

Charles V. Keating



Charles V. Keating - Died Tuesday, November, 22 at Dartmouth General Hospital following a brief illness. He was 72. A widely- known and respected businessman, civic leader and philanthropist, Charles was a man deeply devoted to his family, his community and his church. He was a charismatic man, with a striking presence and ideas and energy to match. Charles was a visionary and a builder who could bring people together and make dreams happen. Best known, perhaps, for pioneering and building the cable industry in Nova Scotia, Charles' many business interests included land development, commercial real estate, venture capital, internet and telephone distribution through VOIP, Star Choice sales and installation, beauty products and courier /logistical service. He was particularly proud of his association with Shaw Communications Inc. since 1975 as a director.

Charles was a man of humble roots who remained humble although his accomplishments were prolific. He especially treasured two honors that reflected his pride in his nation and his province: induction into the Order of Canada in 2003, and induction, in 2004, into the Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame. Charles was born in Dartmouth, September 17, 1933, to Charles Cornelius and Beatrice Lena (Redmond) Keating, and grew up on Gaston Road. He attended St. Peter's school and was greatly influenced by the Sisters of Charity. After high school he was employed with William Stairs, Son and Morrow. He then attended St. Francis Xavier University as a mature student, 1956-1958, graduating with a diploma in engineering, a lifelong respect for the priests who ran the university, and friendships that continued to his death.

After St. F.X., he enrolled in Nova Scotia Technical College but left due to illness. He later moved to Moncton where he worked as a travelling salesman in the Maritimes for Moncton Foundry and Machines Co., and sang with the Pat Patterson Quintet. In the early 1960's Charles, along with his Redmond uncles, opened an IGA store at Porter's Lake. This grew to become Lakeview Shopping Centre Ltd. and included other retail stores Charles owned and operated. That foresight helped open the Eastern Shore and signaled a commitment to the area that continues to this day. Over the years, Charles became known as a champion of Dartmouth and the Eastern Shore. Charles seldom found himself a stranger no matter where he travelled. He had a magical ability to connect with people from all walks of life and always acknowledged their gifts.

Charles cultivated friendships around the world and cherished his special bonds with employees and business colleagues. At the time of his death, Charles was cofounder and chairman of Lakeview Home Hardware Building Centre; chairman, Shannondale Realty Limited; director, Shaw Communications, Inc.; director, Altimax Builder Ltd; chairman, Altimax Venture Capital; chairman, Altimax Courier Limited; chairman, Altimax Network Service Limited; director, Canadian Medical Association Holdings Inc.; director, Heritage Gas; chairman, Glamour Sources Limited ; director, GrowthWorks Atlantic Venture Fund. Charles led many organizations during his career. He was a past chair of the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre, Nova Scotia Hospital Foundation, Atlantic Canada Plus, Dartmouth Chamber of

Commerce, Atlantic Provinces Chamber of Commerce, Atlantic Provinces Economic Council, Dartmouth and Eastern Shore Tourist Association, Shearwater Development Corporation, and the Oland Exports Junior Hockey Club. Charles was deeply devoted to community and to making the world a better place. He served on more than 40 community boards and charities during his life. One of his best known contributions resulted in the Charles V. Keating Millennium Centre at St. Francis Xavier University. There were many others, some visible, some not so. His current activities included, director, St. John Ambulance for Nova Scotia; honorary chairman, Shearwater Air Museum; honorary chairman, Brain Injury Association of Nova Scotia; honorary chairman, Prince Andrew High School PAWEECA Group; honorary chairman, Dartmouth Literacy Network; director, Bras d'Or Aquarium; chair, Major Gifts, Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre Foundation; Working Miracles; chairman, Advancement Nova Scotia; director, Nova Scotia Tattoo; chairman Glace Bay Miners Museum Campaign; honorary patron, Black Cultural Centre. He was recognized as the Outstanding Individual Philanthropist in Atlantic Canada in 1994; was honored as an Officer of the Order of Saint John Ambulance in 1995, received an Honorary Degree from Saint Francis Xavier University in 2000 and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002. He was on hand in 2000 to celebrate the opening of the Charles V. Keating Millennium Centre at his cherished alma mater - Saint Francis Xavier University. In addition to Charles' inductions into the Order of Canada and the Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame, his list of honours and achievements includes, recipient of the Order of Nova Scotia, member of Canadian Cable Television Association; Pioneers' Club Canadian Cable Television Association; founding chairman of the Nova Scotia Hospital Foundation and the annual fund raiser; The Ambassador Award 1988, The World Trade & Convention Centre; Honorary Constable, Dartmouth City Police, under and chairman of Landmark Development 1981; finalist Entrepreneur of the Year, Atlantic Division 1998; Honorary Diploma Nova Scotia Community College, Akerley Campus, 2000; major sponsor Breast Cancer Awareness, 2001; Roasted by Arthritis Society and Raised \$300,000; member of Young Presidents Organization. For many years, Charles played an active role in politics at all three levels. He served as a director of both the Nova Scotia Liberal Party and the Liberal Party of Canada. Although his political profile lessened over the years, his interest never waned and he remained an influential figure. In addition to being active behind the scenes, he was once a candidate in a mayoralty campaign in Dartmouth.

Charles honored his commitments to family and friends with integrity and a generous heart. He balanced the responsibilities of business and an extensive public life with cherished time at family dinners to celebrate birthdays, feast days and other special events. He loved to sing and all who loved him loved to hear him sing, any time, any place. He took particular joy in expressing his love of his Irish heritage in song and delighted in creating a festive mood for all to enjoy. Charles also cherished his cottage Shannondale on the Wentworth and the beauty of nature and the birds surrounding it. He loved to welcome family and friends to Shannondale and, as was his way, became part of Wentworth and nearby communities through friendships made there, in particular through his connection with St. Cornelius Parish. Charles was passionate about hockey as a fan and as a financial supporter. He was known on occasion to leave a late afternoon meeting in Halifax in time to catch a St. F. X. home game then drive back from Antigonish after the game to be in the office early next morning. After Charles received the diagnoses of his illness on Sept. 16, his desire was to live with gratitude for each remaining day. He found great strength in his relationship with God and much comfort surrounded by family and friends. He

retained his ability to teach life lessons along the way, always with a sprinkling of humour and a few good stories. Charles was deeply moved by the love and support of family and friends. It validated his abiding belief in the essential good within everyone. He was incredibly grateful to all the people who rallied around him and his family. Despite suffering from his illness, Charles continued to experience life.

Source: National Post <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/nationalpost/obituary-print.aspx?n=charles-v-keating&pid=15743313>