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FRANK MILLERD 1913 2000

Millerd managed WV cannery

By Jan-Christian Sorensen
Contributing Writer

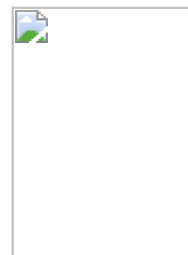


photo submitted
LONGTIME West Van resident and volunteer Francis (Frank) Millerd.

PROMINENT West Vancouver businessman and community leader Francis (Frank) Millerd passed away Monday at Lions Gate Hospital. He was 87.

Francis Webb Millerd was born in Vancouver in 1913 and in his teens began his long career in the fisheries industry when he went to work on the Campbell Avenue fish dock.

He joined his father's company -- the Great Northern Cannery in West Vancouver -- in 1935, which he went on to co-manage with his brother Don.

The cannery was located near Cypress Park. It was sold to the Department of Fisheries as a research station in 1968.

Frank's son Bill said that the cannery was the centre of industry in West Vancouver for many years.

"Really for the whole time it existed it was the only industry there. West Vancouver basically grew up around it."

A longtime community volunteer, Frank was instrumental in starting a scout troop at St. Francis-in-the-Wood Anglican church in Caulfeild.

"He felt it was important and a good movement to keep us kids involved and off the streets," said Bill, who is the artistic managing director of Vancouver's Arts Club Theatre Company.

It marked the continuation of a long association with the scouting movement for Frank, who was a boy scout himself.

He went on to serve on various local and provincial councils and put his organizational skills to the test when he was named president of the Vancouver-Coast scouting region.

He was awarded the Silver Acorn for distinguished service to scouting by then-Governor General Georges P. Vanier in 1964.





North Shore News
 1139 Lonsdale Avenue
 North Vancouver, B.C.
 V7M 2H4
 Canada

Contact:editor@nsnews.com
 +1 (604) 985-2131

Peter Speck
pspeck@nsnews.com

Timothy_Renshaw@nsnews.com

[Michael Becker@nsnews.com](mailto:mbecker@nsnews.com)

[Anna Marie D'Angelo@nsnews.com](mailto:adangelo@nsnews.com)

[Layne Christensen@nsnews.com](mailto:lchristensen@nsnews.com)

[Sharon Cocomile@nsnews.com](mailto:scocomile@nsnews.com)

[Deana Lancaster@nsnews.com](mailto:dlancaster@nsnews.com)

[Martin Millerchip@nsnews.com](mailto:mmillerchip@nsnews.com)

[John Goodman@nsnews.com](mailto:jgoodman@nsnews.com)

[Katharine Hamer@nsnews.com](mailto:khamer@nsnews.com)

Ernest von Rosen
webmaster



"He was certainly a strong community person and it was when West Vancouver was really being formed in the main years of his active life in the '40s and '50s," said Bill. "I remember him rarely being at home in the evenings. He was always out at one function or another."

Among his many posts, Frank served as a director of the B.C. Chamber of Commerce, president of the West Vancouver Board of Trade, a member of the founding board of Capilano College, a member of the West Vancouver Parks Board and a board member of St. Francis-in-the-Wood.

"I think he felt he had to contribute to the community, because it was very good to him, allowing the cannery to be where it was," said Bill. A member of the Masonic Order, Frank was also a member of the Capilano Golf and Country Club.

He made an unsuccessful bid for a seat in the provincial legislature when he ran under the Liberal party colours in 1956.

Predeceased by his first wife Helen Gertrude in 1994, Frank married Joan Rhodes the following year. He is survived by Joan, two sisters, three children and eight grandchildren.

A memorial service for Frank was held Thursday morning at St. Francis-in-the-Wood.



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