

Westwood/ Giovando Residence: 225 Newcastle

Built in 1942¹, the residence at 225 Newcastle is a prominent landmark in Nanaimo with its spectacular waterfront location, exceptional condition and unusual style. The building's horizontal form, simple smooth surfaces and curved second floor balcony illustrate the elements of sleekness and modernity typical of the historic Art Deco "Streamline Moderne" style; and demonstrate the influence of the new discipline of Industrial Design.



The house was designed by Otto Wilhem Becker (1914-1990) who, it is believed, sailed to Vancouver from Hamburg, Germany on Nov 10 1925 with his mother, Wilhelmina Lisette Kramer Balcke Becker (1880-1969) and stepfather, Otto Emil Adolf Becker (1886-1964) who had married his mother on Nov 27 1920 in Hamburg. Otto Wilhem Becker married Catherine Margaret McRae Seggie in Nanaimo on July 31 1937. She was the daughter of Peter Seggie (1885-1960), accountant for Canadian Colliers, and Jane Patterson McKinley (1887-1964). Otto Becker and Associates would make a name for himself with the construction in Vancouver of the eighteen storey "self-owned apartment" Ocean Towers (see picture) in 1957 which would instigate the high-rise boom in Vancouver's West End.



Who lived at 225 Newcastle?

1. **Captain Andrew Johnstone and Ellen Vera Moore 1943-1944**
2. **John V Henderson and Eileen Baxter 1944-1952**
3. **Earle Cathers Westwood & Dorothy Verna Humphrey & Sheila Blackwood Maxwell 1952-1966**
4. **Dr Lorenzo (Larry) Giovando and Vivian Amelia Anderson 1966-1987**

1. CAPTAIN ANDREW JOHNSTONE & ELLEN VERA MOORE 1943-1944

Andrew Johnstone was born at Annan, Scotland on Nov 3 1887, the son of James Gavin Johnstone (1855-1919) and Jessie Douglas (1865-1959). The family emigrated to Vancouver in 1890. In the *1901 Canada Census*, the family is living in Vancouver where Andrew is 13 years old and going to school. Two years later Andrew was starting his career as a merchant mariner when he joined the *CGS Kestrel* as a cabin boy in 1903.² The *Kestrel* was employed as a Government of Canada Fisheries Protection vessel on the Pacific Coast.

Andrew then joined the Blue Funnel Line, a British shipping company, serving in the steamer *Oanfu* as a Quartermaster. He also served in the Cunard Line *Umbria* as Quartermaster and in the Allan Line ship *Corsican* as an Able-Seaman. In 1908 he served in the CPR ship *Princess Charlotte* where he qualified as a Mate. Also, in 1908 he served in the Union Steamship company in the *Camosun* as Second Mate and by 1912 he was qualified as a Master Mariner. In 1914 he served in the *Venture* as First Mate and then as Master in 1919.

¹ According to plans of the house prepared by Otto Becker

²<http://www.nauticapedia.ca/dbase/Query/Biolist3.php?&name=Johnstone,%20Andrew&id=41206&Page=1&input=Johnstone,%20Andrew>

By the 1921 *Canada Census*, Andrew's father had died and he was living with his widowed mother and four siblings still in Vancouver at 1078 Maple Street. During WWI, Andrew had served in the 50th Queens Battery of the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force.

On Jun 3 1925, Andrew married Nellis (Ellen) Vera Moore at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Vancouver. They left by car for their honeymoon in San Francisco and South California to eventually reside in Vancouver. She was born in New Brunswick, Jul 4 1902, the daughter of William Le Barron Moore (1875-1939) and Minnie Belle Nicholson (1877-1964).

Andrew was now a merchant mariner working full time for the Union Steamship Company and in charge of the maiden voyage of the *SS Catala* which spent most of her operating career from 1925 to 1958 on the British Columbia Coast, carrying coastal freight and passengers. Andrew had actually served as the owner's representative in the building of the ship in Scotland. The *SS Catala* was licensed to carry 267 passengers and Captain Johnstone began her first voyage on Jul 28 1925 steaming north from Vancouver to Prince Rupert and the Skeena and Nass Rivers.



By 1927, Captain Johnstone had moved to commanding the *SS Cardena*, a sister ship of the *SS Catala*. One early misty morning in August, the *Cardena* came upon the CNR *Prince Rupert* stuck fast at Ripple Rock which was a scant two fathoms below the surface. Ripple Rock was an undersea double pinnacle in the Seymour Narrows, a treacherous, three-mile tidal surge in Discovery Passage between Vancouver Island and Quadra Island. The rock sank more than 100 vessels and cost many lives over the years, until it was finally obliterated by a manufactured explosion on Apr 5 1958.³



Skipper, Andy Johnstone, immediately ordered his ship in close to the stricken vessel, where it became apparent that *Prince Rupert* was in imminent danger of foundering, or of being forced by the tide against the steep cliffs that overhung the Narrows. Captain Johnstone next ordered that a steel tow line be cast to *Prince Rupert's* stern. With this in place, *Cardena* swung alongside the other ship and made fast.



Then, slowly and with great seamanship and care, the smaller Union vessel nudged *Prince Rupert* off Ripple Rock and began to tow her towards Deep Cove, a mile distant. There, *Cardena* took on board as many of *Prince Rupert's* passengers as she could carry before continuing on her way to Vancouver. The remainder were later transferred to the CPR vessel *SS Princess Beatrice*, which was also in the vicinity at the time. The Union Company eschewed any and all salvage claims for the rescue, preferring to bask in the good will that this gesture garnered from its competitors and the public alike. The *Cardena* itself went ashore at Village Island near Port Essington BC on Dec 20 1929 in a heavy snow fall in the evening just after it left the Balmoral cannery.

³ British Columbia Historical News, Volume 37, No.3 Summer 2004: Upcoast Adventures by Tom Fox

By 1934, Andrew had qualified as a Marine Pilot and the Johnstone's moved to Nanaimo where Andrew was working as a pilot with the Canadian government. Initially they lived at 820 Fitzwilliam then moved to 125 Newcastle. **Andrew and Ellen Johnstone moved into the house at 225 Newcastle just after it was built in 1943 but they didn't stay there long.** By 1944, Johnstone and his wife had moved out and were living at 45 Stewart Avenue which is the site of the now-demolished Husky Gas Station. They lived there at least to 1953. By 1961, they had returned to Vancouver where Andrew retired in 1967. He died Nov 20 1973.

2. JOHN V HENDERSON & EILEEN BAXTER 1944 - 1952

John Verte Henderson was born Aug 31 1909 in Montreal, the son of James Henry Henderson (1887-1916) and Ruth Scriver (1886-1970). John was raised in Montreal and appeared in the *1921 Canada Census* as living with his mother and Henderson grandparents in Mount Royal Park at the age of 11. He graduated from McGill University in 1931 with a B Sc in Chemistry. At McGill, he joined the Winter Outing Club, the Chemical Industry Club and was Chairman of the Papers Committee. He enjoyed skiing, various chemistry labs and walking home. His pet expression according to the 1931 McGill yearbook was *"Who's walking west?"*



John married Eileen Isobel Baxter on Sep 18 1937. She was born Jun 15 1914 also in Montreal the daughter of Dr Frederick Hamilton Baxter (1876-1951) and Edith Florence Stewart (1877-1971). After the wedding, the couple resided in Montreal. They had 3 children: Donald b Sep 22 1939, Derek b Oct 3 1941, and Deirdre b Oct 1 1943.

