

# RBC PENSIONERS' NETWORK

## BRITISH COLUMBIA CELL

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VOLUME 8 ISSUE 2- APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2013

### EDITORIAL

We have decided it is time for us to discontinue publishing the Newsletter. Since the beginning on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006, there have been 28 editions plus two extras. There are now about 450 names on our distribution list which continues to grow.

The reason for this is that we are getting older and finding it difficult to find more stories and events that we believe you would be interested in. We also think that the Newsletter needs a younger approach to the events of our times.

If there is anyone who would like to take over the job we will assist them in any way they like, including providing the email addresses of those on the distribution list.

We expect to continue publishing until January 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 but will be finished at that time.

Please let us hear from you.



Ken Mayne, seen at the last Christmas Luncheon.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W.B. Quickenhead". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

Who can provide the name of who used this signature?

### SUNDRY INFORMATION

The first one to name both the mystery branch as Ladner, B.C. & and the Mystery signature as that of Lionel Berry, was Dave Peterson.

Ellen Brodie was the first to recognize the Mystery signature as Lionel Berry.



Can anyone give the location of this branch on West Georgia Street in Vancouver, B.C. (1927)?

## MY STORY IS "A FAMILY AFFAIR"

By Dawn Ellis

In March 1972 I joined the Bank in the Northbrook Mall, Nanaimo branch. I was a cashier at Stedmans and thought an office with "normal" working hours would be more to my liking. My Dad (Lionel Berry – 45 year banker and Manager, Nanaimo Main branch) didn't try to sway me one way or the other but I knew how much he enjoyed his work. Bob Young was Manager and the branch had the Inspectors the day I arrived for my interview. I must have passed the test and was hired as Steno with a salary of \$3,850.00. The branch was growing and I moved on to Assistant Accountant. I learned a lot working with Barry Sandyke and the Accountants including Charles Boyer, Joe Frank and Norm Lecavalier and loans officer Marie Ribbans. The door to the staff room had a sign "We run a tight ship here" which meant the beer was always cold.

My next role was Loans Officer at Nanaimo Main branch (my Dad had retired) where Jacques Marinier, Joe McCracken, Lorraine Krall and Grace Mathews helped me learn the ropes. Training in those days wasn't very formal – watched them for a few days, they watched me for a few days and then gave me an office and a pad of Termplan loan apps.

One highlight was a relief assignment in Youbou, B.C. where checking the GL on cards and closing the branch for lunch was a step back in time. There were many fun times including a picnic on Newcastle Island and the famous bathtub races.

Two years later the Manager, Jack Smith, congratulated me on my transfer to Kamloops Sahali and informed me it was a union branch. I didn't know what that meant nor did I know where Kamloops was but I accepted the challenge of my first move away from home. Kamloops was great (the union was soon gone) and continued its reputation as a party branch.

After Sahali I became Asst. Manager at North Kamloops. Each branch had wonderful staff (Bernie Driedger, John Gregg, Tony Pulice, Fred Meagher, Gwen Kreps and Mich Sawada to name a few) and good times. The early 1980's were rough with high interest rates and clients declaring bankruptcy. I learned more than I wanted to know about waterbed stores, Section 88 security and construction companies. Thank goodness I had very co-operative clients! I also recall fun trips to Hawaii organized by Darryl Montague and my photos confirm the good times had by all. In January 1984, wanting a change of pace, I became Asst. Mgr. Recruitment & Development in BC Personnel, Vancouver. Now instead of granting loans and trying to collect them, I was hiring and training Loans Officers. The Personnel team included my Manager -Susan Smith, Brian Hartley, Gerry Nakoneshny and Wendy Youzwyshny. I had the fun task of hiring people while Brian

helped with the "reassigning". Mgmt. Development Trainees also had to endure my consumer lending and collections courses. It was very rewarding to see the "Trainees" move on to greater things and I see a few familiar names in the bank's newsletters.

In 1986 I moved on to Investment Banking & Treasury in Corporate Personnel, Toronto. Here I managed the Trader training program. A far cry from Nanaimo! It was the most exciting role of my career and I loved the fast pace and unique challenges of the trading room. Luckily my good friend and Royal Banker Linda Clarke, whom I met in Kamloops, lived in Toronto so we explored the city together. We organized the first BC Reunion party at a local pub (Strathcona) and we were astonished at how many bankers from the west were working in the Toronto area. Dave Jenks became involved and these events grew in stature and participants.

Three years later I joined the Metro Toronto Human Resources team and enjoyed roles in Training and HR Services. While in Toronto I met Royal Banker – George Ellis – who was on the

Corporate Account Management training program along with Susan Smith. In 1990 George and I married and I became stepmom to his 2 wonderful daughters. Julie and Jan joined the bank during the summers and Julie became a Personal Banker after university. They left banking to raise families and pursue other opportunities (Julie co-owns Mabels Labels – check out [mabelslabels.com](http://mabelslabels.com)) but for a while our dinner conversations were a bit monotonous. Between George, Julie, Jan and I we have over 80 years with Royal Bank. (125 years if we include Dad). New opportunities opened up when I left



full time employment in 1994 and began part time assignments including Manager Competencies, Card Services in 1996. This led to varied assignments in Vancouver when George and I returned to the west coast in 1998. My final assignment was with the Collections team in New Westminster where we managed western Canada foreclosures.

