

Dick's Life – a Journey

Dick was born on December 1, 1943, in Whitby, a small fishing village along the North Sea coast, in the North Riding of Yorkshire, England; its claim to fame is that Captain Cook sailed from this harbour.

He was christened Richard Wilson Moffatt. But, by his teen years, he would tell anyone he was meeting that his name was DICK- "I go by DICK!"

As a toddler growing up, though, he had difficulty with pronouncing Richard. And so, he introduced himself by saying, "I am Ishy!" He had wonderful memories of playing at the beach with his cousins. However, his favourite pastime had been to watch for any ladies walking by his yard and present them with a flower (the flower, of course being the proverbial dandelion). Everyone was thrilled with this little boy who was being so friendly. And since their home was at a corner of a busy crossroads, there were always a lot of people around to see him.

In September 1954, 11-year-old Dick, with his mother and his brother Chris, journeyed across the ocean to Canada, on the ship, S.S. Atlantic. A train ride would bring them to Edmonton, where they rejoined their Dad.

The boys went from wearing the "short pants" of a British boy to needing parkas and flannel lined long pants for the winter.

One story Dick told from his childhood was that of a particular Christmas Eve. Dick and Chris were trying to go to sleep but they kept hearing this strange "choo- choo" sound coming from the basement. Turned out, it was his Dad who was putting together a trainset for the boys as their present, but he couldn't resist the urge to play with it by himself.

By 1963, Dick and his family moved to Calgary. And in 1967, he officially became a Canadian citizen, along with his Mom, Dad and brother.

In 1968, Dick married Tess, and in 2018, they celebrated 50 years of marriage.

Together, Dick and Tess have 2 children: Amanda was born in 1972, and Darcy was born 2 years later, in 1974.

Family life kept Dick busy. Darcy and Amanda became hockey/ringette players, and Dick was to be found working the time clock or managing the players, and always close to the bench to add his encouragement.

Sometimes, he was on the ice to assist the coach. This could pose as a problem on occasion as he was not a strong skater. The blue line proved to be a huge problem for him once in a while. Our children have a way of describing this one episode that will have you all laughing.

In addition to sports, Amanda and Darcy were quite involved in YMCA groups. First, they were members of the Leaders in Training. Later, they moved up to become Leaders. There would be weekends where they were to go out to the mountain camp for special meetings during the winter months. Dick was one of those Dads that braved the weather and roads to get the kids there safely. (The moms, on the other hand, would be left at home praying that they would make it in one piece!)

Tess and their children have their own Christmas story about Dick that *they* chuckle over to this day. He learned that when one is asked what they would like for Christmas, the response should never be, "I don't want anything pink!"

Dick played an active role as the children were growing up and was a part of all that they took on. He was a family man.

Tess knew and felt Dick's support of her interests as well. When she insisted that an outbuilding be upgraded to 'user standards' for her crafts... that was done. When she needed support attending her very first tating camp in Montana... he came with her even though he knew his quarters would be in an attached garage!

Dick became just as excited as Tess was when it came time to go to Bobbie's for the tatting camps. You need to understand that the men always had a "honey-do" list presented to them when all the tatters arrived. The men still managed a golf game and then a trip to the local ice cream shop. As well, Dick and another husband, Jack, would be seen daily going about with the lawn tractor, with one of them riding behind in the utility trailer. You couldn't wipe the grins off their faces. Dick enjoyed tatting camp, too!

Dick was a committed, hard-working member for many service clubs and organizations. He began in 1963 by joining the Order of DeMolay; belonging to this youth group could lead to becoming a Mason. Later, Dick was involved at the North Family YMCA, which led to him becoming a "Y's Men" in Calgary, and later in Montana. Dick had become a Mason, following in his Dad's, Granddad's and Great Granddad's footsteps. A highlight for Dick was returning to Whitby, England and touring their Masonic Hall. There he found both his granddad's and great granddad's names included in a list of members, on the huge plaque on display. When Dick moved to the Valley, he joined the local Masonic chapter. He became the secretary for the Blue Lodge and then assumed a different role when he joined the Red Lodge as well. He took pleasure in serving both lodges and enjoyed the company of the many new friends he made.

Dick had many positions and responsibilities in church life as well. At Pleasant Heights United he was board chair, sound system techie and in general, the "go to guy" if something needed fixing. This did not change when Pleasant Heights amalgamated with another congregation, and Wild Rose United was born. He brought his talents and that same sense of commitment to Invermere, when he and Tess began attending Christ Church Trinity. Dick joined the Rock Lake United Church camp board as the CCT representative. And at CCT, he served as the Treasurer on council and as a member of a ministerial search committee as

well. He was our sound system techie, go-to guy, and a mentor to children and youth in our church family.

Dick's service to others was not a choice. It was a way of living and being.

Dick's working career was spent mostly at AGT – TELUS, for 29 years. He went on to work in warehousing positions, and then retired from Legacy Wholesale - which imported candles and gifts- in 2003. Here in the valley, Dick was able to get to drive 'the big boy's toys' when Chris Ivy enlisted him to work for him, driving truck. Dick did that for a few years, even driving for Max Helmer up past Panorama. Alas, he concluded that driving the trucks was not the best "old man's" activity, and he gave it up.

Dick enjoyed puttering around the property. The stuff of his garage—both in Calgary and here—are legendary. He once impressed Tess' business partner when she needed a replacement door. Of course, Dick had an inventory list for his garage, of his doors and their styles and sizes. There was one that would fit.

There was always something to do. The house needed some renovations, the grass was always in need of cutting and heaven forbid, Tess was always coming up with ideas too.

Some parting words from Tess, Amanda and Darcy:

So long, Dick. I know you are at peace, and now you can relax.

The work is finished.

Give your mom and grandma a hug for us.