

RBC PENSIONERS' NETWORK

BRITISH COLUMBIA CELL

EMAIL – RBCPENSIONERSNETWORK@SHAW.CA

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EDITORIAL

While it has been reported in earlier Editorials that this would be the last issue of the NEWSLETTER, it now appears there is enough material left to do one more publication on April 1st, 2014. We are happy to do this and hope there will be a person or group to take over at that time.

Anyone who would like to do the NEWSLETTER either on their own or as part of a committee should contact D. Steele at dsteel1@shaw.ca

There are various options: one is to prepare a Web-page where anyone could access the information. Another is that a group might use their various skills to construct a Newsletter and present it in the same manner as we now use. In any event we hope the publication will continue.



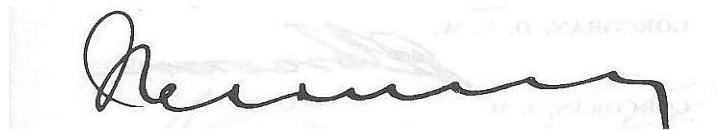
Kane Kangro seen at the Vancouver Christmas Luncheon



Who can name this old Vancouver Island Branch?

SUNDRY INFORMATION

Leo Fornari was able to identify the Mystery Signature as that of Glen (Snapper) Elliott. No one was able to name the Mystery Branch as that of Fort St. John, B.C.



Who was the early Staff Officer who used this signature?

THE ELIIE MCPHERSON STORY

Prior to starting work with the Royal Bank in Powell River B.C in 1966, I had previously been employed with the Bank of Montreal for 7 1/2 years and worked during that period at 3 different branches, including a branch in Vancouver which was quite an adventure for a small town gal from Armstrong B.C.

It was quite a surprise when I started in the Powell River Branch: the Savings ledgers were still hand posted and had been out of balance for 2 years. Not that it was a huge amount but it needed to be looked after so I remember that was what I put my mind to after some orientation with their services. I was quite proud when I eventually found the difference.

After my marriage break- up in 1968, I transferred to the Royal, Vernon Branch in order to be near my family as I was left raising our two little ones with no financial support so a secure and steady employment was very important for me. I believe Don Reed was the Manager there at that time. I was a Machine Operator, a Teller, and a Loans Clerk and for the majority of my tenure spent there, I was a Securities Officer. The responsibilities with that position were to look after loan securities as well as a joint custodian of bonds and other securities in safekeeping.

I transferred to Kelowna Branch as a Loans Officer in 1972 and it was there I was to meet my career mentor Don Steele, who was the Branch Manager. (Only called Mr. Steele by myself at the time, being trained to respect my elders and those of authority in the work place). One day Don approached (I can call him Don as I think I am the same age now...) and really took me by surprise when he mentioned to me the Royal was going to open up a small branch out at Okanagan Mission, outside of Kelowna proper. He totally took me by surprise when he said that I would be a good candidate to take the position of Branch Manager. My reaction to his offer was very much a "who me" because not only was I shocked at the offer but during the time I had been employed in Banks, I had not known any female Branch Managers. I suppose, now thinking back to that time, for women being employed with the Banks was not so much a career aspiration but rather having a job that was secure and steady.

Once the renovations were completed to accommodate the operations for Banking services and with the guidance of Don, I opened up the small community branch in Okanagan Mission with a staff of four in 1974.



One of my memories while managing there was when a gentleman came in and spoke to Marg. Stewart who was my Secretary and wanted to see the Manager. She responded to him to have a seat and she would see if Mrs. McPherson was free to see him. Thinking Marg. did not understand his request he said "but I want to see the Manager" and she quite exasperated and abruptly said "well she is the Manager and that is who you will be seeing if you wish to do business with us." I think I could write a

whole book on some of the experiences funny and otherwise we 5 ladies encountered while working at that branch.

It was after 2 years at Okanagan Mission in 1976, I resigned and took the real estate course and became a licensed realtor. This was a short lived career as the market being very soft at that time; the income I made could not support me and my two children who were now teenagers.

I had now remarried and my husband, Al Manaigre who was an Accountant, had an offer of a job in Vancouver with West Coast Transmission. It was then he sold his house and Accounting Partnership in Kelowna and we made the move to Coquitlam.

I started work in July of 1978 for Vancouver City Saving Credit Union where I worked for 10 years, 5 years Managing a very large branch with 42 on staff at Hastings and Madison and then opened a new branch at Pine Tree Village in Coquitlam.

I became very involved with community affairs during my employment with Van City and received the Solicitor General's Award and also the Attorney General's Award for my participation with the RCMP and the Block Parents Program. I was active in holding small seminars on Pre- Marriage Counselling for the Anglican Church and also did some teaching at a small local business college on Financial Planning. It was a very busy and productive time for me as although my own two kids were now out on their own, I was also raising two step children.

