

PHILANTHROPY

Record \$22-million donation establishes Beedie School at SFU

Money to help make business faculty a global leader in areas such as Asia Pacific business and sustainability

BY DARAH HANSEN AND TRACY SHERLOCK
VANCOUVER SUN

There's little doubt in Ryan Beedie's mind that his business would not be where it is today without the education he received at Simon Fraser University.

"This school means so much to me," the 42-year-old president of the Beedie Group said Wednesday at a special ceremony held at the Burnaby campus. "This is where I learned how to learn."

Beedie's comments come after he and his father, Keith Beedie, donated \$22 million to the university, the school's largest donation.

The money is earmarked for the business faculty, which Ryan Beedie attended, and which will now be re-named the Beedie School of Business.

Ryan Beedie earned a bachelor of business degree in 1991 at SFU, and his master of business administration in 1993 at the University of B.C.

He later joined his father's industrial



Ryan Beedie (left) and SFU president Andrew Petter at funding announcement.

real estate development firm and helped to build it into B.C.'s biggest industrial landlord. Today, the company manages more than 7.5 million square feet of floor space and has

expanded its commercial presence into Southern Alberta, into residential homes and into Beedie Capital Partners.

The school will receive one large

payment up front, with the balance paid out over time, Beedie said.

SFU will use the gift to create an endowment supporting students, professorships and research chairs.

Daniel Shapiro, dean of the newly named school, said the money will help make the school a global thought leader in areas such as innovation and entrepreneurship, Asia Pacific business studies, risk management and sustainability.

"Our intention is to create the next generation of business and community leaders," Shapiro said.

"We're very happy with the plan," said Ryan Beedie. "The endowment will be there for generations to come, to give students the SFU education that I was fortunate to have had and to enable the university to attract the best teachers and researchers."

Keith Beedie, 84, was not present at Wednesday's event. But Ryan Beedie said his father, who is out of the country, is thrilled to be able to support higher education in B.C.

The elder Beedie left high school in Grade 11 to enlist in the RCAF during the Second World War. In 1945, he entered the building trade in Vancouver and, at age 19, sank his entire savings of \$250 into a furniture and toy company with a friend. Later that year, the pair put up their first 1,200-square-foot concrete-block woodworking shop on a city lot, and never looked back.

But, regardless of his personal successes, Keith Beedie wanted his children to graduate.

"He's a very intelligent man and he's always had respect for education and educational institutions, maybe because that was something he didn't have," Ryan Beedie said.

Growing up, Ryan Beedie said he and his siblings were raised with his parents' "give where we live" ethos, in a family that believed strongly in patriotism, duty and their commitment to others.

In 2009, Keith and Betty Beedie donated \$1.37 million to Burnaby Hospital to purchase half of an Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner. The other half of the funds were raised by the hospital, with Bosa Development contributing \$500,000.

University benefactors

With their \$22-million donation, the Beedies join a list of philanthropists who have given generously to B.C. universities. Among them are:

- Slocan Forest Products founder Irving K. Barber, who in 2004 donated \$10 million to create the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences at the new UBC Okanagan campus. In 2002, he gave UBC \$20 million to establish its Learning Centre.
- Bill Sauder, chairman of Interfor and Sauder Industries Ltd., who gave UBC's faculty of commerce \$20 million in 2003.
- Retailer Joe Segal, who in 2002 donated land worth more than \$7.5 million to Simon Fraser University to establish the Segal Graduate School of Business.
- Fred Kalsler, founder of Alpha Technologies, who donated \$4 million to UBC's faculty of applied science in 2002.
- Entrepreneur Jim Pattison, who in 1999 donated \$20 million to the VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation for prostate cancer research.
- Geologist and diamond millionaire Stewart Blusson, who gave UBC \$50 million in 1998.

In 2009, Ryan Beedie was declared Ernst & Young's Pacific Region Entrepreneur of the Year. He created the Ryan Beedie Annual Community Service Award — a \$5,000 bursary granted on the basis academic performance and leadership and/or service at Simon Fraser University to a Faculty of Business Administration student," according to the SFU website.

In 2004, the family made headlines after losing a joint bid to buy the Vancouver Canucks.

Last month, meanwhile, Ryan Beedie was again in the news when he confirmed he would be endorsing his old school chum Kevin Falcon in his bid for leadership of the BC Liberal Party.

The pair became friends while attending SFU together.

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<h1>AUCTION CALENDAR</h1>	
<p>Wed. - Fri. at 10 am BC GOVERNMENT</p> <p>Asset Invest. Recovery Open Monday-Friday Phone: 604-501-0216 8307 - 130th STREET, SURREY, B.C. www.bcauction.ca</p> <p>10 am</p>	<p>Sat. & Sun. Feb. 26th & 27th LOVE'S AUCTIONEERS</p> <p>GIANT FOOD/RESTAURANT/INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT AUCTION PLUS 2 FORK LIFTS & NEW REFRIGERATION Phone: 604-244-9350 2720 No. 5 Road, Richmond, B.C. www.lovesauctions.com</p> <p>10am & 11 am</p>
<p>Saturdays at 10 am ADESA RICHMOND PUBLIC AUCTION</p> <p>Weekly Public Auto Auction! Now Also Every Wed @ 7pm 200 Vehicles to choose from Phone: 604-233-7333 16179 Blundell Rd. - Richmond, B.C. www.adesarichmond.ca</p> <p>10 am & 7 pm</p>	<p>Sat. & Sun. Feb. 26th & 27th LOVE'S AUCTIONEERS</p> <p>COURT BAILIFF SEIZURE AUCTION Pill & Pharmaceutical Equipment Phone: 604-244-9350 2720 No. 5 Road, Richmond, B.C. www.lovesauctions.com</p> <p>10 am & 11 am</p>
<p>Saturday, February 19th KWIK AUCTIONS</p> <p>Contents of Taco Del Mar, Juiced Up, Pizza Shops, Bakeries, Coffee Shops, Butcher Shops, New 5&S Refrigeration + 5/5 Sinks etc. Maritime Catering China, JR, Masterware & Potteryware Pots, Pans & Utensils</p> <p>Previewing is 9:00am to 4:00pm Friday February 18th 2011 7305 Meadow Ave. Burnaby, BC 1-800-556-5945 www.kwikauctions.com</p> <p>11 am</p>	<p>Sunday, February 27th MADISON'S AUCTION</p> <p>Over 500 Collectible Dolls & Antiques + Estate Items CONSIGNMENTS WELCOME! 31236 PEARDONVILLE RD. ABBOTSFORD ph. 604-835-9755 www.madisonsauction.com</p> <p>1 pm</p>

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Client: Mat Wilcox – Ryan Beedie, Beedie Group