John Michael Gilliland

Gilliland, John Michael died at home in Victoria on Wednesday, May 5th, 2010. Born on April 13th, 1939 in Victoria he is predeceased by his first wife Margaret and survived by his second wife Corinna. He leaves behind sons Peter and Mark, stepchildren Michael and Kika, his sister Jane Patterson and her family, as well as a huge group of relatives and friends who will miss him a great deal.

Archivist, scholar, lecturer, actor, magician and clown -all were facets of John. His schooling started at Norfolk House Kindergarten through Margaret Jenkins Elementary then on to Vic High where he made his mark as an actor and long-distance runner. He distinguished himself academically by graduating with the highest Grade Point average in the province's history to that time. He went on to study at Vic College, UBC, Cambridge University (where he spent most of his time with the student Magic Circle), and Memorial University in Newfoundland where he received his PhD. He returned to the west coast and eventually to Victoria in the mid 1970's where he became deeply involved with the Victoria Magic Circle and Langham Court Theatre. Later on he became an invaluable member of the Friends of the Library (where his ability to shift boxes of books almost as big as himself was greatly appreciated). Everyone benefited from John's amazing memory, his attention to detail, his incorrigible sense of humour and his insatiable curiosity about anything and everything.

A celebration of John's life will be held at Langham Court Theatre (his "home" away from home) on Saturday, May 15th starting at 2:00 P.M. In lieu of flowers donations to either the Canadian Diabetes Association or to the Victoria Theatre Guild would be appreciated.