



REMEMBERING Owen Gloster

December 9, 1925 - April 6, 2011



Owen Charles Leslie Gloster

Owen Gloster, beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend, was born in Nairn, Scotland, on Dec. 9th, 1925. He died in Duncan, BC, on April 6th, 2011, peacefully, and as he wished, at home.

He was predeceased by first wife, Anne, in 1979, and most recently by his much loved brother, Addie, only six weeks ago. Owen is survived by his loving and amazing wife, Judy, his two sons, Kerr (Anne) and Hugh (Brenda) and his cherished grandchildren, Heather and Julie, his friend of nearly sixty years, John Sargeant, his long-time pal and golfing buddy, Pete Leckie (Fran), his niece, Amanda (Jeff) and great nephews Charlie, Nick and Alex. In addition, he leaves Judy's children, Stephen, Jackie, David (Kim), and Robert (Mhairi), and Judy's grandchildren - Sarah and Ronnie Gunn and Jason Thorne, as well as many caregivers and supporters. Of special note, Owen wanted to acknowledge the tireless contribution to his well-being made not only by Judy, but by Judy's son, Stephen, as well as Maria Clements, caregiver extraordinaire!

The family would like to thank all the people in emergency at Cowichan District Hospital, the ambulance attendants, Mann's Pharmacy, the Valley Medical Clinic, and the Community Home Care Nursing Services and home support. Special thanks go to Dr. Woods and Dr. Leckie.

Owen graduated from the University of Glasgow in 1948, and he served as a Major in the British Army Medical Corps in Korea. He practiced in Newcastle and Wolverhampton, England, before spending twelve years in Hull, Yorkshire. He was a member of the executive of the British Medical Association (Hull Branch), before emigrating to Canada in 1964. In February, 1966, he moved from Prince Rupert to Duncan, and was very involved in the plans for, and building of, the new Cowichan District Hospital, as well as the "new" medical clinic on Jubilee Street.

Owen was an accomplished aneasethetist, but formally and passionately specialized in family practice, becoming one of the first to receive the official title such specialty bestowed.

He was a member of Rotary, and for some forty years was a member of the Cowichan Golf and Country Club. He was Chief of Staff and Medical Director of Cowichan District Hospital for many years, and was a founding member and avid supporter of the Cowichan District Hospital Foundation, raising millions of dollars in support of the local hospital. He was a proud and enthusiastic founder and member of the Cowichan Foundation, raising money for, among other things, scholarships for students in the Cowichan Valley. He was humbled, but pleased, to be awarded the Commemorative Medal for the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002 for his contribution to the community. Owen was for a number of years on the executive, and then was President, of the BC College of Family Physicians.

After fifty-seven years in medicine, he retired on his 80th birthday, having delivered more than 3000 babies, and watching his respected and much appreciated patients grow older

with him. He maintained the highest standards of practice, and served his profession with distinction and dedication, much appreciated by patients and admired by colleagues.

Owen loved the sea, and enjoyed sailing and boating in general, particularly on the Clyde River in Scotland, as well as the local waters off Vancouver Island, where his thrill for fishing brought many smiles and raised eyebrows from his family. He loved golf and the banter with the other members of his foursome, as well as those at the course who would regularly inquire as to how many strokes under par he was on that particular day! To know Owen's golfing prowess, would bring a smile to anyone's face when he lied emphatically in response.

He was a lifelong soccer fan, particularly supporting Greenock Morton and the amateur club, Queen's Park, in his younger days. More recently he enjoyed, for the most part, Manchester United. The exploits of one, Wayne Rooney, would sometimes cause an expression of concern.

Owen thrived in his Scottish heritage, but never lost the passion and pride he felt for his chosen country, Canada.

A recognition and celebration of Owen will be held at Cowichan Golf and Country Club on Sunday, April 17th, from 2:00-4:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, Owen and family would appreciate the consideration of donations to the Cowichan Foundation (charities), the Cowichan District Hospital Foundation, or to a charity of your choice.

