



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 granddaughter 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>

Tribute Wall

SS

“ Fred and Susan Shaw send our condolences to Rebecca and family. Whenever Bruce rode his motorcycle up to his property in Haliburton he would come up to see us to chat and have coffee. He called just before his passing and Fred did get to say goodbye. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Rebecca and your family for this grievous loss. We know there is no more suffering but also that his presence will be truly missed. Please feel free to call any time as you likely have our phone number.

Susan Shaw - February 25 at 10:01 PM

WN

“ Bruce had faith in me and I Am so grateful and hope he keeps smiling on all of we whom he nurtured and supported
Creator rest his beautiful Spirit

Willi Nolan - May 20, 2022 at 09:42 PM

SM

“I had the pleasure of meeting Bruce in 1982 at one of the excellent hospitality suites that were celebrating the launch of licensed pay television in Canada. We had both been approached by a U.S. company who were trying to launch a video games channel network that would allow users to download games of their choice into a personal mini-computer box. I had previously heard from a friend of Donovan's about what a wonderful person Bruce was and while sharing an introductory cocktail came to quickly realize that while in attendance to promote new stock market charting channel on Rogers Cable I could learn a lot from his vast experience and we agreed to investigate the Games Channel opportunity together. Bruce's due diligence eventually cast doubt on the financial ability of the promoters to be successful.

Thus began a wonderful personal friendship and business relationship during which I enjoyed many stories and learned how to improve my writing skills through Bruce's incredibly thorough advice and editing. After Rita's passing my wife and I often looked forward to hosting Uncle Bruce as my children fondly called him, plus Donovan and his daughter Gabi for Christmas Eve dinners. My own father passed on 41 years ago today and I will always remain thankful for our relationship and consider him to be a not only a mentor but dear friend who was akin to being a second father.

After such a life well lived, I pray that Bruce will enjoy and be blessed with a wonderful next stage heavenly career plus reunion with Rita and many friends who also predeceased him"

Scott McDougall

Scott McDougall - August 05, 2021 at 11:31 PM

AW

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

Aaron Weiss - April 21, 2021 at 06:15 PM

MC

“ 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 5o 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, 2021 at 05:42 PM

DE

“ 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, 2021 at 05:14 PM

LW

“ *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, 2021 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, 2021 at 02:19 PM

PD

“ *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, 2021 at 10:08 AM

PT

“ *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, 2021 at 01:10 AM



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

Donovan Raymond - April 14, 2021 at 08:55 AM

AK

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



andrea kmet - April 13, 2021 at 06:59 PM



Thank you Andrea. A perfect sentiment.

Donovan Raymond - April 14, 2021 at 08:53 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Donovan Raymond - April 13, 2021 at 04:22 PM

JA

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, 2021 at 09:28 PM



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

Donovan Raymond - April 14, 2021 at 08:59 AM

MM

Two wonderful human beings.

Mike McLaughlin - March 29, 2025 at 10:10 PM

GD

“ 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, 2021 at 03:09 PM



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

Donovan Raymond - April 13, 2021 at 04:27 PM

DM

“ *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, 2021 at 02:42 PM



Thank you John & Deborah.

Donovan Raymond - April 13, 2021 at 04:24 PM

HU

“ *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, 2021 at 11:24 AM



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



Donovan Raymond - April 12, 2021 at 02:35 PM