

Bernard Wendolin McCarron

November 18, 1923 – September 7, 2012

After a struggle with cancer, Bernie McCarron died at age 88 in Royal Jubilee Hospital with his beloved wife, Mary at his side. Bernie was born within an Irish-Canadian family to Charles and Phyllis McCarron in Chatham, Ontario. He served as a navigator in the RCAF near the end of the Second World War, grateful he was never called upon for a bombing mission. After attending St. Michael's College, University of Toronto, and the Ontario College of Education, he went on to a career as an English high school teacher at St. Mary's Boys School in Calgary, later becoming its principal. In 1968 he moved to Victoria and ended up teaching 15 years at Victoria High School. After retiring in 1984, he intensified his involvement in the community of James Bay, serving as an editor and writer at the James Bay Beacon, as well as being chairman of the board of the James Bay Newspaper Society. When he left the Beacon in 2000, the newspaper ran a full page tribute to him. In the tribute, writer Tim Padmore opened his profile on Bernie this way: "Poet, teacher, reluctant warrior, community historian, listener, photographer, observer, always-willing helper, gentleman, friends, humorist, wise advisor. What a lot of people for the Beacon to lose all at once!" Bernie loved his James Bay neighbourhood, and self-published several books of his poems illustrated by photos he took as walked daily down its richly interesting streets. Bernie took interest in local, regional, and national issues and often wrote activist letters to the editor to the Times Colonist. Bernie is survived by his "cherished" wife, Mary; cousins, Miles (Jean) of Vancouver and Michael (Irene) of Wallaceburg, Ontario, nephews, Kevin and David McCarron; sister-in-law, Donna McCarron of Wallaceburg and niece, Maureen of Vancouver. He also predeceased a longtime family-like circle of friends, some of whom were once his students in Calgary. They are Bryan

McGill, Penny and John Farrell, Glynnis and Lou Violini, John and Linda Driscoll, and Bill Cleary. He is predeceased by brothers, Pat and Charles and his sister, Theresa. A few days before his death, Bernie wrote his last haiku poem about a photo of a pilot boat heading back to Victoria Harbour within a gathering twilight:

Diligently, the Pilot
heads back to harbour.
Night, solemn and assured,
gathers in all.

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

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