

Celebrating Extraordinary Generosity

The Legacy of Robert Gordon Gaetz

Last fall, the Canadian Cancer Society was informed that Robert Gaetz had passed away and generously left a bequest gift in his will. Like so many of our supporters, Robert and members of his family were affected by cancer and he decided to leave a legacy to fight back.

As we began working with Robert's executor, it became clear that his gift showed a great deal of trust in the Canadian Cancer Society. In fact, Robert's legacy turned out to be the largest legacy gift ever received by the Society in British Columbia or the Yukon.

We sat down with Robert's cousin, Donna, to find out more about why he chose to leave such a generous legacy to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Robert ("Gord" to his family and close friends) was born in Regina in 1942. His family moved around as his father worked in radio and broadcasting technology. Interested in the family trade, Robert studied physics and graduated from the University of Alberta. His successful career in radio and television technology brought him to Toronto for many years before he fell in love with British Columbia and moved to Victoria to retire.

Robert was a perfectionist who was deeply passionate about his work. His interests and hobbies surrounded his mastery of technology and computers. The precision and accuracy required in this technology was a perfect match for his staunch work ethic and dedication to efficiency.

When Robert was diagnosed with cancer, it was natural for him to research and analyze his treatment and the technology behind it. He approached his treatment with all the care and precision he so often demonstrated throughout his career and life. Sadly, after a courageous battle which lasted several years, the cancer spread. Robert passed away last year.



Robert was private about his philanthropy and the reasons why he supported the Society. Generosity was a family trait; Robert's grandfather Leonard donated his private land to establish the town site of Red Deer, Alberta. No doubt, Robert's experiences with cancer and the loss of family to cancer, heart attacks and stroke led to gifts in his will that would help these important causes.

We cannot begin to describe how deeply appreciative we are to Robert for his legacy gift. It is fitting that his gift will fund research and advances in the science of preventing, detecting and treating cancer. It will also provide caring support services to those on a cancer journey.

Our Legacy Society donors continue to amaze us with their generosity and we are inspired to work on their behalf to eradicate cancer.

The Canadian Cancer Society thanks Robert's family for sharing his story.