

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
SPRING CONVOCATION
June 7, 8, 9 and 10, 2016

Convocation Address
By Dr. Keith Beedie

lose” and by god it was tails. And I thought oh I don’t give a damn; I am going to go anyway and do my work. So I went to all my different sub trades and I hoped I would be able to pay you back in the whole year and they all agreed and at the end of the year (just a little bit more in the second year) I paid every one of them and I gave them 7% interest.

Q: How is the Beedie Development Group doing today?

A: What’s happening with us is that our buildings are so good that we are getting big time people, 400,000 square feet and all that sort, coming to see us because they have learned what we have done and we are just overloaded right now for work.

Q: What do you think of the job your son Ryan has done as CEO?

A: Ryan, after he finished university and stuff, came and worked for me. He is just so bright, so with it, he would start working in the office, working outside, then fixing and then ideas and so on and so forth and before I know it he is looking after all that stuff and I am not looking after much of it at all anymore. But that is the way it should be, at my age and his age, he is just getting out and getting this and buying land and I just let him go and do it and it all works!

Q: Why did you decide to create the Beedie School of Business?

A: Ryan, he wanted to do something for SFU and I said, “Well how much money?” and he said, “Well about \$22 million” and I said, “Okay if we have got the money to do it, let’s do it”. I worked hard for a lot of years and I guess we get to the situation where we can afford to do more with it. I don’t want that money to just be sitting in the bank; I mean let’s get it doing something.

Q: Have you ever had a Sick Day?

A: I have never missed a day out of my work. When I am here, every day I have never had a cold or anything. When times are bad, that’s when you really had to go in. And maybe that is one of the reasons why I worked. They wished they were giving me more stuff to do when I get there, but I do get some stuff and I just love it that’s all!

I want to congratulate you people, there are about three to four hundred of you getting your degrees and my son got his degree here as you well know. And I really, really give you the best congratulations that I can come up with.