



Dave Williamson

Dave Williamson was born and raised in Vancouver. In 1948 he went to work for a company that produced batteries, spending time in Winnipeg before retiring as Vice-President of Marketing after 12 years in Toronto. He and his wife Joan (now deceased) arrived in Sicamous in 1964. In 1968 they opened Mara Sands Resort. They also built a home and camping resort at Shandy Cove, which Dave and his wife Jean continue to operate today. He was active with the Sicamous Chamber of Commerce and served as a director with the CSRD. For several years he was the head of the Thompson Shuswap Tourism Association, travelling throughout the area promoting its many attractions.

In the mid-1970s, disappointed with the failure of a referendum held to establish a public beach in Sicamous, Dave, together with Gordon Mackie, John Monk, and Peer Paynter arranged to borrow enough money from the Bank of Montreal to purchase six acres of waterfront property. They then created and built Sicamous Beach Park with a lot of help from their friends. Dave is proud of having been instrumental in the creation of this legacy for the citizens of Sicamous.

Dave was in the crowd when Shuswap Community Foundation made a presentation in Sicamous in May, 2009. A forward thinking fellow, he believes strongly in building and supporting community, so the foundation's message of building community through philanthropy appealed to him. He and Jean made a substantial donation to help establish the Eagle Valley Communities Endowment Fund with the Shuswap Community Foundation. When donations to the fund reach \$10,000 and beyond, the income earned by the fund will be given back to the community annually, in perpetuity, at the foundation's Annual Community Meeting held each year in September.

• Notes by ineke Hughes August 2010 •