On Dec 24 1943, the Daily Colonist noted that: "Mrs. John V Henderson with her three small children, has left Montreal for Nanaimo to join her husband and take up residence there. She was accompanied West by her mother, Mrs. F. H. A. Baxter, who will be the guest of her son-in-law and daughter for several months." **They moved into 225 Newcastle early in 1944.**

Henderson was the manager of W.E. Rumming Bottling Works located at Wallace and Wentworth. The company, which started out as a small soda manufacturing plant on Bastion Street in 1889, was Nanaimo's longest running soda bottling works for more than fifty years. Famous for their delicious ginger beer, they also made all different types of sodas from fruit syrups, bitters and essences with flavours like lemon, raspberry and even rose. Today, original Rumming soda bottles are a prized antique and a rare find sought-after by many collectors. In 1953, Rumming was taken over by Island Bottling.



The Hendersons lived at 225 Newcastle until 1952 when the house was purchased by Earle Cathers Westwood. John Henderson died Feb 15 2004 in Toronto and Eileen died Mar 19 2006 at the age of 91. Both are buried in Montreal.

3. EARLE CATHERS WESTWOOD & DOROTHY VERNA HUMPHREY & SHEILA BLACKWOOD MAXWELL 1952-1966

Earle Cathers Westwood was born Sep 13 1909 at East Wellington, the son of Joseph Arthur Henry Westwood and Mary Smith.

Earle's paternal grandfather, William Joseph Westwood, was born in 1817 at Lye just east of Stourbridge in Worcestershire England. A man of many talents, he apprenticed as a blacksmith, opened a grocery store and also had sufficient musical capabilities to take on pupils. In 1848 he arrived in the United States aboard the ship *Sailor Prince* with his wife, Elizabeth Tilley who he had married in 1836, settling in St. Louis and starting up a successful blacksmith business. Elizabeth died in 1849 and William apparently sent to England for his wife's younger sister, Fanny Tilley, who he married on Apr 11 1850 in St Louis.

Also travelling with William was his father, Joseph Westwood (1792-1888) and mother, Jane Pearson Westwood (1792-1860). Joseph Westwood was a survivor of the June 18 1815 battle of Waterloo having fought with the British Army against Napoleon.

In 1852, William and his family were members of a Mormon company of 340 individuals and 61 wagons, headed up by a John Tidwell, when it began its journey from the outfitting post at Kanessville, Iowa (present day Council Bluffs). There were 14 in the Westwood family along with 3 wagons, 10 oxen, 2 cows and 3 horses. The company departed June 11 1852 and arrived in the Salt Lake Valley around Sep 13 1852 after a journey of 84 days. The Westwood's daughter, Elizabeth Clara Westwood, was born on the trail on Jun 23 1852 making it 15 in the family. The trip was not without its trials for everyone and some conflict for William Westwood who apparently wanted to leave the company and travel on his own on several occasions.⁴

William was attracted like many others by the gold fields of California but legend has it that the Westwoods were delayed by the Mormons for two years in Salt Lake City because they were good musicians and the Mormons needed them to play in their tabernacle. They were eventually rescued by stowing away in a company of soldiers led by a General William Selby Harney at that time head of the Utah Expedition against the Mormons. The Westwoods continued to California and William subsequently bought a farm just outside of Vallejo in the San Francisco Bay area which soon grew to 1600 acres.

In 1860, the Westwoods pulled up stakes again and took a steamship to British Columbia landing in Victoria where William purchased the Lion Brewery and made a considerable amount of money in real estate investments but also lost some in the short-lived Goldstream mine. Another legend has it that because of his musical talents, William was at one time conductor of the Victoria Orchestra. The wave of prospectors that descended on Victoria from 1858-59 did bring enough players of musical instruments to organize a Victoria Philharmonic Society and give its first concert on May 6 1859, so perhaps the legend is true.

Last stop for William Westwood was in 1864, when he purchased 650 acres outside of Nanaimo in Mountain District, now East Wellington, and went into the stock-raising and dairy-farming business. The property stretched from Westwood Lake to the Millstone River Valley and eventually totalled 2000 acres. At the time, Westwood Lake was little more than a shallow marsh that fed Darough Creek. As Nanaimo progressed into the 20th century and demand for electricity grew to power local industry the head of

⁴ <https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/overlandtravel/sources/16744305486350394146-eng/charles-sansom-autobiography-1907-12-80?firstName=William&surname=Westwood>

Darough Creek was dammed in 1908, creating Westwood Lake as a reservoir for a hydroelectric plant. The hydroelectric plant was ultimately abandoned, but the dam and the lake remained and in 1957 Westwood Lake was dedicated as a city park. Today ghostly snags of trees that stood green before the valley was flooded, reach up from below the lake's surface and steal the hooks and lures from anglers fishing for the trout that the lake is stocked with annually. Some say remnants of Westwood's farm can still be seen on the bottom of the lake.

William was aware that his property contained coal deposits but it was not until after his death on Jan 29 1872 that a test was made and a portion of the property sold to the East Wellington Coal Company.



William's father, Joseph Westwood, died Jan 29 1888 at the age of 95. He was a vigorous man working at the blacksmith anvil for the Vancouver Coal Company until a few years before his death. Fanny Tilley Westwood died Aug 14 1897 at age 70 also in Nanaimo.



William and Fanny had nine surviving children, the second youngest being **Joseph Arthur Henry Westwood**, born on Jan 22 1866 at East Wellington who would become Earle's father.

Joseph Westwood grew up in East Wellington and by the *1901 Canada Census*, still single at age 35, he was living with one of his brothers, William Westwood, and farming the family's land.

About 1906, Joseph Westwood married Mary Smith from Comox BC, daughter of William Chandler Smith (1834- ca1893) and Anne Jane Cathers (1842-1929). One of Joseph's brothers, Milton Tilley Charles Westwood had married Mary's sister, Fannie Nannette Smith, on Nov 22 1894 so the family was obviously well known to each other.

Mary Smith was born March 28 1877 in the town of Harriston, Minto Township, Wellington County in Ontario about 75 km north of Kitchener. The Smith family with their ten children had journeyed from Ontario to the Comox Valley BC in 1884 where William Smith cleared land for a family farm. William passed away just 9 years later, leaving his land to his many children. Glen Alwin Farm in Courtney BC is still farmed by members of the Smith family.

