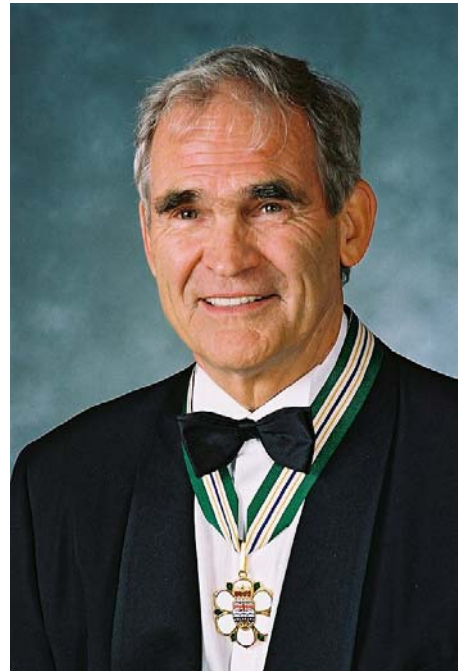


## **John (Jack) Wilson Poole OBC, OC. (1933-2009)**

Jack Poole was born on April 13, 1933 at Mortlach, Saskatchewan. He was the youngest child of John (Jack) Vigors Poole and his wife Edith W. Goalen who had one daughter and two sons (Betty, George and Jack). Mr. Poole worked at the grain elevator after his Massey-Harris farm equipment dealership went broke during the Depression and Mrs. Poole was the local postmistress.<sup>1</sup> Jack was a sixth generation Metis through an 18th century British ancestor who had arrived in Moose Factory on James Bay in 1776 to work for the Hudson's Bay Company and married a Cree woman. After receiving his Aboriginal Achievement Award in 2007, Jack is quoted as saying: "I think I'm six generations removed from the Cree lady, but I have a Métis card, and by definition, in Canada, I'm an aboriginal person. I've always been very proud of this fact-to have Canadian roots that go that far back." In March 2007 at Richmond in British Columbia, Jack Poole was made a member of the Order of the Sash by the Metis Nation British Columbia.

Although Jack had incredible business success, received the Order of Canada and received many honorary degrees he will be best known for bringing the 2010 Olympics and Paralympics to Canada. Unfortunately he died on October 23, 2009 and did not get to see the fruition of his work as chair of the Olympic Organizing Committee.

Jack had a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering from the University of Saskatchewan. He graduated in 1954 and won the universities heavyweight wrestling championship in the same year. Poole was made a member of the Order of British Columbia in 2003. His investiture to an Officer of the Order of Canada took place on December 16, 2006. The government statement at the time said:



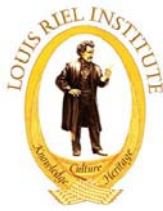
Jack Poole's personal integrity and strength of character are the hallmarks of his leadership. He has applied his entrepreneurial acumen to building real estate development companies such as Concert Properties. With eloquence and determination, he forged a coalition of disparate interests into a united team and overcame significant challenges as he directed Vancouver's successful bid to host the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. In his current role as chair of the organizing committee, he is working to ensure that the Games will merit the pride of all Canadians.

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<sup>1</sup> The family moved to Mortlach from Parkbeg in 1942. Previously Jack V. Poole lived in Medora, Manitoba. Edith was born and raised in Caron and had moved to Parkbeg as a teacher in 1923. Edith was appointed Post-Master at Mortlach in 1952 and was followed in the position by her husband, who held it until his death. Edith then returned to the position in 1951 until she decided to move to Moose Jaw and resigned in 1961.

He graduated in 1954, the same year that he won the heavyweight wrestling championship at U of S, and immediately began working as a management trainee at Gulf Oil in Calgary. He subsequently entered the field of real estate development. Poole co-founded Daon Development Corporation with Graham Dawson, it was the second-largest real estate development company in North America until its collapse in 1982. He subsequently formed Vancouver Land Corporation (VLC) in partnership with David Podmore. This was a private/public company capitalized by union pension funds, and engaged in a joint venture to build low cost housing in Vancouver. VLC moved into market-rate condos when the rental market fell apart and then was transformed into Greystone Properties in the early 1990s. Eventually Greystone became Concert Properties, which is now one of the largest and most successful construction companies in the province, with a working capital of some \$750-million and an asset base of slightly less than \$1.5-billion. Mr. Poole pushed himself upstairs on June 1, 1992, as chair of the board, fulfilling a promise he had made to Mr. Podmore, to make him president and CEO within three years when the two men first went into business together.

In 2007 some 25 years after he had survived prostate cancer, Poole was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer He died of complications from pancreatic cancer in hospital in Vancouver early on Oct. 23, 2009. In his honour the Olympic flame cauldron sits in Jack Poole Plaza.



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