



ON THE FRONT COVER

GRANT DOUGLAS BURNYEAT, Q.C. TREASURER-ELECT

By John I. McLean

Grant was born in Regina but soon moved to Vancouver. He is a UBC graduate (1973) and articulated at Davis & Company where he has continued his practice ever since.

Grant appears to have established the UBC Law School second-year record for attending the fewest classes and still passing his year.

His university and law school activities included being a member of the Dean's Selection Committee and the Articles Committee, external vice-president, president of his fraternity, and president of the Student Association.

In practice, Grant has specialized in the insolvency field, where he has become an acknowledged expert. In the late 1970s he developed the largest foreclosure practice in British Columbia, and became a leading expert on receiverships and bankruptcies.

Since his call to the Bar, he has not lost his proclivity for joining things. These activities include being the founding chairman of the Insolvency Section of the B.C. Branch of the Canadian Bar Association, a Bencher of the Law Society since 1987, a director and vice-chairman of the Legal Services Society, a director of the Law Alumni Association, a member of the UBC Senate, and president of both the Vancouver and the Provincial Safety Councils.

As if that were not enough, Grant has continued an active interest in the arts, acquired when he lived in New York and worked for his fraternity at their head office. He is or has been a member of the board of the Vancouver Chamber Choir, founding president of the Bard on the Beach Theatre Society, a director of the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Society, and a member of the Advisory Board of the Canada Pacific Repertory Theatre Society.

On the municipal front he has been a member of the Board of Variance and chairman of the Vancouver City Planning Commission.

In his spare time he has dabbled in things political. He was president of the Civic Non-Partisan Association and president of the Vancouver Centre Riding Association for the Liberal Party, he ran two federal campaigns in Vancouver Centre for Art Phillips, and he was the president of the British Columbia Liberal Party.

Grant golfs, not well and not often.

On one occasion his errant tee shot on the Marine Drive course landed well off the fairway, coming to rest in the middle of what appeared to the unsuspecting golfer to be a dried-up creekbed. Grant's near-fatal attempt to retrieve the ball is the genesis of his "nom de golf", the Mud Turtle.

Grant buys books at a pace that vastly exceeds his ability to consume them, making him a good person to borrow from. He has most of the new releases in hard cover and soon forgets what he lent to you. He is a good dinner guest; he always brings more beer and wine than he drinks. He is a movie buff and has seen every movie ever made.

Grant has a terrific sense of humour and the ability to laugh at himself. He is a fun person to practise law with.

He brings great enthusiasm to any project that he tackles and is a prodigious worker. He will no doubt bring that same humour, enthusiasm and effort to his new role as treasurer.

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