

LEE, Robert George (Bob) [UNTD YORK 1954 U-42045] (1936 - 2017) Age: 80



Robert (Bob) Lee — husband, father, grandfather, brother, mountain enthusiast, hiker, skier, doctor, teacher and photographer — died suddenly on Friday, March 31, 2017 while hiking with a friend. Alongside his wife, Anna Patricia (Pat), Bob led an exceptional life. With camera in hand, Bob and Pat travelled the world, embracing a wide range of people he was proud to call his friends.

Born in Toronto in 1936, Bob had a distinguished career from rural family doctor in Northern Ontario to academic neurologist in Calgary. Bob served as founding head of the Department of Clinical Neurosciences at the U of C, president of the Canadian Neurological Society, editor-in-chief of the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences and executive vice-president of the Canadian Neurological Sciences Foundation. He was team doctor on the 1986 Canadian Mount Everest Expedition. Bob was widely involved in medical teaching internationally, and was a cherished colleague and mentor to doctors in Nepal, Laos, Philippines, Tajikistan and Malaysia. Outside of medicine, Bob was passionate about photography and environmental stewardship, and was dedicated to preserving and sharing the beauty of the Kananaskis region of the Canadian Rockies.

Of all his many professional and personal achievements, Bob was most proud of his family. "Bob Pop" shared his passion for learning and his love of the outdoors and travelling with his four children and eight grandchildren. His sense of humour, adventurous spirit and connection with people will live on through them. He is terribly missed by all.

A Celebration of Bob's Life will be held at a later date in the Kananaskis. Condolences may be forwarded through www.mcinnisandholloway.com. If friends so desire, memorial tributes may be made directly to the Nature Conservancy of Canada (830, 105 – 12th Ave S.E., Calgary, AB T2G 1A1), 403-262-1253, www.natureconservancy.ca, or the Laos Project at the University of Calgary (3330 Hospital Drive N.W., Calgary, AB T2N 4N1), www.netcommunity.ucalgary.ca/LCDI.

Bob had 3 UNTD summers; '55, '56, '57 and was promoted to SLT(MED) RCN(R), sen. 1 Jul '57, O-41312, attached to YORK, and was retired as such. He was on our VIP List on a number of counts, most notably as the M.O. for the 1986 Cdn Everest Exped, which put a Canadian as the 1st North American Woman on the summit. It was somewhat poignant then that his first appearance (pic & Txt) in the UNTDA Newsletter was in this current issue.

Grant Thompson (Doct'Oar), his UNTD and Med School winger, provided this condolence to Bob's family on this very day:

"When I arrived in Toronto as a premed student in 1954, Bob was one of the first new classmates I met. He put me instantly at ease, and we became very good friends. He introduced me to classmates and through him I joined a fraternity, the Reserve Navy and even a new girlfriend. Crossing Canada we served on both coasts; and shared many adventures in the service and at medical school. Bob excelled in everything, scholarship, sports, campus politics and much more, yet remained unassuming – a rare feat in our intensely competitive class. In my seventh and last year in Toronto, we shared a room as Toronto General Hospital interns at Blunder Inn, a run-down mansion across University Avenue. During our Anaesthesia rotation, the Chief's secretary assigned us operating rooms for the day, and without me noticing, he and Pat became an item. We later appeared in each other's wedding party. I regret that distance and diverging specialties have limited our visits to reunions and a ski day in Kananaskis with my family. The last was a mini-reunion in October-last where a happy group of octogenarians were hosted by Bob and Pat. I was delighted to notice that their cottage's outbuilding was labelled Blunder Inn.

I felt a deep sorrow at news of his death, attenuated by a memory of a happy, productive, adventurous and generous life. Great sympathy for Pat. Farewell my good friend. W Grant Thompson, Ottawa"

Bill C.