

# Robert William Carr's Eulogy

**Kevin:** I'd like to thank you all for being here today. In some way, Bob Carr has touched your life and you have been a special part of his.

Rod and I, will share some special moments, and unique qualities, of our dad. He was born in Nanaimo in 1930, 89 years ago, to Edith (Mamie) Earnshaw and Robert (Bob) Carr, Sr. He was the middle of 3 children. He had an older sister, Beulah, and a younger brother, Don. In 1952, at the age of 22, he married the love of his life, Jean.

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His early years showed the "free spirit" that Dad really was, at least with his younger brother beside him. They first lived on Skinner Street in Nanaimo until 1934. During that time, Dad and Uncle Don enjoyed "playing" outdoors and were mischievous.

Some of Dad's most memorable stories were from Skinner St.:

- In one story, they were walked home by the police after they broke 30 or so windows at the **Pigmy Dance Hall** by throwing stones at them. When asked why they did it, they said they liked the "tinkling" sound of the breaking glass.
  - Another time, they were tossing various items off the **Bastion Street Bridge** just to watch them fall. The police investigating found out the names of the culprits and traced them to their home. When Grandma answered the door, she told the police they couldn't talk to the boys, as they were **napping**. The police had no idea the guilty young men were that young!
  - Sometimes Dad could be helpful! One errand he remembers is delivering a pillow to his notorious **Uncle Jack**, who frequently overnighted in the jail cell nearby as a result of his "spirits".
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**Rod:** Then, from 1935 – 1940, Dad and his family lived in **Rounds: A Rail Logging Camp, above Lake Cowichan**, where he and his brother Don started school. In fact, Grandpa was encouraged to bring Bob and Don, to Rounds so that student numbers would warrant the opening of a new school.

- Dad and Uncle Don, apparently did not like attending the one room school house, as they once tried to dislodge a **huge boulder** down the hill onto it. Fortunately for the school, the boulder tumbled right by the school, but unfortunately, it hit a speeder on the railroad tracks instead. (We're not sure what the consequence of that hit was!)

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Another "Bob and Don Show" at Rounds – was when Uncle Don was feared he killed his brother with an axe. Needless to say, he didn't otherwise we wouldn't be here today. Dad was behind Uncle Don and looking through Uncle Don's legs to view the "chop" when Don missed the wood, hitting Dad on the forehead with the blade. Uncle Don ran and hid under the house, certain he was in "big trouble", while their sister Beulah, who witnessed the event, ran screaming to parents that "Don had killed Bobby!"

- In 1942, the family moved to Victoria to be closer to Grandpa's work with Victoria Machinery Depot at Victoria Shipyards. Dad attended high school for Grade 8 through 10, but for the latter part of grade 10, he contracted a severe case of the mumps. He was unable to complete grade 10. Instead of repeating grade 10 the next year, Dad chose to work and Grandpa helped him get his first full time job at Mackenzie, White and Dunsmuir. He delivered parts by bicycle before becoming full time in the parts department, which became his lifelong career.
- **1950, provided a fateful meeting between Mom and Dad:** they were seated across the table from each other at a Casino fundraiser for the IOOF, in Port Alberni, when they caught each other's eye. A hanky (probably Mom's) fell off the table and both went underneath to retrieve it at the same time...a chance meeting? that would change their and lives forever.

One date led to many and in **1952, Dad and Mom were married.** Their romance continued for the next 67 years.

In 1954 Dad was transferred from Victoria to Courtney, where we remained for the next 5 years.

Yes We because While in Courtney, 1955 was a significant year, with the birth of me, (their first son (Rod)) and also the purchase of their first house.

A new job with Meyers Holland Motors in 1959 brought the family back to Dad's home town of Nanaimo. They bought their second house on St. Andrew Street and lived there for the next 27 years. They then purchased their third and current house in 1987, on Prince John Way, and Dad retired in 1989. He was able to enjoy the house, views, and garden right up to his last day.

