



Paul Verigin 1940 - 2013

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend, Paul Alex Verigin. Paul passed away Saturday, January 5, 2013, with his family by his side, in Kelowna, at the age of 72.

He was born on March 19, 1940 in Grand Forks to parents Alex and Polly Verigin.

He was the oldest of three children. He had a brother, Alex and sister, Irene.

Paul lived in Midway and Grand Forks growing up.

Paul was always athletic when he was in high school. A teacher thought Paul showed great promise as a long distance runner. Paul loved training with the teacher but had to quit because his mother became ill and he was needed at home.

Paul was very active in the USCC Union of Youth. There he sang tenor in the choir and developed his writing and public speaking skills. He was fluent in both speaking and writing in Russian.

As a teenager and into his 20's he and his childhood buddies played hockey in the winter and baseball in the summer.

He met his love, Kathy, at the age of 19. They were married for 52 years. After they began their lives together, Paul, his father and father-in-law took great pride in building their home in Almond Gardens. He also built his own large workshop where he created furniture and performed all sorts of experiments.

Paul and Kathy were blessed with their daughter, Patty, followed by their son, Larry and daughter Marianne.

Paul began his working career at Grand Forks Sawmills. Then, when Parta Industries (a particleboard manufacturing plant) was starting up he was drawn there. He loved the particleboard industry because it was a unique new industry and it gave him

the opportunity to think "outside the box." Paul and his co-workers – a dream team of independent thinkers - had many, many, innovative accomplishments.

After Parta failed in the 1983 recession, Paul lead a group of investors to buy the plant and create Canpar Industries. Paul was the visionary and assumed the helm. From the beginning they wanted to add a new line, to make the plant more viable. That second line would make Canpar the second largest particleboard mill in Canada. Most particleboard plants that were being built at the time cost \$40 million plus. The bank was only giving Paul and his team \$10 million. They scoured North America for equipment which they modified and more than doubled the capacity of the plant. That hard work and ingenuity proved to be very successful. Paul was very strong willed. He was a very independent thinker, always looking for challenges. When people asked "why," his answer was "why not?"

For the first half of his life, Paul was active in the USCC Community. He served on many committees, was a Sunday School teacher, a director in the Sunshine Valley Co-op, on the Union of Youth Council and helped with many Youth Festivals. Also, Paul and Kathy were members of the Friendship Choir and had many happy memories of the festivals, concerts, practices, and trips that they made with the choir.

His family was always very important to him. As they were growing up he participated in many of their activities. For example, when Larry started skiing, after a few trips to the hill to take him and his friends, Paul decided to take the sport up himself. He loved it. So in the winter he would load up the Suburban with kids and off they'd go to the surrounding ski hills.

In the summer, Christina Lake beckoned. The family spent many weeks per year enjoying the water and sunshine at the cabin. Again, he spent many hours

towing kids around, skiing.

Christina Lake was his refuge. Whenever he needed to do any serious thinking or make big decisions, he went to the cabin. His favourite spot was a bench on a bluff overlooking Texas Point. He called it his church. There he would sit, meditate and enjoy his communion with God and nature. He always came back refreshed and rejuvenated.

Paul and Kathy loved to travel. They chose places where they could relax and enjoy healthy food. They made many trips to California and also travelled to Mexico, Hawaii, Tahiti, Bermuda and Eastern Canada.

Paul's grandsons Jade and Jesse were the apples of his eye. He loved to go skiing, hiking, swimming and spending quality time with them. The trips to Hawaii with Lance, Patty and the boys were especially memorable. The Davidson condo at Big White was also one of his favourite getaway places.

After living in Grand Forks for 40 years, Paul and Kathy started a new chapter. They sold their long-time home and moved to Kelowna. But, after four years they had to move to Christina Lake to look after their aging parents.

Then, four years ago Paul got sick. They moved back to Kelowna to be close to medical care. As his illness progressed Paul had to be moved into assisted living at Pine Acres home in West Kelowna. That is where he lived for the last year of his life.

Paul was pre-deceased by his parents Alex and Polly Verigin, his sister Irene and his nephew Jeff Verigin, his mother-in-law and father-in-law, William

and Nora Kabatoff.

He is survived by his wife Kathy, daughter Patty, son-in-law Lance Davidson and grandsons Jade and Jesse, son Larry and daughter-in-law Diana, daughter Marianne, brother Alex Verigin, nephew Iain Verigin and his family, brother-in-law Joe Kabatoff and his children, aunt Vera Soukeroff, and many cousins, nephews and nieces.

Paul leaves us with many wonderful memories that we will hold dear in our hearts. He inspired and supported us. We will miss his smile and words of wisdom.

Paul believed that when a person passed, the sadness was the loss people felt of missing that person. Sorrow should not be for the deceased, because they are off having another experience.

Our loving husband, father, grandfather and friend may no longer be with us, but his love and spirit will remain with us forever. May he rest in peace...but, actually, we know he's not resting, he's off soaring on his next adventure.

Thank you to Springfield Funeral Homes in Kelowna for all the arrangements for Paul's memorial service.

The family would like to thank our dear friends Steve and Irene Malloff, Mike and Frances Kanigan, Anne Verigin, and all our family, relatives and friends who attended Paul's memorial service, and all the people who sent flowers, sent cards, phoned, emailed and sent their condolences. Your love and support has given us strength. God Bless you all.



In Memoriam
Vechnaya Pamyat

Preserving the memory of our deceased family members and friends