

OBITUARIES



BROWN, Russell E.
May 20, 1937 - December 8, 2017

Passed away at the age of 80. The son of Harry E.C. Brown and Ethel A. Brown (nee Wilcox) of Toronto. Also the step son of F/L Wallace Jamieson RFC /RAF. Russell is survived by his wife of fifty six years Joan (nee Matchett) and his daughters Leslie Thomas and Diane Schwagly (Brent), by three grand children, Lauren and Spencer Thomas and Taylor Walters. He is also survived by his sister Velda Boyle and by his brother Warren (Elaine) and by many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by older sister Gwendolyn Acker (Ian Ridge).

Russell was born in Toronto and educated at Eglinton and John Ross Robertson public schools, Lawrence Park Collegiate and York University, Glendon College.

He found his passion for flight early, earning his pilot licence at seventeen and his RCAF wings at twenty. In the RCAF he flew the early jets, bombers, transports and SAR while serving in several units but primarily in his home unit of 400 squadron, the RCAF senior squadron. The Air Force served him well as he met the love of his life Joan Matchett while stationed at Winnipeg flying the B-25 in the Air Observers School. Joan is the daughter of the late Rev. C.S. and Mrs. Matchett of Winnipeg.

After graduation from York University in 1965 he worked briefly for DeHavilland Aircraft before joining Canadian Pacific Airlines as a DC-3 pilot. Russell retired from Canadian Airlines in 1997 as a senior 747 Captain after thirty one years and having flown the depth and breadth of Canada and to every continent except Antarctica.

Russell says, "To all of the crews who flew with me over the years and made me look good, especially in those moments of crisis, thank you. Fly safe, we will meet again!"

Russell was proud of having served over the years as a cub scout leader, pilot representative on the CP Air charitable board, as a Rotarian (twice a Paul Harris Fellow) and as President of the ALS Society of BC and the Yukon. A special thank you to Dr. Hollinger and the Home Care nurses.

There will be no service by request, a family gathering will be held at a later date. Please consider making a charitable donation to the ALS Society of BC, the BC Cancer Foundation or a charity of your choice.