Al and I had purchased acreage up in the Okanagan Falls area in 1982 and most of our vacation time and weekends were spend developing a vineyard which included clearing the land and planting 9 Acres of Grapes. This was a plan for Al's eventual retirement. In 1988 it was now necessary to move to Okanagan Falls as the vineyard was starting production and needed full time care. So I resigned from Van City and had a job offer from what was then known as Oliver Credit Union which is now part of Interior Savings Credit Union. I Managed a very small branch in Okanagan Falls and after 4 years, I had a job offer from Valley First Credit Union and started Managing the Oliver Branch in 1992. I was there until 2002 when I retired the first time.

Yes, I said the first time as in 2000, we sold our vineyard and after retiring we bought a motor home and drove to Mexico to a place for the winter, located south of Cancun. Having loved the area so much we spent 3 more winters there and then 3 winters in Yuma, Arizona. We also did some traveling and spent some time in Guatemala, Belize and also Honduras.

We no longer travel south and now live in Penticton. I was becoming restless and bored so for the past 4 1/2 years I am back working at Valley First which is now a division of First West Credit Union. I am a Service Representative providing administrative support to lenders in the branches and love what I do. I found it is important to have a purpose in life and although I still feel young at heart, I would no longer want the responsibilities of Management but gladly leave that to the younger ones.

I have been very privileged to have met so many wonderful friends during my banking days, many I still keep in touch with and have so many good memories of my time spent working in the Royal.

I have always felt the training I had with the Royal Bank laid a solid foundation for my career going forward.

I have to thank Don Steele for not only giving me the opportunity to become a Branch Manager but also for building my confidence and believing in me to be the best I could be.

RBC LOWER MAINLAND PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON – DECEMBER 3, 2013.

300 Pensioners and guests crowded the banquet room in the Four Seasons Hotel in Vancouver, to celebrate the Christmas season. Donald Graham, the President of the The Association welcomed all to the event.

Graham McLaughlin (Regional President RBC) spoke to the group about the size of RBC in British Columbia and the donations it makes to the welfare of the Community, citing the large pledge of the Bank of 100 Million Dollars over the next 5 years to the Children's Hospital Foundation.

The event continued with Richard Fuller explaining the manner in which the bottle of wine on each table would be raffled.

Dave Lawson and George Balsler continued with the disposition of 18 cash awards by drawing tickets for these prizes. The 50/50 collection all went to the Children's Hospital and the winner of the \$1,455 tax free benefit went to Christine Kilbourn.

Donald Graham also announced the date of the 2014 Annual General Meeting to be held on the 33rd Floor – Classroom #2 Royal Centre Tower, 1055 West George Street, Vancouver, B.C.

The Lunch was excellent and enjoyed by all, as was the opportunity to meet and renew acquaintances with old friends.

RBC PENSIONERS' DINNER – KELOWNA, B.C.

By Wayne Waters

Our 42nd Annual RBC Pensioners' Dinner was held at the Kelowna Golf and Country Club on Thursday evening October 17th. One hundred and twenty-four people attend the dinner. Fred Shearlaw, former Manager, Lending Services in the Okanagan, did a great job as the Master of Ceremonies.

Barrie Pachenski, RVP Business Banking, represented RBC and addressed the pensioners.

Reg Burgess was the lucky winner of the 50/50 raffle collecting \$280. Many people stayed to visit after the formal dinner was finished. Everyone had a great time and it is special to have an opportunity to see past friends and fellow Bankers at this annual event. "



Fred Shearlaw performs as Master of Ceremonies.

B.C. CONNECTIONS – GLOBALLY.

By Tim Gibbs

I was raised in England; completed university there and in 1970 immigrated to Canada. Shortly after arriving in Vancouver I managed to join Simon Fraser University final year students being assessed for employment by various companies, including RBC. After a series of interviews, in April 1971 I was hired into RBC's graduate trainee program along with Bruce Jagger and Gord McIvor who, like me, later included Hong Kong in their banking careers.

My training branch was Vancouver, Granville & Robson where George Ellis was the Accountant and Maureen Gross headed the Savings Department. Gord Yule was the BC District Personnel Officer, looking after us trainees.

Within 6 months I was appointed Assistant Accountant at Coquitlam, North Road & Lougheed, where Brant French provided me with excellent on-the-job training. After another 6 months I was transferred as Branch Accountant to sunny White Rock. Within a few days of my arrival, the BC District Inspection Team showed up. If I recall correctly, they wrote about 160 green sheets

relating to operations. It was clear what a large part of my job would be for the next 6 months or so! The Inspectors returned and with the branch achieving an improved rating (doubt the rating could have declined) and my performance appraisals stating my desire for an "international posting", I was offered a job in Head Office Foreign Department, Montreal. Most colleagues and friends wondered why on earth I would choose to leave BC for Quebec.

