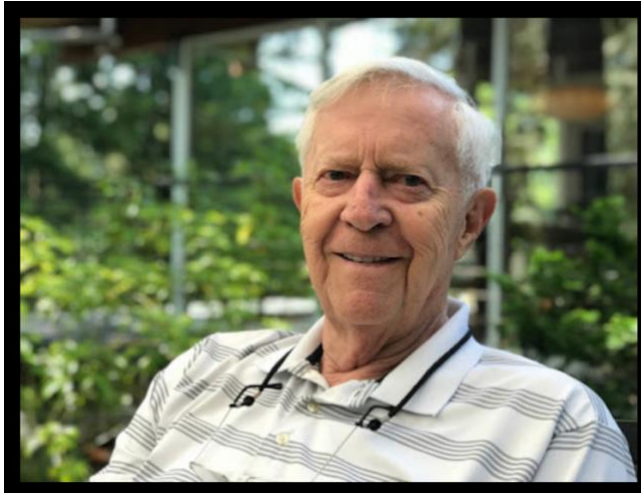


## Jim Carter - a Decent Man. By Dave Barker



*“Leadership Involves making sound - and sometimes difficult decisions, creating and articulating action visions, establishing clear goals and providing followers with the knowledge and tools necessary to achieve those goals. Great leaders know how to both inspire people and get followers to complete tasks that achieve the leader’s goal.” Mary K. Pratt*

This is an accurate description of Jim Carter. He was a leader in everything he pursued. I knew him for over 40 years as a fellow educator, committee member, mentor, and friend.

When Jim first joined the West Vancouver Historical board he told me that he would sit mostly silent in the first year. In the second year, he said, he would be President. He did exactly that. The Society was undergoing a big change when Jim joined. The founders were retiring, and the newcomers were looking for an active and new direction.

The first thing that Jim did as President was hire an outside specialist to run an all-day workshop where the Board members examined where they were and where they wanted to be and how to get there.

Jim decided in 2009 that the Society should play a major role in West Vancouver’s upcoming 2012 Centennial. He felt that it should be a coffee table book chronicling growth as a community. He set up a Board book committee to look into the feasibility of this and to set up a financial plan. After months of discussion and “what ifs” the committee under Jim’s expert guidance came up with a budget of around \$50,000 including the hiring a professional author, designer and photo archivist.

Jim directed a major fundraising campaign. He talked to local organizations and companies and went to the Society membership and interested members of the public. He raised the amount needed.

Jim's vision, clear articulation of the goal and provision of the tools necessary inspired the Board and "Cottages to Community" was born. The book became a critical and financial success and a lasting legacy to West Vancouver.

Jim has been a leader all his life. He was a chief organizer of The Electors Action movement in Vancouver. He was Principal of both Sentinel and West Vancouver Secondary. He became Deputy Minister of both Education, and Housing and Social Services Ministries.

A former top basketball player he was appointed Head of Sports Programming for the Victoria Commonwealth Games and member of the VANOC Committee for the 2010 Olympic Games. As was typical of Jim, he never talked about these or other accomplishments.

He was Chair of the Lower Caulfeild Advisory Group and an avid painter. On a personal note, Jim was a very good friend, an excellent listener, mentor and friend.

As the Cabinet Member Jack Hendrick's wife said of Jim: Jim, your commitment to family, friends, and community is the true measure of one of the most decent men I have known."

***About the Author – Dave Barker***

*Dave Barker retired as a director of the West Vancouver Historical Society in 2020. His contributions during 20+ years of service helped form the society as it exists today. He worked closely with Jim Carter and Dave helped produce the society's series of books on West Vancouver history. He also produced the WVHS Memories Newsletter for over 10 years. Dave continues to be an active member of WVHS. Currently, he is working on the WVHS Book Committee. For this article, Dave attributes credit to Chris Stringer for his story on Jim Carter in "the Beacon", March 2015 from which some of the information and dates in this article have been taken. Jim Carter Photo credit: Stephanie Carter.*