



Bruce Alan Raymond

April 4, 2021

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Bruce Alan Raymond passed away in his sleep on Sunday April 4, 2021.

Though suffering from dementia, Bruce was being wonderfully cared for in the Veterans Centre at the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto.

Bruce was born on May 20, 1925 in England and moved with his parents shortly thereafter to Montreal to live in Verdun. His passion for theatre began as a young man. After serving in the Royal Canadian Navy in WW2 on an active base in Newfoundland/Labrador, he continued his involvement in the arts, becoming active in the Montreal Repertory Theatre. The Montreal Rep was home to the beginning of multiple Canadian show business careers including that of the late Christopher Plummer and also William Shatner with whom Bruce remained in contact throughout much of his life. Some years later, Bruce met his wife Rita, an actress at the time, while directing her in a play and their shared love of the arts remained a focus of their life together.

Bruce's career spanned six decades and included leadership of CBC Radio, CBC English language programming and many years as an independent television and film producer and distributor. His son Donovan joined the family business in 1980 and worked with him over the next 14 years before branching off to find a career in Information Technology.

Despite having survived in the uncertain world of show business, Bruce's true gift was communication. He wrote his own contracts and speeches and was sought after by colleagues and friends for his expertise in this area. While not one to focus on regrets, Bruce thought that he could have been an effective corporate lawyer had the choice been available to him when he was younger. Bruce was equally respected for his intelligence, kindness, oratory skills (he was a confident public speaker) and last but not least, his integrity. His parting words to friends and strangers alike were 'God Bless'. He was also very active in community service and was extremely proud of his election to the role of Chief Barker for Variety the Children's Charity.

Bruce was pre-deceased by his wife Rita Raymond (nee Roy) and his brother Bob Elcox. He is survived by his son Donovan (Nancy Lee Martin), his grand-daughter Gabrielle and his sister Doreen Elcox as well as nieces and nephews on multiple continents.

In honour of the excellent care he received as a resident of the Sunnybrook Veterans Centre, donations to the Sunnybrook Foundation in lieu of flowers are appreciated. The family would like to acknowledge the dedication and tireless work of the medical and care teams at Sunnybrook (especially during the Covid pandemic) and in particular thank those individuals who worked closely with Bruce while he was a resident there.

<https://donate.sunnybrook.ca/tribute>

Comments



“ For over 30 years, Bruce was a mentor. I am privileged to have known him. Love to his family!

Aaron Weiss - April 21 at 06:15 PM



“ My heartfelt condolences to Donovan and his family on the passing of his father, Bruce.
I had the pleasure of working with Bruce starting in 1984 on our new tv series 50 PLUS.
Bruce was full of energy and fresh ideas. I appreciated his professionalism and his wonderful sense of humor. Thank you Bruce...
Your life has been a blessing.



Margie Castle - April 16 at 05:42 PM



“ I'm Bruce Raymond's sister, Doreen, and I call Bruce Raymond by his family name – Roy.
It's lovely to read what Roy's friends have written. Thank you.
I can tell you that from my earliest memory Roy was telling stories every evening over our family dinner table: you might imagine how he entertained me in particular, with tales of his school friends - a close, talented gang - then his university world at McGill – then the navy, and finally, while we were all still together, about the glamorous people in the theatre and the dramas of his job at the CBC.
He has always meant so much to me.

Doreen Elcox - April 16 at 05:14 PM



“ In fond memory of dear Bruce, storyteller, par excellence, who consistently kept us, the "lunch bunch" amused, listening to his delightful stories, while sitting around that table by the window at the Duke of York on Prince Arthur Avenue in Toronto's Yorkville.
Sincerely,
Lesley Wyle

Lesley Wyle - April 15 at 04:37 PM



“ From Iain Brown

Bruce certainly held centre-stage for a very long time and his benign, positive influence spread far and wide, with great effect. I am sure the sadness of his family and friends will be tempered by the warmth of their memories of Bruce. He really was ... a great guy!

Iain Brown, Brown Films Ltd. London

Donovan Raymond - April 14 at 02:19 PM



“ I had a very long association with him.he was very dear to me.I will always miss him.may he rest in peace.



Puneet Dureja - April 14 at 10:08 AM



“ Loved Bruce and his caring heart. I could listen to his tales for days. Particularly giving William Shatner his first job! Miss him! Love to the family
Paul Truelove

Paul Truelove - April 14 at 01:10 AM



“ Thank you Paul. Bruce loved to tell a story. :)

Donovan - April 14 at 08:55 AM



“ He passed through glory's gate and walked in to Paradise. Bruce will be missed but never forgotten



andrea kmet - April 13 at 06:59 PM



“ Thank you Andrea. A perfect sentiment.

Donovan - April 14 at 08:53 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Donovan Raymond - April 13 at 04:22 PM



“ Bruce was always generous with his advice and cared deeply for his friends. I was honoured to consider him one of mine. He exhibited a remarkable integrity and always sought to do what was right, even if it was detrimental to his pocket book. I have met few people who I respected as much.

John Andras - April 13 at 09:28 PM



“ Nicely said John. Bruce lived the adage, 'do what is right, not what is easy.'

Donovan - April 14 at 08:59 AM



“ I was very sorry to hear of Bruce's passing. He was a partner, friend and mentor for many, many years. When I first met Bruce he had just retired from CBC and was very interested in the film business in which I worked. I discovered that Bruce had not only negotiated more artists, distribution and technical contracts than most lawyers in the business he was quite dismissive of the length and complexity of most of those agreements. "Padding their accounts" he huffed. He said that most agreements did not need to be more than two pages long. I engaged Bruce to assist in putting together contracts, cast and crew, for a documentary I was producing. He remained my chief 'documentarian' until 2020. He would have been a great lawyer but I am thankful he stayed in the arts and blessed us all with his wisdom, good humour and integrity.

God speed my friend,

Garth

Garth Douglas - April 13 at 03:09 PM



“ Thanks Garth. Dad had a sense of humour until the end. :)

Donovan - April 13 at 04:27 PM



“ You will be missed my friend. Thank you for your friendship and the services you provided as long time member. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Much love,
John Tanti & Deborah Moore



Deborah Moore - April 13 at 02:42 PM



“ Thank you John & Deborah.

Donovan - April 13 at 04:24 PM



“ It used to be a widely-held rule that the entertainment business was populated almost exclusively by frauds, shysters, and general liars.

Bruce was the exception to the rule. A fine man, and we could have used more like him!

God bless.

Hugh - April 13 at 11:24 AM



“ Donovan Raymond lit a candle in memory of Bruce Alan Raymond



Donovan Raymond - April 12 at 02:35 PM



“ Donovan Raymond is following this tribute.

Donovan Raymond - April 12 at 02:33 PM