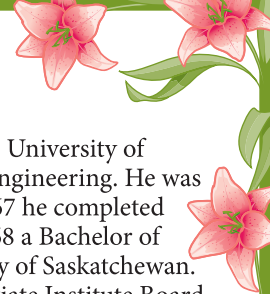


Milburn (Mel) Smith *September 24, 1933 to August 24, 2019*



IT IS WITH SADNESS we announce the passing of Milburn (Mel) McGibney Smith. Mel passed away peacefully at the Samaritan Place Care Home August 24, 2019. This gentle, kind, gracious and intelligent man will be missed by many. Always active and curious, Mel was a competitive curler (participating in the 1972 Arctic Winter Games and winning the Canadian Senior Men's Curling Championship in 1993); enjoyed many outdoor pursuits; and loved Canada's North, spending years actively searching for the lost Franklin Expedition. Artifacts and records from his own expeditions are now held at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in the Northwest Territories.

Mel was fortunate in love twice. He married his first wife Elizabeth Doreen (Turtle) in 1962. Mel and Doreen were respected and active members of their community. In 1991 Doreen passed away after a lifetime struggle with Type 1 Diabetes. Later in life Mel reunited with a childhood friend Trudy (Erhardt/Gallagher) while commuting to Saskatoon to care for his mother. Mel and Trudy, both widowed, rekindled their friendship and Mel moved to Saskatoon to live with Trudy until her passing in August 2017. Mel is survived by many nieces and nephews including Edwin (Bonnie), Laurel, Warren, Clayton (Linda), Doug (Sherill), Heather (Gary), Beverly (Don), Dave (Yvonne) and Cheryl (Tony) along with nine grand and eight great-grand nieces and nephews. Mel also leaves behind his stepsons Doug (Sherry), Ron (Lin) and Kelly (Adrienne) and 10 stepgrandchildren and 10 stepgreat-grandchildren.

In 1962 Mel graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Engineering. He was committed to education and in 1967 he completed a Diploma in Education and in 1968 a Bachelor of Education both from the University of Saskatchewan. He worked at the Saskatoon Collegiate Institute Board until his love of the North drew both Mel and Doreen to NWT, where he began working as a teacher for the Government of NWT. During his time in the North he served in several capacities including environmental engineer and Chief of Pollution Control and acted as the Deputy Minister of the Environment for the Government of NWT when required. After a long and much respected career, Mel retired to Edmonton in 1994, later moving to Saskatoon.

Mel spent his last years living at the Samaritan Place Care Home. His family would like to thank all the health care professionals at the home for their care and compassion in those years, and over the last days of his life.

A graveside memorial service in celebration of Mel will be held **Monday, September 9, 2019** at 2:00 pm at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home, 210 Wess Road, Saskatoon.

Those who would like to give a gift to honour Mel are asked to make a contribution in his name to the Alzheimer's Society of Saskatchewan. Condolences may be sent to www.hillcrestmemorial.ca Arrangements entrusted to Carley Brown.



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