

# Opening Retreat Presenter Biographies



## **Roger Girouard**

### *Presenter*

Roger Girouard began his naval service at HMCS CARLTON in Ottawa as an Ordinary Seaman Bos'n in 1973, before commissioning under the Officer Candidate Training Programme. He's since held a number of leadership positions including Commanding Officer of HMC Ships CHALEUR, MIRAMICHI and IROQUOIS, Commander Maritime Operations Group Four in Esquimalt BC, and Commander Canadian Fleet Pacific.

He has deployed on a number of operations including a NATO deployment in 1979 and OP FRICTION during the first Gulf War. He was the head of operations in Halifax during the domestic emergency coined as OP PERSISTENCE - the CF element of the SWISSAIR 111 salvage and recovery operation off Peggy's Cove in 1998, when he was responsible for planning the CF element's efforts, chaired the daily multi-agency coordination meeting and served as CF liaison to the families of the victims. He commanded Canada's joint force contribution to OP TOUCAN in East Timor and led the multi-national naval Task Force 151 during OP APOLLO in the Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman in 2003.

His last appointment was as Commander Joint Task Force Pacific and Maritime Forces Pacific in Victoria, where he was responsible for naval readiness in the Pacific, served as the Search and Rescue Commander for the Region and held responsibilities for security and domestic emergency issues in BC, supporting planning for the Vancouver 2010 Olympics and the contingency work for potential flooding of the BC lower mainland in the Spring of '07.

Experienced in offshore operations, joint and interagency missions, disaster management as well as the realm of HR management, he retired from the Canadian Forces in September of '07. He has moved to the realm of academia, serving as an associate at Royal Roads University, whilst engaging in a number of volunteer Boards for service organizations.

## **Kate Mansell**

### *President, Board of Directors*

Kate Mansell is a native British Columbian who has lived in Victoria since 1970. Kate has worked in the non-profit sector since 1980. She acquired a sound grounding in fund raising principles at Pearson College which she has subsequently used to great advantage in her current position as Director of Development for Boys & Girls Club Services of Greater Victoria, a position she has held since 1997. While her work at Pearson was certainly interesting and rewarding, Kate thoroughly enjoys working for a community-based organization like Boys & Girls Clubs.

Kate was a former Board member of the Victoria Roundtable of the Canadian Association of Gift Planners and was the founding Chair of the Public Relations Committee for Leadership Victoria. She currently sits on the Executive of Leadership Victoria as President. Kate also serves on the Steering Committee for the Victoria's Leadership Awards.

Kate has one son and enjoys reading, writing, and music.

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## **Sandra Richardson**

### *Presenter*

Sandra has been the CEO of the Victoria Foundation, the second oldest community foundation in Canada, for the last eight years. The Victoria Foundation funds a broad scope of charitable organizations to help reach their mandates and improve the lives of as many people as possible within our community.

Prior to joining the Victoria Foundation Sandra had five-year tenure as Director of Development and Planned Giving with the Victoria Hospice & Palliative Care Foundation and held the position of Director of Development for the Cleveland Playhouse and subsequently the Cleveland Opera. She has enjoyed a successful career in fund development for the past 18 years in both Canada and the USA.

In June 2008 Sandra was honored by Royal Roads University with the Community Leadership Award in recognition of her distinguished service to the community in a way that reflects the university's motto "living our learning." In 2007, Sandra was invited to enter the Order of Saint John in recognition for her achievements and contributions to the Greater Victoria community. Sandra has been a member of the Canadian Association of Gift Planners (CAGP) for over 10 years and has been an integral part of the success of the CAGP Vancouver Island Roundtable, where she served as Chair for four years. She currently serves on the Board of Community Foundations of Canada and is an active participant with the Transatlantic Community Foundation Network. Sandra was very involved in the beginnings of *Leave a Legacy* (LAL) on Vancouver Island both as an advocate and a champion. In recognition of her efforts with LAL she was invited to be a guest speaker at the Vancouver CAGP, a prestigious honour, where she shared her experience with LAL at Victoria Hospice. Sandra has a background in nursing and has completed a Communications & Public Relations program at the University of Victoria, and has subsequently received the Vancouver Island Public Relations Professional of the Year Award.