



In Memoriam

JOHN 'JACK' WILSON POOLE

1933-2009

On October 23, 2009, John Wilson 'Jack' Poole, best known for his leadership in bringing the 2010 Winter Olympics to Vancouver, passed away at the age of 76.

For two years, Poole led the Vancouver 2010 Bid Corporation as volunteer Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, ensuring that all groups involved in the bid shared a common vision of what the Games could be for Vancouver. Together with John Furlong, who would later become head of the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC), Poole would become largely identified as the face and name behind the successful Olympic bid.

After the Games were awarded to Vancouver, Poole co-chaired the 2010 Transition Committee, which completed the business of the Bid Committee in preparation of handing over responsibility of all 2010 Games organizational efforts to VANOC. More recently, Poole served as chairman of 2010 Board of Directors to which he was unanimously elected. Prior to his involvement in the 2010 bid, Poole served as founding Chair of the Molson Indy Vancouver.

Born April 14, 1933 in Mortlach, Saskatchewan, Poole's father ran a Massey-Harris tractor and farm equipment dealership. Living through the dustbowl depression years of the Prairies framed his experiences and personality for life. At age 14, hardhat and lunch bucket in hand, Poole began his first job on a highway construction crew. Later he attended the University of Saskatchewan completing a degree in civil engineering. After graduation, he signed on with Gulf Oil as a management trainee, but grew bored and took a part-time job at night selling Fuller shaving brushes. He was soon making more money as a shaving brush salesman than as an engineer, and more importantly it opened Poole's eyes to sales. He soon ditched the engineering and jumped head on into real estate sales and rapidly rose up the ladder.

Soon enough, Poole would be regarded as one of Canada's most successful businessmen and a noted philanthropist, a partner and/or owner of seventeen private businesses in Canada and the United States. He was co-founder of VLC /

Concert Properties, a Vancouver-based diversified real estate development company, as well as DAON Development Corporation in BC in 1964, which grew to be the second largest real estate investment and development company in North America and the first Canadian company to develop condominiums. He was profiled in Maclean's, Canadian Business, The Wall Street Journal and many major newspapers across the continent.

In 2003, Poole was honoured with the Order of British Columbia and, in 2006, with the Order of Canada. He was also a recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal.

Jack Poole was awarded the BC Sports Hall of Fame's most prestigious honour, recipient of the WAC Bennett Award in 2005.