

EUOLOGY

A remembrance to commemorate the life of Irving Roy Wood....

Born September 10, 1937 – Died June 8, 2017.

Irving Roy Wood was born on September 10, 1937 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island to Roy Earl and Dorothy Elizabeth .Wood (nee Munn). Roy Wood – Irv's father – was born at Red House and his mother Dorothy (Dolly) was born at Wood Islands, both in Prince Edward Island. Both parents left Prince Edward Island to work in the United States. Roy worked on the assembly line in Detroit for Henry Ford's Model A. Dolly worked as a nanny in Boston, Massachusetts. After meeting in Boston, and a brief courtship, Roy and Dolly married in Boston in 1929, where their first child – Irv's oldest brother Stewart Earl – was born. At the time of the Depression they returned to Prince Edward Island where Roy worked as a carpenter briefly for his father-in-law at the grist mill, turned into a saw mill, run by a water wheel. They moved to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island where Irv's father got a job at the experimental farm as a carpenter; they built a house on Palmer Lane where Irv's middle brother, Edgar (Ted) was born in 1933 and Irv born in 1937.

After serving as a Chief Petty Officer in the Canadian Navy during World War II, Roy and Dolly were offered accommodation by an uncle of Irv's in Vancouver, BC. Roy worked as a carpenter then became Estate Supervisor for Grosvenor Lang (which later became Grosvenor International) on Annacis Island Industrial Estate.

Irving left school early and worked as a carpenter apprentice with his brothers Stewart and Ted – who were now married and living in Prince George, BC. He returned to Vancouver, worked at Maritime Woodworking then High Grade Woodworking where he made wooden sash for windows, and for four years at Capital Wire Cloth making wire cloth for pulp and paper mills. He started after this with Grosvenor International doing maintenance, took a heating engineer course and worked as a heating and maintenance engineer, running bunker fuel boilers which later changed to gas-fired boilers and at the same time Irv was a part-time Fire Prevention Officer – working with Lloyd Wisheart, the retired Fire Chief of New Westminster, making inspections at all the factories and warehouses on Annacis Island. When the Alex Fraser Bridge connecting Delta to New Westminster was built, Irv was laid off after being approximately 33 years with Grosvenor International.

His children – Daniel, Mark and Wendy – were born to Irv and his first wife, Myrna, while living in Burnaby then North Delta. After a marriage breakup he met Fiona in 1978 – at a Halloween party she had taken her children to –and they married in October 1980 when Irv took on the responsibility of helping Fiona raise her children Catherine (10 years old) and Georg(6 years old). It was a super busy household with Irv and Fiona working full-time and having four children – two of them now teenagers – at home. Irv's oldest was by then already out on his own.

After his layoff from Grosvenor International Irv worked for approximately one year for Enersave doing fire inspections and maintenance. On a trip to the Okanagan to visit friends Irv and Fiona stopped to view a small motel which was for sale in Keremeos. They purchased the motel and moved to Keremeos in 1987 where their youngest child – George – attended Similkameen Elementary-Secondary from grades 8 – 12. While Irv and Fiona ran and renovated the motel, Irv also worked part-time as a custodian and maintenance worker for School District No. 14 (now School District No. 53). In 1991 after selling the motel Irv and Fiona moved into the house they built themselves in Oliver. Getting a little bored after finishing the house, Irv obtained his Class 2 with Air licence and worked for School District No. 53 as a bus driver until finally retiring on his 65th birthday.

The following January he had a fairly severe stroke – paralyzed all down his left side – from which he recovered well and continued to complete the rebuilding of their 1956 Corvette which was a complete “basket case” when he and Fiona purchased it. The Corvette was a large part of therapy. He would drop a bolt, pick it up and try again. He told me he dropped 2000 nuts and bolts!

Irv was predeceased by his parents – Roy and Dolly – his brothers Ted and Stewart and also his sister-in-law Doreen. He leaves behind his wife of 36 ½ years – Fiona; sons Daniel, Mark (Diane), George (Sheryl); daughters Wendy (John) and Catherine (Brad); also grandchildren Alicia (Jared), Nicole (Adam), Ashley, Robin and MacKenzie.

Irv enjoyed his many friends, being a member and Past President of Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 97; Oliver Elks Lodge where he served two terms as Exalted Ruler, Oliver Kiwanis Club and a twenty-seven year member of the Vintage Car Club of Canada (South Okanagan Chapter).

On June 8, 2017 Irv passed away peacefully at home with his wife Fiona, children and some grandchildren at his side after a brief battle with esophagus cancer.