ON THE FRONT COVER

CHIEF JUDGE HUGH C. STANSFIELD

By the Honourable Mr. Justice Robert Metzger

Hugh, "the Good", Stansfield is a post-war baby boomer. He was born on October 1, 1952, in Vancouver, B.C., the third of four children for a cardiologist father and nurse mother who had met overseas.

Hugh's two older sisters and younger brother were raised with him in Kerrisdale, where they attended Maple Grove Elementary and Magee High School. Hugh participated in most sports but distinguished himself in none. He did, however, excel at academics; he graduated from Magee in 1970 with the Allen Bowles Gold Medal awarded to the top student. Always a modest individual, he confesses that he has always thought that Gillian Gibson, who later became a neurosurgeon, should have won.

After high school, Hugh broke with tradition and took a year out of school to work as a labourer at the University of British Columbia physical plant. That sewer cleaner you saw at UBC was a future chief judge of the Provincial Court of British Columbia.

Although he did not mind mucking out sewers, he decided after six months to take a job as deckhand on the *Thomas Crosby V*. This United Church Mission boat travelled the coast from the north end of Vancouver Island to Alaska, visiting all points in-between. Hugh was awed by the beauty of our coastline and has never forgotten the dedicated people he met who worked in these isolated locations bringing medical aid and education to the sparse population.

Hugh then went to UBC, seeking an undergraduate degree in English literature and drama. He managed to complete the first three years in only six years. Theatre was his intended vocation. He practised his elocution and charm skills by slinging steaks at the Keg. Yes, Hugh was one of those enthusiastic "I'll be your waiter tonight" kind of guys.

Jo-Ann Giles, a fellow Magee student and high school sweetheart, married Hugh in 1975. By this time Hugh had abandoned his theatre dream and decided to apply for law school.

His theatrical ambitions were not without fulfillment, as he played Mercurio in *Romeo and Juliet* and the king in a rock musical called *Love's Labor's Lost*, in which

he was the second male to Geoff Hyslop, who went on the *Phantom of the Opera* fame. Hugh was even required to dance (which in itself would have been worth the price of admission). He played Jesus in *Godspell* and Judas in a show named *Man Born To Be King*, and participated in various productions put on by "Shakespeare in the Park" and the Western Canada Theatre Company.

Law school was chosen as a good way to avoid making any final career choice. Hugh's academic prowess came to the fore, and he was admitted to the UBC Faculty of Law in 1976, with only three years toward his degree. It is interesting that the class of '79 produced 10 currently presiding Provincial Court judges.

In 1978 Colin, the first of four sons, was born, followed by David in 1980, Patrick in 1984 and Matthew in 1986.

Throughout law school, Hugh continued to sell steaks at the Keg and still found time to be elected president of the Law Students Association. In the summer of his second year he articled at the Provincial Crown Counsel Office with Katherine Nielson, as she then was.

Hugh articled and stayed on with Messrs. Fraser, Kelleher, Sigurdson, Watts and Gudmundseth. Six months after his call Hugh joined the Provincial Crown as a junior prosecutor. After a short stint there he joined Gove, Senior, where he stayed for three and a half years doing every type of Provincial Court work.

In 1984 he joined Lawson, Lundell, where he practised all manner of civil litigation. In 1993 Hugh was appointed a Provincial Court judge at Robson Square. He transferred to Kelowna in 1994 as administrative judge and became an associate chief judge from 1998 to 2002.

Hugh's greatest recreational interest is skiing. Standing at the top of the Sun Rype Bowl at Big White, surrounded by crystalline powder in the shining air, is about as good as it gets for Hugh. He also enjoys playing golf and tennis, and kayaking.

His life over the years has been what it has been for most families. Hours dedicated to coaching kids and raising a family. Hugh and Jo-Ann are finally occasional empty-nesters.

Hugh has a great intellect and high energy. He is good humoured, hardworking, charming and always prepared to take on unpleasant or unpopular tasks. He continues to be a dedicated teacher to those requesting assistance. He is, without question, a person of impeccable integrity.

Hugh has been nicknamed "The Good" by his colleagues because of his unbridled passion for fair treatment for everyone. The province of British Columbia will be well served by this dedicated and courageous person.

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