



Stanley Gifford Turner

Stan was a gentleman, a gentle man, and a professional barrister and solicitor. He practised in the thriving town of Princeton. A small-town solicitor is much more than many would think. A small-town solicitor is expected to be, and Stan was, competent in almost every area of the law. A small-town solicitor perhaps need not be the top of the totem in any specific discipline, but he or she had better have a handle on the questions posed from poverty law, to agricultural zoning issues, to common assault, to impaired issues (for driving, walking, swimming, horseback riding, all terrain vehicles), to corporate issues, to personal injury, to family law, to WCB advice, to estate issues of all kinds, to Canada Revenue Agency affronts, to non-profit advice for societies too numerous to list, to subdivisions ... you get the picture.



On March 14, 1938, Stanley Gifford Turner was born to Rolf and Molly Turner. Stan was born and raised in Kelowna, B.C., when that fine city was

a rural gem. Stan was the youngest of four siblings and grew up on the family farm. He was an athlete of considerable note. He excelled both in track and field and in basketball.

In 1961, Stan married his high-school sweetheart, Arlene. Together they raised and cherished three children—Jeffrey, Jennifer and David. Family pride really excelled for each of their three grandchildren—Rachelle, Chelsea and Logan.

Stan completed a degree in Geology and then made the interesting shift to law, graduating from UBC law school in 1964. Practice commenced in Vancouver, but the burden of a city practice on a growing family was not in the cards for Stan and Arlene. They cast about and found the folks and environment of the Interior town of Princeton to their liking. 1968 was the year Stanley G. Turner, Barrister and Solicitor, opened his doors there. The practice was a mainstay of the town for some 49 years ... active up to just days before his death on March 22, 2016.

Stan loved the Similkameen Valley and the Interior mountains. He excelled in the outdoors and cherished the annual family fishing and camping outings to the Kettle River. He, with five others, founded the Snow Patch Ski Hill, a short drive from downtown Princeton that catered to young and old for many years.

Stan was a great sports fan and dedicated supporter of local sports including the Princeton Posse hockey team. He and other town fathers worked endless hours to bring Junior B hockey to the local rink. He was an avid golfer, a more than competent curler, a maestro at the BBQ, a bird watcher of note, and a crack bridge player. The latter was likely in self defence to the extreme bridge skill of Arlene.

Princeton sees a circuit Provincial Court monthly and on April 7, 2016, Judge G.G. Sinclair presided. It is worth repeating his words on that day:

For 28 years, I have been coming to Princeton and my style of taking notes is to write down the name of the accused person, and then on the next line the name of defence counsel. For 28 years, I have been putting down in my book "S.G.T.", Stanley Gifford Turner. It is with profound sadness that I realize I am not going to do that anymore. This town, the bar, and the court have lost an icon. Stanley Turner was, as one of my clerks characterized it, the last of the gentleman lawyers. He was a wonderful man, a wonderful lawyer, and always practised his profession to the highest standard expected of the bar.

Stanley Turner, Peter Kennedy, and Bob Wicks—formally known as the Princeton and District Bar Association—met monthly to review and share the issues of small-town practice and the challenges of small-firm practitioners. The monthly meeting would adjourn, from the tedious but disci-

plined study of the law and legal issues arising for discussion and debate, to a wee dram to toast and honour the profession of which Stanley was the best example. We will miss your leadership, Stanley.

Stan Turner will be remembered as a kind, generous and honourable man who deeply loved his family. He was a much respected pillar of the Princeton community, serving its citizens for almost fifty years. He will be sincerely missed by all who had the good fortune to know him.

Robert R. Wicks

