



Hobbis, Bill

1942-2022

With profound sadness, we announce the passing of Bill Hobbis on July 15, 2022 after a long and hard-fought battle with cancer. Survived by his devoted wife, Elaine, loving daughters Kari (Ryan) and Erin (Steve), granddaughters Zoe and Brooklyn, sister Beverly (Rod), brother and best fishing buddy, Barry (Fran), and brother Robert. Predeceased by their parents Ron and Rose, and younger brother Bernard.

Bill was born and raised in Victoria and had a great love of sports - particularly basketball, baseball and golf. As a young boy in National Little League, he was the first batter (and first strike-out) at the first game played in 1953 at what was then the Victoria Jaycee Little League Park, now the Jerry Hale Field on Hillside Avenue. Softball became one of his favorite sports and he played for the accomplished Morrison Motors nine. He attended Victoria College (now the University of Victoria) as a member of the class of 1961 and played basketball for the Vikings after winning the B.C. high school championship in 1959 with the Vic High Totems. He was a vertically challenged guard who became a courtside star with his ball handling skills and high spirits. He eventually took a summer job with Manulife, which turned into a successful career of 35 years with the company. He was sent to Windsor, Ontario in 1965, then London, Ontario where he met and married Gabriella in 1966. That was followed by assignments in Toronto, Prince George, where their daughters were born, and Calgary. He eventually made it back to Vancouver and finally to Victoria where he met Elaine.

Bill's passion was golf and he had a stunning amateur career. He has a place of pride on the Wall of Honour at Royal Colwood Golf Club and was made a lifetime member in June of 2020. He won more than 60 invitational, open or amateur championships over his career and was two-time Colwood club champion as well as club champion 21 times at nine other courses. Other career highlights included winning the Saskatchewan amateur championship in 1978 and New Zealand Senior Championship in 1999. He played for the Willingdon Cup team three times, twice representing B.C. and once representing Alberta. He was on the Board of the British Columbia Golf Association and was a Governor with the Royal Canadian Golf Association. He was also on the Board of Directors of six different golf clubs and served as a rules official at innumerable tournaments at all levels of the game. In 2019 Bill was inducted into the British Columbia Golf Hall of Fame.

After his retirement, he and Elaine continued to golf as often as possible, and spend time with family and their wide circle of friends. On occasion they would host a fun little tournament in the back yard putting green of their home on Bear Mountain, where the rules of the "Royal Victoria Putting Club" were vague and hardly ever enforced. Bill also loved to fish, and he and Barry spent countless hours on the MV "Fish & Chips" trying to outdo each other. Every catch was reported to be much bigger than it actually was. Bill had a wacky sense of humour and loved to tell terrible jokes - at which he laughed louder than anyone else. He was also known for amazing (to him) parlour tricks and prowess with a yo-

yo, and was always happy to perform on demand.

Bill will be remembered as a humble and generous person. He entered into people's lives as a mentor, a leader, a friend. He was steady and accepting, and offered a place for others to find wisdom and comfort. We will miss him beyond words.

Published by The Times Colonist from Jul. 23 to Jul. 25, 2022.