Joseph Arthur Henry Westwood and Mary Smith Westwood had three children born at East Wellington: Francis Westwood in 1907; **Earle Cathers Westwood** on Sep 13 1909; and Ruth Marie Westwood in 1912. Mary Smith Westwood died Dec 6 1920 and in the *1921 Canada Census*, Earle, age 11, and his brother and sister are living in Vancouver with his aunt, Kate Smith no doubt sent there after the death of their mother. In a tape recording made in 1978, Earle Westwood discusses his early life in Vancouver including attending Britannia Secondary School and his work as a bank clerk, longshoreman and millwright assistant.⁵ By the mid 1930's, Earle was back in Nanaimo. His father, Joseph A H Westwood died June 6 1937 at the age of 71. Earle and his brother Frank continued to jointly owned the Westwood farm.



⁵ Provincial Archives of British Columbia. <https://search-bcarchives.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/earle-c-westwood-interview-mitchell-nikitiuk-1978>

Unfortunately, the old homestead and barn were destroyed by a bush fire in 1945. The historic farm is now only 48 acres but can still be seen from the Highway 19 just beyond the BC SPCA and south of East Wellington Road. The current owner of the farm, Dr. John Cline who operates a wellness centre on the property, has partnered with the Nanaimo Foodshare Society to turn 2 acres into a vegetable garden.

On Oct 2 1937 at St Andrew's United Church, Nanaimo, Earle married Dorothy Verna Humphrey the daughter of Robert Fenlen Humphrey (1888-1944), an electrician, and Mary Miller Gold (1888-1970). Dorothy was born about 1910 in Union Bay but moved to Nanaimo with her parents as a child and was educated in Nanaimo. In the *1921 Canada Census*, when Dorothy was 10, the family was living at 37 Haliburton Street. At the time of their marriage, Dorothy, age 27, was working as a telephone operator.



Just prior to his marriage, Earle Westwood became a funeral home director when he and James William Dyson Hirst purchased the Chapman Funeral Chapel at 1 Newcastle Avenue in May 1937. George Chapman had built the facility in 1933 in a house originally occupied by Paul Oats Bennett (1870-1948) from Colorado who had travelled to Nanaimo for mine work and his wife Mary Georgina Blood (1873-1951) from Derbyshire England who were married Dec 25 1896 in Nanaimo. Paul was the owner of Bennett's hardware. The original Bennett home is pictured.

James William Dyson Hirst also known as James Dyson was born in Nanaimo on Aug 9, 1911 and died Nov 19, 1987 also in Nanaimo at the age of 76. His father was (John William) Dyson Hirst (1889-1953), born in the United States and his mother was Elizabeth Shenton, born in England. In 1920, Dyson Hirst opened up a general store on Robins Street near Nicol and on Aug 24, 1933, had married Audrey Mae Parker in Vancouver. John Hirst eventually sold his interest in the funeral home setting up his own business in Duncan BC and Earle Westwood continued to run it as the Westwood Chapel of Flowers.

In the late 1930s and in the 1940s, the Westwoods lived at 40 Stewart Avenue at the corner of Dawes Street⁶ In 1945, living with the Westwoods were presumably Dorothy's mother and sister: Mrs Mary Humphreys, widow and Miss Isabelle Humphreys, stenographer. In 1949, they were still living at 40 Stewart Avenue but Dorothy's mother and sister are no longer there.

In his spare time Earle was devoted to civic affairs and education. He was active in the Rotary Club which he joined in 1945; the Nanaimo Yacht Club founded in 1931; the Chamber of Commerce; Native Sons of BC Post No. 3 fraternal organization; Loyal Order of the Moose; and the Canadian Red Cross. In 1945, he won his first election as alderman on Nanaimo City Council and served in that position until 1949 when he was elected mayor.

Nanaimo Daily News Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada 09 Dec 1949. Mayoralty Westwood win: At 74.7%, the voter turnout almost toppled the record 77.04% of voters set in 1939. On the ballot was the extension of the city boundaries to take in a large area contiguous to and almost encircling the present city.

Earle was re-elected mayor in 1950-1952 and again in 1956. He also served as chairman of the local school board. **In 1952, Earle and his family moved into 225 Newcastle and he would live there until 1966.**

⁶ <https://bccd.vpl.ca/index.php/browse/index> British Columbia Directories

During his terms in office, the Harmac Pulp Mill was officially opened on Aug 11 1950 as was the new city hall on Wallace Street in 1951. Earle also welcomed Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip on their first visit to Canada when they arrived in Nanaimo in Oct 26 1951. The royal couple was greeted by mobs of adoring children, many of whom had come hundreds of kilometres to catch a glimpse of their future queen. In his welcome address, Mayor Westwood stated that he was: *“not going to read his speech. Would rather tell you about the boys and girls assembled; some have come from over 100 miles. For weeks they have been cutting pictures from magazines and pasting them in scrapbooks; saving their pennies and nickels to buy a present for your royal highness’s children: Charles and Anne.”* The ceremony concluded with *“The Maple Leaf forever”* and as the Princess and her husband left, the children sang *“So long it’s been good to know ya”*.

Like many a small businessman and local leader of the day, Earle Westwood became a member of the Social Credit party. In 1953, he decided to run for Nanaimo and the Islands as a Socred candidate in the provincial assembly a position held by Larry Giovando for the Progressive Conservatives. Dr Giovando had been elected in 1952 and was successful again in 1953 through a bizarre series of election run offs against CCF candidate David Stupich. Unfortunately, with the rise of the Socreds, Giovando’s was the only PC seat won in the entire province and the Progressive Conservatives would cease to be an electoral entity again until 1972.

1953-Nanaimo and The Islands (8734 votes: 1st & Final Count)

Bradshaw, Elmer Pearce	LIB	1375	
Brewster, Edward Joseph	IND	32	
GIOVANDO, Larry	PC	2,046	4,376
Stupich, David	CCF	3,631	4,358
Tickson, Grace Ellen.....	LAB	115	
Westwood, Earle Cathers	SC	2,626	

Boating was becoming extremely popular and one of the new boats added to the Nanaimo Yacht Club fleet in 1954 was the *"Windward,"* a fine 38-footer owned by Earle Westwood. Earle subsequently took his family on an ocean voyage to Seattle in May of that same year.

Earle and Dorothy Humphrey Westwood had two children: Brenton Earle Westwood born 1941 and Susan Mary Westwood born 1945. Dorothy Westwood belonged to Malaspina Chapter, IODE; Altar Guild of St. Paul's Anglican church, and was made an honorary member of Nanaimo Soroptimist Club just before her death on April 11 1956 when she was just 46. She had been under treatment for phlebitis and the cause of death was given as an embolism.

Five months later, on Sep 19 1956, Earle Westwood was successfully elected Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) and would represent Nanaimo and the Islands for the Social Credit party until 1963.

