

IN MEMORY OF ANTON TONY STRAMITZ - A LONG TIME AVID NORTH SHORE HIKER

Tony Stramitz, 95 years old, passed away on October 1, 2020. Tony was born in Austria and immigrated to Canada in 1951. He joined the North Shore Hikers in early 1980 and was a core member of the "D" hikers as well as a good mentor and leader to many club members throughout the years. Quite a few club members still hike with their elbows out because Tony was such a Mountain Goat and could sneak past anyone. He was a carpenter in his younger years and then worked many years as Maître 'd at the Westin Bayshore Hotel, before retiring.

Quotes from current and past members of the North Shore Hikers:

"For many years he organized the schedule for the strenuous "D group" of the North Shore Hikers and he also led many of the trips. He was generous with his knowledge and many learned a great deal about climbing techniques from him. Later in life he did a lot of fishing, at a favorite lake of his North of Pemberton, which was well-stocked with trout. He was an avid cyclist and spent many hours cycling around Stanley Park, his usual outing was six trips around the park. He was interviewed on the TV news when his fame spread!" Marjorie C

"I remember Tony helping me up the side of Runner Peak, not the normal route up. I went with the D group to Elsay Mountain in early April 2000. We summited Elsay so early, the group was not ready to finish for the day, so we rambled for a bit then headed to Runner Peak. I had never wanted to do Runner Peak because it was said to be icy and dangerous, however I was not familiar enough with the area to sign off and return to the parking lot on my own. So, I headed over to Runner Peak with the group and we started up the side of Runner, not the regular route, with ice axes in hand. I did not have the experience or skills like Tony, Marjorie, Christine (I cannot remember who else was there - probably Ron, maybe Peter W) and part way up I was struggling to get past some obstacle. Tony came back down to help me and he lost a Gore-Tex glove in doing so. He was gracious and fearless and very skilled. He was also charming and funny and perhaps a bit of a flirt. RIP Tony Stramitz." Heather B.

"CTV did a little program about his cycling around Stanley Park some years back and at that time he was 85 years old. Tony was a good friend, neighbour and hiking mentor to me. He guided me up Mount Baker and I think of him with gratitude every time I see Mount Baker floating over the Lower Mainland and the Fraser Valley. Rest in Peace my friend," Hedi A

"Tony wouldn't get his knees fixed, and he couldn't hike up Grouse anymore, so he used to ride his bike repeatedly around the Seawall all day instead, there was even a TV news feature about that." Kate H

"Tony loved the mountains.... I met him through the North Shore Hikers in the early 90s... we met to climb the grind just us two. He did that perhaps 3-5 times a week. He kept records. But I didn't... it was my first time... we continued to do trips together for many years, as we were both devoted North Shore Hikers and spent many Sundays together... doing hundreds of trips over the years, we became good friends... and I would look forward to seeing him at meetings after I slowed down on hiking with the club... he was always happy to see me and had a positive attitude always... and he exercised all the time... he eventually switched to cycling (around Stanley Park) near his home in the west end. He had retired when we met ... he was a high-end restaurant maître d ... Tony was known to exaggerate "to improve a story"

One trip I will recount ... it was Tony's birthday... perhaps 70th?... I'm guessing... he got to decide where we went and when to start. So off we went and by 9..ish 10am? we were on the summit of Mt Hanover... we went up a gully he wanted to go up, but let me choose our descent ... a different gully... we then went up the NE corner of Brunswick Mt... a first for both of us... and join a group of NS hikers who had just arrived there... we bathed ourselves in our new bragging rights and then lollygagged along with the group as we went down the South face and along the trail to the North East trail up Harvey... Tony was somewhere behind me probably flirting... when a rock got dislodged from above ... I heard the shouting "rock, rock, rock" but never saw anything ... at the top Tony told me when he heard the shouting he looked up and felt the rock go by. I think it made his hair flutter but never touched him... he lived to see another day. Tony also made an annual weeklong fishing trip to Blackwater lake near Pemberton... and although I love fishing, I never did get out with him...

Tony was as sure footed as a mountain goat. with contorted toes I had never seen before. and always went with his long bamboo poles. no longer fashionable. and a militant ability to cover immense distances efficiently... he continued to go hard well into his eighties and I'd guess he may have been 94... he had lost most of his hearing ... and all his hair(arthritis meds did that he told me)... but his mind was still sharp I am sure I will see his shadow when I'm out in the mountains looking out over me... like his very good buddy Michel who died before him Tony gave me a funny carabiner with a rappel bar in it... a keepsake I still have on my bookcase.. he was a very nice man." Mo L

Rest in Peace Tony.

Carol Kautz / President North Shore Hikers