



Photo: Adrian K. Valois Photographers Inc.

## New Judges

### The Honourable Mr. Justice Lance Finch

The metamorphosis of Lance Sidney George Finch from Barrister to the Honourable Mr. Justice L. S. G. Finch, latest addition to the Supreme Court of British Columbia, was accomplished smoothly on May 16, 1983. Although his partners have acquired some facility in such matters, his loss to them was nonetheless traumatic. His skills in family law, criminal law, and the law of wills were quickly utilized by the Chief Justice in assignment to the trial list.

Born in Edmonton, Alberta in 1938, he later moved to Victoria, B.C., where he attended high school and then enrolled at the University of British Columbia, earning his LL.B. degree in 1962. He took articles with the firm of **Guild, Yule & Company**, received his Call to the Bar in 1963, and became a partner in 1968.

Lance had the enviable opportunity to both learn the law from, and practise it in partnership with, four respected jurists: Mr. Justice F. U. Collier of the Federal Court of Canada, Mr. Justice E. E. Hinkson and Mr. Justice H. E. Hutcheon of the British Columbia Court of Appeal, and Mr. Justice G. L. Murray of the Supreme Court of British Columbia. He obviously learned well. Two of the above four are still in a position to exercise a modicum of control over him.

Despite a busy practice he gave freely of his time and ability in furtherance and betterment of the profession. He is a past President of the Vancouver Bar Association, served an appointment as a Bencher of the Law Society, was active in the tutorial system teaching Civil Procedure and Professional Responsibility, taught Procedure at the Law School, was active in the Continuing Legal Education Program, and was a member of the Liability Insurance Committee of the Law Society.

Attainment of appointment to the Supreme Court was a career goal of early origin. Some friends relate that during his high school years in Victoria, he obtained part-time employment as a night attendant at a mortuary, and as business was not brisk he practised the deployment of a stern judicial countenance which many of his brothers on the Bench are still striving to perfect. We must still await a report as to the comparison of a night shift at the mortuary with a day shift at the Court House.

Colleagues and clients alike respected his dedicated ability as Counsel, and his hard work, thorough preparation and knowledge of the law were well known.

In his university days he was a member of the rowing team which brought many honours to the University. Lately he is reputed to have excelled in skiing and is embarking upon mastery of the sport of windsurfing. The many dogs in his neighbourhood which delight in his practice of early morning jogging are apparently not