

Remembering Brian 2/2/1943 – 18/7/2017



It is with heavy hearts that we inform you of Brian's death.

Brian was born in Harpenden, England, near London. As a young boy, his academic parents immigrated, first

settling in Winnipeg and later in Vancouver. With academe in his blood, Brian pursued a rigorous education. Upon completing his undergraduate degree in Economics at UBC, studies took him to Oxford, as the 1963 BC Rhodes Scholar, where he continued studying economics, culminating with his D.Phil.

The Rhodes Scholar program required candidates to identify an athletic endeavor. For Brian, that endeavour was clear: it was exploring the mountains. He wandered the Swiss Alps with his parents and brothers and the Pacific Coast with the UBC Varsity Outdoor Club. His love for hiking provided him with experiences and lifelong memories. He also enjoyed skiing, but described his skiing ability as "poor but enthusiastic."

For Brian, the most beautiful spot in Canada was Lake O'Hara, in Yoho National Park. He unflaggingly shared his love of mountain experiences and unrivalled knowledge of the geography of the Canadian Rockies and Swiss Alps with family and friends. He climbed to Abbott Pass and to the summit of Mt. Assiniboine, amongst others in BC and Alberta. Brian enjoyed leading local hiking groups on the trails throughout the region. This lifelong passion continued until mere months ago.

Brian also loved to windsurf, exploring nature in a different way. While in Alberta, he was always the first (perhaps crazy) person out on Pigeon Lake mere moments after the ice had receded away from the shore and provided just enough space to tack back and forth. And, in BC's tidal zones, the absence of wind was no impediment to windsurfing; if the tide was up, then so was his sail - even though he was standing still.

Brian's passion for exploring extended outside Canada's borders. He travelled extensively; he had amazing experiences on six continents, preferring mountainous zones.

Everything Brian did, he did with zeal and commitment. His academic career spanned four universities, and included teaching, academic research, and administrative branches.

Brian's academic writings can be found in learned journals, monographs, and textbooks. His early focus on macroeconomics

shifted to resource economics in Alberta and BC.

At the age of 33, Brian assumed the role of Chair of the Department of Economics at the University of Manitoba. Intervals as Chair of the Department of Economics and as Associate Vice-President Research at the University of Alberta followed. His last administrative appointment was as Vice-President Academic at the University of Regina.

Brian jested that having lived in the three prairie capitals, he had seen enough harsh winters for a lifetime. His retirement brought a relocation to Victoria, where he applied his economic knowledge to BC issues such as the longstanding stumpage-royalty debate and the softwood lumber dispute.

Brian's teaching career spanned 45 years. In "retirement" he continued to teach at the University of Victoria. He was a popular and valued teacher. Students often sought his counsel and support. He wrote his last reference letter in May of this year.

Brian believed that his economic analyses and input were valued; they assisted in policy debate while serving the public interest. In more recent years, he volunteered thousands of hours of professional expertise to the James Bay Neighbourhood and communities beyond.

We would be remiss if we did not include a word about Brian's sharp wit. Family members and friends were often on the receiving end of his punny sense of humour.

But, above all, Brian cherished his wife, Marg. Together, as soul mates, they built their lives with love and deep respect.

Brian was proud of his four children. He would introduce them by stating that he had planned his life well: He had an oncologist son to tend to him when ill, a bio-mechanical engineer daughter to provide advice on prosthetics as his joints deteriorated, a lawyer son to tend to his affairs, and a philosopher son who could plead his case at the Pearly Gates. And in his final months, he found great joy in being a grandfather. It was a role he was meant for, and that he treasured.

Despite his passing, Brian's family will forever carry his exploring spirit and memory in their hearts.

We will miss him deeply,



Marg; Tim, Reka, and Casper; Kate and Loïc; Adam and Larissa; and Andrew and Colin