



## **Dr Alan Clews 1929–2013**

Dr Alan Godfrey Clews was born on 24 March 1929 in Stoke-on-Trent, England, and died at his home in Victoria on 18 January 2013. Dr Clews graduated from the University of Birmingham in 1952 with an MBChB and later earned a D(Obst)RGOC in London. After working in general practice in England he served in the Royal Army Medical Corps in Singapore, Taiping, Malaya, and Libya.

Dr Clews moved to Canada in 1958 to practise in small towns in Saskatchewan and then as part of a group in Saskatoon. There he became involved in general practice research for the Canadian College of General Practice, Saskatchewan Chapter. He was co-chair of the Saskatchewan Research Committee and also served on the National Research Committee, becoming chair from 1971 to 1974. In Saskatoon he helped develop drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs. Moving to Victoria in 1975, he co-founded the Victoria Life Enrichment Society and served as director of its residential treatment centre. He worked with Doctors of BC on policies regarding the use of seatbelts and

helmets, and drunk driving.

Honors received by Dr Clews include a fellowship and a life membership in the College of Family Physicians of Canada, and an award for excellence in research.

In addition to medicine, Dr Clews had a love of language and the arts. He became involved in plays and with music, and he often entertained his family. Acting as Professor Higgins in a production of *My Fair Lady* was a highlight for him. He enjoyed hiking and watersports well into his 70s. He ran a marathon in his 50s and completed a triathlon at 70. Exploring the West Coast gave him respect for First Nations culture, and he took on locums in remote First Nations communities after his retirement.

Alan was predeceased by his exceptional wife, Hetty, and leaves behind a large extended family.

—William Falk, MD  
Sidney



## **Dr Cortlandt (Cort) John Gordon Mackenzie 1920–2013**

Dr Cortlandt (Cort) John Gordon Mackenzie was born on 6 September 1920 in Toronto and raised there. Known as Cort all his life, he graduated—a cadet—from Upper Canada College in Toronto at the start of the

Second World War. Entering the war as a corporal in the army, he was persuaded to join the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR). After re-mustering to the RCNVR he served most of the war in the Battle of the Atlantic. In the final year of the war he married Jean Barker.

Following the war Cort attended Queen's University in Kingston, graduated with his MDCM in 1951, and moved to Victoria to be a general practitioner. In 1954 he began a career with the Ministry of Health as the medical health officer and director of the Peace River Health Unit (Dawson Creek). In 1955 he took his diploma in public health at the University of Toronto, and on his return he and his family moved to Trail, where he became the medical health officer (MHO) and director of the West Kootenay Health Unit. He went on to be acting MHO for the East Kootenay Health Unit for 4 months and later MHO in the Central Vancouver Island Health Unit based in Nanaimo. Dr Mackenzie joined the UBC Faculty of Medicine in the Department of Health Care and Epidemiology in 1963, became the acting chair of the department in 1969, and the department head from 1973 to 1980. From 1975 on, MHOs in BC took the master's in health sciences at UBC and became part of the UBC Residency Program in Community Health, which was headed by Dr Mackenzie.

Dr Mackenzie taught every physician who graduated from the UBC School of Medicine public health and community medicine from 1963 to 1985. The UBC School of Population and Public Health's CJG Mackenzie Prize for Excellence in Teaching is named in his honor. Cort was a wonderful raconteur and, while public health was a hard sell to some physicians, most remember the colorful stories, photos, and enthusiasm he

brought back from his travels around the world.

Dr Mackenzie was the president and a leading light of the Family Planning Association of BC, and director and vice-president of the Family Planning Federation of Canada from 1970 to 1974. He played an active role in environmental health issues in BC and elsewhere—as a member of the Pollution Control Board of BC from 1967 and its chair from 1977 to 1982, as chair of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Use of Pesticides and Herbicides (1972–1975), and head of the Task Force on Arsenic in Yellowknife (1977–1979). In 1986 he received the Canadian Public Health Association’s highest honor, the RD Defries Award.

Dr Mackenzie also consulted and taught extensively overseas, including in Pakistan, India, Malaysia, Australia, and the Cook Islands, even spending 2 years as a professor at the University of Papua New Guinea.

