

November 2011

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## Not-so-Crazy Exploits

In the seventh grade, Derek McLauchlan learned that he had to wear glasses and that he wouldn't be a fighter pilot, as had been his ambition. But we have his not-so-perfect eyesight to thank for leading him to a field where he ends battles instead of fighting them. "It compliments my personality," Derek says about mediating; he always had a knack for helping professions like psychology and sociology. He was introduced to this career path when he heard a talk given by Jerry McHale at a conference in Victoria. At that time he was at a crossroads in his career as a solicitor and was looking for ways to spice up his career.

Derek enjoyed a nature-bound childhood, growing up in the Sunset Nursery in South Vancouver where his father worked as a horticulturist. The Sunset Nursery,

which is located at 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Sophia Street, grows plants year-long for the city's Park Board—cultivating greens that beautify attractions like Stanley Park and the VanDusen Botanical Garden. This place served as Derek's playground; his father could watch him and his three sisters playing from his office window.

Derek was three years old when his father first took him to the weekend fishing trips on the Burrard Inlet. "The funny thing is I initially hated it," Derek recalls his experience as being his Dad's first mate. "I didn't enjoy it that much." The fishing bug would catch up with him later in life. He accompanied his parents when they celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on a fishing trip at the Adams River—a re-enactment of their honeymoon. Derek, who had just finished university, became hooked

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**Not-so-crazy exploits, continued from page 1**

on fly-fishing soon after that trip. His father passed on his treasured Tonkin cane (i.e. bamboo) fly rod, a perk from working at the Harkley & Haywood sporting goods store in Downtown Vancouver as a young man.

Thus began a hobby that Derek confesses to have once driven him to a point of mild desperation. Fly-fishing made him yearn for weekends, when he would jump out of bed early enough to catch the sunrise on the river or beach and enjoy the solitude of a secret fishing spot. "When we are fishing, we love to gossip about good fishing spots and it is considered poor form to elbow your way into an occupied spot," Derek explains.

His favourite fishing spots are on the Sunshine Coast and at the Squamish River. An average fishing trip takes way longer than a work day. "Fishing requires patience; it's done for the experience and not necessarily for reward," Derek says and this probably helps him stay patient in the mediation room. But getting the catch is still cool; while Derek is not crazy about eating fish



(and that's probably how you'd feel if you had a year's supply of salmon and trout in your freezer), he does enjoy a few recipes. Derek loves cooking seasoned salmon on the grill and could give you a tip or two on cedar plank grilling—a favourite. Too bad the resulting delicate, smoky-flavoured masterpiece does not last Derek as long as it takes for him to cook – his girlfriend Dolly loves to eat fish!

It was his mother who helped him figure out his career. "She suggested that I become a lawyer because I argued with her a lot," says Derek who also claims that his mother, an eloquent lady, is a great influence in his life as a lawyer/mediator. It was also she who forbade Derek to ride a motorcycle and we can only wonder how the arguments about that topic turned out.

"My uncle took me for a (motorcycle) ride when I was 10," he recalls. "My mother got mad." When he found himself less addicted to fishing a few years ago, Derek broke the ban and secretly took motorcycle lessons. Soon after earning his licence, Derek got on his new motorcycle and paid his parents a visit to their home in Pender Harbour. His mother, who didn't recognize him when he parked in the driveway, was in shock at first but has since accepted his



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## MEDIATOR EVENTS

November 2011 to  
January 2012

Marlene Russo and Deborah Giunio-Zorkin will be giving tips on How 2 Use the Notice to Mediate to Reach Settlement on Friday, November 25 from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm. This will be held at the Union Club of BC (805 Gordon St.) Admission is \$125 plus HST. Note that this session is counted as four-hour CPD credit by the Law Society of BC.

You may register by email to [marlenerusso@shaw.ca](mailto:marlenerusso@shaw.ca) or by phone (250-380-0076). For more information, please see the poster at the end of the Bulletin.

The upcoming CoRe Clinic Speaker Event is the Ethics Workshop by Lee Turnbull on Wednesday, November 30 at 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. The venue is the KPMG Offices on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor, 777 Dunsmuir Street in downtown Vancouver. This also meets the CPD requirements of the Law Society of BC for ethics.

To RSVP, please visit the [website](#).

The poem below was written by former Small Claims Mediator Jill McIntyre in anticipation of her passing. It was read by her daughter, Elizabeth Ashby, on the memorial service on October 7<sup>th</sup> at the West Point Grey United Church.

