

# Earl Edward Curry

April 26<sup>th</sup>, 1928 – March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Earl passed away peacefully at his home in Victoria, with Yvonne, Karen and Kelly surrounding him. He is survived and will always be hugely missed by his wife, Yvonne, and his children and grandchildren. He was predeceased by MaryJane, his first wife and mother of his children, in 1995. Earl leaves his son and 2 daughters and was hugely proud of them and of their achievements. Karen (Gavin), Jeffrey, Phd Music (Nancy), and Kelly (Drew). He also leaves grandsons, Matt, Daniel, David and Brent, and granddaughters Kimberley and Jennifer. Also surviving him are his brother Jack, sisters Phyllis and Loreleigh (his sister Doris predeceased him). Earl was born in O'Donnell, Sudbury District, Ontario, and grew up in Tweed and Toronto. In 1951 an opportunity arose which would have a profound effect on his life. He obtained a job with a prominent consulting mining engineer, Norm Byrne, in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. Norm became a mentor to him and the 5 years he worked for him was a continuing process in learning the world of mining exploration and development. Aside from a 5 year return to Toronto working in the investment business, the rest of Earl's working years were in Yellowknife, Edmonton and Calgary, until his retirement to Christina Lake, BC in 1982. He built his dream home in this spectacular setting and he and his family enjoyed 14 years there, much of that time spent pursuing his passion – golf! Although retired, many opportunities arose to participate in various start-up ventures, with travels to Greenland, Iceland, etc., and the highlight of this period was his participation in the group that resulted in the discovery of the Diavik mine in the NWT. Earl and brother Jack's (a geological engineer) original public company was Precambrian Shield Resources (the name was subsequently changed to Mark Resources and it is now part of Enerplus Corp). In 1979 it was the first public

company to issue flow-through shares, which is still a favoured method for financing junior resource companies. Earl was very proud of this. Earl frequently stated it was better to be lucky than smart and he considered himself living proof of this. He was lucky to have had two great women in his life and lucky to have had outstanding business relationships and partners in his ventures in mining, oil and gas, and commercial real estate (they changed the skyline of Yellowknife with their highrise buildings). His non-business activities included being President of the Northwest Territories Liberal Party in the early 1960s (a riding that then covered one-third of the land mass of Canada), Member of the Yellowknife Public School Board, and in Edmonton he spent 5 years as director and vice-chairman of the Glenrose Provincial General Hospital. He was a member of many golf clubs in Canada and the U.S.A. – his favorite the Mountain Course at the LaQuinta Resort and Club in California. His last club membership was the Royal Colwood course in Victoria. He complained that he never achieved the level of proficiency in golf that he aspired to but he loved the camaraderie and was competitive to the end. Earl and MaryJane's move to Victoria in 1995 gave them the opportunity to share time with many lifelong northern friends prior to MaryJane's death. Earl and Yvonne shared almost 18 wonderful years in Victoria enjoying all that the City and Island offers, and travelled often and widely (usually with golf as the theme)! He always said "she's the rock that keeps me alive". In the past 5 years he took great joy in spending time at his "cottage" on Gabriola (lucky again – that Karen and Gavin moved to Gabriola to provide him with his fabulous "cottage") stacking wood, having a martini or two, and warming by the fire. Earl maintained his life long interest in music of all types, but particularly jazz, and spent many hours in the late stages of his life with his headphones on enjoying the old performers such as Coleman Hawkins, Lester Young, Miles Davis, Billie Holiday, and his all time favorite big band Count Basie. To Earl's old buddies he wished to say

“farewell” and hoped that they would have one martini (at least) ‘for the road’! As he often said “it’s been a helluva ride”.

Earl specifically requested that there be no funeral or memorial functions. He would like a celebration to be a family affair to take place on Gabriola in the summer when our far-flung family can gather. Yvonne and the entire Curry family would like to specially thank Dr. David Attwell and Sheila Harwood, as well as Dr. Peter Pommerville, for their incredibly compassionate care and for their friendship over the years. We would also like to thank Victoria Hospice Home Care and the Palliative Care Team. In lieu of flowers, if you would like to pay tribute to your friend Earl, among the charities he liked to support were Our Place Society, Victoria, BC, Victoria Hospitals Foundation, Victoria Hospice in Home Palliative Care, Canadian Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation, Edmonton, or of course any charity of your choice. As you might all imagine.....Earl had a large hand in the writing of this obituary, and we promised that it would be printed as he wrote it! We can only hope that he would not mind that we have added a number of thoughts that we knew were extremely important to him! Condolences may be offered to the family below.

“Farewell my Earl. Travel safe.”

McCall Bros. Funeral Home

[www.mccallbros.com](http://www.mccallbros.com).