

The GRADUATE

By
Bob Buckland, ASCTT

David Sanders, RBO



David and Andrea

I had the good fortune and email communication to meet Dave Sanders, a retired gentleman who was born at Vancouver in 1953 and presently resides in Abbotsford with his wife Andrea. Dave has 3-children who are now grown, and left the nest years ago. Two of his children are university graduates. Dave and Andrea are presently grandparents to one grandchild who has just turned 3-years of age.

Dave's present activities, memberships, or personal interests, consist of hunting, fishing, and motorcycling. He is an active member of BOABC (Building Officials Association of BC), Ridgedale Rod and Gun Club, and Central Fraser Valley Woodcarvers Association. Dave and Andrea also RV throughout western Canada when given the time to do so.

Dave's' initial career following high school graduation was employment in the construction industry where he earned Trade Qualification as a Red Seal carpenter.

Careers to follow were as follows:

- Dave began his inspection career in March 1979 with the City of Whitehorse, Yukon Territory for duration of 2-years.
- Inspector for the Como Strathcona Regional District for 4-years.

- Inspector for the District of Mackenzie for 8-years.
- Senior Inspector for the City of Prince George for 4-years.
- Building/Fire Inspector for the City of Duncan where he was also an LAFC (Local Assistant Fire Commissioner) conducting fire inspections and fire investigations for a total of 12-years.
- Captain/Fire Prevention Officer, for the City of Langley Fire Rescue Service, from where he retired in July, 2014, following 7-years service.



Dave and Andrea at Retirement Ceremonies
July, 2014 Langley City Fire Rescue Service

Career and private industry is interesting work

In November of 1995 Dave was in Siberia for a month, doing inspection work for the Canadian Government for a wood frame structure showcasing Canadian Technology. This work included not only site inspections at lock-up stage,

but also hours of meetings using interpreters, explaining Canadian Building Codes and Building Techniques, to Russian Engineers and Building Officials. When Dave arrived in Siberia he could say yes and no in Russian. When he returned, he could cuss using job site Russian with the best of them. Fortunately these skills have disappeared.

Career and retirement

- Shortly after retiring from the fire service he and his wife did an extended RV trip through the Yukon and Alaska. When they returned home he made a crucial mistake, and said to his wife, "Ok honey here's the deal....we can survive on my pension, but I will be hanging around the house and running around turning lights off." She replied "**GO BACK TO WORK!!**" Fortunately, the City of Abbotsford contacted him shortly thereafter and asked if he would be interested in a job share? He has been working a week on week off ever since.
- Since retiring he has also been working as a sessional instructor for the Justice Institute, Fire and Safety Division, teaching a variety of courses across Canada and here at home. Courses include BC Fire Code, Fire Service Instructor, Fire Inspector I and II, Fire and Life Safety Educator, Fire Cause and Determination levels I and II.
- As you can see, his retirement lasted a whole 3 ½ months! I guess you could say that he really hasn't grasped the concept.

BOABC

- Dave joined BIABC (Building Inspectors Association of BC) which later became known as BOABC in March, 1979. This is a membership duration of 37-years and still counting.
- While working in Mackenzie, he held one term as the Northern representative for BOABC; since email was not available much travel to Vancouver was necessary to attend meetings.

Fire Prevention Association of BC

- Dave participated as a member of this organization.

Other Activities

- Dave and Andrea are also involved presently in their local church where they routinely prepare and serve coffee to the early morning service for 1000 plus people. Dave says for a free cup of coffee come and see them. Coffee is generally ready by 8:00 Dave is never one to waste daylight.



The above photo was **Dave's first wood carving** project which only took 2-years to complete. Andrea says it may take another 2- years to get it put up. Dave's carving just won him First Place in the Novice and Best in Division in the Novice Category at the Central Valley Wood Carving Show and sale on Saturday. The sign is now up as of Sunday afternoon!! He will be interested to know how long it will take his wife to notice

Best Wishes Dave for a long and happy retirement.

Bob Buckland

October 24, 2016