1956-Nanaimo and The Islands (9001 votes)

Brewster, Edward Joseph	IND.	69	0.77
Glen, Arthur Roderick	CCF	2,963	32.92
Maffeo, Peter	LIB.	2,142	23.80
WESTWOOD, Earle Cathers	SC	3,827	45.52

In 1957, Earle married Sheila Blackwood Maxwell. She was born in Edmonton, Alberta on Sep 29 1915 the daughter of John McNeilly Maxwell (1886-1945) and Molly Stiven Blackwood Maxwell (1891-1963). Sheila

served in the WRENS as a decoder during WWII and moved to Nanaimo after the war with her first husband, Roberts Kitchener Bradey, after their marriage on Nov 22 1941. She worked for CHUB Nanaimo radio station in the 1950s, eventually hosting her own program called “Dollars and Sense” which ran Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:15 pm.



Earle was first appointed to the Socred cabinet as Minister of Trade and Industry in 1956, and in 1957 he became BC’s first Minister of Recreation and Conservation responsible for game; provincial parks; tourism; and fisheries. He was also appointed Minister of Commercial Transport. In 1959, financially unable to sustain Newcastle Island after having purchased it from the CPR, the city of Nanaimo voted to have it taken over by the provincial government to be developed into a marine park with a bridge access. The conditions of sale called for the creation of a master plan for the park. As Minister of Recreation, Earle cited that Newcastle Island would be the "gem of Vancouver Island" and the "Stanley Park of Vancouver Island". An initial master plan for the island was eventually prepared in 1983 by the city of Nanaimo. Access to the island by bridge, tunnel or zipline continues to be discussed during elections.

Under Earle’s ministry, the BC government also issued the first *Beautiful BC* magazine in 1959 then titled *Beautiful British Columbia: Land of New Horizons*. It appeared at a time when B.C. was little known outside of Canada. The magazine reflected a new era of boundless optimism and expansionism in the province, heralding major new highway construction and the launch of a government-run ferry fleet that would transform travel within B.C.

On Nov 3, 1958, Westwood and other former mayors John Barsby (1932-37), Victor B Harrison (1925-26;1938-44) and George Muir (1945-49;1953-55) were honoured with the Freedom of the City award.

Westwood won the 1960 BC election for the Socreds and continued as Minister of Recreation and Conservation. He was not so successful, however, in the 1963 election when the CCF now NDP candidate, David Stupich won by just 19 votes.

1960 Nanaimo and The Islands Tot. 10,862

Cameron, Colin	CCF	4,548	41.87
Heath, Hugh Basil... ..	LIB.	1,036	9.54
Mortenson, Irving Floyd	CPC	72	0.66
Strongitharm, Edward Drewry	PC	607	5.59
WESTWOOD, Earle Cathers	SC	4,599	42.34

1963 Nanaimo and The Islands Tot. 10,079

STUPICH, David	NDP	4,278	42.44%
Weir, Robert Clayton	LIB	960	9.52%
Westwood, Earle Cathers	SC	4,259	42.26%
Wildman, Cornelia Petronella Adriana...	PC	582	5.77

In 1964, the *Garibaldi II* ferry, at that time based in Howe Sound, was moved to Nanaimo to supply Gabriola Island with a new and improved service and renamed the *Westwood*. The *Westwood* was a larger vessel and carried about 18 cars and 125 passengers, as compared to the 45-year-old *Eena’s* 10–12 cars and 60 passengers. The *Westwood* provided faithful service to the islanders for another eight years until

it was renamed the *Albert J Savoie* and moved away in 1972 to make way for a succession of ever-bigger vessels for Gabriola.

After leaving politics, Westwood served as British Columbia's agent general in London. Salary for the post was initially \$13,100 rising to \$17,500 when he retired in Oct 1968. Premier at the time, WAC Bennett, gave no reason but said the former undertaker from Nanaimo now will be able to "*live a less strenuous life after many years of arduous public service.*" In London, Westwood was made a freeman of that city and a member of the Worshipful Company of Lorimers (craftsmen who make hardware for harnesses).⁷ While in London, Earle's son, Brenton Earle Westwood unfortunately passed away at just 24 years of age on Oct 26 1965.

In 1966, Earle sold the house at 225 Newcastle and in 1971 sold the Westwood Chapel of Flowers to Laverne Sands of Victoria and it became the Sands Funeral Home. Parts of the original residential interior are still discernible in the building today. By 1972 the Westwoods had moved to 2540 Lynburn Crescent⁸ and Earle had even resigned from his volunteer work with the Rotary Club of Nanaimo due to ill health.

Earle Cathers Westwood died Aug 14 1980 at the Nanaimo General Hospital at the age of 70 years. At the time of his death, he and wife Sheila were living at 71 White Eagle Crescent in Nanaimo. Besides his wife, Earle left his daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Jim Kelly and grandchildren, Lisa and Kirstie in Holland. He had been predeceased by his first wife, Dorothy; son, Brent; brother, Frank and sister, Mrs. Ruth Long. Sheila Blackwood Maxwell Bradey Westwood died Nov 9 2015 at the age of 100 in Nanaimo.

The person Earle Cathers Westwood sold the house to at 225 Newcastle Avenue in 1966 was Dr Lorenzo (Larry) Giovando. It turns out that Earle Cathers Westwood and Dr Lorenzo (Larry) Giovando not only fought against each other in an election battle over Newcastle but they would also live in the same house.

4. DR LORENZO (LARRY) GIOVANDO & VIVIAN AMELIA ANDERSON 1966-1987

Lorenzo (Larry) Giovando was born March 10, 1905 in Ladysmith BC, the son of Giovanni (John) Domenic Giovando (Jan 13 1881- Nov 21 1942) and Vittoria Domenica Giachero (Jan 13 1888 – Jan 19 1962).

Larry's father, John Giovando, emigrated to Canada around 1899 apparently landing in Halifax and making his way across Canada by train to Vancouver and eventually to Cumberland, where his sister was already located, to work in the mines. His brother, Pietro Giovando (Jul 2 1879-Apr 1 1955), appears to have emigrated to the United States via New York on the *SS La Bretagne* which sailed from Le Havre on Jan 13 1900 arriving in New York on Jan 20 1900. He had \$40 in his pocket and was listed as a miner heading to Milford Utah with his last residence being Cintano in Piedmont, Italy. Pietro eventually found his way to Vancouver in 1912 where he resided until his death. He married Zelina Giacobbi on Mar 12 1923 in Vancouver.

John and Pietro's sister, Lucia Giovando (Aug 17 1877- Dec 8 1950), had arrived in Canada in 1898 at the age of 21. She was living at Union Bay when she married John Thá on Mar 9 1902. John Thá (Jun 18 1867 – Aug 3 1958) born in Valperga in Piedmont, Italy had arrived in Canada via New York on Sep 11 1893 aboard the *Gascogne* as a baker. In the *1901 Canada Census* when still single, he was living in Cumberland BC and working as a general merchant in partnership with a fellow Italian, Frank Dallos (1866-1929) who owned Campbell's Meat Market.

