

# Arthur Leo Peter Sorensen

October 3, 1941 – November 7, 2018

Art Sorensen died in Victoria Royal Jubilee Hospital of complications following surgery for esophageal cancer. Art was 77 years old, knew the risks but wanted to live ... at least a while longer. Art passed on peacefully with his wife Lynda by his side.

Art's greatest legacies, in addition to a life well lived, are his children, Ernestine (Denis), Jodi Lyn, and Ridd (Meeka), as well as his three grandchildren Brinn, Elke and Eero. Art is survived by Lynda (nee Klotz), his wife of 50 years, brothers Carl (Lori), Doug (Sandra) and many in-laws, nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

Art and Lynda moved to Brentwood Bay just north of Victoria in 2002 after 30+ years in Yellowknife. For the past 16 years, Art loved his life and home on the island with Lynda, travelling, day trips, long walks with his dog Willow, gardening and of course keeping up with the latest technology and gadgets.

When Art retired in 1995, his colleagues wrote "had Art never joined the Government of the Northwest Territories, he would have earned a respected place in the North in some other way." They realized Art contributed beyond expectations and deserved to be referred to as a "Great Man of the North" as well as a caring and loving husband, father, papa and friend.

Art continued working until age 76, enjoying his part time job ensuring Northern News Services Newspapers were online three times a week. Art never missed a paper!

As a teen, Art was tutored under the tough discipline of Father Athol Murray at Notre Dame College in Wilcox, Saskatchewan, where hockey, basketball and baseball were king. Art earned his tuition by excelling at all three.

After college Art became a sports reporter for the Medicine Hat News. His stories were religiously read by the city's sports fans, unaware Art Sorensen the reporter was also Art Sorensen the star hockey, baseball and basketball player on the city's sports teams. Art moved to the Edmonton Journal on the medical beat. The medical beat led to meeting a young nursing student, Lynda, who would soon become his wife. In 1970, Art became the first resident northern-based reporter for the Journal and moved to Yellowknife with Lynda and baby Jodi Lyn. Here Art pursued stories throughout the north under the Edmonton Journal headline "The Last Frontier".

In 1971, Art joined the emerging Government of the Northwest Territories as Chief of Public Affairs. For years Art crafted the government's messages for public consumption, speeches, government policies and news releases with impeccable skill. As Director of Information, Director of Culture and Communications, Deputy Minister and Press Secretary to several northern premiers, Art often played the role of devil's advocate with government leaders or premier of the day, matching wits in order to not offend, being just, and yet surviving in a tough political arena.

One of the wonderful ironies of Art Sorensen is while he talked in his folksy and dry, humourous ways, he was absolutely sophisticated. He was an early adapter, always ahead of the curve with technology, especially Apple products, a true renaissance man. Family members call him the 'app-man'. Music in his home was always soothing and inspirational. Art was especially proud of his son Ridd's and granddaughter Elke's music compositions, and granddaughter Brinn's ambition to start a band playing bass guitar.

Art often spoke of grandson Eero's athletic talent, which in many ways, mirrored his own. Art had a fascinating life but never bragged nor spoke of his many adventures unless encouraged. He never contemplated writing a book, many wish he had. Art could always be counted on to perform his responsibilities with both dedication and good judgment. He did things right and for just reasons.

Art's family, friends and acquaintances will come together at 1:30 pm on Saturday, November 24th, at Mary Winspeer Center in Sidney, BC, to celebrate 77 years of contribution, service, achievement and love. And to honour him for who he was, the fibre and the blood and the humour of the man.



*In lieu of flowers, please donate to cancer research or charity of your choice.*