



In memory of Ivan Saunders...

(January 9, 1944 to January 29, 2019)

By Barbara Bellamy, CRM, Bernita Cogswell and Jolynne Jackson



We all have different memories of Ivan but one thing we all agree on is that Ivan was a wonderful mentor, colleague and friend. We are so privileged to have worked with such an amazing, strong individual. He had the most courageous strength and tenacity that every single person who ever came into contact with him could feel while in his presence. He will be missed by his ARMA community and friends.

Ivan volunteered at the Chapter level and for the Canada Region. As the ARMA Canada conference director, Ivan would visit conference sites in his unassuming, quiet manner. He viewed the site and then started asking tough questions of staff from hotels and conference centres. The conference team often heard that he was a tough negotiator and these comments were conveyed with warmth and respect. He acted as the liaison between the host chapters and venue; always listening and taking their input/insight into consideration.

He used to say that he did his due diligence, which he certainly did. As Conference Director, Ivan's keen eye and attention to detail along with his sharp negotiating skills was an asset to ARMA Canada. And Ivan loved to negotiate; he was made for the role.

Ivan also put in countless hours at his home Saskatchewan chapter. He always generously mentored chapter members making several strong relationships with like-minded professionals.

Ivan was my unofficial mentor. We were 40 years apart but that didn't stop us from building a friendship. Ivan and I spent almost a decade planning local and national ARMA events, but we only saw each other in person once or twice a year. He was someone I always looked forward to catching up with - hearing stories about his children and grandchildren, his camp in New Brunswick, talking business or learning his perspective on issues over an impeccable glass of wine. He was humble and modest...until you learned of his wine collection! He had quite the palate and selection of wines. Jolynne Jackson.

Ivan's work life included a position with Parks Canada documenting Canada's military and architectural history. After leaving Parks Canada, Ivan worked as an historian on the restoration of Government House in Regina. Beginning in the 1980s until his retirement in 2013, Ivan's work focused on capturing and preserving the history of Saskatchewan: as the Archivist for the City of Regina, in his work for the Saskatchewan Archives Board and finally for the Provincial Capital Commission.

I got to know Ivan more on a personal level after he moved to New Brunswick. He and I would go for lunch sometimes to catch up. It was nice as I enjoyed his company. He was a very smart man who was not only a historian, records and information management person but a very well-rounded individual with varied interests. Ivan invited my husband Gary and me to his camp at Woodlands for dinner one Sunday. He cooked an amazing meal for us. We asked if we could help, he said he was good and suggested we go out and look around the property. We went through the gardens and could not believe all the vegetables, herbs and fruits he was growing." Bernita Cogswell

We are so privileged to have worked with such an amazing, strong person, who had such a deep care about his family, colleagues and the success of ARMA Canada and the Saskatchewan chapter. He taught us the value of volunteering, the art of the deal and how to persevere even in tough situations.

We will always remember Ivan. He was a leader, a mentor, and a strong negotiator.

Let me close with a funny story about Ivan. For those of you that knew him, this will give you a chuckle.

He carried a cell phone that he never turned on. One time a colleague and I were to meet him at a certain place in a large conference hall at a certain time. He didn't show up so we called him, but his phone went straight to voicemail. We

took turns looking for him around the hall and after an hour he came from behind a curtained area and said he was waiting for us - bit of a miscommunication of the exact spot we were to meet. When we asked about his cell phone he said "ya I have it with me but I never turn it on." We just smiled and laughed. Jolynne Jackson