

Obituaries

We welcome original tributes of less than 300 words; we may edit them for clarity and length. Obituaries may be emailed to journal@doctorsofbc.ca. Include birth and death dates, full name and name deceased was best known by, key hospital and professional affiliations, relevant biographical data, and a high-resolution head-and-shoulders photo.

Donald James Farquhar 1933–2020



Our dearly beloved spouse, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather passed away peacefully. Donald graduated from Vancouver College and then from medicine at UBC (1958) and thrived in his career in family medicine, practising in Kerrisdale and at the UBC Student Health Service, retiring as director in 1996. He served as an auxiliary medical officer for the Royal Canadian Air Force and as president of the Vancouver Medical Association, and was awarded the Dr David M. Bachop Gold Medal for Distinguished Medical Service by Doctors of BC in 2011. He was a member and president of the Probus Club of Vancouver, as well as an enthusiastic tennis player, bridge player, sailor, and world traveler. During a long and happy retirement, he and his wife, Rochelle, lived in Beach Grove and were members of the Delta Naturalists Society, the Boundary Bay Park Association, and the SFU Seniors Lifelong Learners Society.

Donald was predeceased by his first wife and the mother of his children, Doris, and by his daughter, Jacqueline; he is survived by his children, Brian (Karin), Ross (Lise, Alexander, Charles), and Stephanie (Tony, Ryder); step-sons, Richard (Fiona, Oliver, Annabelle, Thomas), and Raven (Olya); and devoted spouse, Rochelle, as well as his extended family, step-grandchildren, and special friends.

The family wishes to thank Dr Patricia Akangbou, Dr Philip Teal and the Residence at Clayton Heights for their compassionate care through the years of Donald's final illness.

Donations may be made in Donald's honor to the VGH and UBC Hospital Foundation or a charity of your choice.

"We loved him and he loved us."

—Rochelle Farquhar
Delta

Theodore (Ted) Tomas Thordarson 1931–2020



An iconic photograph of Dr Ted Thordarson and eight other doctors hangs in the lobby of Ridge Meadows Hospital in recognition of the campaign they led to extract government funding for the first community hospital in Haney. Fittingly, this pioneer family doctor passed away peacefully in the hospital he helped to found.

Ted was born and grew up in Selkirk, Manitoba. At the age of 17, Ted, the only licensed driver, drove his family to Vancouver to reestablish as salmon fishers on the Fraser River. He bought his first gillnetter at 18 and paid his way handily through university and medical school.

Ted graduated from UBC's third medical class in 1956 and interned at Royal Columbian Hospital. He moved to Haney and established a large and loyal practice. Ted held every medical staff position at the hospital. His Cuban cigar

left smoldering on the hand rail outside a patient's room always signaled his whereabouts! This practice has since passed from favor.

In 1970 Ted and three partners established Dewdney Medical, which expanded to seven partners. It was a unique clinic in its time—a shared and cooperative full-service practice that allowed for generous time off for medical education and holiday. It was considered "a bit socialist" at the time, which was humorous as our founder was a vigorous entrepreneur and used his free time to start Christmas tree farms, blueberry farms, and an endless stream of real estate projects. Dewdney Medical was an early adopter of the concept of work/life balance, years before stress was discovered. It was the main reason many of us came to work there.

Keeping in the spirit of early adopting and foresight, Ted and his siblings, Dr Roy Thordarson, Lara, Frieda, and Helga, bought our summer property near Kelowna in the late 1950s. Toad Hall continues to be the mandatory annual migration point for huge summer gatherings of any with a drop of the Thordarson Icelandic blood and their continually expanding families.

Ted was a larger than life figure, the last of Ridge Meadows Hospital's founding physicians. He is survived by Maxine, his wife of 64 years; children, Ted Jr., Helga, and David; and a large family of Icelanders, genuine and honorary.

—Doug Botting, MD

Recently deceased physicians

If a BC physician you knew well is recently deceased, please consider submitting an obituary. Please limit your submission to a maximum of 500 words. Send the content and photo by e-mail to journal@doctorsofbc.ca.