



STEELE, Ronald W. (1958)

September 17, 1940 - October 14, 2022

A life well lived. It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Ron at the age of 82. He was battling Parkinson's and Lymphoma and passed peacefully at home with his son and daughter by his side. He will be deeply missed by his close family, including grandsons Andrew and Benjamin, daughter Lori (Nickerson) and son Michael, sister Lois (Thompson) and brother-in-law David, brother Alan, sister Norma, brother Murray and sister-in-law Corinne, dear friend Gudrun as well as a community of extended family, friends and neighbors.

Ron was born in Naicam, Saskatchewan, and only a year later his family moved to the West Coast – first Victoria, then Prince Rupert, Port Alberni, then Parksville where Ron and siblings enjoyed many happy years by the ocean. They took trips back to Saskatchewan to visit grandparents on the farm, and in 1954, the family moved back to Victoria.

Ron attended the carpentry program at Victoria High School and learned mechanics by fixing up vintage cars. He enjoyed being a YMCA camp leader and taking family trips to Mudge Island where he helped his parents build a small cabin on the 'sunny side'.

After he graduated, Ron and brother-in-law David raced canoes along the Gorge waterway with the Victoria Canoe Club and won three years in a row. He helped build the Green Mountain ski lodge (now a Marmot reserve) and skied the Alps during a six month trip to Europe.

Ron worked on the tugboats for a few years, hauling booms up and down Vancouver Island before he started working as a firefighter with the Victoria Fire Department in 1962, retiring as Assistant Chief 35 years later. After retirement, he stayed connected to the force, as a volunteer with their Historical Society, fixing up vintage fire trucks and steamers and driving them in parades.

Ron married Joan (Dickinson) in 1970, and they designed and built their home together before bringing newborn son Michael home from the hospital. Daughter Lori arrived two years later and the busy parents built an off-grid cabin on Ruxton Island with help from friends and family. Ron volunteered as a Cub and Scout leader and also worked as a tile setter on his days off to bring in extra money for his family. Ron was an amazing father and grandfather, passing on his love of nature, strong work ethic, practicality and most importantly, his wit. He stayed fit by taking long (fast!) daily walks and pulling out invasive scotch broom plants along the way. He had an eventful life full of many 'Snowbird' ski trips, river trips, cruises, camper trips, sailing,

crabbing and fishing with friends, but his favorite destination was always Ruxton Island. He spent many sun-filled days at his cabin with family and neighbors, hosting happy hour swim parties at the beach. We will remember Ron sitting happily on the deck of his cabin, gazing out to sea, watching the boats go by.

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