

# THE GRADUATE

F. GREG CLARKE, P. ENG.

*Submitted by  
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I first met Greg Clarke, P.Eng.; in late 1969 when I was initially employed by the City of New Westminster as a Building Inspector. At that time I had made a framing inspection of a commercial development which I was not able to pass because of a problem with the roof truss installation. I discussed the problem with Greg who met me on site in the presence of the builder and we were able to resolve the truss installation to the satisfaction of all those involved.

During the years following until about 1995 I had many building inspection discussions with Greg, usually regarding structure, fire protection, fire testing of assemblies, and Building Code interpretations.

Greg was always open to discussion on building construction matters, attended (Building Officials Association of BC) BOABC annual conventions, and often contributed to the convention technical content.

In fact, Greg has been an Associate member of BOABC since 1971 when the organization was then known as BIABC (Building Inspectors Association of BC). In 2009 Greg was awarded the BOABC "Jim Robison Award" for exceptional achievement. Other outstanding contributions to the building industry are noted in Greg's professional activities summary list dated to 1971, in the last page of this column.

When I spoke to Greg about contributing to a BOABC "GRADUATE" he stated that he had a great bunch of guys to work with over the years. He was interested in contributing to a "GRADUATE" column, and kindly completed the following composition to detail his life career in the building industry.

We thank you Greg.

*Early Years.* Greg was born December 1943, growing up and receiving his education in Winnipeg. He achieved a degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Manitoba during which time he was also an officer cadet serving in the Regular Officer Training Program. After graduation, boot camp in Borden, then more schooling at the Military Engineering School in Chilliwack, BC, he became a Lieutenant. He served as a troop commander at the Apprentice Training Squadron and later at the Recruit Training Squadron in Chilliwack. Greg was then promoted to the rank of Captain and assigned to 3 Field Squadron, a "Mobile Command" group trained for military field operations.



**"Officer Cadet Clarke"**

*Career.* He was curious enough to be looking at the "outside world" and decided to take the jump to civilian life in 1969. The theory was, if he didn't like it, he could still sign up again and carry on in the military. However, his first job on the outside turned out to be a winner. The Warnock Hersey company (now Intertek) and Greg seemed to get along together and it was for the next 28 years that he worked in the field of testing, inspection, and certification. Greg's responsibilities ultimately as a Vice President extended to the fields of fire testing and physical properties of building materials, plumbing products, solid fuel and gas fired appliances, electrical products, and lumber grading to mention just a few.

Looking for a change of venue he moved to the Quality Auditing Institute (QAI) in 1998 with a contract to expand QAI's accreditations to more closely match the extensive accreditations held by Intertek. By the year 2000, QAI was expanding into wider technical fields and Greg recognized that clients were phoning him with a need for a service

slightly beyond what Intertek and QAI was providing. That service comprised the what's, how's, who's, and where's process that building product suppliers had to go through to get their items certified. For the clients to do this themselves was obviously harder than it looked. So he formed the company Independent Engineering Services as a P.Eng. and P.E. offering those services to suppliers. Also during that year the Western Wood Truss Association of BC (WWTABC) started looking for a part time consulting Executive Officer to represent the technical, operational, and administrative interests of the Association on all matters affecting the wood truss industry in British Columbia. Being basically a wood person with a special intrigue for the structural mechanics of trusses made this a perfect fit for his consultancy. Greg applied to WWTABC and was retained. During 2009 he started thinking about retirement and gradually wound down the consulting service, but keeping the WWTABC contract until August 31, 2013. Also during that period, having a little extra time on his hands, he acquired his pilot's license. He is now fully retired.



**"A Special Hobby- Licensed Pilot"**

*BOABC.* When Greg joined Warnock Hersey he recognized his job was quite closely related to that of a building inspector in that both jobs involved codes and standards, building materials and products, and generally ascertaining the suitability of buildings and their components for public safety. Not to mention the professional experiences, the sheer camaraderie with all the folks of BOABC (and BIABC) especially at zone meetings, annual meetings, education workshops, and committees was one of the more enjoyable and rewarding memories of his career. Greg can look back to the "olden days" in the 70's when BIABC was a reasonably organized official group of building inspectors. Compare that to today's BOABC. Everyone involved throughout the years deserves to be congratulated for all their contributions that

have made it the professional multifaceted organization that it is today!



**"Hard At It"**

*Family.* During 1964 Greg met Sharon in Winnipeg, and in 1967 they were married. They have two sons both married and one granddaughter, with another grandchild on the way. Greg's business interests took him many times with Sharon to all parts of North America, parts of Europe and Asia, and also Australia. That is not to mention the regular trips throughout the Province carrying out quality control inspections on behalf of WWTABC. They both have always especially enjoyed those BC trips to approximately 30 truss plants ranging from Vancouver Island to Smithers through to Creston. Greg and Sharon share a bucket list, and now being retired with no contractual obligations, they are free to start digging into that list.



**"Greg's Close Family"**

Greg's professional activities since 1971 include the following:

- Associate Member BOABC 1971-Present
- Member, WoodWORKS! BC Provincial Steering Committee 2005-Present
- Member, Truss Plate Institute of Canada 2007-Present
- Awarded the "Jim Robison Award" recognition of exceptional achievement on behalf of BOABC 2009
- Bestowed the designation of Fellow by Engineers Canada in honor of exceptional contributions to the engineering profession of Canada 2008
- Member, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (APEGBC)-Organizational Quality Management Committee. 2010 to 2012
- BC Building Code Appeal Board 1990 to 2008
- Member of APEGBC Building Code Committee 1993 to 2005
- Representative of APEGBC on the BC Buildings Safety Advisory Council 1994 to 1997
- President of Canadian Lumber Standards Accreditation Board 1991 to 1994
- Selected by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to serve on the Station Square Implementation Task Force 1989 to 1991
- Director, BC Shake and Shingle Association 1990 to 1991
- Member Advisory Council on the Certification and Testing of the Standards Council Of Canada 1986 to 1993
- Member, Part 3 Committee. The National Building Code of Canada 1984 to 1988
- Chair, ASTM Committee on Fire Standards 1980 to 1986
- Member, ASTM Board of Directors and Chair, Long Range Planning Committee 1984 to 1986
- Chair, National Lumber Grades Authority 1983 to 1985
- Member, numerous other wood products related committees in Canada and the USA.

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