

DONALD PATRICK BYRNE



On June 27th in 1935 at Kingston, Ontario, a very proud Norman W. Byrne and his wife Rose celebrated the birth of their first child, Donald Patrick Byrne.

Shortly afterward the young family headed north to the mining settlement of Goldfields on Lake Athabasca in northern Saskatchewan, where Don's dad worked at the Athona gold mine. In the early 1940's six-year-old Donny found himself at a small gold and tungsten mine on Outpost Island, literally in the middle of Great Slave Lake in the NWT.

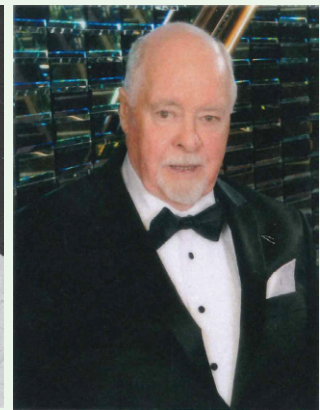
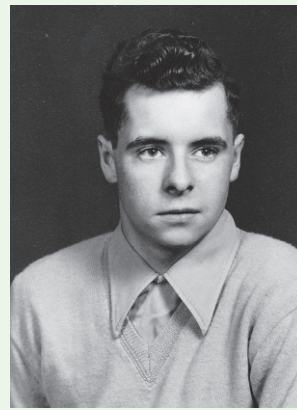
Don's father, a consulting mining engineer, established an office in Yellowknife in 1945 where Don spent many idyllic summers, and started his baseball career as batboy for his Dad's team, the Yellowknife Cardinals. Don attended St. Joseph's High School in Edmonton and later St. Michael's College in Toronto, and was active in baseball, hockey, and tennis.

Don was an electrician at the Rayrock mine before serving seven years in the Royal Canadian Air Force as a radar technician. He later enrolled at the Provincial Institute of Mining in Haileybury, Ontario. It was there that he met a beautiful young woman, Francis Verrier. They married at Haileybury in 1967 and began a fifty year union as loving companions.

The happy couple moved to Schefferville in northeastern Quebec where Don worked with the Iron Ore Company of Canada. Schefferville was home for five years and their son Michael was born there in 1970. The family then moved to Pine Point where Don worked as a foreman at Cominco's lead-zinc mine. Their daughter Tracey joined the family there in 1973.

In 1975 Don came to Yellowknife to assist in the running of the family business that his late father had established, Mackenzie Management, which was involved in real estate development. Don eventually relocated to Edmonton where he continued with real estate investment and involvement in standardbred horse racing. The Don Byrne Stable boasted a number of winning steeds over eighteen years.

Don and Frances managed to see the world in later years, traveling to Australia, New Zealand, Western Europe, the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, China, Thailand, and Japan.



Don was devoted to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He delighted in being involved in their lives and they kept Don going, particularly over the last few years and he took much comfort in being with them.

Don passed away peacefully on April 19th at 81 years. We say goodbye to him knowing that he had a good life and was closely comforted by family during the final weeks of his time. Don and his generosity, keen wit and quick sense of humor, will be greatly missed by family and friends, and probably even by some of those Bozos.

Don is survived by his loving wife Francoise, son Michael (partner Brenda), daughter Tracey, as well as grandchildren Kayla (Luke), Megan (Scott), Alexander, Ally, and his great-grandchildren Tarra and Hayden. Don is also survived by his siblings Judy Deacon, Elizabeth Liske, Kathy Eccleston (Jim), Mike Byrne (Jan), and brother in law Bill Knutsen, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Don was predeceased by his father Norman W. Byrne, his mother Rose M. Byrne, brother Norman J. Byrne, and sister Barbara R. Knutsen.

A private service was held on April 25th, followed by interment at the Holy Cross Cemetery near St. Albert.

A celebration of Dons' life will be held from 2 pm until 5 pm on May 23rd in the Marquis Room of the main building of Touchmark at Wedgewood located at 18333 Lessard Road, Edmonton, Alberta.

The family sincerely thanks Dr. Kourosh Dinyari, the staff at Touchmark and the nurses from 'Home Instead' for their support, compassion and dedication through Don's last few weeks.