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IRWIN, HJ Lyndon

April 20, 1942 - August 1, 2009 HJ (Lyndon) Irwin, of Edmonton, died peacefully Saturday, August 1, in the Grey Nuns Hospital, surrounded by close family and friends. He was 67. Lyndon leaves Susan, his wife of 44 years; brother James (Jeanne) of St. Albert; children Karen (Andrew Leitch) of Edmonton, Nancy (Brian Bilodeau) of Redmond, WA; nephew Jamie (Isabel) of Montreal; niece Allison of Edmonton; grandchildren Kate, Caroline, Sophie and Georgia; mother-in-law Joyce Doucet of Edmonton; sister-in-law Lynn Heard of Edmonton; grandnieces Anna and Emma, as well as numerous members of his extended family, friends and colleagues.

Lyndon lived his early years in Drumheller, Alberta, where he spent countless hours exploring the surrounding hills, searching for dinosaur bones and thrilling at the passing of the great locomotives. He enjoyed enormous freedom and considered his childhood an ideal one. His family moved to Edmonton when he was in grade 11 and Lyndon was among the first students to attend the newly-built Ross Sheppard High School, where he excelled, and from which he graduated in 1957. Lyndon attended the University of Alberta, earning degrees in arts and law in 1963.

He articulated with the law firm of Stack, Smith & Bracco, and remained with the firm for eight years, eventually becoming partner. He returned to the University to join the Faculty of Law, where he was professor and, for a time, associate dean. He returned to private practice in 1975 where he served his clients, many of whom became close friends, for the next 34 years, finally retiring in January of this year. A man who truly loved the law and its great institutions and history, Lyndon was known for his warmth, his patience, his meticulous approach and his deep respect for the dignity of every person he encountered. Lyndon received great satisfaction from his affiliation with the Alberta Law Reform Institute, where he served as a board member. He was appointed Queen's Council in 2000, and recognized with a Distinguished Services Award from the Law Society of Alberta and Canadian Bar Association in 2003.

He and Susan married young, undeterred by their differences in faith. Lyndon was raised in the United Church, while Susan's family was Catholic. Never wavering from his promise to raise his children Catholic, he attended and joined in their celebrations with Susan, and continued to honour the tradition with his granddaughters. He adored his four granddaughters and spent many happy hours with them drawing, reading, playing outside and exploring zoos and museums. You could tell which crafts he helped make as they were always perfect.

Lyndon loved jazz and enjoyed an extensive music library; on rare occasions he could be heard at the family piano, where he would play into the small hours of the morning, a glass of wine for company. He was an avid buyer and reader of books, and he borrowed movies half a dozen at a time. A seeker, Lyndon explored many religious teachings over a lifetime, searching for a god he could reconcile with his intellect and his humanism. Lyndon, you left too soon. We miss you terribly, but we know you have found perfect peace, and your every question has finally been answered.

The family wishes to thank the medical staff in the ICU at the Grey Nuns Hospital in Edmonton, especially Drs. Ewanchuk and Sobey and nurses Natasha and Karen, for their professionalism, skill and compassion.

The family invites friends and colleagues to join them at unheardof restaurant between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 5, to share memories of a devoted husband and father, mentor, teacher and friend. Unheardof is located at 9602 Whyte Avenue in Edmonton. In lieu of flowers, and in recognition of Lyndon's thirst for knowledge and understanding, donations can be made to the Department of Philosophy at the University of Alberta, c/o Catherine Szabo, 6-33 Humanities Centre, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada, T6G 2E5, tel. 780-492-8060. To send condolences please visit www.fostermcgarvey.com Foster and McGarvey Funeral Home Downtown Chapel 780-428 - 6666 Over 80 years of Service

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