

## Ms Claudette Reed Upton-Keeley 1948–2008

**C**laudette Reed Upton-Keeley, former *BCMJ* managing editor, died unexpectedly on 11 October in Georgetown Hospital, Grand Cayman Island. For the past 10 years she and her husband Martin Keeley had made their home on the neighboring island of Cayman Brac.

Ms Upton-Keeley was born Claudette Diana Reed in Asheville, North Carolina, the first child of Haldee and Helen Reed. She was an outstanding student, a champion debater, National Merit Scholar, and president of Enka High School's National Forensic League. In 1965 she enrolled at Duke University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in English literature in 1969.

Seeking adventure, Claudette moved in 1969 to Anchorage, Alaska, where she quickly became a leader in issues of women's rights and reproductive rights. Later she worked with the Arctic Institute of North America, and spent several summers at the AINA research station in the heart of Kluane National Park in Yukon Territory. While the institute's scientists studied the impact of arctic conditions on flora and fauna, Claudette administered the office during the winter months and cooked for the camp residents during the summer.

It was at Kluane that she met her first husband, Philip Upton, a senior pilot with the institute, considered "the finest mountain and glacier pilot in North America"; when Phil died in 1984, a Yukon peak was named Mount Upton in his honor.

After AINA headquarters moved to Calgary, Alberta, Claudette met Martin Keeley, whom she married in 1987, and they settled in Point Roberts, Washington, where she established

her career as a freelance writer and editor. In 1993 she became managing editor of the *BC Medical Journal*, and remained in that position for 7 years. Her successor, Jay Draper, remembers Claudette as "a much-loved mentor to many, many editors. She was outgoing, friendly, and warm, but this easygoing personality coexisted with both keen intellect and superb judgment, making her one of the top editors in Canada. Her personality, her warmth, and her contribution to editing in Canada were all enormous—as is our sense of loss." She was a founding member of West Coast Editorial Associates, and was named an honorary life member of the Editors' Association of Canada, which she served as national vice-president.

Claudette's passion for social justice and the environment kept her active wherever she lived. While in Point Roberts, she became a pivotal force in saving the local heron rookery. She was also involved in the sustained effort to save a landmark promontory from inappropriate development. Her work, and that of many others, was rewarded when Lily Point—valuable historically for its deep roots in Native American culture—was preserved forever as parkland. At a July 2008 gathering on the shores of Lily Point she took immense pleasure in celebrating this long-sought outcome.

While in Point Roberts Claudette also won a seat on the local water board, which she chaired for one term during a period that saw the community torn between pro-growth, slow-growth, and no-growth factions. Claudette's intelligent, persuasive, and reasonable presence and her remarkable ability to bring disparate groups together and work toward outcomes earned her great respect and admiration. She had a rare gift for bridging philosophical differences, and her achievements as a conciliator

will remain part of her enduring legacy.

In 1998 Claudette and Martin relocated to Cayman Brac, where she returned to the life of a freelance editor and immediately became immersed in the Brac community. She made her mark as a long-time director of the Business and Professional Women's Club and as secretary of the Brac chapter of the National Trust of the Cayman Islands. She also served as editor of the official Cayman Islands history, *Founded Upon the Seas: A History of the Cayman Islands and Their People*. For her role in this monumental achievement and her support of Caymanian history and culture she received the National Heritage Award last year.

Although Claudette's editorial business kept her in contact with clients in many countries, she especially enjoyed her work with Caribbean authors and publishers. Her love for the English language knew no bounds, and she shared this love with her many friends and colleagues scattered around the world. She also loved the Brac—the bluff, the ocean, and the island's creatures, great and small, including the many stray cats she and Martin adopted over the years. She gave of her time freely, and one of her greatest pleasures was working with school children on the Brac, whether this meant preparing a school newspaper, running a poetry club, or practising for a spelling bee.

In addition to her husband, Claudette is survived by two brothers, Ron Reed and his wife Manya Pungowiyi of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Andy Reed of Asheville, North Carolina, and four stepchildren from her first marriage.

—Andy Reed  
Asheville, NC  
—Martin Keeley  
Cayman Brac

## Dr Geoffrey Burgess 1930–2008

It is with a great sense of sadness that we announce the death of Dr Geoff Burgess, who died suddenly from a cerebral hemorrhage following a fall while on holiday at the family cottage on West Lake on Nelson Island in September.

