



Lt. (NL) Colin Parkinson

Colin Parkinson was born in Vancouver on May 3, 1960, and grew up in North Vancouver along the Capilano River. As a youth, he was actively involved in the Sea Scouts, Navy League, and Sea Cadets. Encouraged by his mother, he frequently volunteered for the North Vancouver Art Council and other local organizations. His hobbies included skiing, sailing, shooting, hiking, and kayaking. He also spent a decade volunteering with the Vancouver Maritime Museum, maintaining its fleet of boats. Currently, he is an active volunteer at Highlands United Church, a Director of the Artificial Reef Society of British Columbia since 2020, and a dedicated volunteer with the Navy League of Canada and Royal Canadian Sea Cadets. Colin has been happily married for 24 years and has two daughters.

In 1977, Colin joined the Army Reserve with the 15th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, reaching the rank of Sergeant. He took on roles as a Gun Commander, instructor, and Quartermaster, with duties ranging from conducting demolitions to working with howitzers, small arms, drones, and radios. He collaborated with the British, American, and German armies and participated in major Cold War exercises in Germany.

After leaving the military in 1987, he worked in mining exploration and with BC Ferries. In 1990, he joined the Canadian Coast Guard, serving on rescue cutters, icebreakers, and hovercrafts. As a Rescue Specialist, he was one of the first members of the CCG dive team at Sea Island. He later transitioned to Transport Canada, retiring in 2019 as an Inspector/Regulator. In 2018, when his daughter joined the #46 H.C. Wallace Navy League, he began volunteering and became the Commanding Officer in 2020, a role he continues to hold while also working with the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets. Passionate about mentoring youth, Colin is committed to helping shape the next generation of leaders in Canada.