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in memoriam



Bob Young, MD

Dr Bob Young 1931–2011

Long ago Brooklyn Dodger manager Leo Durocher said that “nice guys finish last.” But then, Leo the Lip never met Dr Bob Young, the remarkable Victoria family doctor who time and again showed that nice guys can, and do, finish first.

Dr Bob Young died peacefully in his sleep with Pat, his wife of 54 years, at his side. Bob was 80. Eighty years of touching and influencing the lives of thousands of people, in his medical practice in Oak Bay for 40 years and though his exceptional 20 years representing Victoria on the Board of Directors of the BC Medical Association.

Bob attended Oak Bay High School and graduated from the UBC School of Medicine in 1956.

Dr Bob, as he became known through the 1150 Info/Health columns he wrote for newspapers across the province as part of the BCMA’s reach-out public relations program, was a shy, unassuming man, and in his Special Feature article in the June 2010 *BC Medical Journal* he recounted how being involved in his profes-

sional association changed and broadened his life.

Bob’s 20 years of contributing to the BCMA included chairing the Communications Committee, and one of his first ideas was to modernize the BCMA logo. He sparked successful BCMA campaigns that altered the lives of every British Columbian—laws for car seatbelts, infant car seats, and bike helmets—and his quiet and determined leadership led to the establishment of the first non-smoking sections in restaurants. He also took on the politically sensitive editorship of the BCMA tabloid *BCMA News*.

It is no surprise that Dr Bob Young was the first recipient of the David Bachop Gold Medal, 20 years ago, and that as recently as early this year the University of Victoria honored him as the first recipient of its Distinguished Alumni Division of Medical Sciences Award, citing his exemplary activities with the BCMA’s public interest activities.

Bob’s questioning mind led him to many interests, including sailing, boat building, woodwork, gardening, music, and what he liked to call “a game resembling golf.” Bob and Pat were avid sailors, and with their children sailed to Alaska and the west coast of the Haida Gwaii.

In addition to Pat, Bob is survived by sons Michael (Sandy) and Bruce (Kimberley), daughters Debbie (Peter) and Teri (Pablo), as well as his sister Irene Harris (Peter).

Friends and admirers can donate to the Dr Robert N. Young and Mrs Patricia Young Scholarship Fund (c/o Dr O.G. Casiro, Island Medical Program, University of Victoria, PO Box 1700, Stn CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2), or the Victoria Boys and Girls Club, 1240 Yates St. Victoria, BC V8V 3N3.

—Jim Gilmore
Vancouver

Recently deceased physicians

The following physicians died over the past several months; please consider submitting a piece for our “In Memoriam” section in the *BCMJ* if you knew the deceased well.

Arthur, Dr Kenneth Robin Bloudoff, Dr Michael John Campbell, Dr James Martin Davies-Arber, Dr Lois Eileen Debenham, Dr Patrick Albert Dian, Dr Jeffrey Errol Gibson, Dr Alfred Gordon Irving, Dr Rodney Thomas James, Dr Donald Edward Kalla, Dr Frank Paul Kliman, Dr Murray Knott, Dr Nairn Dimsdale Lees, Dr Margaret Anne Levell, Dr Gerald William MacKay, Dr Doris Elspeth Mills, Dr Francis Harry Graham Moss, Dr Barbara Ann Murdoch, Dr George William Oberdieck, Dr Karl Edzard Poole, Dr John Kemp Smith, Dr Glen Gilmour Tannen, Dr Adrian Peter Thompson, Dr Trevor James Guy Thornton, Dr Kenneth Richard Trites, Dr Albert Edward Weir Wignall, Dr Norman Wilson, Dr Robert George Young, Dr Somerville Bruce



Gordon Heydon, MD

Dr Gordon Keith Heydon 1929–2010

After a courageous battle with prostate cancer, Dr Gordon Heydon passed away peacefully in Chemainus with his family by his side.

Born in Victoria, Gordon graduated from South Burnaby High in 1946 and went on to receive an honors degree in bacteriology and immunology from UBC. In 1950 he was accepted into the first class of the University of British Columbia’s new School of Medicine. He was especially proud to be president of his medical school graduating class, and was responsible for the class motto *Hi primi viam monstraverunt*, or “these first showed the

way.” After receiving his medical degree in 1954 and completing his internship at Vancouver General Hospital, he moved with his young family to Chemainus where he practised medicine for almost 45 years. He was a highly regarded and much-loved family doctor, practising at a time when making house calls, delivering babies, giving anesthetics, and performing surgeries was the norm for a general practitioner in a small town. In 2002, he was the recipient of a Canadian Medical Association commendation awarded to senior physicians of distinction.

He remained busy in retirement, pursuing his interests in travel, photography, videography, jazz music, computers, and desktop publishing. He always had projects on the go and loved working around his home and property. He cherished time spent with family and friends, particularly enjoying his role as Grandpa.

Gordon will lovingly be remembered for his kind, caring, and selfless ways; his generosity, sense of humor, intelligence, and abilities; and his love and dedication to his family, friends, profession, and community. He was our rock.

Gordon was predeceased by his parents, George and Ivy Heydon; survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Sandra; son Keith (Denise); daughter Elizabeth (Mark); and cherished grandchildren Spencer and Georgia Bennett. He is also survived by the MacCarthys—brothers-in-law Jim and Parker (Barbara), nephews Parker (Virginia, Cameron, Alexandra), John (Melanie, Elle, Clinton), Steven (Debbie, Chris, Kelly), Greg (Precious), niece, Jane, and step grandson, Bryce Bennett. Over 500 people from far and wide attended his celebration of life in the small town of Chemainus.

—Sandra Heydon
Chemainus

Did you know this physician?

We’d love to hear your stories or reminiscences about your colleague. Go to www.bcmj.org and add a “comment” that will be appended to the bottom of the article.

Online. On the *BCMJ* home page (www.bcmj.org), click on People, click on Obituaries, find the obituary, then click on the “Add Comment” button on the right. Your story will instantly be added below the article, and others can add their comments too, either commenting on your story or on the original memorial.

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