

Brigadier General Barry Curley



Brig. Gen. Barry Curley, son of Amos and Faustina Curley, was born on July 4, 1948, in the district of Elmwood, Lot65, Prince Edward Island. At the age of ten years, he moved with his family to Charlottetown where he continued his early education. In 1967, Barry graduated from St. Dunstan's High School and then entered St. Dunstan's University. Following graduation from U.P.E.I. with a B.A. and a B.Ed., Barry spent two years at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec, working on a Master of Educational Technology degree. To further his education, Barry also completed his Diploma in Public Administration at U.P.E.I.

Upon return to P.E.I., Barry began a lifelong career with the Provincial Government. With the exception of a few years at the Civil Service Commission, he spent his time in government at the Department of Labour and Industrial Relations. His dedication to improving the working conditions and salaries for the labour force of P.E.I. earned him the position of Director of this branch of government a position he held until his retirement in 2006.

In addition to his work in the P.E.I. Government, Barry was an ardent member of the Prince Edward Island Militia. In 1965, he joined the 721 Communication Regiment (previously called the Local 5 Signal Regiment). He progressed to the rank of Lance Sergeant and in 1968 he was commissioned and promoted to the rank of Second Lieutenant. He was promoted to Captain in 1974 and assigned to the training officer's position. In 1975, Barry was promoted to Major and was put in the role of Deputy Commanding Officer. After achieving the rank of Lt. Colonel, Barry became the Commanding Officer for 721 Communication Regiment in 1984. He held this position until 1987. In 1990, he began study through the Royal Military Academy in Kingston, Ontario, to achieve the rank of Brigadier General. Having earned this rank, Barry was put in the position of Commanding Officer for all Communication Regiments across Canada. Although the demands were many, Barry's passion for the military and its members never wavered, and he left this work only when poor health demanded he do so.

In spite of a demanding work schedule, Barry was very involved in many charitable organizations and groups. For many years, he campaigned and organized projects for the United Fund and was a founding member of the board for Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Always important to him was his Roman Catholic faith and his membership in and support of St. Francis of Assisi in Cornwall. Barry was also a lifetime member of the Haviland Club, the Officers' Pond, and the Signals Association. In addition, Barry was a member of The Penny Pinchers Club for many years.

In 1982, Barry and his family moved to Cornwall and settled very close to Eliot River School and what is now known as The Terry Fox Sports Complex. Barry was married to Phyllis (Bulger) Curley who taught school for thirty years in this area- for five years in the old Cornwall Junior High and for twenty- five years at East Wiltshire. The Curleys raised two sons , Michael and Patrick. Here, in this complex, Barry shared with his family, in particular his sons and dogs, his great love for nature and sports. Barry was always happiest when he was out in the field cheering for his sons in soccer and baseball or when he was jogging or cross country skiing alongside of his dogs. In the last few years of his life, when athletic activities were no longer an option, Barry found great comfort in strolling through the Terry Fox Complex. Although Barry died in 2009, there is no doubt part of his spirit will remain in this complex.