



Death Notice/Obituary

Bird, William (Bill) Allen – Saturday, March 11th, 2005, at 65, after a lengthy struggle with lung disease. Bill is survived by his personal patient advocate, primary care giver, best friend, and much-loved first-born daughter, Cheryl Anne Bird. He is also survived by his beloved sister Frances Reeve. There is a long list of nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles who will miss his mischievous wit, particularly Auntie Bonnie Nelles of London.

Bill was predeceased in April, 2003 by his sweetheart and wife of 40 years, Rozanne Anita Smith; in January of 1992 by their younger daughter Wendy Lenore; and in May, 2005 by Bill's "big brother" of almost 60 years, Norman (Champ) Reeve. He was also predeceased by his parents Rowland (Bud) and Susan (Quail) Bird; and by a younger sister and brother Laurel Ann and Clyde Lionel Bird. The family will receive friends at Ogden Funeral Home, 4164 Sheppard Avenue E., (east of Kennedy Road) on Wednesday, March 15, 2006 from 7-9 p.m., and on Thursday, March 16, 2006 from 10-11 a.m. A memorial service will be held in the Ogden Chapel at 11:00 a.m.

Bill will be widely remembered for the varied careers he followed, and the full and active life he lived as a parent and volunteer throughout Ontario. From school in Toronto where he earned a BA equivalency in Journalism, he established an award-winning career as a reporter, photographer, editor and columnist with daily newspapers in Simcoe, Stratford, Kingston, Toronto and Sudbury. Bill moved next into industrial public relations and organizational communication with Honeywell in Toronto, and then for 10 years ending in 1978 with the Falconbridge Group of Companies out of Sudbury. Along the way, Bill and the family became devotees of the sport of 5 Pin Bowling, and he became a dedicated volunteer in the Sudbury area and on Provincial and National Boards of Directors. Sport and industry leaders were impressed enough to hire him away from Falconbridge, and from 1978 until 1987 when he resigned, he helped build the Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers' Association into one of the largest and richest amateur sport governing bodies in the Province.

For the next 17 years until he fell ill, he was happily self employed as a communication consultant, courier and deck builder. As a boy, Bill's mother taught him that truly "charitable" gifts ought to be anonymous and involve more than just money. To that end he selflessly made 245 donations of whole blood, plasma, and platelets before ill health made him an ineligible donor. In Kingston, Toronto and Sudbury he also labored behind the scenes as a publicist, volunteer recruiter and fund raiser for the Red Cross, Lions Clubs, YMCA, and Boys Clubs. He served as President of Corporate Communicators Canada, an executive in its Toronto chapter, and founder of its Northern Ontario chapter, and was a founder of the International Association of Business Communicators.

Bill was the first elected Secretary General of the International Bowling Association, and with Rozanne, officiated at the first two IBA World Championships, in Manila in the Philippines, and then in Scarborough. An early booster of the government-developed National Coaching Certification Program, Bill criss-crossed Ontario for several years teaching Technical courses to bowlers, and Theory courses to coaches involved in a wide variety of amateur sports. In 1996, he was finally inducted to the 5 Pin Bowling Hall of Fame. In lieu of flowers, and in appreciation of the excellent care both Bill and Rozanne received there, the family requests donations in his memory be made instead to the Centenary Site, Rouge Valley Health System Foundation, 2867 Ellesmere Road, Scarborough, M1E 4B9.

Visitation – Wednesday 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Thursday 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Funeral - Thursday 11 a.m.

Ogden Funeral Home

(Midland and Sheppard)