

## **CRAIG, John** (Jack) Robert

Jack Craig passed away peacefully on October 11, 2016 at home in Parkland at the Gardens, Halifax. Jack was a successful businessman, patron of the arts, generous philanthropist, and friend to many. Most importantly he was the devoted husband of 62 years to Joan and father to Robert and Michael.

Born on the family farm in Cornwall, Ontario on May 26, 1930, he was the eldest son of Robert and Jessie Craig. Jack graduated from the Haileybury School of Mines and began a mining career that would not only change the trajectory of his life but countless others. In 1963, Jack and Joan moved their young family to Halifax where he took the position of Sales Manager for N.S. Tractors & Equipment Ltd. He became President and General Manager eight years later. In 1989, he also became President and CEO of Tractors & Equipment Ltd of Fredericton, and merged both companies into Atlantic Tractors & Equipment in 1992. In 1994, Jack's service to the profession was recognized with his induction as a Life Member of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum. Jack's leadership in business was recognized again in 2000, when he was named to the NS Business Hall of Fame.

Jack's leadership and vision extended to his community. He became Director of Neptune Theatre in 1974 and served as its President from 1976-1978 during its revival days. An avid art collector, he joined the Board of the Nova Scotia Art Gallery and served as Chair from 1980-1982. In 1985, he spearheaded a \$4 million campaign for the Gallery's new location and was named Fundraising Volunteer of the Year for 1986 by the Canadian Fundraising Executives. In 1989 he was appointed Honorary Governor of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. Jack served as President of the Halifax Club from 1986-1987, playing a major role in its reconstruction after a fire. He is a former Flag Officer of the Royal NS Yacht Squadron, past director of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Canada and served on the Board of Governors of the National Theatre School of Canada. Jack also served as member of the Arts and Cultural Industries SAGIT, which assessed the impact of free trade.

In recognition of his many achievements, Jack was awarded the honorary degrees of Doctor of Civil Law by the University of King's College (1989), Doctor of Fine Arts by the NS College of Art and Design (1995), and Doctor of Laws by Dalhousie University (1997), the Lescarbot Award in 1993 (for outstanding contribution to the enrichment of culture in Canada) and the Edmond C. Bovey Award in 1997 (for outstanding volunteer leadership in the

arts in Canada). In 1995, the Governor General of Canada named Jack Craig to the Order of Canada as a patron of the arts.

In 1996, Jack and Joan established The Craig Foundation, which has been supporting visual and performing artists across Nova Scotia for 20 years. In 2001, Jack and Joan endowed a medical research Chair in Autism at Dalhousie University, the first of its kind in Canada. The following year, they founded Autism Nova Scotia to provide support to individuals, families, educators, healthcare professionals and researchers. Jack and Joan were named the Hedley G. Ivany Seniors of the Year for 2010 by the Northwood Foundation. In 2014, they were made Honorary Concertmasters by Symphony Nova Scotia and in 2016, they received the Jack Scholz Founders Award by Acadia University's S.M.I.L.E. Program.

Jack loved fast cars, good wine, and sharing a meal with friends. For several years (and to Joan's chagrin), he raced his Porsche at Le Circuit Mont Tremblant and was BMW's guest at the Monaco Grand Prix. He and Joan travelled the world and cruised its many seas. London's Savoy became their home at Christmas and they frequented the opera at NYC's Met. As a couple, they enjoyed cooking lessons together (though Jack was happiest manning the BBQ grill) and their parties on Blenheim Terrace were legendary. Jack extended his kind and generous spirit to everyone he knew. He was a true gentleman who was widely respected and admired. He will be missed.

Missing him the most will be his wife, best friend, and devoted life partner Joan, and his sons, Robert (Ottawa) and Michael (Vancouver). He is also survived by his sister Frances Dunlop, sister-in-law Charlotte Craig, nephews Angus Craig (Kim Newton) and Hugh Craig, niece Alex Dunlop, grandnieces Zoe and Merrilees, and grandnephew Harry. Jack was predeceased by parents Robert and Jessie, brother Harry, sister Mina, and niece Leslie Dunlop. Special thanks to the excellent staff at Parkland and to Matthew Garner for his friendship over the last two years. A memorial service will be held at Bethany United Church on October 30th at 2pm. If you wish to benefit the community in Jack's honour, please consider donating to Autism Nova Scotia (5945 Spring Garden Rd, Halifax, NS, B3H 1Y4)

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