

Peter Blundell - Biography

Peter was born in Wallasey, Cheshire, England, 4 miles from Liverpool, in 1944. He was always very curious growing up. Peter remembers as a very young lad, he was three years old, found a little hammer, and had so much fun smashing his mother's leaded cut glass collection that covered her bedroom dresser!! (much to her horror) – Was this the beginning of Peter's incredible desire to learn more about the whole antiques world? It was an auspicious but poor start. At the age of 8, he was taken by his father to see his first Vincent Van Gogh exhibition in Liverpool. And has never stopped! He travelled extensively in Britain visiting art galleries, museums, cathedrals and ships until immigrating to Canada in 1966.

Peter was educated in England, including studying business and textiles for three years under a London City and Guilds programme.

Within a couple of years of immigrating to Canada, he had met his wife, Marian in Vancouver, who was born and raised in Quebec, and who remembers stripping her first antique chair with her mother around the age of 7 years. And that little country Quebec chair stayed in the family for years moving on to her sister's home in the U.S.

And as time passed, Peter and Marian's interest in antiques grew into doing weekend shows all around Toronto. But soon their little house became totally overflowing with boxes ready for the next show – it was time to move, and after much hunting – found a great shop in the Village of Schomberg, just north of Toronto, Ontario, where they stayed for the next 15 years.

They also had a warehouse 12 miles north of the Toronto city limits in King Township in an old feed mill, and supplied as many as 40 antiques dealers during this time. At one show at the O'Keefe Centre in Toronto, there were over 80 pieces of furniture in the show that had been through Peter's hands, and he did not even have a booth!!

But the thoughts of 'Go Back West' was always there in their minds. The time suddenly became ripe and heading back to Vernon, British Columbia, they moved with their two teenage children and two huge moving trucks.

Peter was a Founding Member of the Historic Lighting Society of Canada, also a Founding Member of the Schomberg Business Association, and a Founding Member of the York Region Tourist Board, and became Chair for two years.

In British Columbia, Peter spent 6 years on the Board of Directors of the Heritage Society of British Columbia (now Heritage B.C.) and served two years as president Provincially. Both Marian and Peter were both presidents of the Vernon and District Heritage Society, and also were both president of the Canadian Club of Vernon.

Peter had also navigated through the real estate world including appraisals, and so real estate joined his experiences where he managed an office and along with the appraisals. But the pull-back to antiques was still tugging very heavily, and after many extra courses including

graduating from the International Society of Appraisers in California placing second in his course out of 40 international students. Peter and Marian were delighted to be back in the antiques field once again.

Daily their avocation leads to checking any book store that comes near, and picking up the latest on whatever subject of antiques from books to many monthly antiques newspapers.

The business now takes Peter and Marian into clients' homes where they do complete appraisals for insurance, estates, upsizing and downsizing, and other legal purposes.

With Peter's years of practical experience in the antiques world - the flea markets, the antiques shows, being a 'picker' and a 'hauler' and of course, the retail shop, developing his huge library, Peter understands totally the everyday workings of the antiques trade, and the current pricing and politics. So appraising Arts and Antiques falls naturally into his and Marian's world.