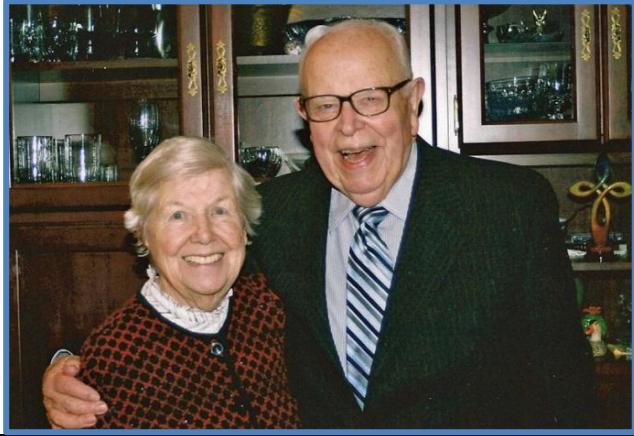
George retired in 2006 after 36+ years and his career is a story in itself. His RBC assignments included postings in Vancouver, New York (where drinking and poker were key competencies), Montreal, Miami, Toronto and a 6 week relief stint in South Korea. I retired in 2009.

We have 6 grandchildren and love spending time with our girls and their families in Ontario. George enjoys frequent activities with his running/biking group friends (including last year's Gran Fondo bike ride to Whistler). I'm happy joining them socially, spending time with family, gardening and playing the stock market. RBC has many different and exiting career opportunities – it's hard hard to beat. Add to that the wonderful people we met along the way and we are a very lucky family.

## GOLF TOURNAMENTS

David Lawson would like to remind you that the Pensioners Golf Tournaments will be held at The Guildford Golf & Country Club on June 5<sup>th</sup> and September 4, 2013. Prizes and format will be based on individual scoring. Notices will be sent out by May 1<sup>st</sup> next.

### **THE BRISCO'S FUNERAL**



**The Funeral for Peter and Pat Briscoe was held at The Anglican, Church of Our Lord, in Victoria on Saturday February 16<sup>th</sup> at 2: pm. 2013.**

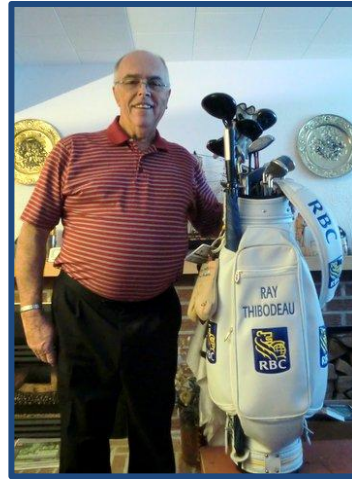
**The service was conducted by the Venerable Ron Corcoran. The Eulogies were presented by Patricia Dykes and Gilbert Briscoe. The service continued with Communion and ended at 3:30pm. There were about 100 soles in attendance, many being from the care facilities where they had lived and the Church..**

**Retired Bankers attending were Blake Ashforth with his wife as well as Don Steele and his wife Dolores.**

Many of you will remember Mary Morris who passed away on January 16, 2013 at Langley Memorial Hospital. She was predeceased by her loving husband Don on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Left to mourn and miss her are her loving children; Wendy (Bob), Pat (D.J) and Doug (Wendy) Also her seven Grandchildren and two Great Grandchildren.



## Life at the Royal Bank by Ray Thibodeau



Born and raised in Church Point N.S., a small Acadian village, I attended the local university. With two years remaining towards a Bachelor's Degree, I decided I'd rather work than study. Although there was an RBC in Church Point, it was the Mgr. in Meteghan who arranged an interview with Red Everett, Personnel Officer in Halifax.

I joined RBC on October 18, 1961 in Quebec City. Rollie Dallaire Mgr. and Henri Camiré Acct. Henri

Promptly told me that since I was making \$100 more a year than the Head Teller, who had been there a year, I would have to work twice as hard as him. I had the guts to reply: "Thank god I don't make \$200 more than him!" Six months later, he was let go and I became the Head Teller.

April 1963, transfer to Ste- Foy, a suburb of Quebec City; Jules Hallé was Mgr. Tellers there hardly balanced before 5:00 p.m. I quickly identified that the problem was the Savings Mgr. who would pick up the vouchers from the Tellers. She was instructed to ask the Tellers for them, who would tick the entries on their blotters first. Problem solved. June that year was promoted as Asst. Acct.

Transferred in Aug. 1964 to Mt. Royal, Canora & Cornwall as Asst. Acct. Don Whitley Mgr, then Vince Keating. Many RBC executives and their wives dealt with us and a list was kept up to date, which we were encouraged to know by heart.

