



*You only live once...
but oh, what a life!*

Randal Douglas Cullen
27 September 1953 - 7 October 2017

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Randal Douglas Cullen on October 7th at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, BC.

Randal, aka Randy or RD, was born in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia on September 27, 1953. The eldest son, he played that role to the fullest, touching the fire on many occasions so that his siblings wouldn't have to. He grew up in Truro, NS and Moncton NB, with summers waterskiing and playing air guitar at Shortts Lake and camping across the country with his family. An adventurer from an early age, Randy's curiosity, creativity, sensitivity and intelligence will be greatly missed.

Following studies at the University of New Brunswick and the completion of a Masters Degree at the University of Ottawa, Randy worked for over 30 years in geological exploration and resource development, with periods living in Namibia, Madagascar, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Norway, Greenland, Europe, Northern Canada, Mexico, South America - and close to 15 years in Cape Town, South Africa. He loved his time in Cape Town. While there, he completed his EMBA, was the chair of the Cape Gliding Club and a local Art Gallery and was recruited for the national hockey team... Randy always attributed that last honour to being the only guy at the rink with his own skates!

Before turning to geology, Randy learned to fly at the Moncton Flying Club. He worked across Canada flying single and twin-engine aircraft. In the last 25 years his love was soaring. He and his glider spent many happy days searching out swells and soaring over South Africa and British Columbia.

Randy impressed us by knowing what to do in every situation, whether it was testing himself for malaria in the bush, staring down a bear in the Arctic, chewing on coca leaves to stave off altitude sickness in the mountains of Bolivia, or racing his beloved Porsche around the track. A hunter and target shooter, a photographer and visual artist, a golfer, a sailor, an alpine ski instructor, an ice hockey and hiking enthusiast, an occasional extra in Vancouver movie shoots and a formidable story teller – his appetite for life inspired all of us.

Randy leaves his father Douglas Cullen, his sister Kim Cullen Cobb and her husband Lincoln Cobb, his brother Rodger Cullen and his partner Walter Niehenke, and his sister Kari Cullen and her husband William Bonnell and their three children, Matthew, Esme and Cole. He is predeceased by his mother Shirley (Goodspeed) Cullen. In addition to uncles, aunts and cousins in British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Florida, Randy will be missed by his many colleagues and friends, from the Vancouver Soaring Club, the Cape Gliding Club, the Vancouver Life Drawing Society (Basic Inquiry) and his Bass section Choir mates to name a few. The joy that came from making Randy laugh, one of the world's great full body, tear-stained laughs, will be cherished forever.

We are grateful to the entire staff of the Intensive Care Unit of St. Paul's Hospital whose attention to Randy, and his attending family, was both extremely professional and deeply caring. Celebrations of Randy's life will be held in Vancouver and in Moncton, and his ashes will be interred in Moncton and sprinkled over the mountains of British Columbia and the plateaus of South Africa.