⁷ Vancouver Sun, May 22 1968

⁸ Canada, Voters Lists, 1935-1980, Ancestry.ca

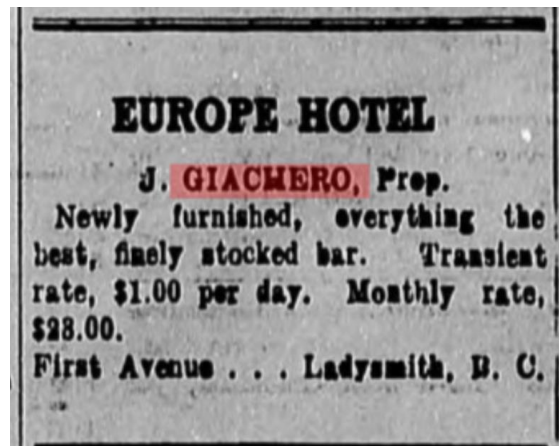
The parents of John, Pietro and Lucia are thought to be Lorenzo Giovando and Maria Cappa of Cintano in Piedmont, Italy located about 40 km north of Turin.

Shortly after their marriage, Lucia, and her husband, John Thá, bought the Pretoria Hotel which was then located in Extension and moved it to Ladysmith where brother-in-law, John Giovando was in charge of operations.⁹ The *Ladysmith Leader* noted on Oct 15 1902: “Pretoria Hotel, Extension, is being moved to Ladysmith this week, and will be re-erected as quickly as possible.”

Moving hotels was not as rare as it might seem. At the turn of the century, over 50 per cent of British Columbia’s population of 36,000 lived on Vancouver Island. Ladysmith was booming as a result of James Dunsmuir’s decision to relocate the families and workers at Extension Mine to a new community at Oyster Bay and discontinue coal shipments from Departure Bay. Dunsmuir did not wish his employees to live at the pit head in Extension and arbitrarily settled on the steep sloping area immediate west of Oyster Harbour and about 11 miles from Extension to build a community and so Ladysmith was created in 1904. The settlement was transformed from a rough camp into a bustling urban centre.

On Apr 26 1904, John Giovando married Vittoria Giachero (1888-1942), who apparently had run away from a convent in Duncan leaving her mother less than happy about the marriage. Vittoria was born in Torino, capital of Piedmont, the daughter of coal miner, Joseph Giachero (Dec 29 1838 – ca1911) and wife Domenica Wolpe (Sep 5 1867- Dec 31 1929). The family had emigrated to Canada in 1893 when Vittoria was 6 years old although Joseph had apparently arrived in Canada in 1888. They settled first at Wellington and later moved to the mining community at Extension, and then, at the turn of the century, to the new townsite of Ladysmith.

The Giacheros were also in the hotel business having opened the Europe Hotel now the Island Hotel at 440 First Avenue in Ladysmith. Newspaper ads in the Feb 23 1905 *Ladysmith Daily Ledger* note that it was: “Newly furnished, everything the best, finely stocked bar. Transient rate, \$1.00 per day. Monthly rate \$28.00.” The town of Ladysmith was full of hotels catering to the miners and those who worked at the mill or smelter. On Nov 29, 1902, for example, there were 11 hotels requesting liquor licenses in Ladysmith including one for the Europe Hotel by Joseph Giachero and for the Pretoria Hotel by John Thá.



In 1907 John Giovando made a brief sojourn to Nanaimo, where he assumed control of the Columbus Hotel on Haliburton Street. It had been built in 1885 by Joe Cuffalo one of the first Italians to settle in the Nanaimo area in 1865. On Nov 4 1900, Cuffalo and other Italians formed the Felice Cavallotti Mutual Relief Society in Extension. Named after a nineteenth century poet and politician, the society’s mission was to support Italian coal miners and their families. Since no social program existed at the time, until this group of miners had banded together, injured and sick miners had to rely on friends for aid. Dues were \$1 per month and only those of Italian ancestry were eligible to join. The benefits in the event of an injury or

⁹ See newspaper article about moving the hotel

sickness were \$1 per day up to 100 days, then \$15 per month for a further 12 months. The first president of the society was John Giovando.¹⁰

John Giovando soon returned to Ladysmith and bought the Extension Hotel and had it moved to 110 Esplanade in Ladysmith renaming it the Bayview Hotel. It is now the Bayview Apartments. Times were so good that, in 1909, Giovanni and Vittoria Giovando were able to make a return trip to Italy with their children Lorenzo, 2 years old and Maria 10 months old.

By 1911, Ladysmith's population had grown to 3,300. At that time, there were at least 16 hotels in Ladysmith built to accommodate the large population of mine workers the majority of whom were single, often transient men. As affordable housing alternatives, hotels functioned as living quarters and, the bars and restaurants located on the ground floor, as social centres. In the *1911 Canada Census*, John Giovando, Vittoria and their two children, Lawrence age 6 years and Maria, 3 years were all living presumably in the Bayview Hotel along with 13 lodgers.¹¹ There is an entry in the *1911 Canada Census* for Domenica Giachero, age 42, occupation hotel keeper in Ladysmith on 1st Avenue.¹² It is assumed that Joseph Giachero died sometime before 1911 and his wife was left to run the Europe Hotel on her own.

In 1911, Lucia Giovando, husband Giovanni (John) Thá and their children at the time: Gabriella 1903; Marianna 1905; and Madalena 1906 were able to travel back to Italy to see their parents. They returned via New York in 1911 having visited Lucia's mother, Maria Giovando in Cintano Italy.¹³ They had a fourth child, George Lawrence Thá born in 1915. Travelling with them on this trip back to New York was brother, Pietro Giovando, age 32.

Unfortunately, in 1912, a protracted regional coal miner's strike brought work in the mines to a halt and Ladysmith's first economic 'boom' period was effectively over. At the time of the strike, John and Vittoria Giovando were living at the Pretoria Hotel and there were fifty guests staying in the hotel, many of them Italian refugees from the Extension riots. Mrs Giachero continued to own the Europe Hotel and during that year when the militia occupied Ladysmith, she would sit in the front window of the hotel and fume while soldiers patrolled along the front of the building in her words, "spoiling her business."¹⁴



Sir Arthur Currie, the head of this militia in Nanaimo, was renowned in later life as a brilliant tactician but was *"lacking charisma and never popular with his soldiers"*¹⁵. In 1920 Currie would become principal of McGill University the same place where Larry Giovando would take his medical degree. When Dr Giovando first appeared at McGill, he was called into Currie's office and asked whether he was the grandson of the woman who used to yell at him!

In the *1921 Canada Census*, the Giovando family is living in a 9-room brick house on Esplanade in Ladysmith. Father, John Giovando's occupation is as "hotel proprietor;" and Larry Giovando is 16 years

¹⁰ Our history: Nanaimo an early melting pot by Jan Peterson, Times Colonist, May 17 2015

¹¹ Found under the name "Grovando"

¹² Transcribed as "Donneara Gaichy"

¹³ New York US Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists Sep 16 1911.

