COUPLE’S PLANNED GIFTS TO SUPPORT STUDENT LEARNING

Ian and Frances Dowdeswell’s love of their children and family life is evident from the moment you enter their West Vancouver home. Photos of their five now-adult children grace the foyer, and their accomplishments feature prominently in the couple’s conversation.

“We had a wall hanging that read ‘Celebrate the Wonder of it All’, and that is what we have always tried to do,” says Frances. Ian adds, “Our children have accomplished a great deal, and they are all proud of each other’s achievements.”

British born, Ian came to Vancouver at age 22 following National Service in the Royal Navy. He had been educated in New Zealand and England prior to joining the Navy. After a brief career as a draftsman with Boyles Bros. (Diamond Drilling) Ltd., he enrolled at UBC and obtained his BASc and MASc in Electrical Engineering.

Frances grew up in London, Ontario, attended UWO, and graduated from London Teachers College. Frances also loved to sing, and was performing in nearby Sarnia one night when Ian walked in the door. He was working as an IBM Systems Engineer on a project for Imperial Oil. It was love at first sight. They eloped and moved to Vancouver in 1969.

“We knew we wanted to build a family,” Frances says. “I went back to work as a substitute teacher after having our first child, but soon chose to be a stay-at-home mom.”

Within eight years, Frances and Ian were the parents of Justin, Jason, Jocelyn, Jonathan and Jennifer.

Ian’s engineering career grew with companies in healthcare and oil and gas in Alberta, and pulp and paper, mining, and telecommunications research in BC, ending as an independent consultant to start-up companies.

During this period, Frances continued to feel the pull of learning. When their youngest child started high school,
Frances attended UBC, pursuing her BA in Classical Studies and a Masters in Library and Information Studies.

In 2001 the Dowdeswells established two scholarships at UBC, one in Electrical and Computer Engineering and one in Classical Studies. “I felt privileged to be able to go back to school,” Frances says. “We wanted to help deserving students.”

Their five children pursued post-secondary education; two are UBC alumni, and one is married to a UBC alumnus.

Now retired, the Dowdeswells blend their love of travel with intellectual pursuits closer to home. They continue to support arts, education, medicine and research.

Ian and Frances have chosen to make a gift to UBC in their wills. “We believe that UBC is a gateway to the global community through excellence in education and research,” Frances says. Ian adds, “UBC challenges students to become active and effective citizens, and change agents for the future.”

Faithful readers of the Estate Planning Review will notice a few changes in this issue. These changes, and those to come, are the results of a reader survey we conducted in January. We reached over 500 of you by phone, and you had some great things to tell us. Most of you read the EPR and you had some very nice things to say about it:

“[The EPR is] general enough to be accessible but specific enough to be interesting.”

“I like stories that relate to my years at UBC.”

“[I am] usually impressed with what is in the Review.”

At the same time, you weren’t shy about suggesting improvements:

“I would like to see more stories about the average donor.”

“I want to know what difference it makes; how has it effected change.”

“I enjoy hearing about donors and large contributions as well as where they are going to and the assistance they give.”

“(More) stories about people receiving and giving help in different fields, please.”

We listened. In this issue we bring you the story of a couple who are making a planned gift, as well as the story of of an estate gift that UBC received years ago. We are also embarking on a new format and frequency. Each issue is now four pages instead of eight, and the EPR will be published twice a year instead of annually.

Of course some things won’t change, notably the Gift and Estate Planning staff who are happy to help you explore your options for making a planned gift to UBC.

What do you think? Are these changes for the better or worse? Let us know, with a phone call to any of our staff (see back page) or an email to heritage.circle@ubc.ca.
By 2020, brain disease will overtake heart disease and cancer as the leading cause of death and disability in Canada. Ten million Canadians will be affected by brain disease, disorder or injuries at some time in their lives.

At UBC, important research into two debilitating brain diseases – Parkinson’s disease and depression – is receiving ongoing funding support from an unlikely source: a retired optometrist and vintage car enthusiast from Vancouver Island.

Born in 1922, John B. (Jack) Shepherd came of age during World War II, and as soon as he could he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He became a pilot and flew Tiger Moths until a leg injury sidelined him.

