

# Ernest E. McCoy – Vic High Class of 1942



Dr. Ernest E. McCoy, 91, of Victoria, BC, passed away September 28, 2014. He was a devoted husband, father, physician, scientist, and outdoorsman. He was born September 3, 1923, in Victoria, son of the late Arthur and Harriet McCoy. Ernie is survived by his wife of 64 years, Anne, and their children: Neil, Carey, and Maureen. His daughter Shelagh died in 1998. Ernie had five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Ernie McCoy graduated with a BSc degree (1947) and a Doctor of Medicine degree (1949) from the University of Alberta. He specialized in Pediatric Medicine and was a renowned pediatric researcher in the metabolic changes associated with Down syndrome and other forms of developmental delay. This research earned him the prestigious Markle Scholarship award. Ernie taught at [Vanderbilt University](#), University of Missouri, and University of Virginia. He returned to the University of Alberta in 1971 as Chairman of the Pediatric Department and led the department until 1985. Under his tenure, the Department established a national reputation for excellence in research. Ernie was a respected physician and academic. Over the years, he helped patients and their families, mentored young physicians, and partnered in research with other scientists. Ernie was instrumental in the operation of the Alberta Heritage Fund for Medical Research from its inception in 1976 until 1995. In 1990, he created the Children of Chernobyl Project, which he led for three years as medical director. In 1996, Ernie McCoy was awarded the University of Alberta's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Ernie was an avid outdoors man and canoeist, having paddled such famous rivers as the Yellowstone River, the Snake River in Teton National Park, the Upper North Saskatchewan River and the Coppermine River. Long weekend camping and hiking trips to the Canadian Rockies were regular events. A favorite of multiple hiking trips was the spectacular Lake O'Hara trail, in Yoho National Park. Ernie and Anne McCoy enjoyed hiking and the outdoors into their late 80's, taking frequent trips to the Olympic Mountains in Washington State.

Ernie's other outdoor passion was salmon fishing around Vancouver Island. Shortly after he returned to Victoria, Ernie bought a commercial salmon fishing license and boat. He had many successful fishing trips and generously shared the catch with friends and family. His favorite sport fishing outings were with family and friends, catching spring salmon near Sooke, BC.

Long before guys cooking on TV became popular, Ernie was in the kitchen creating masterpiece dishes like marinated lamb chops with the secret marinade, pork chops with the secret BBQ sauce, the fresh Coho salmon poached in his very special lemon, butter and spice flavors, plus the ever-present three vegetables to keep the meal healthy.

Whatever task, project or challenge Ernie tackled, it was with great enthusiasm, dedication, 110% effort, focus and care. Ernie made a positive difference in the many lives he touched and mentored. He is missed.

Instead of flowers, the family requests any donations be made to the MS Society of Canada or a charity of your choice.

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