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**Kevin:** Life became even more exciting and new challenges emerged with the birth of their second son, Kevin, in 1962.

Dad was a dedicated father to both of us. He was always helpful and willing to lend a hand. Dad was a fairly quiet man who showed his love, support and enjoyment of family, including his extended family, whenever he was with any of us. We all enjoyed and encouraged his stories and ready humour. He was welcoming and interested in everyone. He especially loved to spend time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

As I grew up, I played hockey and baseball. Dad made many sacrifices to put me in sports, and made many road trips to various out of town games. He was there at most of my games and tournaments. Always encouraging and supportive, he also enjoyed the company and social times with other fathers on the road trips. It took Mom several years to realize what “going for tea during intermission” was really about, and only found out when dad was told it was his turn to buy the beer.

Dad was pretty understanding and accepting in some challenging situations. As a 16 year old new driver, I crashed Mom’s car just 2 months after passing my road test. Dad never got angry with me, but just told me “I guess you’ll be getting that fixed”. I’m not even sure I paid for it. Meanwhile, Mom got a new car, and I eventually got to keep the old one...a beautiful, turquoise 1963 Meteor! Mum loved that car.....sorry Mum 😊.

Dad loved sports and was also adventuresome, enjoying nature and taking pictures throughout his life. His favourite sports in the earlier years were baseball and bowling (both 5 & 10 pin teams), playing cards with friends, watching hockey (favourite teams being Toronto in the early days and, recently, Vancouver and he faithfully watched the Canucks to his last days).

In his 40’s, Dad took up golf. He enjoyed playing all around the island as well as his course, the Nanaimo Golf and Country Course, where he had a membership for over 40 years.

Dad introduced us both to the game of golf and we enjoyed many rounds with him.

Dad had one not so enjoyable round of golf game. Early in the round, while in full swing, his club broke, and the club face swung round hitting him squarely on the head. He was having a career round, when on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole, a stray drive from the 10<sup>th</sup> tee hit Dad on the head once again, this time knocking him out. Dad was unable to finish the round and was ambulated to the hospital. At the hospital he was given a bottle of Crown Royal from the fellow who hit him. The fellow happened to be one of my bantam rep hockey coaches. That didn't keep Dad from the game, he was out golfing the next week.

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**Rod:** Dad and Mum had many wonderful trips together. Dad, didn't particularly like the travel as he was always very anxious beforehand, whether it was a road trip or overseas. However, accompanied by his loving wife, with travel plans carefully made, he did enjoy the new experiences, places and people. Albums speak volumes to the fun times they had while on their vacations: 3 trips to Europe; one to England and Scotland; another a tour of Europe; and a month long stay in Portugal where they met new friends Sheila and Ken, only to discover they lived a couple of blocks apart in Nanaimo; this lead to many Okanagan trips, (attracted by the early golf and wineries). Other trips included Australia's gold coast; New Zealand where niece Cindy and family lived (Dad and Mum surprised them at their wedding)! The Caribbean, North America road trips, Palm springs, Alaska cruise and Dad and Mum's favourite a trip to Tahiti.

And yes, family was important to him. When Pam and I married and moved 12 hours away to work and start our family, Dad and Mum made close to 2 trips each year up the province to spend time with us...recently Dad calculated those trips as close to 65. In the fall of 2017 Dad and Mom made their last road trip together to see us in Prince George.

His life was full and he loved his home, friends and family. Mum and Dad kept their home beautifully and the yard was like a park. They also enjoyed the fruits of their garden....along with berries and prize apples; the birds at the feeders; the eagles in their tree across the street; and the spectacular views of Departure Bay. Their home was his haven and pleasure to his very last day.

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In closing, we thank you for being here to celebrate this life of a very special person, our Dad, and husband to our Mum. To you, his role in your life will have been a different one, but to all of us here, we have been enriched by his love and blessed by him in our lives. His memories will live with us forever.

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