

THE GRADUATE

By
Bob Buckland, ASCTT

*John Passmore, R.B.O.,
C.R.B.O.*



John Passmore



*John's Family. Left to right;
wife Karen, Daughter- in-Law,
Alicia; Son, Curtis; Daughter,
Amanda;; and John.*

I had the pleasure of working with John in 2004 and 2005 while we were residing in the 100-Mile House area. I recently asked John if he might be interested in helping me compose a GRADUATE column about his life and career experiences for a coming edition of a BOABC (Building Officials Association of British Columbia) Newsletter. John consented to my request and we were on our way to composing a GRADUATE column on his behalf.

John Passmore was born September 21, 1960 and was raised in the small Ontario town of Uxbridge where his working life began early and consisted of a paper route, working as farm labour, and also at the local IGA where he was employed as a box and stock boy, and also, a summer of working in the IGA butcher shop. In 1978, at the age of 17 he heard the call "go west young man" and headed out to British Columbia on the day after his last exam in high school. John traveled just about as far west as he could go because he found employment with the Somass Sawmill at Port Alberni on the west coast of Vancouver Island, where he learned to pull lumber off the mill green chain. After 2-years of this employment John became restless and at the age of 19 travelled to the east coast of Canada to explore what the Maritimes had to offer.



*John and Karen at the Eiffel
Tower,
Paris, France*

In early 1981 John traveled back to BC and located at Whistler, primarily to serve with a Christian organization. It was here that John's construction career began. He also met Karen his wife to be, and they have now been married for 31-years.

John was successful in completing his "Journeyman" carpenter apprenticeship at Whistler and soon went on further to become a "Red Seal Journeyman". ("Red Seal Journeyman" is recognized throughout all provinces and territories of Canada, and involves training and exams beyond those required for a "Journeyman"),

It was also at this time and place that John and Karen had their first child, daughter Amanda.

In 1987 John and Karen plus family moved to the Pemberton valley. Shortly after arriving son Curtis was born. Curtis has since completed his education by following in his father's footsteps and is now also a "Red Seal Journeyman Carpenter".

During the Whistler/Pemberton years John was self-employed and worked in construction as a lead hand, foreman, and/or site supervisor on large projects such as, a bank/condo complex, Myrtle Philip Elementary School, Nester's Market Mall, employee housing developments, and numerous custom homes. In 1989 John started his own construction company and was self-employed for the better part of the next 10-years.

John always had respect for the British Columbia Building Code, and by correspondence, successfully completed Level-1 of the "Building Code of BC" in 1991. This achievement was in part not only fueled by his ambition to learn and improve his knowledge; but also by a local Building Inspector's decision regarding a violation of a British Columbia Building Code ("BC of BC") requirement on one of John's jobs. John made up his mind that he was not going to find himself in this type of situation again, and since he was responsible for the problem, he corrected the violation by way of at his own effort and expense.

Following a family move to Bridge Lake located in the Cariboo Regional District in 1994, John, in 1999

began work as a Building Inspector for the District of 100-Mile House; and then in 2003 through 2011 as Senior Building Inspector for the Cariboo Regional District and working out of the 100-Mile House Office; During these years John successfully completed the BOABC (Building Officials Association of British Columbia) Level-2 and 3 exams, thus obtaining RBO (Registered Building Official) and CRBO (Certified Registered Building Official). Additionally, John also successfully completed the Plumbing Inspector Certification "Plumbing Code of BC", and also became certified as an inspector for WETT inspections, (WOOD ENERGY TECHNICAL TRANSFER).

After John and Karen's children became adults and left home John and Karen started to get the urge to move off the Cariboo plateau and move down to a land of shorter winters, and lower elevations. In 2011 they moved to Kamloops where John had been offered a Building Inspector position with the Thompson-Nicola Regional District, which is where they live and work to this day.

John states: I love the field work aspects of our job as inspectors, and specifically that of the Regional Districts where we have the opportunity to see and drive the outlying areas, and also meet such a variety of people and their projects that we as inspectors get to have an impact on. I do think that because we do the jobs that we do, the world, or at least our little corner of it, is a better place.

Ever since our Pemberton days we have had acreage and horses plus the steady companionship of dogs. When the kids were growing up we were involved with them in cubs/scouts and then in 4H, mainly horse but also a steer project one year for our son.

We were also involved in the local community club activities and very involved in the local Interlakes Rodeo. In the mid 1990's I took up the sport of team roping, and along with my wife, we enjoy doing this sport today and the ranching western lifestyle that accompanies it.

In 2010 I obtained my motorcycle license and have thoroughly enjoyed thousands of kilometers of road trips since. We both like to travel and have managed

to fit in some international trips as well and God willing, there will be many more trips to come.



John's motorcycle collage of a trip to Glacier National Park in Montana

It's been a pleasure working with you John.

Respectfully submitted;
Bob Buckland



John and Karen enjoying a beer at the Coliseum in Rome



John and Karen team roping

