

Singing of the
National Anthem

SINGING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Mayor Leonard asked guests to rise for the singing of the National Anthem led by Ms. Elise Boulanger.

Mayor Leonard thanked Ms. Boulanger for the singing of the National Anthem and asked guests and dignitaries to be seated.

Reading of the
Resolution

READING OF THE RESOLUTION

Mayor Leonard invited Councillor Brownoff to read out the Council Resolution.

Councillor Brownoff stated:

At the October 1, 2012 Council Meeting, the following resolution was unanimously passed by a vote of all members of Council:

The motion reads "That at a Special Ceremony on a date to be determined, Council confer the Freedom of the Municipality on Mr. Howard Sturrock".

On this historic and memorable occasion, it is my great privilege to propose the following further resolution:

"I move that, in accordance with the Resolution of Council dated October 1, 2012, under powers conferred by statute, Mr. Howard Sturrock be and is hereby received as a Freeman of the District of Saanich."

Councillor Derman stated: *It is my pleasure to second the motion.*

Councillor Brownoff stated:

It is a special pleasure to speak to this motion. The Freedom of the Municipality, as the Mayor has said, is the oldest and highest honour a municipality can award a citizen. The awarding of the Freeman designation is rare and requires a unanimous decision of Council.

Mr. Sturrock is well deserving of this honour. He has been active in our community beginning with the Cadboro Bay Community Association. He was elected as an Alderman and then in 1987 was elected as Mayor. In addition, Mr. Sturrock served as the Capital Regional District Board Chair for three years and as a board member of the Municipal Finance Authority and BC Assessment Authority.

Mr. Sturrock leaves a legacy in Saanich beginning with presiding over the recreation master plan that included many significant initiatives including the construction of Saanich Commonwealth Place.

Mr. Sturrock chaired the Citizen's Task Force on Recycling which was composed of community-minded individuals. Amongst their achievements was securing a Saanich pilot project for curbside recycling pickup. The Capital Regional District began the bluebox program for core municipalities approximately ten years later so it is reasonable to call the Citizen's Task Force a forward-thinking group.

In his 1989 inaugural speech, Mr. Sturrock said:

"I am proud of the initiative Saanich has taken in the Healthy 2000 Project. Saanich is leading the way on this in Greater Victoria and the appointment of an Arts Commissioner for Greater Victoria is another step which I hope will lead to further fostering of the cultural side of our community and enriching the lives of our citizens."

Mr. Sturrock's support for the vision to create a Healthy Saanich initiative set the direction for what was to ultimately become the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee. Today, the Healthy Saanich Advisory Community continues to echo the values of the early initiatives – its foundation promoting and supporting a healthier and more liveable community.

Mr. Sturrock also actively supported Saanich's application to host the 1990 BC Festival of the Arts. With partnerships throughout the region, the Festival was a great success – it showcased the arts in our community and increased public and municipal support for the arts which has continued to grow.

Finally, Mr. Sturrock initiated our sister city relationship with Zomba in Malawi. The inaugural exchange program, with assistance from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Canadian International Development Agency, occurred in 1988. Expertise was shared and funds were raised to build a covered market, dig wells, and pave roads. The municipalities' relationship still continues today through a very active group of employee volunteers.

Mr. Sturrock is known for his quiet demeanour, community mindedness and collaborative style. There are many in attendance today who served on Council with Mr. Sturrock and it speaks to how deserving he is for this special designation. It is my honour to present this motion and I sincerely thank Mr. Sturrock for his dedication and commitment to Saanich.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor's Address

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor Leonard stated:

This is a very special occasion and it is quite infrequent for the Municipality of Saanich to pause and name a Freeman of the Municipality. The first occasion was in 1968 when George and Blytha Pearkes were recognized. Mr. Pearkes had been a Member of Parliament, was a Minister of Defence and then went on to be the Lieutenant Governor. His wife, Blytha, was active in voluntary health and service groups.

This was followed by Freeman King who was very active in park acquisitions in Saanich and the region and was a pioneer in the scouting movement.

Les Passmore spent almost three decades on Saanich Council and was very active in and committed to the community.

Dr. Hugh Keenleyside was a noted United Nations diplomat, academic and provincial servant and advisor.

Bruce Hutchinson had a long career as a journalist, author and reflected the spirit of the community, the region and our country and we are very proud to have his name on the library at Saanich Commonwealth Place.

Ken Middleton, a long-time Saanich employee whose nickname was Mr. Saanich, was an even longer-time volunteer and organizer in the community.

The 11 (Victoria) Service Battalion and the 11 (Victoria) Medical Company were recognized for their contribution to the Canadian Forces and also for the devotion of their volunteers.

Hugh Curtis served 25 years in local government, was the first Chair of the Capital Regional District, held provincial appointments in Cabinet and was active in the Variety Club, David Foster Foundation and BC Civil Liberties Association.

Ron Lou-Poy was recognized for his active support of a broad spectrum of worthy causes. He was University of Victoria Chancellor for five years and a member of the University of Victoria Board of Governors.

