

Remembering Peter Wilding-Davies



Photo by Gina Louise at The Ranch CDE, 2005

It is with great sadness we advise the passing of Peter Wilding-Davies on April 5 after a lengthy and courageous battle with lung cancer. Peter was in his seventy-third year. A celebration of Peter's life will be held later this month in Langley, BC.

Lorraine Mullin, long time friend, writes:

"Peter was in the Merchant Navy and went through the U.K. Nautical School of Pentbourne, entering at sixteen and serving for fifteen years. He and his wife, Michelle, immigrated to BC.. Living first in Vancouver they then bought the acreage where they lived. ever since. A house and barns were built and a garden of great charm created. A son, David, and a daughter, Emma, were born to them.

Peter had early acquired a love of horses. He drove a trap as a very small child in the war years when petrol was scarce. His father was a noted breeder of Welsh Ponies in the U.K.. Both Peter's children rode and were members of the Langley Pony Club. David went on to represent Canada in the Tokyo Olympics in Three Day Eventing. Peter drove his children's outgrown ponies even driving David's Olympic mount known to us as "George". The Eventing world knew him as "Crusader".

Competing in Combined Driving, Peter became both a Judge and a Combined Driving TD. He traveled across Canada in those capacities making many friends. Peter was one of those rare types who are undismayed to be bested by his fellow competitors even though he would have been their judge in previous competitions.

Peter's love of horses lasted all his life. He will be remembered for his charm, ready courtesy, light heartedness, efficiency and absolute integrity.”

Debbie Miyashita, Secretary of the Mission Carriage Club, BC Carriage Driving Society and BC Welsh Pony and Cob Association writes:

“I am so saddened by the loss of our friend and colleague Peter Wilding Davies or P-W-D as he was known to all of us here in BC. While I knew Peter was gravely ill, it is always a shock when the end comes and we are never prepared for the loss - for the void the passing of such a nice, kind, generous, big hearted man will leave in the driving and Welsh pony world.

“Peter was a mediator, seeing always the best in people and forgiving them their faults and foibles. Peter was a gentleman - and reminded us of our manners when exchanges became heated or less than adult. I will miss his sense of humour, his support, his knowledge which he shared freely with all of us, his humility and his willingness to do anything he was asked whenever it was humanly possible. My heart goes out to Michelle, David and Emma and the rest of the Wilding-Davies family in their time of such loss. Peter was a wonderful husband and father, in addition to be a terrific driver and horseman.

“I'm sure he and Frank Hanneschlager and Len Stulp and Ro Veinotte will be meeting somewhere "up there" over a coffee and strudel and discussing all the finer points of carriage driving in a place where the fields are all green and flat, the Dressage courses all perfectly marked and excellently driven, and the CDEs held forever in sunshine. We'll all join you there one day my friend - save us a space by the water hazard!

“I consider myself honoured to have known Peter. He will not soon be forgotten.”