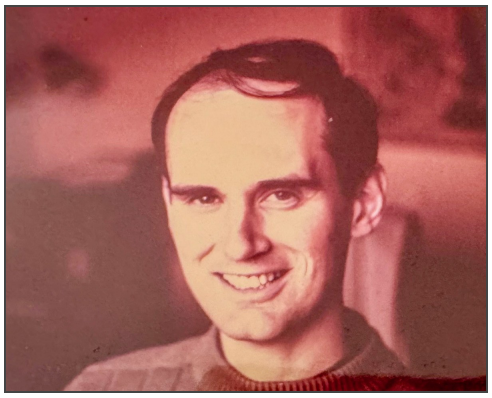
Willard Thurston



AUGUST 25, 2025

Born November 24, 1939, in Brampton, Ontario
Died August 25, 2025, in Surrey, BC, at the age of 85, after a brief illness

Bill grew up in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, and moved with his parents to Vancouver at the end of high school. He attended UBC, where he majored in English, and later pursued graduate studies in Sociology. During this time, he discovered his true calling in photography. Bill went on to build a career in commercial photography that spanned nearly 40 years. In his later years, he also produced and published several of his own books—sophisticated graphic novels that blended storytelling with his photographic artistry.

Bill was married to Marion (née DeSouza) for almost 60 years until her passing earlier this year. Together, they created a warm and welcoming home, where Marion’s cooking and Bill’s conversation—often accompanied by an impromptu piano recital—nourished family and friends alike.

In retirement, Bill and Marion enjoyed an active and fulfilling life. They became enthusiastic golfers and also traveled widely, exploring destinations such as Russia, southern Africa, Greece, Hungary, and Austria. Their journeys resulted in a treasured collection of photo albums that will continue to inspire future generations.

Bill is survived by his older brother, Olin (Virginia) and niece and nephews.

The family kindly requests no flowers. In lieu, donations may be made to Surrey Hospitals Foundation in memory of Willard Thurston.

https://www.surreyhospitalsfoundation.com/our-facilities/surrey-memorial-hospital/

Messages of Condolence

I knew Bill and Marion, Many years ago, Bill approached me to be the main character in one of his first illustrated stories he took many pictures for the illustrations in , “The Maenad”. and other stories. I always hoped that he would become famous and well known for his work. . I moved back to Ontario from Vancouver and we slowly lost touch. I enjoyed receiving his letters Bill had an amazing way of writing. Today, I decided to check on Bill and discovered the obituary. Though saddened I feel honoured that he made me a part of the project. Both Bill and Marion will be in my memories. □□□□□love from shelly

— shelly sanderson

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https://www.myalternatives.ca/obituaries/willard-thurston

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