

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.



Dr Gerald (Gerry) Albert Bredo
1940–2019

On the afternoon of 4 November 2019, while walking the seawall in Powell River, Gerry suddenly passed away. How fitting that he was in a location he loved, enjoying the antics of the seabirds and otters at the ocean's edge.

Gerry was originally an Alberta boy, born in Red Deer. He grew up in Edmonton, where he graduated from the University of Alberta with his MD and where he met his wife, Joyce. Following their wedding in 1966 and a 1-year locum in Powell River, Gerry completed a pediatric residency at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children in 1970. They then returned to Powell River where Gerry practised as the sole pediatrician for 27 years, until his retirement in 1997.

Intelligent, dedicated, and compassionate, Gerry was available 24/7, at a moment's notice for GPs struggling with sick children in the ER, ward, or nursery. He was also an avid golfer, a curler, expert fly fisherman, and a champion rifle marksman at the local Rod and Gun Club.

Gerry leaves behind his wife of 53 years, Joyce; his daughter, Stacy (Dwayne); and his son, Douglas (Ivy). Gerry was highly respected by his colleagues and the residents of Powell River, and he will be missed.

—William Barclay, MD, CCFP
Powell River



Dr William (Bill) Jory
1933–2019

William John Jory was born 24 March 1933 in London. He earned his MBChB from Cambridge University (England) in ophthalmology in 1961. After serving as a lieutenant in the Royal Navy in the Mediterranean (1951–53), he and Carolyn Shephard were married in 1963. Together they had four children: David William, Richard Norman, Virginia Jane, and Clare Elizabeth.

In 1968 Bill and his family emigrated from England to Vancouver. He became a staff member at Lions Gate Hospital and opened an office in North Vancouver, and quickly had a busy surgical practice and worked there until 1980.

In 1970 Bill became a member of the then BCMA Board of Directors. That year the BCMA was building a partnership with the provincial government to establish the Medicare Program being introduced by the federal government.

He had a meteoric rise to prominence by being elected twice, by mail-in ballot, as president of the BCMA (in 1976–77 and 1982–83). Today, staff refer to him as “the twice president.”

In the early 1970s traffic-accident deaths and injuries were drawing increased international attention, and Australia introduced

mandatory seatbelt legislation. In 1976 the BCMA, led by President Bill Jory, asked for similar legislation to be introduced by the BC provincial government, but neither the government nor the opposition were interested. As a result, Bill led an aggressive public campaign that led to mandatory seatbelt legislation later in 1976 and acceptance by the media and the public that the BCMA was an advisor to government and a teacher to British Columbians on health care issues.

As president he also became a member of the CMA Board of Directors and of General Council. This resulted in him becoming an outstanding national medical-political leader. In 1982 Dr Jory was nominated unanimously by the BCMA Board of Directors as the BCMA nominee for president elect of the CMA, and the CMA Nominating Committee endorsed the nomination. Then a BCMA member who had previously voted for his nomination ran against him from the floor of General Council, and with Ontario Medical Association support, defeated Dr Jory. For the BCMA and many members, it was an overwhelming disappointment.

Throughout his time practising in North Vancouver, Bill made regular monthly visits to Prince Rupert and provided a few days' care to a widely dispersed, mainly Indigenous population. In 1982 family commitments required that Bill and Carolyn return to live in England. Though he closed his North Vancouver office, he retained his commitment to Northern British Columbia. Every 4 to 6 weeks he would provide ophthalmological services to Prince Rupert, Haida Gwaii, the communities along the Skeena-Bulkley Valley, and north to the Alaskan border. His interests were wide ranging and included opera, cruises, and political history.

In 1986, Bill returned to England permanently and practised as an ophthalmic surgeon until his retirement in 2006. Surrounded by his family, Bill died peacefully at home on 1 July 2019.

—John O'Brien-Bell, MBBS
Surrey