

The Minister of National Defence has been pleased to appoint Mrs. Karen E. Baker-MacGrotty to the position of Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of The Royal Westminster Regiment. LCol Baker-MacGrotty will join with The Duke of Westminster, KG, OBE, TD, CD, DL, the regiment's Colonel-in-Chief and Colonel L.K. Deane, CD the Honorary Colonel, as one of the three regimental honorary appointments.

LCol Baker-MacGrotty is Vice President, Commercial Banking, Lower Mainland Market Development for RBC Royal Bank with whom she has been associated for over 25 years. She is a highly respected volunteer in the local community. Her current appointments are: Chair of the Fraser River Discovery Centre Foundation; Vice Chair of the Fraser River Discovery Centre Society; a Director of the Justice Institute of BC Foundation Board; Director of the Douglas College Foundation; Vice Chair of the Spirit of BC New Westminster Community Committee to support the 2010 Winter Olympics.

In 2002, Mrs. Baker-MacGrotty had the distinction of being the first woman to be elected as President of the Westminster Club, a private member club formed in 1889. In 2006, she became the first woman to become an Honorary LCol in the Army Reserve in BC. A member of the Hyack Association since 1986, she recently completed a term as President. She is also a member of the New Westminster Police Board, the New Westminster Chamber of Commerce and Vancouver Board of Trade. LCol Baker-MacGrotty volunteers for the Variety Club Telethon Gold Panel, the CKNW Pledge Day and the Kidney Foundation of Canada. She was nominated as the New Westminster Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year in 2002 and 2005 and was awarded the Community Spirit Award in 2005. Last year, Royal Rosarians of Portland, Oregon gave her international recognition for her outstanding example of community service. Last June, LCol Baker-MacGrotty received the Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow's Award for her public Service.

Baker-MacGrotty lives in New Westminster and is married to David MacGrotty. They have two teenage children, Alysia and Matthew. While she has no previous military service, she is a strong supporter of the Canadian Forces and our Regiment. We wish her well as she begins her regimental duties that we know she will do with enthusiasm and dedication.