Geoff was born and raised in Australia as the only son of parents who were both prominent physicians, and he was brought up in the old style, with emphasis on formality and impeccable manners.

He received his early education at the King's School in Sydney, one of Australia's most prestigious private boarding school for boys, where he was subjected to the usual discipline associated with such institutions, received a very broad education, and developed a deep sense of loyalty to the Crown and to what was then part of the British Empire.

Quite early on, in his preliminary years at school, he developed an almost overwhelming passion for music, which was to last all his life. It also became evident that he possessed considerable talent, to the extent that on leaving school he had to make the difficult choice of either, like his parents, pursuing a career in medicine, or continuing his musical studies in the hopes of becoming a concert pianist. In the end, perhaps under parental influence, he chose medicine.

He attended the medical school of the University of Sydney and graduated in 1954. After 3 years of postgraduate training in Australia, like many of his colleagues at the time, he traveled to the UK for further training, where he spent 7 years. He eventually decided to specialize in orthopaedics, was appointed to positions under some of the leading orthopaedic surgeons of the day, including the great Sir Reginald Watson Jones, with whom Geoff shared a special affinity

as both played the piano and both enjoyed a "drop of the hops" of an evening!

He had an exceptional training in the specialty of orthopaedics and was uniquely qualified in that he was one of the few surgeons in Canada to be admitted as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Canada, and Australia. In addition, following the completion of his training at Oswestry, where he first met his close friend and associate Dr Norman Gelpke, Geoff was selected to write the highly prestigious and somewhat academic degree MCh (master of surgery) from the University of Liverpool. He not only passed but further distinguished himself by being awarded the coveted Gold Medal, which was only very rarely awarded to candidates for exceptional excellence.

Geoff came to Canada in 1964, and following 4 years of practice in Hamilton, Ontario, moved to North Vancouver where he established a consulting practice in association with Dr Norman Gelpke. Together, with Dr Les Bartlett, they were responsible for laying the foundations of a very busy and highly regarded orthopaedic department at Lions Gate Hospital.

In 1987 he retired from active surgical practice and accepted a position as a consultant in orthopaedics at the Workers' Compensation Board in Vancouver, where he established a reputation for his diagnostic acumen, a remarkably wide knowledge of medicine, and his well-written and detailed reports. He finally retired in 1997.

Memories of Geoff include a formal evening, not long after his arrival on the North Shore, to return his friends' hospitality and to celebrate Beethoven's bicentennial; he invited the entire medical staff and their spouses to a black tie "Evening with Beethoven," for which he rented the Centennial Theatre, gave a superb recital, and served everyone champagne!

He was not only a fine classical pianist but also possessed perfect pitch and could play anything by ear. He was in much demand socially for, apart from his ebullient personality, his musical talents were a great asset to any party. He would sit at the piano to accompany himself, and with his beer mug never too far away, in his rich Australian baritone, he would belt out such old Australian favourites as "Waltzing Matilda," "Tie Me Kangaroo Down, Sport," and, as the evening wore on, by popular request, his famous rendition of "A Much Tattooed Lady(ee)." He was blessed with a wonderful sense of timing and was a most polished entertainer.

Other interests included family time at their cottage, sailing, golf, and bridge. He always had a keen interest in politics, was a member of the Conservative party, and was also a staunch supporter of St. Stephen's Anglican Church in West Vancouver.

He was an overseas member of the Royal Sydney Golf Club, an active member of the Seymour Golf and Country Club, and a member of the Probus Club of the North Shore (Vancouver).

He is survived by his devoted wife, Lois (Dr Lois Burgess) of 34 years, by his two daughters, Sian and Kim, by his former marriage, six grandchildren, of whom he was immensely proud, and his four stepsons, Kent, Lyle, Cameron, and Blair Crawford, to whom he was an exemplary model as a stepfather. Geoff was a very devoted family man, and we would like to extend our sincerest condolences to his wife, Lois, and his very close-knit family.

He was the kindest of men, a good friend, and a much respected colleague. He will be greatly missed.

—Guy Winch, MBChB  
West Vancouver  
—Norman Gelpke, MBBS  
North Vancouver