

D. Neil Vickers

Neil passed away peacefully at Victoria Hospice at the age of 79 after a struggle with lymphoma. Survived by loving family: wife of 47 years, Jo-Anne; daughter Christa (Grady); son Graham (Carrie); and grandchildren Wyatt, June and Gus. Also, in Yorkshire, England: brother Ian and family, and sister Joan and family. Missed by mother-in-law Fran Trembley. Predeceased by parents Hedley and Nellie Vickers and brother Alan, also in England.

Born in Yorkshire, England, Neil ventured to Canada on his own at 17 on the condition that he wrote home once a week. This he did, documenting his many adventures such as his work with the Hudson's Bay fur trade in remote Northern Alberta, canning fruit in the Okanagan, and summers spent on the road installing traffic counters throughout BC. After graduating from UBC, Neil settled in Victoria where he met Jo-Anne and started his family. He worked for the Ministry of Highways for 35 years and was an active member of the Fairfield community where he lived. There he built the local Halloween bonfire for 25 years and co-founded a visionary community plastics recycling project. After retiring, he pursued interests such as metal detecting and raising funds for his favourite charity the BC and Alberta Guide Dogs via his far-reaching recycling endeavours. He also volunteered for the Times Colonist Book Drive for many years. Living in the same home for 45 years, he was a beloved character in the neighbourhood with a treat for every passing dog, a lap for any interested cat, and an impressive basement collection of miscellaneous odds and sods that neighbours in need could always rely on. It could be said that Neil's life mission was to elicit a smile from those he met, and he leaves us with these words:

"I know my day has been worthwhile

If I have caused someone to smile.

And better still (at least by half)

Is if I made that person laugh!"

D.N.V.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Donations can be made in remembrance of Neil to the BC and Alberta Guide Dogs, 7061 Ladner Trunk Road, Delta, BC V4K 3N3.

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

McCall Gardens

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