

# RBC PENSIONERS' NETWORK

## BRITISH COLUMBIA CELL

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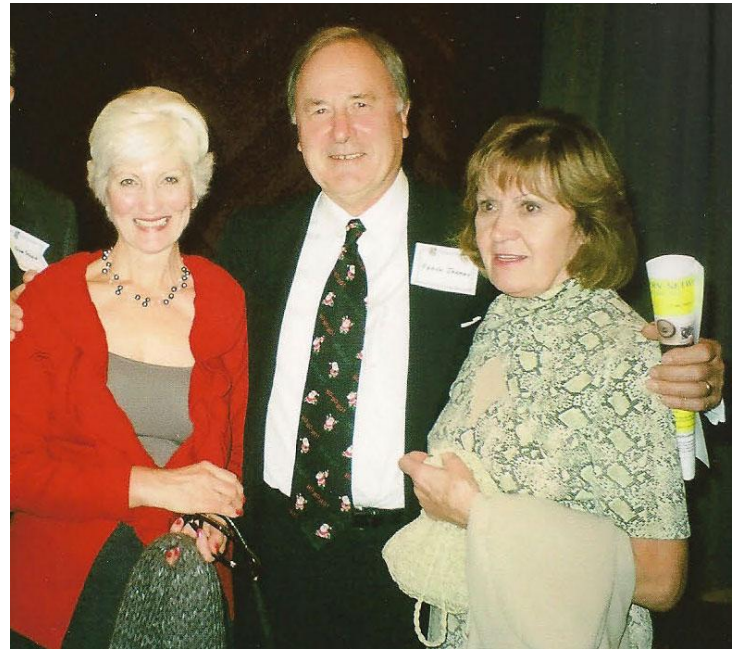
### SUNDRY INFORMATION

Barry Turner was the first to recognize the Mystery Signature as that of Bill Aitkenhead

No one identified the Mystery Branch as Vancouver, Georgia and Bidwell nor did we expect that anyone would. We believe we have the only photograph of that office.

The Branch opened in 1927 and remained until 1930 when a new branch was opened at Georgia and Denman. The Manager of both branches was E.J. Brownlow.

Shown above is a cheque drawn on the branch dated August 20, 1930.



Maureen Jarman, Frank Jarman & Brigitta Hager seen at the Christmas Lunch.

### RBC LOWER MAINLAND PENSIONERS JUNE 5, 2013 GOLF TOURNAMENT

#### MAJOR PRIZES

Low Gross Men's – Jack Nicolson trophy- Pete Johnston Score 83

Low Gross Ladies – Anne Lippert trophy- Margie Koh Score 107

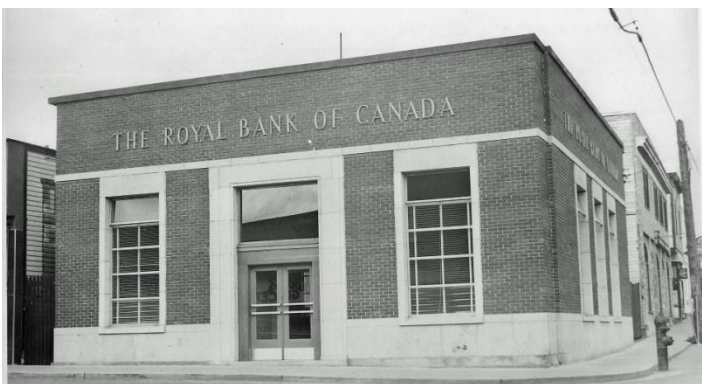
Low Net Mens's or Ladies – RBC trophy – Bryan Bedford Score 71

#### OTHER PRIZES

Closest to the Pin Ladies- Margie Koh

Closest to the Pin Mens – John Richter

-Rod McDougall



Who can identify this branch on Vancouver Island (circa 1950?).

