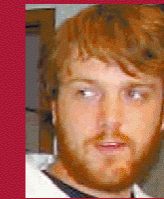
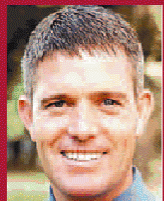


25

TO WATCH IN
2005



Some were child prodigies. Others began their meteoric rise in middle age.

There is no way of knowing who will become a shining star in the corporate firmament, a mover and shaker on the national stage, a fixer of people, a maker of great things.

There is no formula for gaining entrance into the pantheon of great people.

Often greatness begins with a spark that, given the right wind, grows into a flame burning bright. Greatness has little to do with wealth or notoriety or having a string of titles after your name. It has to do with standing taller, with changing the world, if only a just a little, and becoming a gift to others.

— Yvonne Zacharias

VANCOUVER SUN REPORTERS PROFILE THE CORPORATE LEADERS, THE POLITICAL MOVERS, THE ATHLETES, DOCTORS AND MUSICIANS TO WATCH IN THE COMING YEAR

25 to watch in 2005

Vancouver Sun

Yvonne Zacharias Monday, January 03, 2005

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Vancouver Sun reporters profile the corporate leaders, the political movers, the athletes, doctors and musicians to watch in the coming year

British Columbians to watch in 2005

BARRY MACDONALD - Educator

Barry MacDonald gave little thought to the differences between boys and girls when he began offering workshops in 1989 to help teachers and parents support student learning. He didn't believe they were relevant.

"I was the person who said gender isn't key ... everybody's different," said MacDonald, a long-time Langley educator. "But the more I read about gender differences, the more I realized there really is something there - especially for boys."

Although boys have - in general - been under-performing in school for many years, it's only recently that teachers and principals have begun asking what they might do differently to support them.

The problems are obvious: Girls outperform boys in standardized tests (although boys often have an edge in math), they display fewer behavioural problems, they win more scholarships and they're more likely to go to university.

MacDonald has become an expert on the topic and is in demand as a speaker. A registered clinical counsellor, he is the Langley district's program coordinator for students at risk and operates a private counselling service.

"A lot of boys are struggling in school, not because they aren't smart but because they learn differently," MacDonald said in an interview.

"The numbers are alarming," he added. "I get calls from school principals saying two-thirds of my boys are doing poorly and only one-third of the girls are doing poorly. What's that all about?"

There is no one answer. MacDonald urges school staff to become aware of the needs of all children according to gender and then make their plans for addressing those needs.

"Boys are misunderstood. Their reticence is mistaken for a lack of feeling [and] their active learning patterns are mistaken for ADHD. Their physical forms of bonding are mistaken for aggression. Research in science and psychology explains why - now we need to explain how. How can we reach and teach boys to become exceptional men? This is a task facing every parent and teacher."

MacDonald offers professional development workshops for teachers and holds regular summer institutes. The last session was titled *Boy Friendly Teaching*, while next year's will be [100 Ways to Raise Boys' Achievement](#).

Those 100 ways include encouraging more competition, more activity-based lessons and more focus on oral work rather than written work. His website is www.mentoringboys.com.

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Stories about the other 24 people to watch in 2005 can be found on the newspaper's website.