Cort had many avocations, including organizing Unitarian Fellowships, hobby farming with horses, cider making, and wooden boat building. He devoted his retirement to nature conservation and animal welfare causes. Once he retired from playing polo he took up scuba diving, and continued diving well into old age. He was a passionate defender of the marine environment and a founder and chair of the Canadian Marine Environment Protection Society. Cort remained sharp and engaged until the very end. He is survived and sorely missed by his sons, David, Ian, and Alec; grandchildren, Mary, Henry, and Rob; his son’s partner, Andrew; and his daughter-in-law, Marlene.

Cort was happiest when making a difference in people’s lives, and he figured out that a few general public health issues covered most of the bases: Don’t drink your own sewage. Don’t sleep with your dinner. Control pollution. Get vaccinated. Use birth control.

Dr Mackenzie died in his 93rd year in Vancouver on 16 May 2013 after a life well lived. He was a truly great character of his time and changed the way public health was taught and practised in this province.

— **John Blatherwick, MD**  
**Chief Medical Health Officer**  
**Vancouver (retired)**



**Dr C. Ed McDonnell**  
**1923–2014**

Dr Ed McDonnell’s death on 2 February 2014 marked the passing of a gentleman who touched many people’s lives, including mine, in numerous ways.

He was born in Vancouver, 22 November 1923 at St. Paul’s Hospital. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of British Columbia and his medical degree at McGill University in 1951. His education and life experience were further enhanced by his wartime service as a teenage navigator in a Lancaster bomber on raids over Germany. At McGill he met Shirley, the love of his life, and as newlyweds they moved to Vanderhoof, BC, to experience real medicine. Next they moved to Edmonton where Dr McDonnell completed an internal medicine residency and he and Shirley started their family of three children: Brady, Tara, and Chip.

The rest of his career was at St. Paul’s Hospital, where I had the privilege of knowing him as teacher, physician, colleague, and patient. He excelled in every role and was admired by all. He was a role model for how to be a good and caring physician to hundreds—perhaps thousands—of students and residents.

At St. Paul’s Hospital he led the division of rehabilitation and was head of the geriatric program until 1988, also directing medical services at two long-term care facilities in downtown Vancouver. During his time at the hospital he was chief of staff, director of medical education, and chair of the Medical Ethics Committee. He was also instrumental in establishing the St. Paul’s Hospital Archives, leading the celebration of St. Paul’s 100th anniversary. His teaching career spanned over 25 years and he was named professor emeritus in 1989.

Away from St. Paul’s Dr McDonnell was active in the Vancouver Medical Association, was a longstanding member of the *BC Medical Journal* Editorial Board, and was chair of the Doctors of BC (then BCMA) Museum and Archives Committee from 1977 to 2002. His love of history led him to write over 40 papers on the history of doctors, institutions, organizations, and medical practice in British Columbia. He was made an honorary lifetime member of the Archives Association of British Columbia and received the William B. Spaulding Certificate of Merit in recognition of his written work. Dr McDonnell was also honored in many other ways. He received a lifetime membership in the Canadian Physiotherapy Association, the David M. Bachop Gold Medal for Distinguished Medical Service, the VMA Prince of Good Fellows award, a senior membership in the CMA, and an Outstanding Volunteer Award from the YMCA.

I first met Dr McDonnell when I

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## in memoriam

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was a resident in 1970 and was immediately impressed by his knowledge, his accessibility, and his warmth to patients and colleagues alike. When I needed an internist, who else would I call? He was kindness personified. Then, as a relatively junior staff member, I had the privilege of being his anesthetist; he was the perfect patient. Quite a few years later, while working on Doctors of BC centenary/archival matters, I learned more about his broad interests and depth of historical knowledge. He was indeed knowledgeable, wise, and witty—qualities I know were appreciated by all who knew him. We have lost a wonderful and complete human being.

—**Dorothy Woodhouse, MD**  
Vancouver

*Dr McDonnell was a respected member of the BCMJ Editorial Board, serving from 1978 to 2000. He will be missed. —ED*



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