

Alan Sydney Coombes

Alan Sydney Coombes, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away on June 14, 2024, after a short illness. Born in Vancouver, BC in 1943, Alan lived a life full of adventure, dedication, and love.

Alan is survived by his devoted wife, Mary, with whom he shared a remarkable 56 years of marriage since their wedding in 1968. He was the proud father of two daughters, Robin and Meg. Robin, her husband Bob Scheifele, and their two children, Alex and Teddy, as well as Meg, her husband Raman, and their two children, Rishi and Rohan. He also leaves behind their beloved dog, Polly, who was a cherished member of the family.

Alan's professional life was marked by a passion for the sea and the skies. He began his career with BC Ferries, starting as a server and working his way up to first mate. His dedication and skill led him to earn his master mariner's designation, which allowed him to captain deep-sea research vessels for the Institute of Ocean Sciences and later for the Coast Guard. His love for aviation led him to earn a commercial pilot's license, and he enjoyed flying his Taylor Craft plane. Even after retirement, Alan's commitment to work never waned, and he continued to maintain the transmission sites on Mt. Tuam for Broadcast Technical Services.

A pillar of his community, Alan was an avid volunteer. He generously gave his time and energy to numerous organizations, including Hospice, Art Spring, Speed Watch, Friends of Ruckle Park, Lions, Rotary, Masons, Shriners, and many others. His selfless service and dedication were an inspiration to all who knew him.

Alan's interests were diverse. He was a lifelong lover of dogs and a dedicated pet parent to many. His curiosity and willingness fueled many interests, especially when it came to

mechanical pursuits. Alan sailed boats, flew planes, rode motorbikes and bicycles, and even purchased a small excavator he built himself just for the joy of digging holes. He had a particular fondness for trains and spent countless hours tinkering in his workshop, building and creating around his property.

A devoted patron of the arts, Alan traveled far and wide to attend performances of classical music, theatre, ballet, and opera. His curiosity about the world led him to become an avid amateur radio operator, connecting with people across the globe. Most of all, Alan loved telling tales. He could often be found at the local café with his friends, “swapping lies” as he would fondly say.

Alan Sydney Coombes lived a life rich in experiences, love, and service. His memory will be cherished by his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, July 13th, 2024 from 2 to 4 pm at 210 Bridgeman Road, Saltspring Island, BC. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to SPCA or Pacific Opera Victoria in Alan’s honor.

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

McCall Gardens

www.mccallgardens.com