In Sept 1965 I was selected for the Muir Scholarship. I quickly realized that was not for me. Asking to return to RBC, I was transferred to Bagotville as Acct. Dominic Bourret Mgr, then Simon Tremblay. Bagotville branch was a mess; over 200 notes on routine six months before I arrived. I asked the secretary to type a 5x8 sheet for each note. I then ranked these according to the level of difficulty and fixed as many as I could. Eight months later, another Inspection and less than 50 notes.

In January 1967, transferred to Baie Comeau as Acct. J.P.Trahan Mgr., then René Brazeau. RBC wanted a single male officer because the former Acct. was married and felt the cost of living to be high. Well, I was planning to marry, and with H.R.'s permission I married Lisette at the end of March 1967.

December 8, 1968, reported to the Chargex Centre as Ops Officer. Ron Allaire Mgr. had come to the Bank when we purchased Credico. Staff



numbered just over 30 and I reported to Claude Therrien, Asst. Mgr. and Mgr. Credit. Mid 1970, Jim Johannesson was appointed Mgr. To put it mildly, Jim was different. He taught me a lot and I knew not to try to imitate him.

Three months later, I was appointed Mgr. Ops. and now reported to Jim. Early 1975 Gord Burnett, the Asst. Mgr. Admin. at Ottawa Main Branch replaced Jim.

August 1975, came my first move to Quebec Dist H.Q as Dist. Comptroller, reporting to Hugh Stewart, V.P. Admin. and Ken White Mgr. Admin. In Nov 1976, the Parti Quebecois came to power and the Dist. was divided in two. Montreal and Quebec East. I was Dist. Compt. for both Districts.

On October 31, 1977 I was appointed Mgr. Visa Eastern Canada. Roy Fithern was Director, Visa, having succeeded Eyre Welland a few months prior. Staff now numbered over 300. That year I went to Vancouver for the first time and met Charlie Merrick. We still keep in touch as well as with Earle Robertson, Sharon Roberge, but I've lost Bob Jones' whereabouts and would like to have his address or phone number. I also keep in touch with Harvey Schindel who was Mgr., Visa Ontario.

On Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, 1995 I was operated for what I thought was a small wart inside my nose. A week later, the doctor told me he had removed a cancerous tumor the size of a golf ball. That August, a second, more major operation, followed by 30 sessions of radiation. After 18 years as Mgr., Visa, my boss and I agreed that it was perhaps time to name a successor. My bosses had been: Roy Fithern, Art Hogan, Roger Creasor, Earle Robertson, Keith Warner and Bob Juneau.

When I was able to return to work in January 1996, I was assigned to Que. Dist. to conduct an analysis of the impact of closing 40 branches in Quebec. My previous experience as Dist. Comptroller eased the task of liaising with H.R. and R.E.R. Rollie Guay was Sr. V.P. Que. Dist. and he passed away in May 1997, a few months after I retired in March that year. Incidentally, his son Michel Guay is my doctor.

To summarize, out of my 37 plus years at RBC, 25 were at Chargex/Visa. I will be forever grateful to Roy Fithern for having appointed me as Mgr. Visa at 34 years old, and also Rollie Guay who ensured I returned to work with dignity after my cancer operations.

In August 2000, tragedy struck. My wife Lisette and I had been on a trip to N.S. and P.E.I., and then to Bagotville, her home town. We played golf on Sunday, and on Wednesday, she was clinically dead. She was the victim of the Flesh-Eating Disease of the most severe kind. Doctors had to amputate her leg, higher than her hip, and had she survived, she would have been unable to sit in a wheelchair. She was only 54, full of energy, and had retired from RBC only 11 weeks before...

I'm still in the same house, would miss my garage more than the house. I keep active playing golf in the summer as well as doing odd jobs for my only daughter and good friends. I also have a hobby, making bread knives. I have made 425 so far, and have some on 4 continents - Asia is next.

I'm in good health and on Nov 15<sup>th</sup> last I celebrated the last day of my radiation treatments, 17<sup>th</sup> one this year.

**THE BC LOWER MAINLAND PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

BY Donald Graham – President.

The AGM was held on March 13<sup>th</sup> 2013 Officers were re-elected with George Balzer and Dave Lawson joining the Board of Directors. Dave Lawson has taken on the position of Chairman of the Golf Committee.

The 2012 Christmas Lunch was reported to be successful and the reserved seating making up 66% of the 330 tickets sold. We have sufficient funds to meet obligations and the lunch operated at a small loss only because we had increased the cash prizes.

The 2013 Christmas Lunch will be on Tuesday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Vancouver.



**Jack Nicolson, Dave Lawson, Don Mayers & Don Steele.  
Taken at the Annual Christmas Luncheon.**

***The RBC Pensioners Golf Trophies, Cups and Shields, are out with previous years winners. They are needed for this year. Please email Donald Graham donaldabraham or 604-898-2271***