

Dr. Michael Frederick Wilson

Born in Reading, UK and died in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

Michael is survived by his sisters Wendy (Malcolm), Rosemary, and Elizabeth (Andrew), and his nieces and nephew Samantha, Louise, Charlie, Nicola, Sarah, and Claire,

He spent his childhood living through a war and the deprivations of post-war England. As a teenager he enjoyed the beauty of the Berkshire countryside, riding around on his bike listening to classical music, with his radio strapped on the back.

Michael had a successful, research career in Chemistry. He received his B.SC and Ph.D. (1971) from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. This was followed by a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Helsinki and later a Research Officer with the Finnish National Board of Waters. In 1975 he was employed as a Research Fellow at Université de Montréal.

In 1981 he began a career he loved at the Canadian Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology (CANMET). He was already an environmentalist and one of the leading catalyst researchers in Canada. He became an expert in fuel quality and the related environmental emissions, seeking to design better catalysts. Michael published many papers during his career including groundbreaking work in the Journal of Catalysis (1985). He served as President of the Canadian Catalyst Society and ended his career as an NRCan Emeritus Scientist in Victoria B.C.

Gifted with the capacity to learn languages, he became fluent in Finish. His ability to reproduce the accent was so good that Helsinki Fin's thought he was from the North. In Montréal his high school French transformed into functional bilingualism, while working in the laboratory and sitting in Café Campus.

His musical ear was even better, he could identify pieces of classical music especially any piece by Brahms. With his beautiful singing voice, he regaled us with folk songs from the UK but especially from Scotland.

When he came to Ottawa in 1974, he discovered the cross-country ski-trails in the Gatineau Park. He had learnt to ski in Finland, but he thought the trails in the Gats were the best. He loved his view of Mt Baker from his apartment in Sydney, B.C. and never ceased to admire the Olympic Mountains when driving down to Victoria. He thought we had so much more to learn about the universe and wanted humans to look up.

Condolence may be offered to the family below.

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