¹⁴ Whoever Gives Us Bread: The Story of Italians in British Columbia by Lynne Bowen and Interview with Dr Larry Giovando, Coal Tyee History Project, Vancouver Island University

¹⁵ <https://www.warmuseum.ca/firstworldwar/history/people/generals/sir-arthur-currie/>

old.”¹⁶ John’s sister Lucia and husband John Thá had moved to Vancouver and were renting a house there in 1921 at 1524 Charles Street with their children: Mary 18, Annie 17, Lena 15 and George age 8. John Thá would continue on in the hotel business in Vancouver.

John Giovando was an astute businessman. He took over the Europe Hotel after his mother-in-law, Domenica Giachero, passed away on Dec 31 1929 at the age of 62 and managed the two hotels up until his death. He ran for City Council in Ladysmith and after the first defeat, was a member of council for many years and at one time chaired the town’s Finance Committee. By 1931, coal at the Extension mine was exhausted and while on Council, John promoted providing Comox Logging with office facilities in Ladysmith which was the beginning of the town’s turnaround from mining. In 1953, the company was purchased by the Crown Zellerbach corporation.



Giovanni (John) Domenic Giovando died on Nov 23 1942 in his 61st year. His wife, Vittoria Domenica Giachero Giovando died on Jan 9 1962. John’s sister, Lucia had died Dec 8 1950 in Vancouver at 72 years and her husband, John Thá, died Aug 3 1958 in Vancouver in his 92nd year. Pietro Giovando had died



April 1 1955 in Vancouver at the age of 76.

The children of John and Vittoria Giovando were:

1. **Lorenzo (Larry) Giovando (Mar 10 1905 – May 25 1982)**
2. Marie Domenica Giovando (1908 - Jun 19 1997) m Mar 23 1933, Maurice Henry Doumont (Aug 15 1906-Jun 19 1954)
3. Joseph Giovando (Jun 27 1911- Nov 14 1916)
4. Minnie Domenica Giovando (Apr 7 1914- Feb 12 2001) m Aug 9 1938, Andrew Murdoch Honeyman (Jun 29 1913-Sep 29 2003)
5. Lucille (Lucy) Giovando (Sep 5 1918 - Dec 13 2015)
6. Tony (Madeline) Giovando (Nov 11 1922 – Mar 22 2015)

Lorenzo (Larry) Giovando aspired to be a doctor from the time he was in high school. He spent a year at the University of British Columbia then attended the University of



Oregon in 1923-24. In 1925, he entered the McGill faculty of medicine graduating in 1930. His graduation yearbook notes that his activities were: soccer; President CISA 1927; Medical Dance Committee 1927; and Scarlet Key 1928. The Scarlet Key Society began in 1925 as the official host and guide for dignitaries and special guests visiting the University composed of representatives from each faculty.



The CISA is unknown. Lorenzo’s hobbies were “Promenading through Eaton’s; buying fountain pens; speed skating” and his favourite expression was “Meesta, gimme Kendy! Heh!”

When he was on a summer break from medical school, Lorenzo took the opportunity to assist Dr. George A.B. Hall with the care of his Ladysmith patients. Dr. Hall was born in Ontario and graduated in dentistry from the Philadelphia Dental College. He operated an office in Nanaimo in the 1880s but then attended

¹⁶ Found under the name of “Simmons”

Stanford University and received a diploma in medicine. Dr. Hall eventually returned to the coast with his family and was hired as the physician and surgeon for the Western Fuel Company miners in the 1920s. He served as Mayor of Nanaimo from 1930-31.

Dr Hall's medical and ultimately, Dr Giovando's experiences illustrate the intrinsic connection between doctors, coal companies and the coal mining population. At the same time, 1930s health care on Vancouver Island provides an interesting perspective on Canada's current Health Act.

In the 1850s, Vancouver Island was the only source of coal on the west coast of North America and much in demand. At the beginning of coal mining in Nanaimo in 1852, the coal company had employed a doctor to look after the miners. Sometime between 1852 and 1877, doctors began to be employed by sickness and accident funds rather than by the coal company. In return for approximately one dollar per month per man, a doctor, elected by the employees, provided all the health care the miners needed for themselves and their families. The fund relied on the coal company to make the deductions directly from the miners' pay. In 1921, for example, there were thirty-three applications for the position of mine doctor for the Western Fuel Company (WFC). The election was won by Dr. Oswald Grey Ingham with ninety votes.

The arrangement continued through each change of company ownership until 1927, when Canadian Collieries (Dunsmuir) Limited became the sole owner of all the major coal-mining companies on Vancouver Island. Under the Master and Servants Act of BC (1897), the company was only required to deduct for the doctor but not for the Sick and Accident Fund. Consequently, the men at each Canadian Collieries mine formed their own committee to administer their fund and elect a doctor to care for their medical needs. The chosen doctor was given a list of the men and their dependents. In return for providing them with medical care for everything except maternity, he was paid a fixed amount: approximately \$1.00 to \$1.75 per family per month. For this sum the doctor provided unlimited office, house, and hospital visits; dressings; minor surgery; and common medicines such as cough syrup. In 1923, the members of WFC Employees' Sick and Accident Fund hired Dr. George Hall to be the sole doctor for the fund.¹⁷

When Dr. Giovando graduated in 1930, he couldn't get a job anywhere. Fortunately, he was contacted by Dr. Hall's son, Alan also a doctor, and offered the mine practice at Granby Mine just south of Nanaimo in Cassidy where they had a little hospital with two beds. He would be taking over from Dr A.B. Manson who was moving into Nanaimo to work with the Halls.¹⁸ Giovando accepted the job and began a decades long career in Nanaimo and area attending accidents, making house calls, and delivering babies. Apparently, the good doctor was also called upon to treat horses when a veterinarian was needed, as the city had no animal doctor at the time.

Built in 1917 to extract a section of the Upper Douglas coal seam originally discovered in 1852 on the Nanaimo River, the Granby town and mine straddled Spruston Road in Cassidy between the Nanaimo River and Haslam Creek. Granby operated B.C.'s two largest copper smelters and the second-largest copper mine in the British Empire. Granby coal was refined into coke (fuel) to fire the smelters. When the mine closed in 1932, some of the homes there were relocated to Nanaimo and Ladysmith. Dr Giovando moved what is known as the Granby Mine Residence, another Newcastle heritage home at 523 Vancouver, to Nanaimo and would live there from 1937 to 1961 when he sold it to Edward (Ted) Piper. Piper then sold it, ironically, to Dr Giovando's political rival and fellow provincial election candidate, David

¹⁷ Friendly Societies in Nanaimo: The British Tradition of Self-Help in a Canadian Coal-Mining Community, Lynne Bowen. <file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/1799-Article%20Text-7403-1-10-20100609.pdf>

¹⁸ Interview with Dr Larry Giovando, 1979, page 22

Stupich. More information about 523 Vancouver can be found in its own genealogical history. Prior to 1937, the Giovandos were living at 111 Pine Street.

