

PETER AITCHISON



PETER AITCHISON July 1, 1942 August 7, 2013 It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Peter. He was taken from us too soon by a tragic climbing accident on Mount Victoria in Banff National Park. Peter is lovingly remembered by his wife Rowena Fisher, son Jeff (Laurie) and grandchildren Jessica and Ryan Calgary, brother Ken (Margaret) England, niece and nephews Jane (Dale), David (Bridget), and Andrew (Claudine) England and many friends, colleagues and community members. Peter was born in Derby, England to Olive and William and grew up in Derbyshire. He received his undergraduate degree in Mathematics from the University of London, Queen Mary's College. He moved to the United States where he received his Master Degree from the University of Colorado and married his first wife, Cassie Williams. They moved to Canberra, Australia where he completed his doctorate at the Australian National University and became a father to two sons, Derek and Jeff. In 1969 Peter accepted a job offer from the University of Manitoba, where he was a Professor of Applied Mathematics until his retirement in 2004. In 1992 he met and fell in love with Rowena Fisher and they married in 2001. It was during this time that Peter moved to the North End of Winnipeg and began to work tirelessly to improve the community around him. Rowena and Peter bought several unwanted houses in the neighbourhood and restored and improved them in order to revitalize the neighbourhood. Peter was a community warrior' helping to run Citizen's on Patrol, volunteering for the bike valet initiative, participating in neighborhood clean ups, and working to support Pollock's Hardware Co-op. He was a handyman who'd tackle any project - nothing was impossible to fix. Peter was always willing to help people out - even when that meant going from Pollock's to his own home to get a piece of hardware that wasn't available at Pollock's for someone who needed it. Peter was fortunate to enjoy a full and active life to his very last day. He was the "original hard man" leading ambitious and difficult expeditions that would wear out men half his age. "Can't" was not in Peter's vocabulary - he would always find a way to get it done. Rock climbing, mountaineering, cycling, and gardening were amongst some of his passions. Rowena and Peter were fortunate to take many trips together around the world; China, Cuba, the UK, and the Cook Island were among some of the adventures they shared. Peter had a dry, witty, British sense of humour and was always up for a rousing debate on many topics. Politics and the environment were some of his favourite subjects. Peter inspired countless people with his energy and selflessness. He was a teacher, mentor and inspiration to many. In the 1970s Peter resurrected the then-defunct Manitoba Section of the Alpine Club of Canada and almost singlehandedly developed the rock climbing routes in Manitoba and NW Ontario. In 1989 he received the Alpine Club of Canada's Silver Rope Award for Leadership. In 1992, Peter (and fellow Mount Manitoba expedition members) received the Order of the Buffalo Hunt Manitoba's

highest honour bestowed on individuals who demonstrate outstanding skills in the areas of leadership, service and community commitment. In 2007 Peter celebrated his 40th year of membership and support for the Alpine Club of Canada Manitoba section. A celebration of this remarkable man's life will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 7, 2013 at St. John's College, 92 Dysart Road, Winnipeg, MB on the University of Manitoba campus. Donations in Peter's memory can be made to St. John's College at the University of Manitoba to establish a scholarship in his name The family would like to thank the Parks Canada rescue team and Alpine Helicopters for their compassion and professionalism. We would also like to convey our heartfelt gratitude to the friends that attended to Peter at the time of his accident. Peter, you will be in our hearts forever and we miss you terribly.