



**EPPLER, Richard William**  
**July 1952 – February 2011**

Husband, brother, uncle, friend, collector, photographer, painter, rock-hound, Switzerland aficionado, mountain-climber (member of the Alpine Club of Canada), cancer sufferer. Reached his last summit, solo, at suppertime on Feb. 22 and is now perambulating the Corridors of Repose in his Boots of Ascension. Born in Kamloops, Rick caught the climbing bug early; scaling the hills above his community as a wee boy. He moved with his family to Victoria and finished his high school years here. Then spent the next 37 years working for the Ministry of Lands and Parks. He never did things by halves. He was always aiming to take things up a notch, and move you beyond your comfort zone. On a hike with him, sooner or later, you'd find yourself dangling on the end of a rope with a lot of air beneath your feet, or bush-whacking your way cross-country on some "short-cut" that was really an exploratory route he'd always wanted to try. At any rate, it was always sure to be an adventure. And you'd do it again in a heartbeat! His last climb was long and arduous, 5 years in the making, but there were many on his team to help him reach his goal. Special thanks to his many doctors, the community and hospice nurses, and his live-in caregivers who tended him with such loving care. In his memory, go and get that medical test you've been avoiding. He would tell you – catch things early and the life you save may be your own!