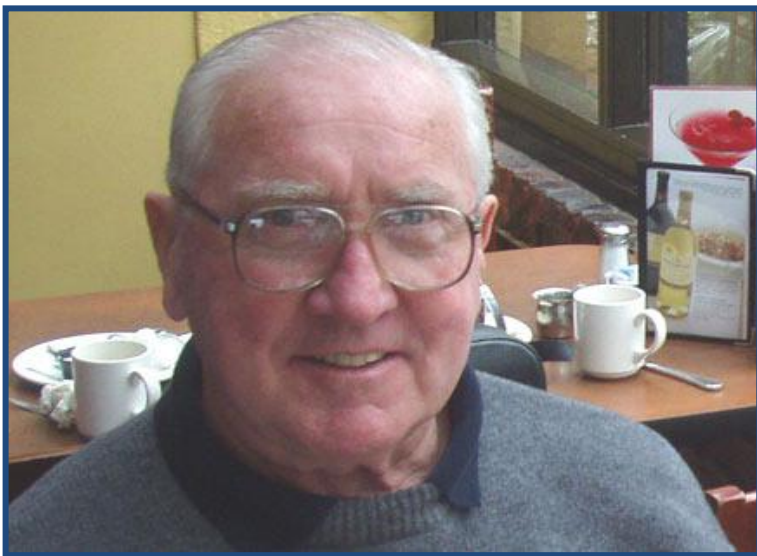
It was a great day for Golf at the Gilford Golf & Country Club in Surrey, B.C., with some 25 players

entered plus 5 for lunch. Dave Lawson did a wonderful job of making all the arrangements assisted by Dave Jenks during the presentations. George Balzer and Bill Popovich did the scoring.

**THE NEXT TOURNAMENT WILL BE HELD ON  
September 11, 2013, AT THE SAME LOCATION.**

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**HUGH BURNETT – MEMORIAL SERVICE  
June 10, 1932 – May 17, 2013**



A celebration of Hugh's life was held in St. Stephen's Anglican Church in West Vancouver at 6pm Friday May 31, 2013, conducted by The Reverend Trevor Fisher.

Tributes were delivered by Greg and Robert Burnett (sons), a Song from Sara Burnett (granddaughter) and Scott Keenlyside who spoke about Hugh's dedication to St. Michaels University School, In Victoria, B.C. and to his abilities as an athlete playing rugby and refereeing that sport.

This was followed by reflections by Sarina McKenzie (daughter), a poem from McKenna Fox (granddaughter) and a Video Tribute to Hugh Burnett.

The Church was full, which included the following Retired Bankers: Don Steele+, Charlie Merrick+, Charlie Mayne+, Donald Graham, Doug Bell, Don Bradwell, Doug Williamson, Walter Penner, Jim Russell, Rene Caudwell, Brian Hann+, Frank Jarman+, Joan Gemell, Merv Reinson+, Carolyn Roberts and Margaret Hoffman.

The service was beautifully done, followed by a reception in the Church Hall, which featured some very interesting deserts and wine.

We would like to thank Janice Burnett for the thoughtful and gracious manner in which she prepared the event, which allowed us to say good- bye to a good friend.

**THE 25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL RBC FINANCIAL GROUP  
PENSIONERS' REUNION LUNCHEON**

Charlie Merrick and Don Steele attended the above luncheon held in Nanaimo on May 2rd, 2013. This was our third appearance in Nanaimo for the event. We had a lovely free passage on the Ferry from West Vancouver and were fortunate that Don Mayers picked us up and delivered us to The Grand Hotel in Nanaimo.

We both had a marvelous time meeting with old friends and acquaintances made over the years during our Banking Careers.

We met Lorraine Krall and her Associate, Bev Pederson, who organized the event. Our host was Kelly Bissell, Regional Vice-President, North Island, RBC. We were told 117 Pensioners and their spouses attended the event this year.

We met some new friends, took some pictures for the Newsletter and perhaps found a successor for the publication.

Lorraine Krall acted as master of ceremonies and did a terrific job, keeping the speeches short and which allowed the luncheon to move along quickly.

The gift baskets were spectacular and were won by those in attendance.

Don Mayers provided transportation back to the Ferry which ended a very enjoyable afternoon.



**Bev Pederson & Lorraine Krall, organizers of the event.**



## A BANKING & MILITARY Career

BY Doug Slowski

I joined the Royal Bank in July 1964, in Balcarres, SK, as a summer job. I was planning to join the Air Force in the Fall, but, as it turned out, I never left the Bank. My first Manager was Carol Nordstrom (who later worked for Bank of BC) and my first job was as a Ledger Keeper (hand posting) and delivering/collecting drafts to the local businesses. Balcarres a farming area is located at the top of Qu'Appelle Valley recreation area.



