

Michael Frederick Betts

SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

October 27, 1947 – September 4, 2026

Michael Frederick Betts of Victoria, British Columbia, died following Alzheimer's disease on September 4, 2026, at age 78.



Born in Chatham, Ontario, Michael grew up on a mixed-crop farm on the shores of Lake Erie.

His love of the land, animals, and farm life led him to a lifelong career as an agrologist. He earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Guelph in 1969 and a Master's degree in Weed Science from the University of Saskatchewan in 1973. He and Maureen were married in 1970 and became parents in 1978.

Michael began his career as a Research Scientist with New Zealand's Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in 1973 in Christchurch. After working for 3 years in N.Z., he and Maureen travelled throughout N.Z. and Australia before returning to Canada. There, he continued his career in research at the University of Manitoba before moving to British Columbia, where he served as a Provincial Research Scientist and Weed Specialist. He was respected and loved by his co-workers and retired in 2007.

Michael valued integrity and held high standards in everything he did, believing in taking the time and making the effort to do things well and properly. There was little he couldn't do himself or fix.

His love, generous spirit, and quiet wisdom will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Devoted to his family, Michael showed his love through steadfast presence, care, and the time he shared with those closest to him. Always ready to lend a hand, Michael gave generously of his time, knowledge, and practical help to family and friends. His kindness was felt not only in his words, but in the many thoughtful things he did for others.

An avid cyclist, Michael chose to ride his bicycle rather than drive whenever possible, and cycled to work year-round for approximately 30 years. He cared deeply for nature and enjoyed cycling trips with family and friends. He also found great pleasure in gardening, baking homemade bread, hiking, camping, and sharing the outdoors with those he loved.

Michael is lovingly remembered by his wife, Maureen Betts; his son, Drew Betts and wife Mandy; his daughter, Lindsay Kirke and husband Bryan; and his grandchildren, Desmond, Tyler, Seth, Kyri, and Beau. He was a loving and devoted grandfather. He was predeceased by his older brother, Ken Betts.

Donations in Michael's memory may be made to the Alzheimer Society of Canada to support Alzheimer's research. Michael chose to donate his body to the University of British Columbia's Medical Student Program.

Messages of Condolence

I'm so sad to hear of Michael's passing. He was such a beautiful soul gifted in many many ways. He was so full of life with a delightful sense of humour. Those of us who were blessed to have Michael in our lives for a period of time were really fortunate . My heart goes out to his family for their loss. Michael offered so much to all of us as a husband ,father, brother, grandfather, friend and colleague. Alzheimer's is a devastating condition for loved ones to live through with their beloved family member. Michael and his family showed the rest of us so much strength and compassion on their journey together.

— Adrien

Dear Maureen and Betts family;On behalf of my family to yours, I'm so sorry for your loss and wish you all our Love and condolences. Michael was a wonderful neighbour and friend to us and very helpful to us when we needed support such as rebuilding the fence between our homes. Mike rolled up his sleeves and jumped right in which I know he's done in all aspects throughout his busy life. Mike and Maureen have been wonderful neighbours and we'll miss Mike and his casual conversations.Our thoughts and prayers are with the Betts family at this difficult time, Love from,The Lowe's

— Walter & Tracy Lowe

I had the privilege and joy of working with Michael for many years in the BC Ministry of Agriculture as a fellow agriculturist . . Michael was an excellent agriculturist and a genuine and enjoyable person to work with. We all miss you Michael. Thanks for the pleasure of knowing you. Rest in peace Michael.

— Dave Sands

I have known Michael for ,any years, first through our work, and then personally through our enjoyment of motorcycles. We had many great trips together, from Inuvik in the Arctic to Arizona and the Grand Canyon, throughout the pacific northwest, across the Canadian prairies and the BC backcountry in the Chilcotin. We also enjoyed many years with other work colleagues at the annual fishing trip for over 20 years. Mike often joined me in my boat and as neither of us were dedicated fishermen, we never won any prizes but had a great time catching up about family and friends. Michael's good looks, confidence and easy smile allowed him to strike up a conversation with strangers, a great asset when traveling the back country roads away from tourist spots. He was great family man, always considerate and always helping with the grandkids. It was a privilege to call him my friend, he is greatly missed.

— **Ted Moore**

As a former university lab partner (OAC 70 classmate) as well as long-time BC Ministry of Agriculture colleague, I echo sentiments shared here. Michael was a class guy, often leading and always expressing opinions based on careful thought, solid research, common sense, animal and crop health and productivity, environmental impact, and always with care and empathy for co-workers and friends. RIP Michael and sincere condolences to family and friends.

— **Ron Barker**

Maureen and family I am shocked and sad to hear about Mike I always enjoyed spending time with him. We were in the same major at U of G. I was part of his wedding party as you may remember Maureen I know he was deeply in love with you Maureen Mike and I spent our years together at OAC. He introduced me to CCR and Alabama I think. We shared a house one year. Mike had his guitar and we had a couple of parties in the top floor of Newman Centre. Girls were not allowed in the house but our room was on the top floor and had the fire escape ladder at our room. We would bring the girls up that way I remember Mike taking us on a flight around Guelph. I remember him studying for his pilot's licence. I There are many other memories I have of Mike. He sold me his boat motor and trailer before he left for New Zealand I am really sad not to have visited with him in the recent years If my message is a bit mixed I apologize. I am still processing his death. He was a good man Love to all the family. PS I have some pictures of Mike at Guelph. I will gladly share if there is a way to post them here

— **Patrick Lynch**



<https://www.myalternatives.ca/obituaries/michael-frederick-betts>

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