPVA responsibilities concurrently, BGen Gollner asked to step back from his CPVA duties. With his appointment as Colonel of the Regiment drawing to a close in 2009, BGen Gollner's was requested by the President of CPVA to become the Association's Patron in May 2009. In addition to being Patron of the CPVA, BGen Gollner is a member of a number of military associations, including the PPCLI Association, the PIKLEE Association, and the Vancouver Island Branch of the Royal United Services Institute, the Canadian Airborne Brotherhood, and The Royal Canadian Legion.

BGen Gollner married Christine Mackenzie in 1962. They have three children and six grandchildren, live in Cobble Hill on Vancouver Island where he tends his vineyard and paints in water colours. He is an Honorary Member of the Victoria Sketch Club and a member of the Canadian Artists Federation.