After he had recovered and the war had ended, Jack enrolled at UBC and graduated in 1951 with a degree in Commerce. For the next 20 years he held a number of business positions while indulging his passion for sailing. A highlight was sailing in English Bay with Prince Philip in 1959, during Queen Elizabeth’s royal tour across Canada.

At the age of 50 Jack discovered optometry, which a close friend called “his real calling”. He graduated from Pacific Western University in 1972, and had a successful optometry practice until he retired. Later in life he was diagnosed with a mild form of Parkinson’s disease.

In 2000 Jack created two endowments at UBC, one in his father Henry’s name and the other in his mother Sarah Jane’s name. Henry had suffered from depression for most of his life, and Jack directed this fund to support research into clinical depression. The fund in his mother’s name was for research into Parkinson’s disease, which Jack experienced himself.

At the time of his death in 2004, Jack left a 1937 Buick Century, a 1931 Buick McLaughlin and a 1912 Hudson Roadster. He also left estate gifts to the Henry and Sarah Jane funds at UBC.

Dean of Medicine Gavin Stuart wrote, “Through Mr. Shepherd’s generosity, we will be able to increase our knowledge of both clinical depression and Parkinson’s disease, and move forward toward the prevention, treatment and cure of these debilitating conditions.”

And move forward they have.

The Pacific Parkinson’s Research Centre at UBC is dedicated to the diagnosis and management of Parkinson’s disease and related disorders. Under the direction of Dr. Jon Stoessl, the Centre has the largest peer-reviewed research program on Parkinson’s disease in Canada.

In 2010 Dr. Mathew Farrer joined UBC as the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Neurogenetics and Translational Neuroscience. Dr. Farrer will lead research into new strategies for early detection and improved treatments for Parkinson’s disease.

At the UBC Institute of Mental Health, Dr. Allan Young is the Leading Edge Endowment Fund (LEEF) Chair in Depression Research and Professor in the Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Young’s research concentrates on the causes of depression, and he has directed much of his work to understanding how environmental stresses contribute to depressive symptoms.

Dr. Ray Lam is the Director of the Mood Disorders Centre at UBC Hospital. His research focuses on seasonal, atypical and difficult-to-treat depressions, and his research spans the clinical spectrum from neurobiology to clinical trials of novel treatments.

Through the work of these and many other talented researchers and clinicians, UBC is making a significant contribution to the understanding, treatment and prevention of Parkinson’s disease and depression. And through his estate gift, Jack Shepherd’s desire to help others lives on.
PLANNING A GIFT TO UBC

Whether you are considering a gift through your estate or a gift of assets today, UBC’s Gift and Estate Planning team can help you meet your philanthropic goals in the most tax effective way. Types of planned gifts include:

PLANS FROM YOUR ESTATE

**Bequest:** A bequest to the University can be made by including UBC in your will or trust.

**Beneficiary designation:** You can name UBC as the beneficiary of a portion or all of a life insurance policy, RRSP or RRIF.

**Gift of future interest in real estate:** You can contribute your residence, vacation home, or other real estate to UBC and continue to occupy and use the donated property for life. During your lifetime(s), you will be treated as the owner(s) of the property but you will qualify for an immediate tax deduction.

PLANS THAT PAY YOU INCOME

With planning, you can receive an immediate tax benefit and provide yourself or another with an annual income for life, while supporting UBC in a way that is meaningful to you. **Charitable Remainder Trusts** and **Charitable Gift Annuities** are types of gifts that pay you income.

GIFTS UBC CAN USE TODAY

Gifts of [publicly-traded securities, real estate, private company shares](#), and other valuable, useful, or historically significant [personal property](#) offer you immediate tax benefits. Please contact us to learn more.

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TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CREATING A LEGACY, PLEASE CONTACT:

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The Estate Planning Review profiles planned gift issues and considerations. It is prepared for the benefit of alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the University of British Columbia. Statements made are general in nature and are not intended as legal or tax advice. We encourage potential donors to consult with their legal and/or tax advisors before finalizing gifts to UBC.