There wasn't enough business for another doctor in Nanaimo so Dr Giovando ended up moving to Cumberland where they had just had an explosion and there were a number of patients to be looked after. Part of his contract was to learn how to play bridge.

In the meantime, the medical care system for miners broke down when a judge interpreted the Master and Servants Act saying that as long as the men received medical services, they could go to any doctor they desired. As a result, in 1936, Dr GAB Hall, no longer under contract to the miners, opened his own practice with his sons Earle and Alan and Dr. A.E. Manson in the Hall Clinic at 43 Commercial Street in the Hall Block and Dr Lorenzo Giovando joined him. As other doctors joined them, it became known as Hall-Giovando & Associates. On the retirement of Dr. Hall, the name was changed to Giovando, Cooper, Johnson & Associates, and in 1970, it became the Medical Arts Centre.

At the same time, Dr Ingham and Dr Carman Browne, who had arrived in Nanaimo in 1931, were joined by Dr A H Meneely and they established the Browne-Meneely Clinic on Bastion Street in 1936. The clinic was moved to Wallace Street in the late 1950s and renamed the Caledonia Clinic. At the time, the population of Nanaimo was just one square mile with a population of about 2500 and the rivalry between the two medical offices was apparently intense.

On July 10 1934, Dr Larry Giovando married Evelyn May Beban born Feb 9 1913 in Extension BC the daughter of Frank Beban and Hanna Hodgson. It was touted as the "wedding of the century" between two well-known Island families. Frank Beban was born in Goldsboro, New Zealand on March 26 1882. At the age of 24, he travelled to San Francisco and a year later arrived on Vancouver Island where he found work at Cumberland under contract cutting timbers for the mines. He settled in Extension working in James Dunsmuir's mines as mule stable foreman. In 1910, he married 17-year-old Hanna Hodgson, the daughter of John and Mary Hodgson and they had four children, Evelyn, Dorothy, Verna and Jack. Frank Beban was a mining, forestry, and horseracing entrepreneur. His lasting legacy is the five-bedroom Rustic style Beban House still standing in Bowen Park where the spacious, dignified living room formed the setting for the wedding ceremony. Unfortunately, the marriage did not last. The couple had one son, Larry Beban Giovando and were divorced by 1948. Evelyn Beban died Dec 29 1981.¹⁹

Larry branched out into other activities. In 1945, he became Vice President of the newly formed Nanaimo Flying Club, a non-profit organization to promote flying. The paved runway at Cassidy had been built in 1942 by the military to train glider pilots and was now abandoned along with the original farm house and barns; a pump house; and a 3-seater outhouse. By early 1946, Nanaimo had a newly minted, Transport Canada authorized airport. The Nanaimo Civic Arena was opened in 1940 and Dr Giovando was the first club physician for the Nanaimo Clippers Hockey Team.

On Feb 17 1948, Larry married Vivian Amelia Anderson born Oct 13 1917 in Bienfait, Saskatchewan, daughter of Gilbert and Tekla Anderson. In 1940, after obtaining her designation as a registered nurse at

¹⁹ Thanks to Harbour City: Nanaimo in Transition, 1920-1967 By Jan Peterson for information about Dr Larry Giovando and Frank Beban

the Regina General Hospital, Vivian had moved to British Columbia, where she worked as a nurse at a number of hospitals In the Lower Mainland, including the Vancouver General Hospital, the Chilliwack Hospital, and Shaughnessy Hospital, in 1942 she moved to Nanaimo where she was working as a nurse at the old Nanaimo Hospital.



Dr. Larry Giovando is seen here with his second wife, Vivian.

In 1952, Larry decided to venture into politics running as a Progressive Conservative candidate in the provincial election. His 1952 and subsequent 1953 victory are examples of how instant-runoff voting works to allow or ensure that a majority finds the candidate acceptable. Prior to the 1952 election, the coalition Liberal/Conservative BC government whose entire reason for being had been to keep the CCF out of power, introduced an instant-runoff voting system. The idea behind the change was an assumption that the business-oriented majority of BC voters would keep the democratic socialist party out of power through their secondary choices.

In 1952, on the first ballot Larry received only 3346 votes (31.9%) to CCF candidate Daniel Stupich's 3715 (35.4%), but since Stupich failed to receive a majority, the election was decided by an instant run-off whereby the top two candidates received votes from the third and fourth place Liberal and Social Credit candidates. When these votes were redistributed, Giovando emerged the winner 5144 (52.9%) to Stupich's 4581 (47.1%). Overall, there were 4 Conservatives elected to the Legislature; 6 Liberals; 18 CCF; and 19 Social Credit.²⁰

1952 Nanaimo and The Islands: all counts

Bradshaw, Elmer Pearce	LIB.	2,263	2,267	2,369		
Brewster, Edward Joseph	BCSCL	951	962			
GIOVANDO, Lorenzo (Larry)	PC	3,346	3,353	3,588	5,144	52.89%
Morgan, Nigel.	LPP	207				
Stupich, David Daniel	CCF	3,715	3,857	4,268	4,581	47.11%

On Jul 12 1952, the newly elected MLA answered his door at 12:30am to be met by a man armed with a 10-inch butcher knife. A struggle ensued during which the intruder said he had come to kill the doctor. The intruder, Peter Paul Mihalech had been involved in the search for a young Italian who drowned in Departure Bay a few days previously to which Dr Giovando had attended.²¹ Mihalech was remanded to the Oakalla Prison Farm Common Gaol for 30 days with a review of his mental condition.

The minority government formed in 1952 by the Social Credit party of Premier W.A.C. Bennett lasted only nine months before new elections were called. The results of the 1953 election continued in the same vein as Giovando polled only 2,046 votes (20.8%) in the first ballot but managed 4,376 (50.1%) on the final count against Stupich's 4,358 (49.9%). Giovando also defeated the Social Credit candidate, Earle Cathers Westwood in this run off who initially had garnered more votes than Giovando on the first count but fell behind on the 4th count. Clearly the Liberal voters preferred Giovando to Stupich because he vaulted to second and then edged Stupich by just 18 votes on the final count.

²⁰ Electoral History of British Columbia 1871-1986

²¹ Nanaimo Daily News, July 14 1952

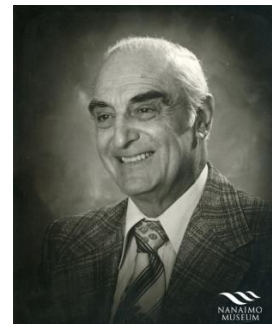
As already noted, David Stupich would briefly live in the heritage home at 523 Vancouver known as the Granby Mine Residence which had been moved into Nanaimo by Dr Giovando in 1937.²² Even though political foes, they were all good friends. Stupich would even let the neighbourhood kids have swimming lessons in his pool since, at that time, the only pool in Nanaimo was the open to the air one at Bowen Park.