As farmers are busy, banking was very slow in the summer; we used to close the doors and vault at 3:01 p.m. and head out to the beach for beer and chicken pretty well every night. One Monday afternoon, when the Inspectors knocked on the doors at 3:05 p.m. and the vault was locked, they were not amused.

I was transferred to Estevan, SK replacing Brian Reynolds as Discount Clerk and learned about the oil/coal industry. My first posting as Accountant was to Beiseker, AB. Next, I was transferred to Creston, BC, with Jim Bryson as Manager. Just beginning to enjoy the Kootneys, the phone rang and I was moved again—this time back to Alberta to Fairview in the Peace River country (500 miles N of Edmonton). Leon Martin was Branch Manager. Here, I met my wife, Heather, who was attending Fairview College. I was involved with new construction of the branch (first of many in my career). I loved the northern AB outdoors, the 20 hours of daylight in the summer and the spectacular display of northern lights in the winter night skies. I remember the month of March 1969 when it was minus 60 degrees F [-51.1 degrees C] for the whole month.

In 1969, the next transfer was to Lethbridge, AB, Main Branch as Assistant Accountant, Pat Martin (brother of Leon) was Manager. At that time, I had to obtain permission from the Bank

to get married. I also remember having to borrow a small amount to get our household set up and had to provide a detailed list of every item we purchased!

On the move again, on 1 January 1971, I arrived in Campbell River, BC, replacing Graham Freiberg as Accountant, with John Stevenson as Manager. Keith Vernon, Grant Snow, and John Smeathers. Again, the branch was going through a new branch construction. While in Campbell River, I had the opportunity to meet many notable Hollywood actors, directors, and producers, who visited the area for the salmon fishing.

In 1972, I had another move to Victoria, to Douglas & Saanich Branch, where Jeff Harrison and later Jack Cornborough were Managers. You guessed right—another construction-expansion branch. This branch had many interesting clients, with the "Red Lion Hotel" next door.

I was then transferred to BC Headquarters, to the Systems Department where Richard Bodt was Manager and Jim Allison, Asst. Dave Miles and Dave Jenks worked there also. While not new construction, I arrived 1 week after Royal Centre opened. I remember much difficulty with my vertigo riding the elevator up to the 35th floor each day. I was lucky in not being one of the staff who got stuck in one of the elevators, which they were having difficulty breaking into normal service. I do remember the interesting lunches to some of the local establishments, particularly when we had visitors from Head Office, Montreal. One day, I recall sitting at my desk talking on the phone when there was a big explosion, and the whole building was swaying. I turned around to look out of the window and a white flame was just coming back down to water level, The Home Oil barge had blown up on Burrard Inlet. The daily lunch hours in the staff lunch room downstairs in Royal Centre were most enjoyable. It was a time and opportunity to meet and develop friendships with staff from the surrounding branches.

Time came to move again, this time to Surrey Whaley Branch, with Manager Fred Beale, Bruno Tommasini, Mel Brotzel, and Kay Davitt as my Assistant. Many great times were enjoyed, including my first hold-up experience, and, again, new construction. I must not have been popular; one day I looked up at the glass ceiling above me and saw someone urinating on the window from the parking lot above.

Next move was back to Victoria Main Branch, replacing Lorie Anderson as Assistant Manager Administration, with Les Bonar Manager, and Bob Ludwig as Assistant Manager and later, Art Peck. This was an interesting posting. I enjoyed monthly Friday luncheons, with all the Assistant Managers Administration in the area for networking and mentoring.

I remember going downstairs one morning to the cash cage, and finding the three staff all sobbing their eyes out. I finally was able to get a response that Elvis had died that morning. During this time, Government Street Branch started construction of the new branch on Douglas & Fort Street. This entailed running two separate branches/staff under the same roof, causing many issues and stresses; however, all went well in the move. I have lasting memories of the grand opening of new Main Branch on August 20, 1979, with the President from Montreal in attendance. Everything that could possibly go wrong did!! The morning of the opening, someone had sprayed political messages with red paint on the outside walls; we had a flood in the basement; a fire in the air conditioning unit and firemen running all over the building, shutting down the Air-condition unit. This resulted in all the new plants wilting/dying from the heat. I then I received a panic call from someone stuck in the elevator on the third floor, during the ribbon cutting, a client accidentally knocked the solid glass front door with a cane, the door disintegrated into thousands of pieces. However, after a few beverages, we did survive, and all was forgotten.

