

Colin James Barry Wood

Colin passed away peacefully at the Jubilee Hospital, within a few weeks of his being diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. He leaves his wife of 58 years and best friend, Maggie, his much-loved children Rebecca (James) and Owen (Christine) and his adored grandchildren Sarah Wood and Oliver Barrett.

Colin left his home in Pitsea, Essex in 1964 having graduated from the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. Armed with an Ontario Graduate Scholarship he headed to McMaster University, intending to study and explore Canada for a year. However, the opportunity to earn a PhD in Geography led him to a distinguished 32-year career as a Professor at the University of Victoria, along the way serving as Chair of the Geography department. He was ahead of his time in championing many causes, especially in support of female and junior faculty, that later became university policies.

Endlessly curious and a true scholar, Colin was impressive for the depth and breadth of his knowledge. His scholarship always sought the relevant and pragmatic, seeking to contribute to contemporary issues. He was unassuming, clever, articulate, and witty. With a gentle and persuasive manner, he was not afraid to challenge policies and practices with which he did not agree. He loved teaching and generously gave his time and knowledge to generations of students. After retirement he maintained his academic link with the department, and faithfully practiced his soccer skills at the never-to-be-missed Tuesday/Friday UVic kick-around!

Family was supremely important to Colin. He was our biggest cheer-leader, supporting all our endeavours, hare-brained or not. He himself was a man of endless enthusiasms, ranging from farming organically, to entering his paintings in the Sidney Fine Arts Show, to singing and playing the ukulele, hiking the local trails, involving himself in local and provincial

politics, travelling far and wide, and of course, playing soccer—his last hurrah in 2019 coming on the Victoria Masters tour of Eastern Europe. Another personal milestone was the publication of his autofiction book *Essex Man*, the story of a working-class lad growing up in post-war Britain, where education changed the trajectory of his life for the better.

Colin's experiences made him deeply empathetic to those who suffered inequities, injustices, or simple bad luck. Much loved and highly respected, he was a good man who has left the world a better place for his being in it.

Thank you to the staff at Saanich Peninsula and Royal Jubilee Hospitals for their compassionate and excellent care. Memories of Colin and condolences may be shared at www.mccallgardens.com, where a celebration of Colin's life will be announced later.

McCall Gardens