

Howard and Jeannette

Ladies and Gents, meet Howard and Jeannette!

Learning about their remarkable journey and contribution to the Prince George community has been amazing!

Howard Foot was born and raised in Prince George, and his late teens saw him getting into event management. He organized concerts, boxing matches, car shows, and even an outdoor aquatic show at the old outdoor swimming pool on Watrous St. Howard's working life was mainly in advertising sales, and he worked at CKPG for eight years before moving to CJCI shortly after it first opened in 1970. He worked there until 1989, when he retired and moved to Nukko Lake full-time.

Jeannette Foot was born in Prince Albert and moved to Prince George when she was seven. She graduated from high school and worked various jobs until she found the perfect job with CP Air in 1974. Over the years, she worked in ticket sales, reservations, airport operations, baggage, check-in, and at the boarding gate. She retired in 2002. Howard and Jeannette met through a colleague at work in the 70s, but it was in the mid-90s that they got together. They were married in Prince George in 1996.

Howard proposed to Jeannette when they were on the deck of an Alaskan cruise. However, he was so nervous that he dropped the ring, and it nearly fell into the ocean. They joke that they were both on their knees when Howard proposed because they were looking for the ring. Before Jeannette, Howard was married to Trudi Foot, who passed away in 1994. Together, they had two children – Reg and Renee, who reside in Prince George. Jeannette has one daughter, Tracey, and helped raise four girls: Wende, Lana, Natalie, and Niki. The couple has five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Howard is most well-known for his involvement in water skiing. His family has been at Nukko Lake for generations, so he has always loved being near the water. When he was 14, his dad brought home a pair of water skis from the Kelowna Regatta. Howard taught himself to ski and developed a love for the sport. In 1979, he opened the Nukko Lake Water Ski School, and together with his son, Reg, daughter, Renee, and nephew, Brian, they taught hundreds of people to ski. It was a great family sport, and many parents got involved and not only supported their kids taking lessons but volunteered to judge and help put on local competitions.

The Foot family competed in water skiing in the BC Summer Games every summer. Howard, Reg, Renee, and Brian would compete, and Trudi would chaperone. The Games were a fantastic experience for their family. Howard and Jeannette are busy helping out with the North Central Seniors Association, based in College Heights. Howard is a past president and current director. Their group meets three times a week in the basement of the College Heights Baptist Church for various events and socializing, such as kitchen demos, crib tournaments, art classes, and other activities to keep seniors active and social in College Heights. It is a great way to stay connected, and they invite all seniors to get involved. Howard and Jeannette have lived in Southridge Estates since 2011. Before that, they were living out at Nukko Lake but decided it was time to move into town as they got older. They love living in College Heights, where everything is so close, and there are various stores and services nearby. They live in a condo building, and there is a real sense of community here where everyone knows each other and looks out for each other. They enjoy living near the Southridge school and outdoor rink, watching kids play, and enjoying their time outside. Howard's daughter Renee also lives in College Heights, "it's great to have family close by," says Howard.

Howard and Jeannette are both active with the North Central Seniors Association, which provides seniors with various activities to keep them engaged and involved, including kitchen demos, crib tournaments, art classes, and much more. They're passionate about promoting their senior association and encouraging more seniors to join them.

I was impressed to learn that Howard is part of a Prince George pioneer family. His father, Claude, arrived in Prince George in 1906. He worked for the Hudson Bay Co. and arrived in PG after a 17-day riverboat trip from Quesnel. Following that, he worked for the provincial government for 33 years. Upon retirement, he bought a second-hand store where Howard worked part-time. Foot Park and Foot Street are named after his father. How amazing is having a park and a street named after you!

The water skis that Howard's dad brought home for him are now part of the PG Sports Hall of Fame collection at Exploration Place. He was honoured to be among the first inductees into the Prince George Sports Hall of Fame in 1997. College Heights, you have some well-known people living in your neighborhood.

Howard and Jeannette have been fortunate to do a lot of travel. Over the years, they have traveled to Australia, New Zealand, the Cook Islands, Alaska, and Mexico. They used to have a fifth-wheel trailer and have camped all over the province.

Thank you, Howard and Jeannette, for sharing your inspiring story and valuable contribution to the Prince George community. Finally, Howard has a few last words, "We encourage seniors to join the North Central Seniors Association and enjoy all the activities they have to offer."