

OTTAWA CITIZEN

Obituaries



Alexander BARBOUR



BARBOUR, Alexander P.Eng., C.Eng.
1936 - 2022

Alex, 86, of Ottawa passed away peacefully in the wee hours of the morning Monday December 5, 2022 at home with his two lads on deck.

Alex was born in Dundee, Scotland (the world's greatest city) where he worked as a millwright and studied to become a marine engineer. He then served with Ben Line sailing the world for six years earning his Chief's ticket. He emigrated to Canada with his English wife Rita and a "wee bairn". Alex held a teaching position as Head of Marine Engineering at George Brown College before coming to Ottawa where he joined the department of Public Works as Chief Engineer, Marine and Industrial Conservation.

Alex's life work was always about preservation and restoration of historic ships and machinery. It was a passion that took him from coast to coast in Canada, into the United States, to a rum distillery in Martinique and even to the Falkland Islands. He was happiest on site wearing a dirty set of overalls and a pair of work boots. His marine restoration projects included the stern wheelers S.S. Klondike, S.S. Moyie, and S.S. Tutshi. In Baddeck, N.S. his team replicated Alexander Graham Bell's Hydrofoil HD 4. His salvage work included a 2000 Ton gold dredge (Dredge No.4) out of the permafrost in the Yukon and the preparatory work to move H.M.C.S. Haida from Toronto to Hamilton. He worked with the original steam whistles from the RMS Titanic and designed the system for blowing replica whistles for the travelling TITANIC Exhibit. Closer to home he worked on restoration projects for the fences on Parliament Hill, the Mint and Rideau Hall and the preservation of the NCC's Tin House. For a number of summers Alex could also be found at Mooney's Bay in his white boiler suit with a big smile on his face stoking the fires of the Bytown Pumper.

Alex is survived by his loving wife Rita and their two sons Stuart and Andrew (Lauren). He supported his sons in all their endeavors. Whether it be building a dark room in the basement or building a magic apparatus, or driving them to countless

hockey and soccer practices. He taught them the importance of hard work, problem solving skills, frugality and to always make time for a good laugh. He will be sadly missed by his three grandsons Isaac, Levi and Aaron, his workshop apprentice.

He was predeceased by his brother Bill (2021) (Wendy) (Carol d. 1991) and will be fondly remembered by niece Kim (Tom) and nephew Brad. He will be sadly missed in Sweden by his sister-in-law Pat (Lennart d. 2008); and his nephew Andrew and niece Catherine; and fondly remembered in England by niece Sally and partner Kerstin who have made many visits to Canada.

A special thanks to Kathleen Murphy, the engineer daughter he never had, who always had time and an ear for another ...

"I'll tell you a funny story"□."Just tell me old shipmates, I'm taking a trip, mates,
And I'll see you someday, in Fiddlers' Green" (John Connolly).

As per Alex's wishes, his sons will spread his ashes on The Law in Dundee, Scotland.

A celebration of life will take place Saturday January 28 at 1:15 p.m. at The Westboro Masonic Hall, 430 Churchill Ave North.

To plant a tree in memory of Alexander BARBOUR, please visit [Tribute Store](#).

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Plant a Living Memorial
In Memory of Alexander