

Little Mountain Residential Care & Housing Society Board Member Biography

Paul E. Thiele

Paul worked for the University of British Columbia for 35 years. He was the founder and Director of the Charles Crane Memorial Library and Resource Centre, a unique facility serving blind, partially sighted and reading disabled students at UBC and at many other institutions throughout Canada. He also taught courses in Special Education and developed graduate and Continuing Education courses in Library and Information Science. He also developed a course on coping with vision changes and social aspects in the UBC Second Age program for Seniors. In 1995, he took on the additional challenge of serving as Senior Advisor for both the Crane Library and the UBC Disability Resource Centre, working with students, faculty and staff on disability, academic, financial and career planning and return to work issues.

Paul served on the City of Vancouver Disabilities Issues Committee for 25 years, founded and chaired the Premier's Advisory Council on Disabilities for four years. He and his late wife, Judith, spent six months in Kenya on a UNESCO-sponsored mission, teaching Information Science at the University of Nairobi and establishing a support facility for blind and sight-impaired students there.

Paul chaired the National Board of Directors of VOICEPRINT, a national broadcast reading service for the blind, available on cable throughout Canada. He also served on the boards of the National Library of Canada, the British Columbia Library Foundation and represented the provincial Minister of Human Resources on the Board of the CNIB.

After taking early retirement in 2001, Paul enrolled in an Information Technology course at Vancouver Community College and received his IT Certificate two years later. Currently he is running a home-based consulting business, which among other projects organizes and manages Home Buyer Seminars for Persons with Special Needs for the Medallion Housing Society, sponsored by the Real Estate Foundation of BC. Paul's interest on serving on the Little Mountain Board is the promotion of the care facility among elderly blind persons. Paul and Judy Thiele were members of the original Planning and Advisory Committee for Little Mountain Place.