

# 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](mailto: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 Hans Adalbert Witt**  
1934–2020

Dr Hans Adalbert Witt was born in Brasdorf, East Prussia, on 29 August 1934. At the outbreak of World War II, Hans's life changed in ways that would shape his character and influence his legacy of tenacity.

In 1945, Hans, his seven siblings, and their mother fled to Schleswig-Holstein. There, Hans completed his schooling and apprenticed as a tool and die maker. In 1955 the family, sponsored by the Mennonite Church, immigrated to Canada and settled on a farm in Virgil, Ontario. To support his family, Hans worked as a newspaper truck driver and then as a tool and die maker with GM. During this time, he took courses at night to learn English, and his hard work saw him enter medical school. He became a family doctor and then specialized in anesthesia. He married Nancy McAdam and they lived in various towns in BC with their two children, Heidi and Jonathan. Sadly, his marriage did not continue.

In 1994, Hans returned to Toronto and began practising psychotherapy. He retired in 2005. On a visit to Kelowna, he met Ela Jackel and their beautiful relationship began. In addition to dancing and gardening with Ela, Hans was an avid bridge player.

As a young immigrant, his career was shaped by his mother's words that "education

will save your life." His passion for lifelong learning was evidenced when he became a student once more and, at age 82 at UBC Okanagan, achieved his dream of attaining a Bachelor of Arts degree. Indeed, he is a role model for anyone whose life circumstances are challenging. His love of learning is indeed a legacy he leaves the next generation of family.

In 2018, Hans was diagnosed with cancer. He underwent surgery and radiation, but in December his health challenges increased. He died peacefully at Kelowna Hospice House on 21 January 2020.

—Heidi Grogan  
Calgary



**Dr Barry King Cutler**  
1937–2019

Dr Barry King Cutler, 82 years of age, passed away peacefully at the Berkley Care Centre on 16 December 2019, surrounded by family.

A man of faith, Barry is lovingly remembered by his wife of 58 years, Judith; his children, Duffy (Shari) and Rob (Joanne); his sister, Diane (Doug Porter); his grandchildren, Cameron, Emily, and McKenzie, and Gemma and Declan. He will also be remembered by many friends and colleagues from Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Barry was predeceased by his mother, Wilma (nee King); his father, Don; and his eldest son, Scott.

A loving husband and father, Barry was a compassionate physician and surgeon in the Powell River area for 32 years. After Barry completed his high school education at University of Toronto Schools and medical training at the University of Toronto, he and Judy left extended family and moved to BC in 1968 to raise a family and begin a lifelong mission of caring for the members of Powell River's thriving coastal community. Barry was president of the BC Surgical Society (1986–87) and president of the Powell River Medical Society (1991–95).

Barry was an avid athlete, farmer, outdoorsman, mariner, and fan of all things related to sports. A pioneer in every sense of the word, and a gentle spirit, Barry would count his contributions to the Powell River community among his proudest accomplishments. He was recently named to the Powell River Sports Hall of Fame as team physician for the Power River Regals Hockey Club and its run to the Allan Cup championship in 1969. He was a member of the medical team at the Montreal Olympic Games, and as president of the Powell River Golf Club (1984–88), he was instrumental in initiating the planning and construction of the Myrtle Point Golf Club.

In 2000 Barry and Judy began spending winters in Ajijic, Mexico, and in 2013 they moved to North Vancouver to be closer to family. In 2006, Barry began a 13-year battle with Parkinson disease and Lewy body dementia. His family thanks Drs Doug Toole, Steve Burns, Silke Cresswell, Arvind Kang, and Garry Jenkins, and the nurses, care aids, and staff of Berkley Care Centre for their exceptional and dedicated care for Barry over the years and during his 3½ years living at the care centre.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on 15 January 2020 at Christ the Redeemer Parish, 599 Keith Road, West Vancouver. Please visit Barry's online memorial page at [www.mckenziefuneralservices.com](http://www.mckenziefuneralservices.com) for more information and to post to the online book of condolences. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Pacific Parkinson's Research Institute: [www.pacificparkinsons.org](http://www.pacificparkinsons.org).

—Judith Cutler, MD  
North Vancouver