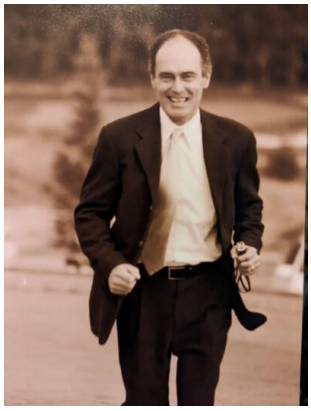

REMEMBERING

Gregory Richard Harris

April 26, 1948 - January 9, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Gregory Richard Harris. He lived a life full of love, purpose, encouragement, and enthusiasm. He went peacefully with adoring family by his side.

Greg was a devoted son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

Greg was the firstborn with his identical mirror-image twin, Geoffrey, in Edmonton, Alberta; the sons of Myrna Gillstrom Harris and N. Stuart Harris, and the cherished younger brothers of Norma.

He was a top student, natural leader, and eventual Student Body President at Bonnie Doon Composite High School. He was a hard working athlete and excelled in tennis and badminton, winning several national titles and represented Canada at the Commonwealth Games.

He became a devoted coach and taught many juniors how to master “the winner backhand” and helped them practice for success in life, on and off the court. He will be remembered for his fairness and good sportsmanship and a healthy perspective that winning was more fun than losing.

After graduating from the University of Alberta’s Faculty of Law, class of ’71, Greg went to Europe for his “summer of serendipity.” He even played in the French Open and to his delight for 8 years, proudly shared the same losing record as Rafa Nadal —only 1 loss! Serendipity remained a guiding principle in his life.

Then he went on to practice law in Vancouver and Calgary for 50 years with diligence and integrity. For years, he was found biking to the office through rain and snow.

Greg married Maryjoy Sevy in 1977 and together they raised 6 children. Known for

his insatiable thirst for knowledge, kindness, and dedication, Greg was deeply involved in his community through his profession, the Calgary Waldorf School, his Church, and the Glencoe Club. Their family life was enriched by spending many hours playing sports, skiing in Montana, and summers at the lake in Osoyoos, B.C.

In 1999, he and Maryjoy took their children ages 7-19 on a year long trek around the world. It was a fantastic time of adventure, learning, making new friends, and memories; a highlight of their lives. Throughout it all, he created friendships and memories that will last for generations.

Greg was a loving and encouraging father and friend to many. In his final months, the love and admiration he inspired throughout his life poured back to him in the form eloquent letters. These “Love Letters” were read to him every evening with joy and appreciation. Thank you.

Greg leaves behind Maryjoy; their son Brig; their daughters Brooke, Paige, Dana, Brianna and Victoria; and their 18 adorable grandchildren. He also leaves behind his siblings, their spouses, and their loving families who will especially miss “The Twin Show.”

Greg lived the game of life with almost perfection. He adored his wife and children and loved spending time with them above all else. He earned enough and not too much, yet never hesitated to splurge on the experiences that truly mattered.

A seeker of wisdom and kindred spirits, Gregory surrounded himself with renaissance people, continuously fueled by his focus on their success. He was pragmatic, faithful, and unfailingly kind, possessing a unique gift for recognizing and celebrating the strengths of others.

Greg’s legacy is one of love, abundance, and an unyielding zest for life. He will be deeply missed by all who were fortunate enough to know him.

We look forward to seeing him again.

A funeral service will be held at 1:00 pm, Saturday February 8, 2025 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 7401 – 87th Street, Osoyoos, BC followed by a time of fellowship in the church lower hall. Graveside service at the Osoyoos Lakeview Cemetery will follow the time of fellowship.

A celebration of Greg’s life will also be held at 3:00 pm, Saturday June 21, 2025 at 2021 – 17th Avenue SW, Calgary, AB. All are welcome.

A live stream of Greg’s service can be watched by clicking the link below

https://harris.ezsite.eu