

THE HISTORY OF SANDPIPER RESORT

This resort was the home of the Pretty Family and was known as Pretty Estates Resort until April of 2016, when new ownership renamed it Sandpiper Resort.

Charles Nelson Pretty and Rowena Elizabeth Peters were married October 10, 1917. Charles and Rowena had 4 children: Charles Watson, Rowena Charlotte, James Ivan, and Elizabeth Anne (known as Betty Anne).

After they married, Charles and Rowena shared a home in Vancouver with Charles parents. They purchased a 160 acre parcel of land from a widow, Mrs. Jackson. She was allowed to live in the home as long as she wished. The property as it still is today has frontage on the Chehalis and Harrison Rivers extending out under the river for some distance. Charles and Rowena would travel by train from Vancouver to Harrison Mills and paddle by canoe to their home on the river, staying a few days to renovate and to make alterations and extensions.

Charles Nelson was in the Timber Brokerage business with his father, and continued the business for a number of years after his father passed away. He had also turned the property into a dairy farm and purchased extra land for additional fields from the Indian Band across the river. Charles Nelson developed a large silvertip fox farm as well on the present property, where the guest cottages are now located. Charles Nelson Pretty then went into the logging industry and at one time, it was said he had the largest privately owned logging company in B.C.

Charles Nelson designed a 52-foot pleasure yacht called the "Voyageur III". Charles and Rowena had the boat for many years and had many fun filled days traveling up the river for picnics, or on up to Harrison Lake. A dock was previously located at the front of the house where the boat could be moored during the summer in high water season. They belonged to the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club as well, where the family enjoyed many wonderful excursions. Eventually it was sold to some men in Mission who restored it. Unfortunately, after its completion; the yacht caught fire and was destroyed.

Since BC Hydro had not made its way out to the Fraser Valley yet, Charles Pretty had a dam constructed to produce electricity for their home and adjacent buildings. It is still in existence today, and used for the Inn. During the winter season of 1947 and 1948, the climate was bitterly cold. One early morning, the barn and workshop caught fire as the

flames spread quickly through to the hayloft area. The cattle died quickly from the oxygen being sucked so quickly from the building. The loss was devastating for the family. The only buildings saved, other than the root house made of stone, were the dairy walk-in fridge and the freezer room, which is still in existence today. They later assumed that the cause of the fire was from leaving too many of the heaters on. Following this disastrous winter was the famous flood of 1948, which mercifully avoided the Pretty property because of the sloping land.

Rowena Charlotte, eldest daughter, was tragically killed in a car accident in April, 1968. She was 45 years old and left behind her husband Christopher Michael Foster Lepine and six children. Charles Watson passed away five months later due to a massive heart attack. He was forty-nine years old and left behind his wife Dortha and two children. In less than six months, Charles Nelson and his wife Rowena lost two of their beloved children.

Charles Nelson passed away in 1992, at 102 years of age. It was decided by the remaining siblings, Betty Anne and her brother Ivan, to turn their home into an Inn. This allowed others to have the enjoyment and entertainment as they and their parents had through their many privileged years of being in this area of beauty and complete tranquility. In 1995, their dream became a reality. In memory of their mother and sister, they named the manor Rowena's Inn on the River.

Along with the Inn, Ivan had a dream to build a 18 hole golf course surrounding the house, and so it was implemented and is enjoyed by many. It was named Sandpiper Golf Course. The scenery that can be viewed while golfing is as breathtaking as the course itself.

Betty Anne's nephew, Christopher Lepine, the son of Rowena Charlotte, Betty Anne's sister, was the General Manager until the fall of 2014, and has been active with the present day business since before and after the Inn opened in June of 1995.

Betty Anne, who bought out Ivan's fifty percent after he passed away in July, 2001, was the only remaining sibling from that generation. She was the sole owner up until April 15, 2016, and has continued living on the property with her husband, Doug Faulkner. Both play an active role in the development and decision making of the entire Resort to this day.

Today, it is known as Sandpiper Resort.



**SANDPIPER
RESORT**