

# William (Bill) John Snowdon

William (Bill) John Snowdon, born May 3, 1931, in Saskatoon, SK, died October 29, 2024, in Victoria, BC.

Born to Jack and Effie Snowdon, Bill companioned his “little sister” Joan Bell (predeceased) as they moved to Regina, Calgary and Vancouver. At Lord Byng High School he met and escorted his future wife Evelyn Timms to the Graduation Dance.

Bill and Evelyn married in 1955. Bill joined the Vancouver Police Department in 1956, and Evie was teaching school in Vancouver. They lived in Richmond and in North Vancouver next to their great friends the Inkster’s. In 1970, to the joy of his parents, Liam was born.

Bill served in many branches of the Vancouver Police Department: patrol, detective and administration of the first 911 call centre in Canada. In 1974, he was promoted to Inspector and in 1978 he was seconded by the Federal Government to serve as the National Consultant on Preventive Policing. In 1980, Bill was selected to serve as the Chief of the Victoria Police Department and did so until his retirement in 1991. Bill had deep respect for Gretchen Brewin, Terry Toone, Doug Richardson and Janet Baird, who he worked with at this time.

For 34 years Bill volunteered in the Boys and Girls Clubs Movement, locally, provincially and nationally. He was national president from 2000-2003. He deeply admired his buddies Ralph Hembruff and Keith Pattinson.

After retirement he was a member of the BC Gaming Commission and the National Parole Board. Bill and Evie travelled the world after they retired by planes, trains and boats. They took along and met many great friends on their travels.

Evelyn passed away in November of 2012, and Bill moved down to

the Dallas Road waterfront. He made many friends at Beckley Manor and Somerset House. During this time, Bill and Liam deepened their friendship and companionship, now living only a 17-minute walk from each other.

Along with Evelyn and Liam, Bill's greatest loves were flying airplanes, boating in The Salish Sea, fishing off their cabin on Keats Island and playing poker. Travel and tomfoolery with the Mathis', the Hollingsheads, the Engstads, the Jackmans and the Falls was also a priority.

In 1960, while exploring Vancouver Island, they made a right turn into Yellow Point Lodge and have joyfully continued to do so for the last 64 years. Bill "The Chief" will be missed by the costumed Second Week of July Gang. The intergenerational and cross border relationships formed at YPL have been and continue to be deeply precious to the Snowdons. A big part of their chosen family. Our lives have been more magical and joyful because of the vision and hard work of Gerry, Richard and Sandy Hill and all the fantastic staff at YPL.

Bill will be missed by his son Liam, his "Bill's Gang" poker friends, his best-friend Keith Lewis, and his love group (Ruby, Eli, Moss, Dean and Medwyn). He was father to many. He will be remembered for his storytelling, genuine care and curiosity about people's lives, and the sparkle in his eyes.

A memorial service will be held in the Sequoia Centre at McCall Gardens, 4665 Falaise Drive, Victoria, BC on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 2:00pm. For those unable to attend in person, please contact [hanna.beamer@mccallgardens.com](mailto:hanna.beamer@mccallgardens.com) to receive the livestream link.

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

McCall Gardens

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