One month after the move, I received a call from Dan Knowles in Vancouver, telling me he was coming to Victoria to replace me. I was shocked, but Mr. Bonar informed me later I had been moved back to Vancouver as Manager, Training BC Yukon. I really enjoyed this job. We had a great staff, I enjoyed meeting so many wonderful people and working with many trainees across the province. All good things come to an end. My job was eliminated in a budget crunch and I was transferred to New West Main Branch as a Credit Trainee: Don Rees was Manager and Gerry Gartner was my mentor. Again, we went through renovations. After 9 months of training, I was transferred for the second time back to Campbell River with Dwayne Root and eventually, Wayne Mann as Managers. I arrived in May 1981, just in time for the "CRASH"—what a training ground!!, with a variety of experience from death threats to bankruptcies. During my stint in Campbell River, I was awarded the Royal Performance Cruise of the Caribbean twice (1988/1989 ).

After 8 years, I was transferred to the Commercial Banking Branch in Nanaimo, with Bob Irlam, Vancouver Island Manager and Gord Yule Assistant Manager. I enjoyed a year travelling up Island meeting many new and dedicated RBC commercial clients; however, I missed the small business aspect and, on request, I was transferred to Parksville as Manager Business Banking. Wouldn't you know it, Parksville was going through a renovation/ transformation. During my time there, Robin Smith and I were jointly awarded the District General Manager's Achievement Award and presented a specially commissioned Bronze Lion, which still looks great today.

In 2000, I retired in Parksville after 36.5 years of service. Upon retiring, the Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce awarded me a Lifetime Membership. For the next 8 years, I dabbled in various contracts with financial institutions in the area, and concentrated my efforts with the military.

In every community I lived, I was always involved—through service clubs, Chamber of Commerce, and various community initiatives and fundraisers. I must say my life has been greatly enriched in so many ways by those experiences.

In 1987, while in Campbell River, I joined the Canadian Forces (Air Force) Reserve, and dedicated 22 years to working with youth (Air Cadets aged 12 to 19 years). I retired from the military in 2012 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. I am very proud to have served my country in that capacity.

I enjoy my retirement living in Nanaimo, and continue my community involvement in Rotary, Saint John Ambulance, United Services Institute, Probus, and Air Cadet League of BC.

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### Biography of LCol (Ret'd) D. E. Slowski, OSTJ, CD

LCol (Ret'd) Douglas Slowski was born in Blairmore, AB, raised in Tuffnell, SK, and attended Foam Lake Composite High School. He was a member of 542 RCACS for 4 years, awarded a Power Flying Scholarship, and received his wings at the Regina Flying Club.

LCol Slowski's positive cadet experience encouraged him to return to the Cadet Program in 1986 as a parent, helping to form 363 RCACS in Campbell River, BC. He subsequently became fully engaged in the program as a CIC Officer filling a variety of positions in several BC squadrons. His fast rise in rank and responsibility saw him serve as a Commanding Officer of three squadrons and two major Cadet Summer Training Centers at Albert Head, BC, and Penhold, AB. In addition, he has held several positions of responsibility in the Canadian Cadet Organization, including serving as Directing Staff at the Regional Cadet Instructor School (Pacific), as a member of the NDHQ Way-a-Head Committee, and as the Area Cadet Instructor Cadre Officer for Vancouver Island.

In 2003, he received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for his volunteer efforts within the Nanaimo community. In March 2008, he was awarded the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and promoted to Officer in that organization in 2013. Also in 2008, he was the recipient of the Saint John Ambulance Provincial Chairman's Citation. In 2012, he received Saint John Ambulance Long Service Medal and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for his volunteer work with youth and his service to community of Nanaimo.

In 2011, LCol Slowski was chosen as the Officer of the Year by the Air Cadet League of Canada. In June 2012, LCol Slowski was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Cadet Instructors Cadre Branch.

Before fully retiring in 2010, LCol Slowski enjoyed a 40-year banking career, where he lived and traveled in many different communities throughout the three western Canadian provinces.

