

## **John Robert Gardner**

A graduate of the University of Toronto (1959) with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics and the recipient of the Governor General's medal, he studied as one of the first Commonwealth Scholars philosophy, politics and economics at Merton College, Oxford, where he was granted bachelor's (1961) and master's (1965) degrees. Returning to Canada he joined Sun Life of Canada and pursued actuarial studies, earning his fellowship in the Society of Actuaries and the Canadian Institute of Actuaries (1965). From 1967 to 1973 he taught theory of interest and life contingencies at McGill University. He concluded a thirty-five year career at Sun Life in 1996, having served for ten years as President of the company, directing its world-wide operations. During that period he was a member for nine years of the University of Toronto's Governing Council. . John was a member of the life insurance industry task force that created Compcorp (the corporation responsible for consumer protection for Canadian life insurance policyholders) and subsequently its chairman.

Since retiring from Sun Life John has served on for-profit and on not-for-profit boards. His for-profit board involvements include Angoss Software (chair), RGA Canada, Avista REIT, and Concordia Life. On the not-for-profit side John is chair of the Fields Institute for Research in Mathematical Sciences and a member of the Honours and of the Finance Committees of the International Insurance Society. In the past he has served on the boards of the University of Toronto whose Business Board he chaired for a number of years, the Ontario Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee, the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board of Ontario, President of Boy Scouts of Canada for the Greater Toronto Area, the Sunnybrook Hospital and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, as well as on the investment committee of the Salvation Army.

John has been married for forty-seven years to Encarnita whom he met on a beach in Spain. Holding degrees from the University of Granada and the University of Toronto (doctorate in Spanish literature), Encarnita is a published poet. She has concentrated for the last twenty years on painting in oil and watercolour. John and Encarnita spend as much time as feasible in her home city of Granada and on its south coast.

John and Encarnita have three children. The eldest, Maria Luisa, was a teacher at the Toronto French School and provided three grandchildren. Their son, John Anthony, lives with his Mexican wife Li and two daughters in Mexico City, where he owns and operates a general agency distributing insurance products. Daughter Sara delivers an integrated programme at the York School here in Toronto, and is expecting twins.

John's passion for walking comes second only to his passion for Encarnita. For the last twenty-five years, he has taken advantage of every opportunity to traverse lengthy routes over the mountain ranges of Europe. More recently he has been pursuing that continent's medieval pilgrim paths.