

Gary Hoskins

October 10, 1946- July 15, 2012

It is with heavy hearts that the family of Gary Hoskins announces his passing. In his usual spirit and resilience he fought a tough battle with cancer and unfortunately lost on Sunday, July 15th. Throughout what was such a difficult journey his uncanny sense of humor prevailed and despite his many health challenges he always thought more about others than himself. Gary will be especially missed by his wife of 41 years, Marie, devoted sons Trevor and Chad, cherished daughter-in-laws Becs and Riza and the new lights of his life, grandsons Ben and Zach. Gary also had a very special relationship with his mother and father-in-law Thelma and Art Emard. He also leaves behind brother and sister-in-laws Ivan and Louise Eljarbo, Brian Ciccozzi and nieces and nephews, David, Colleen and Sara.

Gary held several different positions with the BC government. Beginning as a probation officer he then stepped into policy analysis where he worked on establishing justice councils throughout the province. Later he worked in Special Projects working tirelessly on various social issues regarding families. His most recent position was as the Executive Director of the BC Gaming Commission where his main focus was to work on behalf of several charitable organizations.

His other passion was the world of sports. He played for the UBC and Oak Bay Wanderers' Rugby teams. When he was forced to hang up his rugby boots because of a serious injury, he turned his attention to coaching youth. As a soccer coach, he touched many children's lives and continued to have contact with many of the kids as they grew up. Over the years Gary played soccer, tennis, and squash and made many friends through these sports.

Later, he turned his attention to golf. He cherished his foursome of David Edgar, Glenn Rozon, Gerry Lamb, and sometimes Bill Hazell. Along with golf, he devoted himself to gardening and being a house husband so that Marie could build her career at the University of Victoria. Despite his illness he continued to pursue his love of travel. He and Marie had just returned from a wonderful trip to France just before he passed away. He lived life fully, never complained and enjoyed every day.

The family would like to thank Dr. Alan Buckley whom they give full credit to for saving Gary's life 20 years ago and also thank Dr. Stephen Starr for being a wonderful family doctor during the last 8 years. Dr. Starr made it possible for Gary to live the life he wanted most. We are so very grateful.

In lieu of flowers, the family will be accepting donations to the Gary Hoskins Award in Athletics at the University of Victoria, Development Office, PO Box 2060, STN CSC, Victoria BC, V8W 3R4. A celebration of Gary's life will take place on Tuesday, July 24th at the University Club at the University of Victoria from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Condolences may be offered to the family below.

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