
ON THE FRONT COVER

Peter Arthur Manson

A Man For Many Seasons and Legal Occasions

The legends of Peter Manson's dynamic energy continue to be repeated in the corridors of Ladner Downs. They say his voice can still be heard haunting the word processing rooms after midnight, although he departed that scene in 1976.

In that year he joined the legal department of Cominco Ltd. ultimately to become its head and general counsel.

He left an intense corporate and financing practice because he felt he needed a new challenge; a different approach to the business community and a reversal of roles. The change was immediate and complete, as expressed in breathless Manson language, "It is exciting suddenly to be an important client".

Then in June, 1982 he was invited to join the head office of the Bank of Montreal and now holds the title of Senior Vice-President with responsibility for a number of departments of that Bank, Legal, Corporate Secretary, Public Affairs and government relations. He also heads up a special task force on policies and procedures.

The burden of these duties is borne with a background and reputation for being a human dynamo with exceptional legal skills. He graduated from UBC Law School in 1953 and articulated with Ladner Downs when it was a comparatively small firm. His energy, skill and reputation did much in the development of that old established firm.

His legal skills and his ability to instill confidence in clients were exceptional. His long working hours were legendary and clients, wherever they might be, could expect a telephone call at any time of the day or night; "closing dates" prevailed.

In 1972 and 1973 he was largely instrumental in drafting provisions of the British Columbia Company Act. In the Canadian Bar Association he was one of the first provincial and then national, co-chairman of the Professional Services Committee. With Judge Peter Millward, then Treasurer of the Law Society, he was jointly responsible in formulating the legislation and the structure for what is now known as the Legal Services Society. In 1974-75 he served as President of the British Columbia branch of the Canadian Bar Association. He later served as Chairman of the National By-law Committee and was largely responsible for re-writing the constitution of the Association.

Peter and his wife Arden are now happily and, to say the least, busily living in Toronto but with roots still deep in their summer home on Savary Island.

The British Columbia bar has lost, for the moment, an outstanding lawyer who has done much for the profession. The Bank of Montreal has acquired an exceptional man.

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