1953 Nanaimo and The Islands: all counts

Bradshaw, Elmer Pearce	LIB.	1,375	1,377	1,383			
Brewster, Edward Joseph	IND.	32					
GIOVANDO, Lorenzo (Larry)	PC	2,046	2,053	2,060	2,855	4,376	50.10%
Stupich, David Daniel	CCF	3,631	3,632	3,689	3,825	4,358	49.90%
Tickson, Grace Ellen	LPP	115	117				
Westwood, Earle Cathers	SC	2,626	2,632	2,638	2,845		

The Social Credit party swept into power with a majority government in 1953. Unfortunately, Dr Giovando’s was the only seat the PCs would win in that election. The rise of the Social Credit under WAC Bennett effectively sent the Tories down the drain into a political backwater and the party would cease to be an electoral entity thereafter.

During his time in office from 1952 to 1956, Larry was a member of the Legislature’s Special Committee on Redistribution and sat on Committees responsible for Public Accounts; Mining & Railways; Agriculture; Labour; Standing Orders and Private Bills; Municipal Matters; Forestry; and Social Welfare and Education. In 1953, he was appointed to a special committee to inquire into the validity of the BC Power Commission’s request to store water in Buttle Lake for power purposes. The project did not go ahead as planned but a new dam on Upper Campbell Lake effectively did as much damage by raising Buttle Lake by some five metres.²³



He also performed all the public functions considered the duty of an MLA such as kicking off the first ball at a minor soccer game between Brechin and the Canadian Legion in Nov 1952.²⁴ He was proud of the accomplishments he gained for the riding such as construction of the George S Pearson Bridge which officially opened on Aug 11 1953; bringing electricity to Gabriola Island in 1955; and adding an office complex to the 1896 provincial court house in 1957.²⁵

In 1955, Larry Giovando quit the party to sit as an independent during an ongoing and often vicious dispute between federal and provincial Conservative party factions primarily as a result of the increasing popularity of the Social Credit party. In the 1952 election, there were charges on the part of the BC Conservatives that Federal party members were working for Socred candidates. In the 1953 election, federal Conservative organizers were alleged to be telling riding associations not to run candidates because of an “understanding” with Socreds whereby in return, the Socreds would support Conservatives federally.

²² Letter to Mr David Stupich, MLA at 523 Vancouver Ave Nanaimo, Dec 5 1968.

²³ The Park ... is a Mess: Development and Degradation in British Columbia’s First Provincial Park by Arn Keeling and Graeme Wynn in BC Studies, no 170, Summer 2011

²⁴ Nanaimo Daily News Nov 7 1952: Dr Giovando to Kick First Ball at Minor Soccer

²⁵ Interview with Dr Giovando, page 31

After the 1953 debacle, there had been attempts by the provincial and federal Conservatives to heal their differences but to no avail. All of this culminated in the unprecedented act on Jul 17, 1954 at a BC Conservative Association executive meeting in Vernon of a provincial Conservative leader, Deane Finlayson who had been Larry Giovando's campaign manager, supporting a motion of no-confidence in George Drew, the federal Conservative leader.

Called by the *Vancouver Sun*, the "Battle of Vernon" and the *Vancouver Province*, "Suicide at Vernon", the delegates ranged themselves on one or the other side of what amounted to an open civil war in the party. The vote of no confidence passed 40 to 24. Giovando, the lone Conservative MLA apparently remained aloof from the battle but his decision to move to Independent left the party with no members in the legislature. The federal Conservative members then proceeded to set up a separate organization; increasing numbers of disaffected Conservatives became Socreds; and provincial organizations in the ridings dwindled drastically. Not even the Diefenbaker victories in 1957 and 1958 were able to revive the provincial party.²⁶

In the Legislature, Larry doubtlessly had a lonely time as the sole Progressive Conservative and then as an independent. The Times Colonist noted on Mar 1 1955 that: *"Dr. Giovando has a rambling style of address, filled with both sense and humor. The House seems to regard him as an entertaining phenomenon. Politically independent, the feeling in his riding seems to be he could run for cover and still be elected."*

As a well-respected physician, Larry put his medical credentials to good use in the legislature disparaging Socred MLA Lydia Arsens for requesting the Health and Welfare minister to set aside \$1 million for an education program to inform people of what she claimed was a "known cure for cancer". *"She doesn't know a damn thing"* claimed Dr Larry Giovando, adding that Arsens' statement could drive *"a lot of desperate people who would try anything"* to quacks. Arsens was defeated by 500 votes in the 1956 election.²⁷

Dr Giovando was also a proponent of state supported health care having travelled to Sweden and seen some of the advantages to their system. In a debate on health and welfare in March 1955, he predicted that socialized medicine was coming whether medical men liked it or not.²⁸

Needless to say, Larry did not run in the next election of 1956 and Mayor Earle Cathers Westwood was subsequently elected for the Socreds.

Retiring from public life didn't stop Dr Giovando's community contributions past or present. He was a founding member of the Nanaimo Youth Council; the Nanaimo Sea Cadets in 1944; the John Howard Society; a president of Nanaimo Gyro in 1946; president of BC Hockey 1951-1953; and CHUB Radio's 1962 recipient of "The Man who has Done Most for the Most People" award.²⁹ He was a member of the Nanaimo Yacht Club since 1940 and was Commadore in 1976. In 1954, a day cruiser was under construction for him.

²⁶ From rule to ruin: the Conservative Party of British Columbia, 1928-1954 by Donald K Alper, UBC Thesis, 1976 <https://open.library.ubc.ca/cIRcle/collections/ubctheses/831/items/1.0093850>

²⁷ Vancouver Sun, Feb 22 1956

²⁸ Interview with Dr Larry Giovando, page 32 and Times Colonist, Mar 4 1955

²⁹ Newcastle Island: A place of discovery by Bill Merilees, page 114

After selling the house at 523 Vancouver, Larry and his wife Vivian had moved to their summer residence, “Madrona” on Rath Trevor beach near Parksville BC. **In 1966 they decided to move back into Nanaimo and purchased the house at 225 Newcastle from Earle Cather Westwood.** Dr Alan B Hall and his wife Gertrude who was a city alderperson in the 1970s lived just down the street at 135 Newcastle.

On May 25, 1982, Dr. Lorenzo (Larry) Giovando died in Port Townsend, WA while on a boat trip. He was 77 years old and survived by his wife, Vivian, and two sons: Peter J and Larry B Giovando. Vivian Amelia Anderson Giovando remained at 225 Newcastle until 1987. She passed away on Jan 21 2007. The house continues to be occupied by son, Peter Giovando.



On Oct 12 1986, the Nanaimo Gyro Club, in memory of their esteemed member, unveiled a dedication to Larry at Nares Point on Newcastle Island. Known as Giovando Lookout, with breathtaking views of the north side of Departure Bay and Hammond Bay as well as the George Strait, the roofed structure commemorates the doctor’s many contributions and service to the community.³⁰

A \$300 Bursary in the name of Dr. Larry Giovando Bursary was also established at VIU and is available for financial need and satisfactory academic standing to students in the Nursing Degree program.

³⁰ Newcastle Island: A place of discovery by Bill Merilees, page 114