

**THE
GRADUATE**
Doug Stanbrook.
Submitted by
Bob Buckland, ASTI

I'm always in the search mode for prospective column individuals and I was fortunate to recently speak with Doug Stanbrook, who retired in 2002 from the City of Burnaby where he served 35-years with the City's Building Department. I mentioned to Doug I would be interested in composing a Graduate column about his life and career experiences in the building industry for a coming edition of a BOABC Newsletter. Doug kindly replied he would like to consider my enquiry and following discussion we proceeded toward this objective. I'm sure you will find the following an interesting account of Doug's background of life and work experiences.

To begin with I had the good fortune to have had previous work experience with Doug as far back as the early 1980's when the Sky Train stations were being designed and constructed. I recall taking a tour through some of Burnaby's stations in the company of Doug, and also Soren Agren, Building Inspector for the City of Vancouver. I also had other frequent discussions with Doug at the Lower Mainland Technical Meetings.

Doug was born September 27, 1942 in the cool city of Winnipeg, Manitoba. His family soon moved to the City of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan where he was raised and attended elementary and high school. Following graduation from high school he moved to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan to continue his technical education at the Saskatchewan Technical Institute (STI) where he graduated with a diploma in "Industrial Drafting Technology".

In 1968 Doug married a young lady from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Doug and Donna have two sons, one presently working in the culinary industry and the other working in the construction industry. They presently have two grandsons, one is training in the construction industry and the other is still young enough to go RV'ing (Recreational Vehicle) with his grandparents. Doug and Donna presently reside in the City of Port Coquitlam living in the house they built in 1972.

Doug started his working career, while attending high school, as a part time grocery packer, with a major grocery retailer, earning \$1.98 per hour. His career training in this part time employment was well learned as he still packs his own groceries with cans on the bottom and bread on the top. This is an instilled concept that means no matter what kind of job you have, you do it to the best of your ability, and you take away the experience with you. Do the "heavy lifting" up front and you will be appreciated, and in turn, rewarded for it. This is the philosophy Doug took to the workplace and his personal life.

Doug's first employment didn't lead to his owning the grocery retailer, but it did lead to owning his own car. After graduation from STI he found employment in Edmonton, Alberta, with the Resources Department of the Alberta Provincial Government where he was able to put his training in drafting skills to work. As often happens with the drafting profession, Doug found this job was dead ended, and thus he began a search for a more challenging job. It was this search that in 1967 lead him to British Columbia, and the City of Burnaby Building Department where he gained

employment as "Plan Checker-1", processing building permit documentation for building permit issue.

Plan Checker-1 was the beginning of a successful career for Doug as he was soon advanced to a Plan Checking Supervisory position which he fulfilled until the late 1970's, when he was advanced to a Building Inspector position. Over time he further advanced to a Building Inspector Supervisor position which he fulfilled until his retirement on his birthday, September 27, 2002.

Related Career Activities

- Member of BOABC (Building Officials Association of BC) during employment with City of Burnaby
- Assisted in the Building Code of BC (BCBC) revision process in 1980's, package together proposed changes relative to past and present good practises.
- Participated in province wide lecture tours, regarding BCBC revisions.
- Co-instructor Part-9, BCBC, Building Code course at the BC Institute of Technology.
- Instructor of BOABC, Level-2 study seminars.
- Member of Committees for BCBC changes, Interpretation and Education. Participated in questions developed for BOABC certification exams.
- Coordinator of events for the 2002 BOABC AGM (Annual General Meeting).
- Member of Technical and Advisory Committees.

Extracurricular Activities

- Active in Scouting since starting as a Cub Scout and is now an active member of the 40th Canadian Baden-Powell Guild (Tri-Cities). Presently in the back third of his 9-year term on the National Executive of the Canadian Fellowship of Baden-Powell Guilds, now holding the position of Past National Guildmaster.
- Doug has passed the torch to the younger generation after completing a 12-year term as a member and 10-years as a trainer (Rapid Damage Assessment) with the "City of Port Coquitlam" emergency preparedness program.
- Volunteering from now on will not be in positions that tend to tie one down. It's now time to take retirement to a new level, doing what you want, when you want.

Readying the RV



Rope Making Guild Event



Comment

Doug is very appreciative of support given by City of Burnaby Building Department Staff, especially regarding the 2002 AGM, and the BOABC staff, over the years, for the opportunity to participate in the Technical, Advisory, and Instructional aspects of his career.

Doug goes on to say that as a Building Official every day was different; there were no 2-days alike. It didn't matter whether consulting with a professional, discussing a matter with staff, dealing with cliental contractors, developers, or a property owner(s); whether at the building department counter, on the phone, by email, by conventional mail, in the field; be it coping with anger, praise, complement, or joke; every day was a different challenge. A mundane job, no! Bob Buckland agrees.

A decision regarding closure of his career came when he and his wife Donna had the opportunity to attend the 2010 BOABC AGM in Whitehorse. He had been to Whitehorse before as a part of BOABC training sessions and was impressed with the City's ambiance. He was also impressed with the resolve of BOABC Yukon members in breaking the mould of only holding AGM's within BC.

Respectfully:
Bob Buckland