

Dr. Bernard J. S. (Bernie) Tharp

August 24, 1918 - April 15, 2010



Rotarian May 26, 1973 - April 15, 2010
President Rotary Club of Calgary South 1982-1983

Our Dear Friend and Fellow Rotarian Bernie passed away peacefully on Thursday April 15 in his 92nd year. One week earlier he enjoyed our Club's regular meeting with old friends and his beloved daughter Biba. Weekly Rotary meetings were a source of great pleasure for Bernie. He generously shared his happy demeanor and love of life with his Rotary Friends and was so pleased and proud to share his love of Rotary with Biba whom he brought into our Club in 2005.

Bernie served as Club President in the Rotary Year 1982-1983. His casual, folksy approach made his year one of the most memorable on record. Bernie was a fun guy! The RI theme in his year was *"Mankind is One – Build Bridges of Friendship Throughout the World"* and Bernie did just that starting at home with his founding of our Dinner Club - a legacy that lives on.

Bernie was a native Calgarian, born at the city's Scottish Nursing Home, educated at Sunalta and Central High School, a long-time volunteer for the Calgary Stampede and dedicated to Community Service. He served in the Canadian Navy during WWII during which time while stationed in Sydney, Nova Scotia he met and married Ada. Bernie and Ada were happily married for 49 years, raised two daughters Sydney and Barbara (Biba), entertained and travelled. Ada passed away in 1992. He married Jean Cowie in 1997 and they enjoyed over a decade of travel, golf and bridge with friends.

After his Naval service Bernie studied Optometry at the University of Toronto and Waterloo, graduating with his Doctorate in Optometry. His father was a prominent Calgary Optometrist and Bernie followed in his footsteps eventually founding Chinook Optical Ltd. Biba marks the third generation Tharp in the optometry profession. Bernie continued his professional involvement to the end of his days.

Horses were one of Bernie's passions and he was an accomplished rider, cutting horse competitor and an original Amigo. He also enjoyed playing golf and was an organizer and avid player with the Calgary South Rotary Bridge group.

Our condolences go out to Jean, Sydney, Biba and their families. We'll miss Bernie's big smile and joviality at Rotary and we'll long remember his dedication and zest for life.

Rest in peace Bernie.



Bernie's last Rotary Meeting April 8, 2010
with friends Howard Miller and Cam Warrender

(written by Mel Gray)
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