



## An Old-Style Pub Where Everybody Knows Your Name (and You're Always Glad You Came)

BY ALFIE LAU

**Dutch Dedemus' dream is still alive every night at the Mountain Shadow Pub.**

Almost 30 years ago, Dutch, as all his friends called him, wanted to build a traditional English-style pub in North Burnaby, a neighbourhood gathering place where blue-collar workers could get a good meal and a few beverages for an affordable price.

He found his spot at 7174 Barnet Road, just off Hastings and with views of Burrard Inlet.

Dutch then began building, recycling pieces of history into the chalet-style pub.

From the Lieutenant-Governor's home in Victoria, he recovered wood moulding. More than 60,000 bricks from an old processing plant in Victoria became the foundation of the pub's distinctive fireplace and chimney.

And old-growth wood from a fish processing plant in Nanaimo was used in the floors. The solid brass chandelier came from the Colonial Theatre on Granville Street.

As one final crowning touch, Dutch wanted high vaulted ceilings, and at 35 feet, the Mountain Shadow's peaked roof is evidence of that.

"This is one of the few original style English pubs still left in the area," said the pub's current owner, Michael Anastasi, who bought it three years ago with a group

of partners. "I remember drinking here when I was younger and I really love the character of this place."

The more Anastasi got to know Dutch, the more he wanted to be the one who continued Dutch's legacy.

"Dutch had a vision for this place and after he sold it to (someone else), that vision got lost," said Anastasi. "I wanted to bring back the vision Dutch had started 30 years ago."

Soon after Anastasi bought the Mountain Shadow, he started wholesale renovations, updating the interior, adding some modern touches and painting.

But he was careful to keep as much of the original furnishings so that, in Anastasi's words, "the unique feel of the place didn't change."

Part of that unique feel came from the "working folks" and SFU students who regularly frequent the Mountain Shadow.

"When the Vancouver Canucks used to play at the Pacific Coliseum, we had most of the team come here after the game," said Anastasi. "But one of the best things they ever did was get involved with Sports Page."

The popular sports highlight show that ran for more than 20 years used to hold a trivia contest. Successful contestants would win "prizeroskies" in the form of a gift certificate at the Mountain Shadow.

"You wouldn't believe how many people came here because they saw our ads on Sports Page," said Anastasi. "It also helped that one of the hosts, Don Taylor, didn't live far from here and he was always coming here with his friends."

With Global Television's studios also not far south, many of the on-air talent have been known to tip an elbow at the Mountain Shadow.

Two things that haven't changed at the Mountain Shadow are the Mountain Burger and Wednesday

Wing Nights.

"We've got the Mountain Burger special on Monday and every Monday, we'll have a whole crew of Burnaby

firefighters in for lunch," said Anastasi. "And our Wings Night, that's legendary amongst the students at SFU because that's the one night they know they're going to get a great inexpensive meal!"

The pub has also capitalized on its unique look by being the backdrop for many made-in-B.C. movies and television series.

"I must get a couple of requests every month," said Anastasi. "I can't even tell you how many shows we've been on or how many people mention to me that they saw the pub on TV."

Anastasi says there's no real secret to success other than treating the employees with respect and giving customers a reason to come back.

"We like to think of our customers like good friends or family," said Anastasi. "Treat them right and they'll treat you right."

As an example, Anastasi tells the story of one long-time customer:

"I've got someone from Dallas who flies in for business and he always comes here instead of staying in downtown Vancouver. He told me he loves the place because it just feels like home. I think that's what Dutch was trying to do and I'm doing my best to keep that vision alive."

*The Mountain Shadow Pub is located at 7174 Barnet Road in North Burnaby. For more information, call 604-291-9322 or go to [www.shadowpub.com](http://www.shadowpub.com).*

