

## Appreciating Rod Glen

To celebrate International Credit Union Day, Coastal Community would like to take a look back at one of our early CEOs and directors who made an impact on the cooperative movement at the local, national and international levels.

In 1950, a thirty-one year old printer and journalist decided to attend Nanaimo and District Credit Union's General Meeting. Arthur Roderick Glen was such an inspiring speaker, he ended the evening being elected to the Board of Directors. He was elected President of the Board that same year and helped the organization (eventually to be renamed Coastal Community Credit Union) thrive for the next 30 years.

### A legacy of creating change

Born and raised in Ladysmith, Glen (1918-1980) was a tireless organizer and by the end of his career was:

- CEO of what was then Nanaimo Credit Union (now Coastal Community)
- a director of BC Central Credit Union,
- a director of the Canadian Cooperative Credit Society;
- a director of the World Council of Credit Unions; and
- a member of the Credit Union Reserve Board.

Glen believed deeply in co-operative principles and was described in *Excelsior*, a 1996 history of our Credit Union\*, as "one of the most effective 'politicians' in the [credit union] movement, able to sway conventions, organize coalitions, and create change."



Rod Glen in 1951.

His talents were clearly valued, as in 1979, B.C. Central Credit Union declared June 29th to be "Rod Glen Appreciation Day." We're proud of his legacy and continue to believe in the co-operative values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

*\*Excelsior! : a history of Nanaimo Credit Union, 1946-1996, Patrick A Dunae, pg 18, Oolichan Books, Lantville, BC 1996.*