### I Know it Now Jill McIntyre

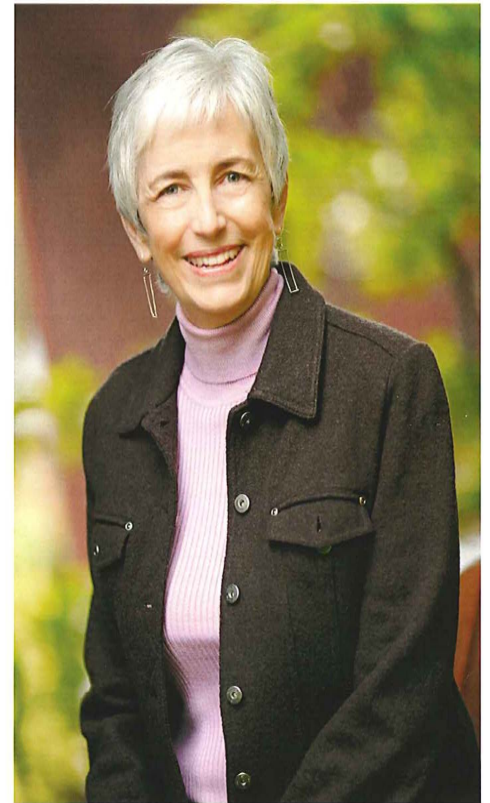
I know it now, long before the time  
That there will be enough time  
That there will never be enough time

I know it now, long before the good-  
byes  
That we will say goodbye  
That we will never say goodbye

I know it now, long before the pain  
That the pain will be too much to  
bear  
That I will bear the pain

I know it now, long before the dark-  
ness  
That there will be darkness  
That a light will shine through the  
darkness

I know it now, long before I go  
That I will go  
That I will never go



Jill Helen McIntyre  
1952-2011

Please mark your calendars for the last Lower Mainland SCM meeting of the year and Annual Holiday Social on December 7, 2011, starting at 5:00 p.m. at the People's Law School.

The PD portion of the evening is entitled "Mediator Fun and Games" and will involve both levity and learning! We will then retire to a nearby pub for the Holiday Social. Because of the nature of the activities, this time around the meeting will not be available by teleconference.

We will be sending an email next week with an invitation. We're looking forward to seeing everyone!

The Dispute Resolution Program of the UBC Faculty of Law continues its speaker series on Creative Approaches to Dispute Resolution. Mark your calendars for their first two sessions in 2012:

January 12<sup>th</sup> - "Shattered Lives, Hope of Healing: Facilitating Dialogue in Crimes of Severe Violence" presented by David Gustafson, Fraser Region Community Justice Initiative Association

February 16<sup>th</sup> - "Unsettling the Settler Within: Why History and Pedagogy are at the Heart of Reconciliation in Canada" presented by Paulette Regan, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada



**Not-so-crazy exploits, continued from page 2**

new hobby.

"I see this as my way of reducing my carbon footprint and it helps me get around faster." Derek shares. He could spend an entire afternoon working on his 1989 Honda Hawk NT650 GT motorcycle, a collector's item that was only manufactured between 1988 and 1991.

His most recent motorcycle exploit was in Las Vegas last February. Derek biked through the Valley of Fire with Dolly, who was not too fond of riding pillion on the back of a speeding Harley Davidson (a 1573 cc "Fat Boy" rented from Eagle Rider, Las Vegas). Good thing they rode slow enough for her to take photos and videos of the scenery. On his day trip to the Hoover Dam, Derek rode through forbidding winds on the Nevada freeway (his parents and Dolly followed in a van). In a blog written after the trip, Derek admits to being nervous, dreading getting blown off the road, but thankful that the rented motorcycle was double the weight of his own bike (heavier motorcycles are less prone to being buffeted by high winds). He was also exhausted from touring the Red Rock Canyon the day before (again, on the motorcycle) and from enjoying a bit too much of the Las Vegas nightlife the night before.

Derek boasts that he has not been in a motorcycle accident (knock on wood). His adventurous streak does have some limits, however. We wouldn't be able to talk him into bungee jumping, as he is wary of its effect on the spine. Derek would also pass up on skydiving, because "with that sport, you have to take positive action just to stay alive," unlike motorcycling where he says that someone has to do something "really stupid" (sadly, that someone is often the driver of another vehicle) for something really bad to happen. This remark dashes our hopes of watching him speeding over eight parked cars, but we do know that Derek channels his sense of curiosity in the mediation room—where he practices conscious interest in what each of the parties have to say instead of getting lost in his own thoughts.

## SOCIETY UPDATES



**We congratulate Martin Golder for marking his 10th year of service with the Court Mediation Program. The certificate and the medal was awarded to him at the October 17th Small Claims Mediator Professional Development Day.**

**Please note that the Mediate BC office will be closed on Thursday, December 8th for the staff's Holiday Celebration. Closer to the date, we will email you a contact number that you can call for urgent questions on that date.**

**Just a friendly reminder that Clelie Murray-Chevrier started her one-year leave this month. Grace Tang has joined the Society to take over her financial-related duties. We hope that you have made the necessary updates on your documents and address books.**