

Gary Pooni

President, **Brook + Associates Inc.**

Age: 38



Birthplace: **New Westminster**
Where do you live now: **Vancouver**
Highest level of education: **MA in environmental design from the University of Calgary**
Car or chosen mode of transport: **BMW 325xi**
Currently reading: **Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies by Jared M. Diamond**
Last CD bought or music downloaded: **Incredibad by the Lonely Island**
Favourite movie: **Dead Poets Society**
Favourite local restaurant: **Gotham**
Person you would most like to meet (living or deceased): **Bruce Springsteen**
Profession you would most like to try: **A combination of politics, fashion design, village work in India and playing in the E Street Band - is that possible?**
Mentors: **My parents and Chuck Brook**
Most memorable career milestone or event: **Being appointed president of our firm in 2008**
Toughest business or professional decision: **leaving Brown & Associates in Calgary in 2003 to move back home to Vancouver**
What's left to do: **Everything! That's what keeps me going**

“Mostly what I enjoy is bringing in positive change to communities”

Gary Pooni is probably the only person who can say he became interested in a real estate career after land-zoning issues piqued his curiosity as a teen.

“When I was a teenager, our land became designated for multi-family use in the official community plan, and that kind of got me interested in the initial process,” said Pooni.

It’s safe to say he was more than interested.

Pooni is president of **Brook + Associates Inc.**, a well-known real estate development-consulting firm, and he’s the chair of several committees at the **Urban Development Institute**.

During his career, Pooni has helped co-ordinate more than 65 major real estate developments in 23 different municipalities.

But he wasn’t always a real estate juggernaut.

Pooni is the son of immigrant parents from India, and while growing up, his dad took a job at the **Fraser Mills** sawmill in Coquitlam to support his family and create a better life for his children.

When he was old enough, Pooni attended **Simon Fraser University** for a BA in geography

before moving to Calgary to obtain a graduate degree and pursue his real estate dreams.

“I love the creative side of it,” said Pooni of his work. “But mostly what I enjoy is bringing in positive change to communities.”

Aside from his work in B.C., Pooni spends his spare time fundraising for the **Indo-Canadian Friendship Society** to establish

sustainable infrastructure in rural parts of India.

Most recently, Pooni’s professional life and family roots came together in an ironic symbolism – the redevelopment of Fraser Mills.

“Here it is 35 years later [and I’m] working on the future of Fraser Mills when it was a part of my family’s roots when they first came from India.” ■

2009 BIV Forty under 40

CGA Certified General Accountants Association of British Columbia

EO Vancouver

CKNW NEWS TALK SPORTS **AM980**