

R. E. Gordon Davis

JULY 19, 2019



It is with profound sadness that the family announces the peaceful passing of R.E. Gordon Davis, from sudden worsening of a chronic

leukemia, on July 19, 2019 at Vancouver

General Hospital at the age of 81 years. Gordon was born in 1938 to Prof. N.F. Gordon Davis and Phyllis Gilmour Davis (née Leckie) in Vancouver, B.C. He will be deeply missed by his wife, Margaret Davis of Vancouver, daughter Alison Armstrong, son Gordon Davis, and four grandchildren, as well as many friends and colleagues. Gordon lived all of his life in Vancouver B.C. (UEL) where he attended both University Hill Elementary and Secondary schools, classmates from which remained lifelong friends. He graduated from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Geological Engineering in 1962. He married Margaret Ruth Leroux in 1967. As a loving husband, he cherished their 52 years together. Gordon had a long association with the Yukon where he first arrived in 1959 and where he helped discover several mineral deposits. He was a founder of the Cyprus Anvil Mining Corporation and was subsequently a director of a number of resource companies in Canada, including Pine Point Mines, Cabre Exploration, Golden Knight Resources, Silver Standard Resources and Pacific Ridge Explorations. Gordon co-founded Trans North Helicopters in Whitehorse in 1966, which turned out to be a lifelong involvement and a key part of his close personal bond with the Yukon. He was an avid sportsman, finishing several marathons, and proud of finishing every leg of the annual Klondike Road Relay as a member of the Trans North team. His passion for golf, as well as family travel, led to ties to communities in Kauai, and fond memories of other destinations. As a local supporter of the arts in Vancouver, he was especially engaged in fundraising for Arts Umbrella. More recently he became

increasingly involved in fundraising for the UBC Department of Geology. Gordon's generosity and support of family and friends were paramount and will be cherished forever. To his many friends - from running, golf, childhood, geology, business, travelling, art interests and general everyday living - he treasured all of you. Gordon loved parties, and so there will be an informal reception in his honour at a later date. We, his family, love flowers but would ask you instead to consider donating to a local charity. You are invited to leave a personal message of condolence for the family.

Messages of Condolence

It is with sad hearts that we learned today of the passing of Gordon. Our sympathies and condolences go out to Margaret and the family.

— **Ross and Kelly Mitchell**

Dear Margaret and family, it was with profound sadness that we read about Gordon's recent passing. I will always remember him for his warmth his smile, his humor and his unfailing support of everything we did for many years at Art's umbrella.

We are thinking of you all at this time and send you deepest sympathies. Fondly,
Dan and Trudy

— **Dan and Trudy Pekarsky**

Gordon Davis and I were childhood friends. Although we drifted apart as adults, I have many fond memories of Gordon as a kid. Here's one of them. In our backyard on the last block of West 4th Avenue, we had the BorDave River Project. This was a miniature "river" that ran from the outlet of a hose along the west boundary of a disused tennis court, emptying at last under a fence into the neighbour's yard. There were several "lakes" and "villages" along the water course, with smoothed mud "highways" along both banks, heavily travelled by Dinky Toy vehicles. The project was a neighbourhood attraction for kids within at least a three-block catchment area, but Gordon and I were always in charge. One of our favourite summertime events was a village fire. We used small wooden veneer strawberry boxes to construct "houses" which were then set ablaze, necessitating a stellar fire-fighting effort from the day's collection of kids. Our yard had five cherry trees, providing a glut of fruit for our family and the local population of kids. After picking was over, there were always cherries left here and there on the trees. Gordon characteristically thought out of the box, so one day he asked my mother, "can we have a cherry fight?" She agreed, so we set up teams, picked our caches of cherries, and went to war. The outcome was a whole bunch of purple children, because the war tended to degenerate into hand to hand combat, with cherries in each hand. This became an annual event. We also spent many hours in imaginative play in a two-story treehouse at the back of our property. Over the years it deteriorated and became dangerous, so one day when we were about 13 or 14 my mother took Gordon and me aside and told us that it had to be demolished. Gordon asked her if she wanted us to do the job. She replied "yes, that would be great." Gordon thought about it for a moment, and then asked "can we do it enthusiastically?" And so we did. I think that single question pretty much defined the remarkable man that Gordon was to become. Many people will miss Gordon greatly, and my heart goes out to Margaret and their children and grandchildren, as well as his many friends. For me, and others I'm sure, he set an example that I

was happy to follow. John Harvey Borden

— **John (Harvey) Borden**

A good guy, a good friend and an asset to Canada. He will be sorely missed.

— **Bette and Harry Wheeler**

I've known Gordon both professionally (he was one of our original Directors at Cabre - starting in 1980 and for 20 years) and after Cabre was sold in 2000, as good friends. I always appreciated Gordon's wise counsel, good golf game and zest for life. I offer my deepest condolences to Marg and the family.

— **Douglas Kay**

I can not add anything really, The " obit " said it all. I thought it was a wonderful tribute to Gordie. I feel he overcame some tough odds and made a major success of all aspects of his life, I congratulate him. !! Like so many of us, I have lost a real friend. I guess my Yukon Tours are over.!! No more " NINE MILE RIDGE ". Thanks FUZZY.!!

— **Victor Warren**

Gordon was always a very special friend to my parents, Joe and Barbara Konst. In my Dad's last year, Gordon was very, very helpful in easing his mind on little business and tax issues and taking some of the load from my mother's shoulders. My father always spoke so highly of Gordon. He always looked forward to visiting with him on his trips to Vancouver. I am sorry my own path did not cross his more often. Brian Konst

— **Brian Konst**

I was very sorry to hear of Gordon's passing. I first met Gordon 17 years ago through the running community. I ran with Gordon every Sunday morning until he stopped running. When he was unable to run anymore, he would come out for coffee with the "running group". I enjoyed our conversations greatly, we shared many of the same interests including running, aviation, and B.C. history.

Gordon was a very humble gentleman. He made a great contribution to the various communities that he was involved in. He will be sorely missed.

I want to extend my deepest condolences to Marg and the family.

— **Michael Carson**

It was with deepest sadness that we heard of Gordie's unexpected passing. He was a very good friend for many decades both in the bush and in town.

— **Gerry and Kathy Rayner**

In this sad time, we would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to Margaret and the family.

It was a privilege to have had the opportunity to know and to work with Gordon over many years. He was a true gentleman who was respected and well-liked by all who knew him. He will be missed.

— **Karl and Jane Gustafson**



<https://www.myalternatives.ca/obituaries/davis-r-e-gordon>

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