**John Carley**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| John Carley is a retired policeman. He was born in 1943 and he grew up in the west end of Toronto, around Bloor and Jane. He attended high school in Etobicoke and after graduating he decided that he had had enough schooling. He liked action so he thought either the Police Department or the Fire Department would probably suit, but he didn't like heights. For a  | E:\2015 NEW MEMBERS\John Carly.jpg |

couple of years he worked as a police clerk and took a gap year in Mexico.

Now he was ready. Having achieved the age of twenty-one and gained the requisite number of pounds, John was inducted into the Toronto Police. After three months training at the police college he took up his duties at the downtown 52 Division. Very early in his career he was part of the police contingent that provided security for the Beatles' legendary visit to Maple Leaf Gardens. Unbelievably noisy. Desperate. Two 38 shells fitted nicely as earplugs. John remarked, "Away from the stage, the higher you went, the higher you got".

Later he transferred to his home patch in Etobicoke where his beat included detective work, youth bureau and community service. Looking forward, John started taking additional programs at Humber College and earned his promotion. At the time there was an urgent need for the police to improve their tactics when dealing with sexual assaults and child abuse and John was among the first to be trained up to this role.

In 1990 it was time for a change and John decided to match his long standing interest in things nautical with a transfer to the Marine Branch of the Toronto Police. Seventeen vessels, almost a small navy, it proved to be an exciting place to work. During his time he was involved in rescues, enforcement (party boats), fires, airplane crashes and the inevitable recovering of victims.

Meanwhile, switching back to those early days in Etobicoke, John explained that being a shift worker had curtailed his social life to a degree. But where there is a will, there is a way. Nurses and airline attendants also worked variable hours and it is from this smaller but equally desirable dating pool that John met his wife, Karen. The family was completed with the addition of two girls. By chance, both daughters moved to Woodstock so it seemed only natural that a year and a half ago, when they were ready to downsize, John and Karen moved to the Friendly City.