



ISSUE XXI | SPRING 2025

OCEANFRONT NAVIGATOR

Our seasonal lifestyle newsletter focuses on finding fulfilment in our daily lives and optimizing our **Return On Life™**.

RUSS & LEE ANTHONY

A Life Led by Values, Adventure,
and Purpose

oceanfrontwealth.com



OCEANFRONT

WEALTH INC.

**"CHARACTER,
LIKE A GARDEN,
GROWS WITH
CARE, PATIENCE,
AND LIGHT."**

-UNKNOWN

Our **Spring 2025** Navigator highlights the values-based career path of our long-time clients, **RUSS AND LEE ANTHONY.**

ROOTS & RESILIENCE

"Simplicity, family connection, and the principle of not wasting anything."



Russ was born in 1944 in Prince Rupert where his father was stationed before being deployed overseas in World War II. Shortly after, his mother returned to Manitoba to raise Russ near family. Until age five, **Russ was raised with his Ukrainian grandparents in a small, tight-knit and culturally rich community where he spoke only Ukrainian.** He fondly recalls celebrating both Christmases – Western and Ukrainian – and developing an early appreciation for simplicity, family connection, and the principle of not wasting anything, values that remained central throughout his life.

Growing up in Winnipeg, Russ's formative years were shaped by modest means. His family didn't travel or spend freely, and every dollar mattered.

"This grounding instilled a lifelong respect for hard work and resourcefulness."

Russ thrived in school, leading student councils and excelling in sports. His favorite activity was long distance canoeing. As a teenager, Russ worked part-time jobs throughout the year to support his education, developing a strong work ethic and learning valuable lessons about resilience and perseverance. **Determined, curious, and driven by a deep sense of fairness,** he developed leadership skills that would guide him throughout his career.



Russ & Lee in Italy (2024)

"His commitment to justice wasn't just theoretical, it was deeply practical..."

HOW EARLY EXPERIENCES SHAPED A LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO FAIRNESS AND PURPOSE

Russ completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Winnipeg (formerly United College), where he remained active in student government, including serving as student council president. After a short term in the office of the Attorney General of Manitoba to see the application of law in practice, it was off to Toronto where he earned his law degree from the University of Toronto. His time in university shaped his worldview, as he participated in international exchanges and serious discussions about law and social justice. Then it was off to Vancouver where he decided to practice law, even though he had no links with the profession in BC.

Russ believed the law must be applied fairly to all, a conviction that led him into Indigenous law, environmental law, and roles that challenged the status quo.

His early professional endeavours included contributing to Canada's first book on Indigenous law, helping found the environmental law section of the Canadian Bar Association, and teaching part time. His commitment to justice wasn't just theoretical, it was deeply practical, and he often worked on cases and hearings that created precedents for citizen participation.

Russ and Lee met in Vancouver in the late 1960s. After a few years, they made a decision to move to England together while Russ pursued graduate studies for a Masters of Law degree at the London School of Economics, an unconventional choice reflecting their shared spirit of independence and values-based living. They married at Chelsea Town Hall in London. During their time in London, Russ and Lee immersed themselves in the city's vibrant cultural scene, attending theatre productions, lectures, and community events that broadened their perspectives.

A photograph of a man and a woman standing in a stone archway in a historic Italian town. The man is on the left, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, with his hands in his pockets. The woman is on the right, wearing a dark jacket and dark pants, with a bag slung over her shoulder. They are both smiling and wearing sunglasses. The archway is made of rough-hewn stone, and the street beyond is paved with cobblestones and lined with colorful buildings.

PURPOSE IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Back in Vancouver in 1974, Russ's law career took off as he pioneered the emerging field of environmental law and was counsel in a number of commissions of inquiry.

"legal work should serve the greater good."

One of his most impactful roles was representing a coalition of Canadian environmental groups during the Berger Inquiry, a federal inquiry into the proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline.

This work allowed Russ to combine his legal expertise, environmental advocacy, and deep respect for Indigenous rights.

The experience left a lasting impression on him, reinforcing his belief that legal work should serve the greater good.



CHOOSING THE UNCONVENTIONAL PATH

Bold career moves guided by conviction, not convention.

In 1980, **Russ was recruited to the Privy Council Office in Ottawa to work on patriation of the Constitution**, so Russ put his law practice on hold and Lee rushed off to Ottawa to find a place to live. This role placed him at the heart of national priorities and immersed in Canada's constitutional debate. The experience profoundly shaped his understanding of leadership and governance, and he often reflected on the importance of balancing political pragmatism with principled decision-making.

Next it was off to Vancouver again, this time to assume the position of Vice

President Law and General Counsel of Expo 86 from 1983-1987. Russ negotiated international contracts, managed legal and labor relations, and traveled to Russia, China, and Japan to settle sensitive issues. His tenacity in diplomacy included a legendary negotiation with Soviet officials to revive Canada's cultural exchange agreement so the Kirov Ballet could appear at Expo. During this time, Russ also mentored young lawyers and diplomats, sharing his belief in **the power of the arts and cultural exchange to bridge divides**.

After the end of Expo, Russ, Lee and family moved to Toronto, where Russ

took on the role of COO of the Ballet Opera House, building a new home for the National Ballet and Canadian Opera Company. This led to another change of careers, but after a brief stint as a president of a pension advisory firm, **Russ returned to project-based work, launching a project management firm in Vancouver in 1992.**

His firm achieved early success with projects like Rogers Arena, BC Cancer Research Centre, and major transit infrastructure initiatives that reshaped Vancouver's urban landscape. Russ's leadership style emphasized collaboration and community involvement, recognizing that successful projects needed public buy-in and stakeholder engagement. Eventually, his firm was acquired by Stantec, where Russ continued to manage ambitious infrastructure projects as a vice-president until he retired in 2010.