In HOFD I was the research analyst responsible for forecasting foreign exchange trends and authoring the Bank's monthly publication "Review and Outlook for the Canadian Dollar". I worked directly for HOFD's Head, Bob Mitchell, which gave me great exposure to the workings of Head Office and its personalities. Through Bill McGroaty in Vancouver, I advised many BC companies on foreign exchange and interest rate trends and once wrote part of a speech for Doug Gardiner who at the time headed BC.



After HOFD I became a Credit Trainee and in 1976 was appointed Credit Officer-Europe and worked in an area known as the "mushroom patch"something about growing in the dark. My first international, i.e. outside Canada, posting came in 1977 - to London as Assistant Manager, International Loans reporting to Eric Ferguson. There I worked in a team leading RBC's activities in the London euro-dollar loan syndication market. While in London I first met Rohays Reid who was joining RBC's newly created Merchant Bank.

Although I wanted to remain longer in London, the Bank decided I should move in 1979 to Singapore to establish, and then run a Merchant Bank subsidiary. My job included administering a syndicated loan portfolio that grew in less than 5 years to over \$1 billion. I also had marketing responsibility for Indonesia and Singapore. I reported to Nigel Brewis in Hong Kong who, in turn, reported to John Rednall who led a rapidly expanding RBC presence in the Asia region. In 1984 I moved to Orion Royal Pacific in Hong Kong headed by Alan Bowbyes. Besides all credit administration, I had marketing responsibility for Korea and Indonesia. While in Hong Kong I met many staff with BC connections including John Clayden, Colin Liptrot, and Jim Allison of RBC.

My credit administration duties at Orion involved collecting some unproductive loans so it made sense that my next posting (in 1986) was to Special Loans Group, Head Office, first in Montreal and then Toronto. I inherited a portfolio of private sector risk problems in Mexico, Ireland, UK, Singapore (one loan I had put on the books!), the US and Venezuela. I was rarely in the office or at home.

To my complete surprise in late 1988 I was offered a position back in Hong Kong where I managed to stay for the next 9 years as VP Corporate Banking, then VP & GM Greater China and lastly as VP Global Private Banking. I worked with Brian Ellis (until InchRoy was sold), Clive Langdon-Wilkins (Dominion Securities), Jim Lawrie, Dave Pohl, Ka Wah Yeo and Boyd Topham. From BC I received numerous visitors including clients, Bank Directors, Staff and, every few years, the BC District inspectors.

In 1997, after 26-years with RBC Group I left as I wanted to remain in Asia. First I joined Dao Heng Bank in Hong Kong and later (1999-2002) Emirates Bank International in Karachi as head of their Pakistan operation. The latter was a truly exciting experience, mostly for the wrong reasons, including 9/11.

In 2003 I returned to Vancouver after an absence of 30 years. Now in retirement mode, I remain active helping my wife run her fashion importing and wholesaling business, playing tennis, sailing,

skiing, motorcycling and most recently, babysitting my granddaughter.

Having just put this career history together, I can reflect positively on all the opportunities RBC gave me during my career and more importantly, on the many fine people (many having BC connections) that I had the pleasure of meeting and making friends with.

WHITE ROCK PENSIONERS' LUNCHEON.

On Thursday October 17th Don Steele and Charlie Merrick attended the regular monthly Thursday Luncheon at the Roadhouse Grill, 1781 King George Blvd. About 18 retired Bankers and Spouses attended for Lunch. A Couple of (Fuller) bottles of wine were played for, but no luck for us.

We enjoyed the fellowship and met old friends and associates. While we did not know everyone the following were noted in attendance; Jan & Richard Fuller, Kaye Jiles, Glen Tibbatts, Leo Fornari & Wife, Marion Thurston & Husband, and Jan Hayes.



Glenn Tibbatts and Charlie Merrick seen at the recent White Rock Luncheon.



This is the Pensioners' group at White Rock on October 17, 2013.



Colin Liptrot, seen at The Vancouver Christmas Luncheon.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

The Royal Bank of Canada was incorporated in 1869 as "The Merchants Bank of Halifax". Its name was changed by Act of Parliament to present title on January 1, 1901. The Head Office was transferred to Montreal on March 2, 1907.

The assets of the Union Bank of Halifax were purchased by The Royal Bank of Canada on November 1, 1910; of the Traders Bank of Canada on September 1, 1912; of the Quebec Bank on January 2, 1917; of the Northern Crown Bank on July 2, 1918 and of the Bank of Central and South America in February, 1925.



This is a photograph of Tanya Graham, the talented wife of Donald Graham, President of the Lower Mainland Pensioners' Association, who sponsors the Christmas Luncheon along with RBC.

The Staff of Phantom Publications hope you all had a Happy Christmas and we wish you a Healthy and Prosperous 2014.