

JOHN VICTOR KIRKUP



John at His CBC Vancouver (Turf Building) Desk in 1982

December 22, 1936 – December 4, 2023

John Victor Kirkup was born in Kimberley, B.C. on December 22, 1936 to John (known as Jack) and Elizabeth Kirkup, but shortly thereafter the family relocated to Kamloops and then Burnaby when his police officer father was assigned to work at Essondale Hospital in Coquitlam. John attended Port Moody High School and after graduation, embarked on a career in accounting with Dominion Stores followed by the Royal Bank. While with RBC he accepted transfer to Whitehorse and the village of Mayo in Yukon over secondment to the Bahamas, citing the fact that he never liked high temperatures. He often spoke of how much he enjoyed his time in the Yukon.

John joined the staff of CBC Vancouver's Finance Department in 1973 and later worked in other departments including Performer's Contracts, Purchasing and Supply, Shipping and Receiving. He especially enjoyed the responsibilities of Feature Film Procurement and Syndicated

Programming on CBUT during the 70s and 80s. Two of many stories John loved to relate from the years he was responsible for film procurement must be shared. The first comes from a trip he made on behalf of CBC Vancouver to Los Angeles. While there he was invited by a Studio head to play tennis at Johnny Carson's home. That in itself was quite something, but the icing on the cake as it were was to find he was



John's B.C. License Plate

playing tennis with Don Rickles and Charlton Heston! John's second great story was about the time he attended the hotel opening of the Ginger Rogers Room at a local North Shore Hotel at which the film star herself was guest of honour. John met Miss Rogers at the event and in discussing her films she revealed that she had never seen any of her own movies. John immediately told her he had them all on reel to reel tape and invited her to his home for a screening. She accepted and they spent an afternoon watching two of them. It is no wonder that Film Procurement was his favourite job at CBC!



John's Volunteer I.D., Molson Indy Races in Vancouver 1998

John was also Local President of CUPE-O&P for 5 years. He retired from CBC in 1998 after 25 years' service and then worked for several years with the B.C. Corps of Commissionaires before leaving the workforce altogether. He volunteered with the Molson Indy Races for several years, in both Detroit and Vancouver.

In 2008, John moved from Vancouver to Toronto where he struck up a friendship with Matt Marek and Brian Peco, becoming the on-screen character Robert Peco in their video series *Robert's Minute* still available on YouTube with 18,000 subscribers. The Robert's Minute Facebook page is still active as well..

Health issues led to John moving again in 2019, this time to Ottawa to be closer to his son Bob and family.

John was very proud of his family history and particularly enamoured of the stories relating to his paternal grandfather – John Kirkup – who was with the RCMP in Revelstoke and Rossland. John Victor Kirkup provided several museums with documentation, photographs and artifacts about the man who became something of a legend in the Kootenays. It was not until John was

with the CBC Finance Department and handling costing for *The Beachcombers*' series that he found out, through a Producer that he was related to actor Robert Clothier who portrayed the character Relic on the show. Catherine (Kirkup) Clothier, Robert Clothier's grandmother, was sister to the RCMP Officer John Kirkup.

In his leisure time, John was an avid photographer rarely without a camera at hand and as technology evolved, he embraced social media as a platform to display his extensive collection of photographs and Kirkup family history. He was equally passionate about music, the movies and film stars, collecting 78 rpm records, sheet music, movie posters and other memorabilia. Marilyn Monroe and Audrey Hepburn were his favourite movie stars and their images held pride of place in his most recent room at a care home in Ottawa. His interest in music and movies led to friendships with well known people in the industry including Jack Cullen, Red Robinson and Leonard Maltin.

John is survived by his two sons Robert (Lois) and Michael (Yoshino), his grandson Justin (Lindsay), granddaughter Brianna and great granddaughter Myah, and by his first wife Dianne Marks, mother of his two sons.

At John's request there was no service.

Here are a few photos spanning John's life....



The beach in White Rock, 1938 or '39



With dog Skippy in Kamloops, 1941



1950s



1960s



Robert, John and Michael in the late 1970s



John, Red Robinson, Patsy MacDonald Gill, Gordon Gill and Dan McAfee promoting "Trivia Challenge" in the late 1970s



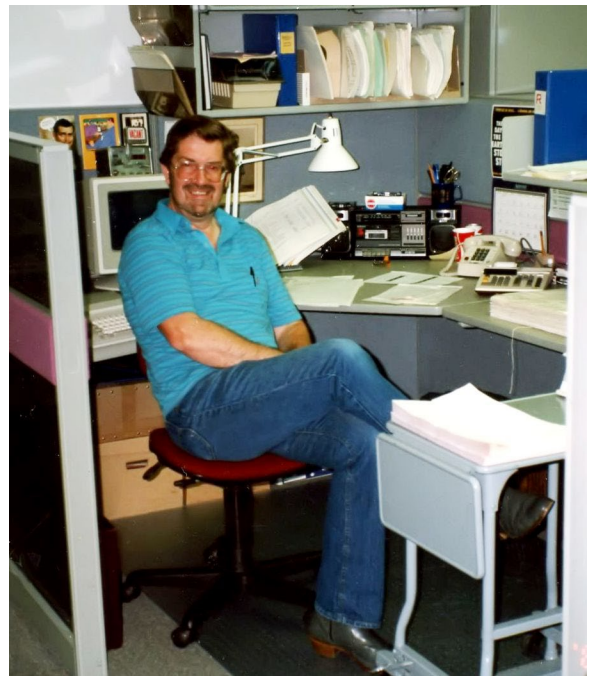
Jack Cullen with John in 1979



John at home, Christmas 1979



John with Leonard Maltin, New York City, 1981



John in CBC Finance cubicle (700 Hamilton), 1988



AT CUPE National Convention, Vancouver c1989



John and a small part of his collection at home 1990s



John in his BC Corps of Commissionaire's shirt, 2012



In Toronto, Dec.31, 2014 with a rare beer.



In Ottawa in 2020



John celebrating Christmas in 2021 in Ottawa