



**BURGESS, Thomas Edward (1960)**

**February 20, 1942 - February 6, 2016**

Saturday, February 6th, Tom left our circle of love, setting out on a new journey. Moments after Tom peacefully departed, we noticed a flock of mallards milling beneath the Hospice window. Lined up, they paraded past, causing one relative to comment, "That's Uncle Tom for you - all his ducks in a row." Tom, retired Wildlife Biologist, treasured the earth and all life. His Master of Science Thesis (1971) was a study of waterfowl on the Fraser River Estuary.

Tom leaves Judy, best friend and loving wife of 51 years; children, Robert (Brenda), Kathryn, Philip (Lori), plus 9 grandchildren. Also survived by brother,

Don (Barbara), sister, Mary (Ron), sister-in-law, Dorothy, nieces and nephews. Special in Tom's life is Judy's mum, Muriel Rennie, who has known Tom since he was 14.

Tom, youngest child of Christina and A.C. (Tommy) Burgess, was born and raised in Victoria. He attended Central Jr. High and Victoria High. He and Judy met in the school band. Tom was a cross-country runner at Vic High, winning the Admiral Nelles Trophy at Royal Roads and placing 2nd at a provincial meet. Tom, in UVIC's first graduating class, received his BSc. He earned his MSc at UBC and began his career in Peace River, Alberta, first Regional Wildlife Biologist in northern Alberta; 25 years young, responsible for a quarter of the province's wildlife.

The family eventually returned to BC where Tom was the Lower Mainland's Regional Wildlife Biologist. Tom and Judy enjoyed twenty retirement years: hiking, paddling, cycling, swimming, exploring BC. Tom ran as a STARR (Sooke Trail and Road Runners), completing 44 races in the Vancouver Island Running Association series. Tom worked on the Help Melp campaign (Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks), Greenspaces (Western Communities), Food Bank (Sooke, Langford) and supported the Liberal Party of Canada and the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Published by Victoria Times Colonist from Feb. 16 to Feb. 18, 2016.