

JAMES BURKE



JAMES JOSEPH BURKE In a gentle end to a challenging journey, Professor James Joseph Burke died peacefully on Monday, November 11, 2013 at 7:25 p.m. at the Victoria Hospital in Winnipeg. From dawn until the night of that last day Jim's wife Ruth, daughter Jessica and friends were around him. He was 75 years old and is survived by his wife Ruth, daughters Jessica and Kelley Jo Burke, son-in-law Eric Eggertson, Jessica's children Adam and Zephrenn, Kelley Jo's children Jessica, Samuel and Finn, sister-in-law Pamela Burke, and nieces Jennifer, Catherine and Sarah and their families. Jim is predeceased by his parents, his son, Stephen and his brother Jeffrey Burke. Born in 1938 in Concord, New Hampshire, Jim grew up playing football, singing in choirs, and, like all Burke men, enjoying a good game of poker. To the great joy of parents who hugely valued education, Jim not only became the first of his generation to attend college, doing an under degree at Springfield College and then graduate work at the University of Massachusetts, but became an academic himself, working first as a high school history teacher, then a professor, first at the University of Massachusetts. He met Ruth Ellen Adams while teaching high school in Massachusetts. After the birth of their second child, the couple immigrated to Canada and adopted a third child. Jim joined the University of Manitoba's Student Services, becoming a much-loved guidance counselor to many young students. In those years, he played hard, especially at hockey, sang around campfires, thought deep, and generally loved the life of a young family man with Ruth and the kids. At the age of 39 Jim was diagnosed with what was then an inoperable brain tumor, and told he had less than a year to live. In fact, he went on to live another 36 years, celebrated a total of 52 anniversaries with his much loved Ruth, saw all his children grow to adulthood, and became a grandfather five times. A rational and spiritual man it was only the loss of son Stephen in 2005 that seemed to shake Jim's lifelong belief that life was only tragic if perceived as so. The family would like to thank the staff of Vista Park Lodge and the Victoria General Hospital 4 South for their kindness and good care. In accordance with Jim's clearly stated wishes, a cremation has been performed, and there will be no memorial service. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation to the charity of your choice. THOMSON "IN THE PARK" 925-1120 Condolences may be sent to www.thomsoninthepark.com