

## Alex Zellermeier September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1949 – June 26<sup>th</sup> 2011

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011 our Vic High '68 classmate Alex Zellermeier passed away suddenly at Vancouver General Hospital at the age of 61. Alex was diagnosed with amyloidosis, a rare blood disorder.

Alex was born in Hungary and immigrated with his family to Canada in 1957. After graduating from Vic High, Alex relocated to Alberta where he majored in biology at the University of Calgary. Alex's love of nature led him to a lifelong career as a parks planner with Parks Canada. His passion for Canada's parks is reflected in his work as a planner, first for the Central Canada Region and then later the Pacific Rim, the ultimate post for a man with a west coast soul.



Alex Zellermeier

His illustrious career was distinguished by two intriguing and rewarding assignments: in 1988 he was sent to Pakistan, to assist with establishing and administering of their national parks, in 1992 he was assigned the critical role as the Federal Government's liaison for the upcoming 1994 Commonwealth Games to be held in Victoria. Coming off the success of the Games, he was appointed Superintendent of Pacific Rim National Park. He retired from that position in 2006 and turned his energies towards building a waterfront home in Ladysmith with his lifelong partner Debbie.

Alex was a well loved member of his graduating class. He was noted for being optimistic, athletic and simply fun. He was no mental slouch either – he and his brother Victor weekly competed to see who could complete the Sunday NY Times crossword puzzle first. And one was forewarned not to debate him on any issue unless they were well informed. And then of course he was mad about cars. His beloved restoration work was a gorgeous, red 1966 Corvette Sting Ray.

Alex was predeceased by his father Anthony Zellermeier. Survived by his wife Debbie; mother Rose; brother Victor (Valerie); sister Suzanne (Steven); nephews Tony (Lisa), Richard (Allison), Anthony (Brooke); nieces Suzanne (Jim) and Ashleigh; mother-in-law Grace; Ron (Karen) Keynan, Kelsey, Graham, and Amelia.

As his classmates, we had the privilege of enjoying our 60<sup>th</sup> birthdays together in June of 2010. We remember our friend singing and dancing with a big, big smile on his face. We will miss you friend.

