

# park builder

## Charlie Velay b. 1925 d. 2003

If you wanted something done in the Provincial Parks Branch in the 50's and 60's you sent it to Charlie. As an efficient Chief Engineer and a politically astute Assistant Director, Charlie's people and project management skills were unmatched. He was prominent in the construction and development of the facilities that are still in use today, plus in the establishment of many of the largest parks in the province. As Director he was also responsible for the budget and for hand-picking individuals who would become the managing staff. His genuine interest in others shone through decades of brilliant management. By the time he retired, Charlie had visited every park in the province and had earned the respect and loyalty of hundreds.



### **Career:**

UBC - B.A.Sc. Forest Engineering  
BC Parks - Chief Engineer, Assistant Director and Director

### **Awards:**

Special Award, Federal-Provincial Parks Council

### **Parks:**

Mount Seymour Provincial Park  
Manning Provincial Park  
Silverstar Provincial Park  
Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park  
Mt. Edziza Provincial Park

**Top:** Photos courtesy of Velay Family

*Above:* Charlie was famous for his "emceeing" talents (Photo: Velay Family)

*Background Image:* Mount Seymour Provincial Park (Photo: Gail Ross)

*Elders Council for Parks*