



David Macdonald 'Arch' Archibald

July 16, 1948 - February 10, 2022

Age 73, died February 10, 2022, in Halifax. Born in Digby, N.S., he grew up in the Annapolis Valley, the son of the late Dr. David McDougall Archibald and Belle (Allen) MacDonald. Arch was a well-known cameraman at CBC Halifax for over 30 years and the many events he covered included the Westray mine disaster and the Swiss Air 111 crash. He worked on the CBC shows Land and Sea and On The Road Again. He was a talented photographer and videographer and won an Atlantic Journalism Award for his work. He loved the movies and music, from Mozart to Bob Marley, a good cup of Java, NFL games and F1 racing, especially watching the races with his son, David. He had a sharp, dry sense of humour and could spin a good story. He is survived by daughters Ona, Alexandra and Kate (Matthew Boyle) and son, David, of Halifax and Dartmouth; granddaughters Sophia White and Vienna Boyle; his stepmother, Ruth Ann (Morse) Harris, Berwick; half siblings, Stuart, Jon, Wally, Susan and Tom, and families. There will be no funeral service as Arch wished. Online condolences:

Tribute Wall

MT

“ I had the pleasure of working with Dave over a period of 30 years at the CBC. He always looked at us reporters/producers with his eyebrow cocked as if were wondering what crazy, impossible ideas we'd be proposing and how he was going to explain better ways to do it. Several memorable assignments stand out. We traveled to the 200 mile limit on a Fisheries Patrol vessel to report on the situation after the infamous cod war with the Spanish. It required us to climb up Jacob's ladders on the sides of tossing, pitching factory freezer trawlers. Dave refused to let go of his camera, carrying it up the ladder on his back. Later, when a mishap prevented me for continuing the ladder climbing, Dave and sound-man Wayne Purcell continued the trips without me - getting the footage and sound bites we needed to complete the documentary.

Another time, for Country Canada, we traveled to Quebec's Lower North Shore. There were no hotels, so we rented a whole house. Dave always needed to have his coffee! But one morning we had an early call to go crab fishing. No time for coffee. The Dave I encountered on our way to the boat was not the person I remembered. Grumpy and grumbling I feared what it would be like to spend the day at sea with him. Not to worry. All he needed was his cuppa joe (brewed for all of us by the skipper) and he was back to his old self.

His footage and eye for story-telling were phenomenal. We in the news and documentary business at CBC Halifax cared deeply for him. We shared his love of adventure and frustrations with the job. He was always thrilled to speak of his children and their adventures and accomplishments. I am so sorry for your loss.



Marie Thompson - February 14, 2022 at 12:10 PM

MR

So saddened to read that Dave passed on, but Heaven got a special angel.

I met Dave in the early 70's. He was at a Dutch Mason show, where a lot of friends gathered!

Over the years, I'd bump into him. He was always so welcoming and his spirit would make you just feel better. The last time I saw him was about 9 or 10 years ago, at Freeman's Little New York. I lived across the street and we would have a chat. He would be having a coffee, after coming from work.

There are some people in this world, who are special!

Although, I didn't know him, as well as a lot of others, who have shared tributes, I felt he was special.

He engendered that in people.

To his children and grandchildren, family; friends, my heart goes out to you. R.I.P. Dave ❤️

Margie Rouse - February 17, 2022 at 01:38 PM

DK

“*I loved David's keen intellectual quick wit. He was always a great spirit in the groups of people he traveled with. Friends from his youth were always travelling in and out of his life on his Earth Planet adventures. He was one of the background creators in endless Nova Scotian and International project cultural creations. He was more than once the need piece in the groups to make productions move from completions to well-turned and finely crafted "Long time to be remembered" productions. He will be missed in the cultural community of Nova Scotia.*

Life never gives you enough time to personally spend enough time with everybody you meet. I wish I knew him better - And he was someone i wish i had spent more time with.

He was just fun to be around - I love quick witted intelligent gentle people.

As Randy Newman said it: "Sail On my man. Sail on.:"

See you on the flip side David.

Don Kane - February 14, 2022 at 10:25 AM

RS

“ David was a dear friend to me when we were in grade school and before then in Jr. and High School . We w

Ere

In all the same classes at WKDHS in Auburn and we learned to play doctor and PATIENT WHEN WE EERE VERY YOUNG. WE BELONGED VTO SAME GROUP OF FRIENDS AND LIVED ON SAME STREET. HE HAD A HUGE GR

EAT DANE NAMED MARK ANTHONY WHO WAS LIKE A HUGE BLOND HAPPY BEAR. his dad was my doctor. David's was a

wonderful pianist. And his Strep mother, Ruth Ann had 4 babies when I was a teen and I see in David's obit he got one more bother after I moved to USa. David's dad had a sound proof room built for David when his stepmother Came to live with Dr. A and David. Ruth Ann was an opera singer

R and her brother a farmer in the Annapolis birthday-Berwick area wS out Physics teacher in high school and my favourite teacher. The world seemed so big in our little world. We sure had fun dancing in that sound proof room with no windows and the lights out. David had a crush on my cousin , Vicky Parker nee Glydon when we were between Gr. 8 and Grade 9 at West Kings. In winter a bunch of us would go moon light tobagganing. i have many wonderful memories that include a great group of young folks from home many who have passed on.

Sincere sympathy to Ruth Ann and all David's family.

Robyn Stronach - February 14, 2022 at 12:26 AM

RS

My sincere sympathy to David's daughters and son and his grandchildren. I hope you will enjoy kn I wing what a great guy David was as a child and what a lot of fun he was. I am sorry that I lost touch with him. My cousin's son, Gerard Tremere told me about reading his Obit. MAY you all be safe and well. Yours truly Robyn L. Stronach

Robyn Stronach - February 14, 2022 at 12:38 AM

DW

“ Condolences to Daves' family.

Cant remember if he was in the film cameraroom on Sackville St when I arrived at the CBC in December of 1974 but he was one of the iconic shooters especially after the old guard started retiring.

Saw him around more after I went to Bell Rd in 1993.

I was amused to read the comments about his speedy driving. The morning of the Swiss Air disaster I was asked to transport his company vehicle to the wharf in Prospect and meet him and reporter Ann Marie Taylor?. They had been out on a chartered boat covering the story and needed to get back to the editing room. Not that familiar with the area, I ended up in Lr Prospect at a small wharf with no one around. Dave or the reporter called me on the cellphone to ask where I was. I replied..right here but I dont see a boat.

Then I realized my mistake so raced over to the correct location .

Dave insisted on driving back and he quickly brought feelings of fear from two previous highway crashes when I was in the front passenger seat.

I looked around to see the reporter grinning at me....probably getting a charge out of my obvious fright. I was glad when we got back to Bell Rd in one piece and no one asked me to transport a vehicle again. Dave was a character and Im sorry to hear of him passing so young.

Don White - February 13, 2022 at 12:28 PM