



Dann Lebedoff - a Biography

1945 - 2012

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our dear husband, father and grandfather, Dann Lebedoff, on August 2, 2012. The following biography was read by his son at the funeral service that took place in Grand Forks, BC, on August 7, 2012:

My name is Mark and I want to thank you all for coming today to join my family in saying goodbye to our husband, father and grandfather, Dann Lebedoff. Dad was born on February 21, 1945 at the Kootenay Lake General Hospital in Nelson, BC, to Tim and Nita (Barabanoff) Lebedoff. He was the youngest of two children.

Dad attended school in Crescent Valley and then High School at South Slokan. Showing his creative artistic talents by expressing his feelings in art form, he was encouraged to attend the Kootenay School of Art in Nelson, where he spent three years, under the direction of Santo Mineosa and Zelco Kooujek. This experience helped mold his love of music and the visual arts and eventually led him to his life-long career in the Printing Industry. After finishing Art School he went to work for the local Print Shop at the time, Leno-Whimsters Printing Company.

Dad loved the Kootenay area and was more of an artist than an outdoorsman, therefore spent most of his young years in Nelson. During this time he became friends with Kay Osachoff from Grand Forks and the two of them would do crazy things like Skydiving. In fact, the story goes that after a skydive, a lovely lady from nearby Grand Forks, by the name of Olga Makortoff, was waiting on the ground for this particular skydiver to land with a

bottle of whiskey, saying "Anyone crazy enough to skydive deserves a drink!" They married in 1966.

Shortly after marrying, Dad and Mom moved to Vancouver, pursuing a better job in the printing trade which later became his passion. Sister April was born there and two years later, Mom and Dad decided that a large city was not the place they wanted to raise their children and moved back to the Interior, first to Grand Forks, then to Crescent Valley, back to the beloved Kootenays and his old job at Leno-Whimsters. Nelson was where my brother Jeff was born. I wasn't around at the time but I am told "the ranch", as it is affectionately called, was where they lived, with an outhouse, no electricity and a wood stove for cooking and heating. Talk about roughing it! But then it was the Hippy era and roughing it was not uncommon.

When Mom went to Nelson to have Jeff, Dad was looking after April, who was four at the time. He said she made sandwiches for him with "wedges" of bread like cake slices you get from Bloomingdales. "The Ranch" was the site of some fond family memories that dad used to talk about - close to his relatives and friends in the Kootenays.

But, after a couple of years, "roughing it" proved to be harder than thought and the family moved to Kelowna, where Dad got a job at a large print shop, Finley Printing And that is when I blessed them with my presence - I think they were happy that I came along. They bought a house in a new subdivision and settled into a more modern lifestyle. We enjoyed many times climbing Mount Boucherie seeking wild mushrooms and hiking the many trails with Dad.

Unexpectedly the printing company closed its doors and Dad had to look for other opportunities.

Working in the High Arctic sounded like an opportunity and shortly after the printing shop job came to an end, Dad went to the Arctic Circle to work on the oil rigs. I remember the sealskin parka he had and the heavy clothing and the stories about the Arctic Foxes and Polar Bears he'd see from the helicopter and the white out conditions. It was hard work, but gave Dad the inspiration for a series of airbrush paintings he created that showcased the large aircrafts that would carry supplies and employees back and forth, (sometimes in temperatures below -40 degrees Celsius). But being away from home was weighing heavy on his soul, so Dad decided to come home and move to Grand Forks to start his own Printing Company, Fargo Press. When in the mid 80's the economic downturn happened and business slowed down, Dad decided to sell the business and go back to working for another boss. It was then that the dream job opportunity came along - working for Pacific Press in the photo-engraving department of the Vancouver Sun and Province papers. That meant relocating the family once again. But it was a job of a life-time, so now once more back to Vancouver. I did not mind for by now I was in my 11th year at school and was excited about going to a larger city.

The Pacific Press production plant was moving to Surrey, so Dad and Mom purchased a house in Cloverdale, where they lived for 13 years, until Dad's retirement from the company. While in Cloverdale, Dad's favourite companion was his little Lhasa Apso dog called Charlie.

After retirement Dad wanted a quieter pace of life and they again moved to Grand Forks.

Wherever the jobs took Dad, he would get involved in different clubs. He started with the Kinsmen Club in Grand Forks and then continued in Kelowna.

After retiring and moving to Grand Forks Dad took an interest in the community and became active in the Boundary Museum Society, volunteered with the Fall Fair, and then developed a strong relationship with the Rotary Club Retirees. He and Mom would often attend their once a month dinners.

In his younger years Dad loved to ride his motorcycle and would often go on short trips around the area.

In his last few years Dad was writing a novel, but became ill before he could complete it.

On July 1, 2012, Dad had a stroke and was taken to Trail Hospital, where he stayed for two weeks and then was brought to the Grand Forks Hospital to complete his recovery. Unfortunately, a month later on August 1st he suffered another stroke and at 12:35 AM of August 2, 2012 he passed away peacefully with his loving wife at his side.

Dad was predeceased by his parents Tim Lebedoff and Nita Fominoff and stepfather John Fominoff.

He leaves behind to mourn: his loving wife Olga; his daughter April and partner Steve Dickson; son Jeff and wife Olja; son Mark and partner Gaia Howe and her son Kyle with whom he developed a special bond, and the apple of his eye his loving granddaughter Ariana; his sister Stella Rilkooff of Crescent Valley, B.C.; a niece and two nephews; relatives and friends.

He will be sadly missed. May he rest in Peace.

The family would like to thank everyone who assisted Dann with his challenges in his last years and everyone who sent food and cards to the family and called with their condolences. The funeral service, with Jerry Seminoff officiating, was held at the Grand Forks Funeral Home on Tuesday, August 7 at 10:00 AM with a lunch at the USCC Community Centre in Grand Forks. Burial took place Wednesday, August 8 at the Krestova Cemetery.



In Memoriam
Vechnaya Pamyat

Preserving the memory of our deceased family members and friends