

Obituaries

We welcome original tributes of less than 700 words; we may edit them for clarity and length. Email obituaries 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 John Anthony (Tony) Tercier

1953–2025

It brings great sadness to report that Dr Tony Tercier passed away on 4 April 2025. Tony spent more time in hospital than in his home over the last 6 months as his physical illness ramped up. He dealt with constant pain and progressive loss of mobility, to the point where no relief could be found. He chose to take control and died a medically assisted death.

Tony was born on 13 July 1953 in Edmonton, Alberta. He was an excellent student. His mother recognized his intellect at a young age and began taking him to the library to read books together on a wide range of topics. This interest in reading widely and acquiring knowledge continued throughout his life. Over the years, Tony impressed many people with his expansive knowledge base, and he was always humble and modest in doing so.

Tony completed high school at St. Joseph Catholic High School in Edmonton, graduating as the valedictorian of his class, then entered the University of Alberta. He began medical school 2 years later, also at the University of Alberta; in 1977, he graduated from medical school with the highest honors and went on to train at Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary. There, Tony cemented lifelong friendships with Drs Chris Godfrey and David Rhine. These friendships included many medical and mountain adventures, such as practising emergency medicine together in Saudi Arabia and Dubai and the second-ever recorded crossing of the world-famous Haute Route in the European Alps on telemark skis.

After Holy Cross Hospital, Tony's medical training continued in emergency medicine under the tutelage of Dr Peter Rosen, the godfather of emergency medicine, at Denver General Hospital. Tony became one of Peter's favorite residents. Tony's impact as the first Canadian resident paved the way for another group of Canadians to follow and train in this program. Those trainees became pillars of Canadian emergency medicine and owe a lot to Tony, who helped start them on their paths to medical prominence. After a few years, Tony's enthusiasm for learning led him to the University of Chicago, where he completed a master of arts degree in philosophy. This in turn found him moving to London, England, where he enrolled at Birkbeck, University of London, in a specialized PhD program referred to as the London Consortium, in humanities and cultural studies. He excelled. On completing his PhD, he acted

as a lecturer at the University of London, eventually following his teacher and mentor Dr Dorothy Porter to the University of California, San Francisco, where he taught the history of medicine. When grants for teaching disappeared during the economic downturn of 2008, Tony returned to Canada and retrained in emergency medicine. He then joined the emergency medicine group at Kelowna General Hospital.

Tony lived in a West Kelowna community called Traders Cove, with an expansive view of the lake and a huge garden, which he loved and tended tirelessly. His sister Paulette joined him there, and they shared the house and gardening for 12 years. Tony's health declined over these years, forcing him to retire from emergency medicine and eventually move to a smaller Kelowna property with his dog, Arrow. Arrow became his constant companion, his daily activity, and his life focus.

In the end, Tony's health issues reached a point of no improvement. He courageously dealt with unremitting pain and progressive loss of feeling and strength, and he rarely complained. He was brave and courageous, and he remained sharp and interested in all about him. Tony's thesis at the University of London was about death. As an expert on the topic, he courageously took control of his deteriorating physical condition and departed this world while he still had a choice in the matter.

His friends and family will hold him in their memories and miss him dearly.

—David Rhine, MD, FRCPC
Kelowna



Dr William Gregory (Greg) MacDougall

1947–2025

Trying to golf on a nine-hole sand course at the edge of the Sahara Desert is difficult. The ball can bounce off rocks and bury itself in the brush between the oiled greens. But Dr Greg MacDougall, intrepid family doctor and enthusiastic golfer, found enjoyment in this when he worked in Africa.

Like that golf ball, Dr MacDougall bounced around the world for most of his life. The son of a Canadian career diplomat, he was born in Halifax but grew up in Glasgow, Belfast, and Ottawa. After graduating from high school in Ottawa, he returned to Scotland to study medicine. He graduated from the University of Glasgow in the class of 1971, then interned in Toronto, where he met Barbara, a British midwife.

After Greg and Barbara married, they were determined to raise their children in just one location, so they settled in Ottawa for 25 years, where Greg started a family practice. They had a son, Andrew, and a daughter, Anne (Lankin). On the side, Greg enjoyed golfing but also learned to speak French, served as an Ottawa city councilor and a police commissioner, and was an active Liberal Party member. He also learned to fly and completed master's degrees in health administration and international affairs.

When their two children left the nest, Greg and Barbara ricocheted around the world again. Greg served 3 years as senior medical advisor for Mobil Oil Corporation in Doha, Qatar; 3 years at the International SOS Medical Clinic in Hanoi, Vietnam; and another 2 years at the ExxonMobil clinic in N'Djamena, Chad.

In 2005, Greg and Barbara's ball finally came to rest on a green in Victoria, BC. Greg quickly accumulated a very large family practice at Doctors Medical Clinic. After 10 years, he retired from clinical work, much to the disappointment of his patients and colleagues, who greatly admired and sought his wisdom and experience. Despite his failing health in recent years, he managed to fly to the UK many times to visit his son's and daughter's families and enjoy time with his three grandchildren. At his request, his ashes were spread by the sea, close to his favorite hole at the Victoria Golf Club.

—Eugene R. Leduc, MD
Victoria



Dr Margaret (Peggy) Manson Johnston (née Mouat)

1928–2024

Dr Peggy Johnston passed away peacefully in Vancouver, in her 96th year, surrounded by the love of her family and the devoted care of her caregivers. Her life was defined by intellectual achievement, professional

leadership, and deep connections to her family and island roots.

Born in Ganges on Salt Spring Island, Peggy was the youngest of six children in the Mouat family. Her parents operated Mouat's Trading Company and Mouat Brothers Store, institutions of island life. When her father began using a wheelchair due to polio, 12-year-old Peggy was granted a special driver's licence to chauffeur him across the island—a formative expression of her responsibility and resolve.

Peggy excelled academically, completing high school at age 16, earning a bachelor of science degree from the University of British Columbia in 1948, and graduating from McGill University in 1952—one of only six women in her medical school class. She maintained a strong connection to her roots, returning each summer to work in the family store.

At McGill, she met her future husband, Dr Albert (Al) Johnston. Following internships in Montreal and Vancouver, they trained at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit—Peggy in dermatology, Al in ophthalmology—and began their family.

In 1959, they returned to BC. Peggy became Nanaimo's first practising dermatologist before the couple settled in Vancouver, where they shared an office for over 30 years. She was the first practising female dermatologist in Vancouver and the first pediatric dermatologist at UBC, and she served as head of dermatology at BC Children's Hospital. A devoted clinician and passionate educator, Peggy was a clinical professor who mentored generations of students and residents with wisdom and warmth.

Peggy and Al balanced their demanding careers with family life, raising four children and instilling in them a love of learning, nature, and community. Their shared joy was the Saltspring Island cottage, a family retreat that remained central to their lives. There, Peggy found great enjoyment in gardening, fishing, and welcoming the next generation—her beloved grandchildren.

After retiring in 1989, they returned to the island full-time. Peggy carried forward

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VANCOUVER—FULL-TIME FP

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a legacy of quiet generosity, community involvement, and enduring family bonds. She and Al shared 61 years of marriage before his passing in 2013.

Peggy is survived by her children, Kathy, Jim (Barb Melosky), Bill (Diane Ross), and

Tom (Deanne Lawder), and her grandchildren, Alexander, Robert, James, and Daniel. She was predeceased by her husband, Al; her parents; and her five siblings.

Dr Peggy Johnston will be remembered for her pioneering contributions to

medicine, her devotion to family and community, and her deep affection for the island that shaped her.

—William H. Johnston, MD
Lantzville