Russ was very active in voluntary work throughout his career (on the board of the BC Arts Council, Sport BC, the Rick Hansen Foundation and Vancouver Opera as well as actively supporting a range of other community endeavours). This work continued after retirement, especially on First Nation issues and water security.

Through it all, Russ remained true to his core values: fairness, impact, and integrity. His willingness to leave security when it conflicted with his principles inspired his daughters, who have forged successful, value-driven careers of their own. Russ and Lee's unwavering commitment to their values created a foundation of trust and love, shaping their family's legacy.

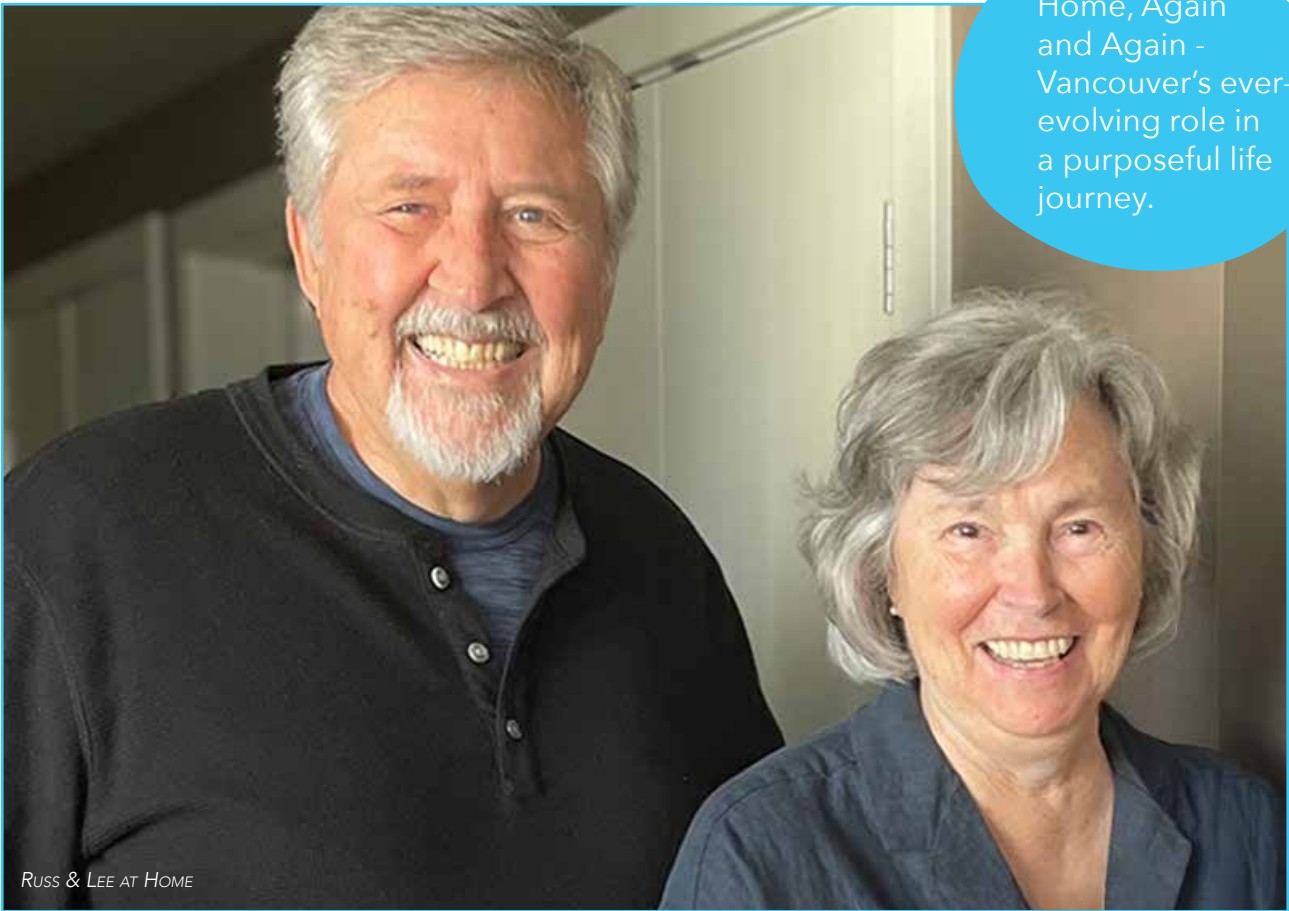
When asked what he is most proud of, Russ's answer is simple and heartfelt:

"I have two great daughters."

A testament to his deep belief in putting your energy where it most matters.



Home, Again
and Again -
Vancouver's ever-
evolving role in
a purposeful life
journey.



RUSS & LEE AT HOME

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM RUSS AND LEE

"Figure out what's important to you. A career or location change can be invigorating if the opportunity excites you and is aligned with your values."

Russ and Lee's story is not just about career achievements but about living with purpose and conviction. Their journey offers **a powerful reminder to pursue a meaningful life**, guided by core values and a willingness to take risks when it counts.



THANK YOU

We hope you have enjoyed our spring edition of the Navigator featuring the values-driven journey of **Russ and Lee Anthony**, a life shaped by purpose, principle, and meaningful impact.

We look forward to sharing more inspiring stories with you in the next edition of the Navigator.