



Gerard Michael Walsh

July 22, 1928 - October 21, 2024

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Gerard Michael Walsh at the age of 96. Beloved father, grandfather and great grandfather, he leaves behind his adoring children Sharon (Bruce), Debora, Moya, Gerard (Joanne), Margot, and Helen; his 16 grandchildren Rebecca and Victoria (Mehaffey), Samuel and Madigan (Dockrill), Ben, Seamus and Noah (Dalton), Gerard, John and Edward (Walsh), Molly and Emma (Courish), Eric and Christopher (Ormston), Katie and Jack (Walsh); 4 great grandchildren Ellie and Zoey (Dockrill) and James and Eloise (Walsh) and his brother Edward. Many friends and extended family mourn his loss especially his sisters-in-law Helen and Barbara and his caregivers Muriel, Debbie and Cathy. Gerard was predeceased by his wife and love of his life for more than 50 years Bernice (Doran), his son Mark, his parents John and Mary (Madigan) and his siblings John and Barbara (Dalton).

Born in St. John's, Newfoundland in 1928, Gerard was educated by the Christian brothers at St. Bonaventure's College and later attended St. Frances Xavier University. As a young man, he began his lifelong career in the insurance business culminating as Atlantic President of the Insurance Bureau of Canada. His experiences in the insurance business generated many stories that he loved to recount especially the years in Newfoundland where he championed for change in the industry. He lobbied successfully for the introduction of mandatory seat belts and daytime running lights legislation. In 1977, Nova Scotia became his adopted home. When he retired in 1993,

Gerard and Bernice wintered in Florida where they enjoyed a large circle of friends and the company of their kids and grandkids.

When we think of our dad, we think of his love of classical music in particular the great operas like Turandot and Rigoletto and composers like Bach and Beethoven. He introduced his children to classical music by playing Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf. At Sunday dinner, he would turn the stereo up loud and conduct from his seat at the dining room table while his seven children rolled their eyes. But it worked. All of us now have classical music in our homes and on our playlists.

He was passionate about golf playing it into his late 80s and watching it for long hours in his later years. The annual Walsh family golf tournament "Bingo, Bango, Bongo" was a favourite of his giving him the opportunity to play, and often beat!, his children and grandchildren. He was a generous person and contributed to dozens of charities every year. He was an avid gardener, a voracious reader, and captivating raconteur regaling his audience with stories about Newfoundland, before and after Confederation. Gerard was also an historian with an incredible knowledge and recall of WWII. He loved to engage with his grandchildren and couldn't be beaten at 'What's the population of ????'

Poppy, as he was known to all of us, worried about very little and complained about less.

His longevity can be attributed to this indefatigable optimism. He was loved by all, in particular by his children who happily provided him with company and comfort for which he profusely expressed his gratitude.

He had many quotable quotes that reflected his philosophy on life including, "Do what you want but pay the consequences", "Put brain in gear before opening trap!" and "You don't get what you don't ask for". When asked by his grandson at his 90th birthday for advice on a life well lived, without hesitation he responded, "Be Kind".

We love you Poppy and miss you deeply and profoundly.

You will remain in our hearts forever.

A private Celebration of Life is planned.
No Flowers Please.

Tribute Wall

NI

“ We are so very sorry for your loss. May fond memories be of comfort. --Ben, Alex & Nicholas Graham & Wanda McDonald (NS cycling)

Nicholas - November 06, 2024 at 11:16 AM

NM

“ My deepest condolences to the Walsh family at the loss of the patriarch of your family. I know my brother Rick was very fond of Gerry and often spoke of them golfing together.
Nancy Maguire

Nancy Maguire - November 01, 2024 at 09:00 AM

ME

“ Sincere condolences to the Walsh family. We will miss Gerry as a CIS member and a friend and we are thankful for a life well lived and for the great community man that he was. Gerry was a member of the Charitable Irish Society of for 38 years. He may also have been a member of the BIS in St John's. Gerry was proud of his Irish roots and had some great Irish jokes and stories. I also knew Gerry well from the insurance industry, He was a regular attender at golf tournaments and insurance fraternity functions such as the Order of Blue Goose.

As well as my personal condolences I also extend deepest sympathy to the Walsh family from the Charitable Irish Society of Halifax.

Mel A Earley Membership Secretary
Charitable Irish Society of Halifax



Mel earley - October 28, 2024 at 06:29 PM

SG

“ Condolences to the Walsh family. While Gerry (as he was known to his colleagues at IBC) was Vice-President, Atlantics, I was a newly appointed Vice-President, Ontario. Gerry shared his industry knowledge and background with me and the other VPs and always brought a sense of joy and fun (not to mention a few beverages!) to our meetings. RIP Gerard. Stan Griffin

Stan Griffin - October 27, 2024 at 05:31 PM

JM

“ Sincerest condolences to the Walsh family, Gerard was a wonderful individual who will be missed by so many, please accept sympathies.

So many stories can be told about this wonderful man, they all can't be told, but they will be remembered.

Having been the receipt isn't of the Gerard Walsh Invitational golf tournament as the person of the year, I have special memories of him, RIP Gerard. John Mason

John Mason - October 27, 2024 at 03:34 PM

ML

“ Condolences to the Walsh family, Gerard was the most active and involved retired Vice President during my 23 yrs. Though he was retired when I began my IBC career, I got to know him through the many numerous phone conversations he and I would had at least once a week for over 23 yrs up to 2019; He would call to provide me with clarification on active IBC files and give me his input to pass along on what direction we should be going. Those phone calls over the years were very important as he held so much history in his memory on so many monumental files and decisions made during his term. He was one of a kind and had a brilliant mind and memory. I am so happy that I did get to thank him for all those great history conversations and the help he provided me even while he was retired. RIP Gerard and thank you

Marlene Landry - October 26, 2024 at 06:17 AM

DD

“ Gerard was always such a gentleman and made be proud to be his sister-in-law. He was a perfect host and a guest at any dinner table. So sorry for your loss❤️

Dana Doran - October 25, 2024 at 09:47 PM

AK

“ Moya, Margot and family,
I'm sorry to hear of your wonderful Dad's passing. Know we are
thinking of you at such a sad time.
With love and hugs,
Anna Marie & Rick

Anna Marie Kaiser - October 25, 2024 at 05:56 PM

BS

Moya, Margot, Sharon, Deb. Helen, and family
I'm so sorry to hear of the recent passing of both your dad and Mark,
and though its been many years since I have seen "Mr. Walsh" as I
called him, I remember well in that brief time many years ago when I
was a part of you all, that both your mom and your dad treated me so
well. Gerard used to take time and speak to me as I hung around or
waited at your house on Ordinance (which he even once hired me to
paint ,LOL),he was the first to teach me about classical music and
would offer me a drop of wine or scotch on a good day, I know how
close you all were to him and how good you all are to each other and I
know that both your dad and Mark will be missed but I also know that
you will all move forward with good thoughts to keep you all.
cheers to all ,
Billy Sharpe

Bill Sharpe - November 16, 2024 at 11:47 AM