LCol Slowski and his wife, Heather, reside in Nanaimo, BC, and have two adult children, Allison and Aaron. Both children have graduated from the Air Cadet Program. In retirement, he continues to volunteer with many organizations on Vancouver Island, including the BC Committee of the Air Cadet League of Canada, and a provincial director of Saint John Ambulance.

## **AL WESTNEDGE REMEMBERS**

In preparing "my story" I remember Barry Collins' theme of dodging bullets. I don't recall dodging bullets, they may have whizzed by without my knowledge. Most Royal pensioners are sure to have lived more interesting lives to tell than mine, however here goes:

Started 1955, Main & 49<sup>th</sup> Vancouver, Harry Storey Manager, Al Smith Accountant. Salary \$137.50 per month. To Kitimat in 1956, Manager Sandy MacDonald, Geoff Wood Accountant. In 1957 to Main & 8<sup>th</sup>, Vancouver, Manager Arnold Putnam, Ray

Mitchuk Accountant, Barry Jones Assistant Accountant, later Ross Cantley. In 1958 Oliver Branch Accountant's position beckoned with Dave Suttie Manager. Orchard home room and board only available with me to assist with farm duties. The time in Oliver area created lifetime friendships.



Married Nadene Prior, March 1960. May 1960 transferred to Vernon. Alf Howlett Manager, Don Rees Accountant. Our daughter born in Vernon. Enjoyed the sunny Okanagan, then balanced by a Prince Rupert move in 1963. Bob Margetson Manager, later Jack Dunsmore. The Accountant's position included granting newly featured Termplan loans, maximum credit available \$3,600.00. Rupert was brutal, with constant staff turnover. Very capable Bankers Murray Williams and Dennis Varcoe helped improve the situation.

October 1963 our son was born. January 1966 Harley Stonnell replaced me and I moved to 6<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> New Westminster. That city's atmosphere, plus Management style of Weir Muir, resulted in banking being very enjoyable. Weir Muir was followed by Ed Bradish. Rudy Pries Accountant, with Bruno Tommasini providing interesting balance.

1967 I opened Royal Square in New Westminster, Bruce Waldref very effectively handled Accountant's duties, all while attending evenings at Simon Fraser University toward satisfying his thirst for knowledge.

July 1970 moved to Kelowna Main Branch as 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Manager. Don Steele Managed the branch with Len Kozar Senior Assistant. Later I traded places with Trev Miller from Shoppers Village Kelowna. The time in Kelowna was personally rewarding for me.

Left Kelowna to Manage Fort & Cook Victoria in 1978, replacing Al Taylor. The branch was on very solid footing. That office was favoured by many physician clients. My pre-reporting led me to believe I would be intimidated by these doctors. My fears were unfounded as I found it a pleasure to act as their Banker. I miss these clients in retirement. Now I see one locally, very regularly, part of the aging process.

While in Victoria, Nadene and I celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding



anniversary by traveling to Britain where I drove a rental car 3,000 miles.

Fort & Cook occasioned a relocation to Victoria Main branch, Al Grant in charge. I spent 4 years there before retiring. I enjoyed that association with such fine Bankers as Lloyd Atchison, Bob Lindahl and others who previously Managed their own offices and were placed under one roof as a team.

### **IN RETIREMENT AFTER DECEMBER 1992:**

I soon learned that a new position would be created for me - "care giver." Nadene was diagnosed as terminally ill. Until April 1995 date of Nadene's death, trips from Alaska to Los Angeles were made by us.

Earlier in Victoria I started beekeeping. I purchased a small hive and over 9 years my operation grew to 23 hives.

In 1987 I joined the Cross Canada Cycle Tour Society and in summer 1996 cycled with the group from Victoria to St. John's, Newfoundland.

On December 7<sup>th</sup> 1996 I married Tiki Wylie. She retired from her career in 2005, now pursues painting, receiving many awards for her art.

At present, my time is spent with photography. My images are used by:

United Church of Canada, Toronto

Hollyhock Foundation, Cortes Island

The National Youth Jazz Orchestra, London, England

Mark Forsythe - CBC, Listener's Lens Website -

<http://www.cbc.ca/bcalmanac/>

I've volunteered with Hospices in North Vancouver, Victoria and Oceanside. RBC retiree Bob Cherkas and I once facilitated a local Hospice men's group.

