



Nos Disparus

Peter Marshall Bark

Peter Marshall Bark died November 17, 1990 in Vancouver after a lengthy illness. He was only 35 years old.

Peter was born on April 30, 1955 and grew up in Montreal, Quebec as the middle child between two sets of twins. Peter received his B.A. and LL.B. from Queen's University. After articling in Ontario, Peter realized that he preferred to research the law rather than to practise it. Peter added to his collection of academic achievements by obtaining his Masters of Library Science from the University of British Columbia in 1982.

Peter's career as a legal research librarian spanned ten years. After graduation from the University of British Columbia, Peter began his career at the Courthouse library in Vancouver. He thereafter worked for several law firms in the downtown Vancouver area, and for the last five years for Lang Michener Lawrence & Shaw.

We at Lang Michener Lawrence & Shaw will reap the benefits of Peter's expertise as a library administrator for years to come. When Peter arrived at the firm, the library was little more than books in a room, which was staffed by one part-time employee. Within a very short time, Peter had computers in use, the cataloging modernized, the shelving reorganized, and generally implemented numerous other systems to make the library modern, efficient and very easy to use. During recent renovations, Peter worked closely with the designers, and the highly functional aspects of the new library at Lang Michener Lawrence & Shaw may be attributed largely to Peter.

One of Peter's great passions was the law. He loved to research it (but was not too keen to practise it!). The lawyers at Lang Michener Lawrence & Shaw were especially lucky to have their very own talented research lawyer who also happened to run a very efficient library on the side. Peter not only did research himself but he made research easy for others. He prepared numerous research guide books and pamphlets to assist lawyers and students. Articled students were always cheerfully and ably assisted by Peter. We suspect that more than one student's memorandum of law has landed on Brian McLoughlin's desk bearing the name of someone other than the "ghost writer" — Peter Bark.

In addition to his accomplishments in the area of research at and for Lang Michener Lawrence & Shaw, Peter compiled the Solicitor's Index for the B.C. Courthouse Library Society, edited materials for the continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia and co-authored the Building Contracts title for C.E.D. Western (3rd).

Peter was a leader in his field of law librarianship. He was active in several professional organizations. Peter served on the executive committee of the British Columbia Library Association and chaired several committees for the Canadian Association of Law Libraries. Peter felt that a more local organization of a formal nature would be beneficial to law librarians in the Vancouver area. He was instrumental in the establishment of the

Vancouver Association of Law Libraries in 1988 and was the program co-ordinator for the first year.

Peter's commitment to excellence in the performance of his professional duties became well known among his colleagues who frequently turned to Peter for professional advice or for advice regarding career decisions.

Peter was committed to the pursuit of excellence in all facets of his own life. He enjoyed singing and so joined the Vancouver Bach Choir. Peter enjoyed music and so, not satisfied to simply listen to it, he played and composed. During the last year of his life, Peter set one of the psalms to music and partially completed music for a classical mass. Peter enjoyed life and so gave expression to it through his painting. Peter was an active member of St. Paul's Anglican Church and participated in Immigration Canada's Refugee Assistance Program. He "adopted" a family from El Salvador and learned fluent Spanish in the process. Peter made several trips to Central America in order to educate himself about the lifestyles of the people from that area. Peter collected rare books and photographs, enjoyed skiing and hiking, and wrote poetry for his close friends.

Peter's greatest quality of all was his ability to make others feel good about themselves. He always said the right thing. Like magic, he could turn tears into laughter. He had the most amazing ability to find the good in the bad and encouraged others to do the same. Peter had great confidence in all of his many, many friends, and made each one feel special.

Peter lived his life with unbounded energy, optimism, creativity and grace. His loyalty, warmth and wit will be sorely missed.