John Pendray is a local farmer described as an Ambassador for farming. One of his many accomplishments was the success of the Island Farm Cooperative and the Pendray family were Saanich pioneers and have been active in farming for many generations.

Both Ron Lou-Poy and John Pendray were recognized as Freeman in the Municipality's Centennial year of 2006.

More recently, Nancy Turner was recognized for her research benefitting the international and local communities and for her leadership and dedication to Saanich through community volunteerism.

In the Municipalities' 107 year history, only a dozen individuals have been recognized as Freeman and we are very proud to add Howard's name to the list of people who are recognized for their service to the community.

Howard was elected Mayor easily in a bi-election held in 1987 and the community was grateful to see him step forward and serve as Mayor. Personally, both Murray and I were appreciative of the mentoring he provided and it has helped us serve in office since then.

I think it serves well that Susan and Gretchen are here, the working relationship amongst the Mayors at that time was first class and Howard was regarded as a real statesman in the region. We learned a lot from Howard's leadership at the Capital Regional District and there were big shoes to fill when he retired. It is safe to say that Howard was regarded as a statesman in the Region.

Within this Chamber, the Healthy Saanich initiative flourished, hosting the Arts Festival for British Columbia was huge; there were a lot of legacies for which Howard's influence will be felt for many years to come. Thank you Howard, for your service to this municipality.

Presentation of
the Scroll

PRESENTATION OF THE SCROLL

The Scroll, signed by His Worship and the Legislative Manager, was presented to Mr. Sturrock.

The Scroll reads:

“The District of Saanich
British Columbia

In the matter of conferring the Freedom of the District of Saanich pursuant to the Community Charter.

The Freedom of the District of Saanich by unanimous vote of all the members of the Municipal Council, is hereby conferred upon

Mr. Howard Sturrock

This distinction being the highest honour a municipality can bestow is made to recognize an outstanding career in public service, acknowledge a commitment and dedication which has benefitted the municipality and the Capital Region.

Presented by His Worship the Mayor at a ceremony in the Council Chambers on the 2nd day of February in the year 2013.”

Signing of the Roll
of Freeman

SIGNING OF THE ROLL OF FREEMAN

Mr. Sturrock, Mayor Leonard and the Legislative Manager signed the Roll of Freeman which reads: “The Freedom of the District of Saanich, by unanimous vote of all the members of the Municipal Council, is hereby conferred upon Mr. Howard Sturrock by virtue whereof, the distinguished person above named, is entitled to all the rights and privileges of a Freeman of the District of Saanich and, by subscribing his signature hereto, hereby graciously accepts the honour thus bestowed.”

Response of
Freeman Sturrock

RESPONSE OF FREEMAN HOWARD STURROCK

Freeman Sturrock stated:

Your Worship, Members of Council, distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen. My first words are a sincere thank you to Council for giving me this honour which I value most highly. I am absolutely delighted and almost speechless to receive this recognition. But let me assure you, that whatever I was able to accomplish as a member of Saanich Council or at the CRD, it was never one person's achievement. It required the support and assistance of many others. Not just other Council members, but particularly the work of staff that were tasked with the job of working out details of any particular endeavor. I would like to say staff at Saanich, over the years, have been attentive, dedicated, willing and professional in all my dealings with them. The large number of long term employees speaks volumes for the kind of community they have at this municipality and I thank them for that. I also want to acknowledge the love and support that I have had from my wife of 54 years and our family. They have all been very helpful to me and I want to publicly thank them for the love and assistance they have given me. Thinking back over the years in elected office, there were a number of different times when these Chambers

were packed with concerned citizens, some of them quite angry, but because it has been over 20 years since I occupied the Mayor's Chair, and my memory is not as sharp as it once was, I find it difficult to cite particular occasions that might be of interest to you. The passage of time, at least for me, has softened the memories of times gone by and my overall feeling about these days is that they were some of the pleasantest of my working life. I really had three careers, first as a consulting civil engineer, second as a provincial Deputy Minister and third as a municipal politician, although I hate that terminology. I never thought of municipal work as politics. Of these three careers, although they all had moments of joy, the most fulfilling was as a member of Municipal Council. One of the lasting memories I have as my time as Mayor of Saanich is of the camaraderie and cooperation that I had with the then Mayor of Victoria, Gretchen Brewin, and the then Mayor of Oak Bay, Susan Brice and the then Mayor of Esquimalt. We had frequent meetings and we always got along in a way, which I believe, served the best interests of our citizens and I hope the same situation exists today. Let me finish by thanking Mayor and Council once again for this honour which I never imagined I would receive and which I will truly treasure. Thank you very much.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT AND RETIREMENT TO RECEPTION

**MOVED by Councillor Brownoff and SECONDED by Councillor Derman:
"That the meeting adjourn at 10:30 a.m."**

CARRIED

Mayor Leonard invited the assembled guests to proceed to a reception on the mezzanine level.

Mr. Sturrock, Mayor Leonard, Council and assembled guests exited the Council Chambers through the Fire and Police Honour Guard and proceeded to the reception area.

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MAYOR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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MUNICIPAL CLERK