Since year 2000, I've cruised across the Atlantic, Pacific, also visited European countries including those bordering the Baltic and Mediterranean Seas south to Israel.

Cycling around Denmark and Rarotonga was enjoyed.

This period of retirement is a very exciting phase of my life. I enjoy volunteer teaching Art and Digital Camera operation at Vancouver Island University's Elder College.

In conclusion I am blessed for my time and associations with the Bank and since. I am now looking forward to continuing adventures. We now live in Qualicum Beach, B.C.

### **A VERY COLD INSPECTION**

By Don Steele

In March 1966 I was transferred from Terrace to Vancouver to serve with the Bank in the Inspection or Audit Department. This involved a lot of flying around the

Province to inspect various branches. I recall on one occasion scheduling Burns Lake for Inspection.

Before leaving it was suggested by Harry Weatherill, District Bank Credit Supervisor, that I should inspect and estimate the volume of logs situated at the various camps in the Burns Lake area forming the inventory of a large logging operation, Omineca Lumber Co. The Bank was concerned that substantial loans were based on lending 50% of the log inventory owned by the Company.



The Branch Manager (Lorne Sine) did not have the resources to inspect these inventories spread over such a large area in a number of camps. The Bank was depending solely on figures provided by the Companies' accountants located in Vancouver. The Company was fully co-operative and indicated they would ensure that I was able to view and inspect the logs at each of their sites.

It was mid-January 1967 when my Inspection team flew to Prince George in a DC6-B, then rented a car to Burns Lake. The next morning I received a call from N.G. Patterson, the local Manager of the Omineca Lumber Co. Ltd. to say he had chartered an aircraft (Cessna 185 CF-QXE) from Omineca Air Service Ltd. based at Tchesinkut Lake. He also advised that the company forester, Larry Hope, would show me the complete company operation. I elected to include the Branch Manager, Lorne Sine, so there were four of us including the pilot.

The next morning was clear and cold, about 25 below zero. I had no winter clothing, just a suit, a raincoat and pajamas. I put everything on. We drove about 15 miles to Tchesinkut Lake and boarded the Cessna 185. The pilot was dressed in arctic gear complete with a caribou skin parka and hood fringed with wolverine fur and mukluks. He had huge fur lined gauntlets. I had a light suit over pajamas and a raincoat. We visited logging camps at Forestdale, Francious Lake, various camps on Babine Lake

including Old Fort Babine and Augier Lake. We landed on the ice at each site (Wheel/Skis) and I attempted to estimate the volume of wood.

Now, I should say, I had taken the Provincial log scaler course when in Hazelton so I had some idea of how to measure volume in board feet. I entered all this into a notebook and took lots of pictures of the logs.

At Augier Lake we changed planes to a "Beaver" (CF-OBU) this was to facilitate a government biologist who wanted to do a Moose count around Takysie Lake before returning to the airline base at Tchesinkut Lake. I was cold in the Cessna185 but I froze in the Beaver. We flew at tree top levels in some very remote country in order to spot Moose. I might say, there were plenty of Moose.



I had not eaten all day and when I got back from Tchesinkut Lake to the Motel I was tired, hungry and cold. No sooner had I entered the door than "Patterson" telephoned inviting me to come to his house for a drink. He wanted to know how I had managed with the inventory inspection. This was more an order than an invitation so I left at once. He plied me with Scotch whisky while I tried to evaluate the day without even time to consult my notes. He was a very gracious host and seemed to be pleased with my report. I got back to the motel about midnight. Everything was closed so had to wait until breakfast for food.

I still had the responsibilities ahead of me to complete the audit of the branch. A long day of flying in bitterly cold conditions, much of it at low levels, covering an area of about 100 mile radius from Burns Lake.

In the final analysis, my estimate of the log inventory was close enough to the Company's figures that the difference was not considered material. Everyone was happy.



Pete Johnston receiving the Jack Nicholson Perpetual Trophy from Jack Nicholson at the June 5, RBC Bankers Golf Tournament.



Tony Le Grice & Wife taken at the Nanaimo RBC Pensioners Luncheon on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013.

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Who can identify who uses this signature?