

JAKE



IMAGE COURTESY OF ERIN SWEENEY

SCORE

JAKE



In Loving Memory of
JOHN GREGORY SWEENEY
March 21, 1929-September 19, 2005



JACK JACK JACK
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Jack (Jake) was born in Vancouver on the first day of spring, 1929, the son of Michael Leo and Mary (Gregory) Sweeney. He grew up in Kitsilano with his four brothers, Bill, Ed, Leo and Frank, and three sisters, Leona, Margaret and Patricia. He attended St. Augustine's school and later, Vancouver College where he played football for the "Fighting Irish". He attended Portland University on a football scholarship before returning to Vancouver to work at Sweeney Cooperage, the family barrel-making business in False Creek.

Jack was involved in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) and enjoyed music, theatre and writing. He wrote a popular column on CYO activities for the "BC Catholic". He met Maureen Evans through the CYO and they were married in 1953 at St. Augustine's Church. Jack and Maureen raised four children, John Paul, Jennifer, Bill and Tom. The children have fond memories of waiting for him to come home from work. The first one who saw his car approaching the driveway would call out "Daddy's home!" and they would all run to greet him and maybe get a "horsie ride". He often brought home treats or guests and had many surprises to share with his kids.

He loved the beginning of spring and the aroma of blooming wallflowers. Early summer meant the arrival of local strawberries and trips to Mylora Farms in Richmond. And summer also meant regular visits to Peter's Ice Cream with the neighbourhood kids. He loved the ocean and spent many hours fishing in the "Bluenose".

After leaving the Cooperage in 1973, Jack worked for CMHC, BC Housing, Coast Foundation, and finally at the City of Vancouver. He also founded a window washing business with his son, Bill, and was known for going the extra mile for his customers. He worked hard and took pride in never "calling in sick". Jack was generous and willing to help anybody who asked.

The family takes comfort in knowing that Jack's illness was short and that he worked up until July. By that time his cancer was advanced and once he was in bed, he stayed there until passing away at 2:55 a.m. September 19. He spent his final evening with Maureen at UBC hospital in the presence of God where they prayed together.

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD;
I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED.
HE LETS ME REST IN FIELDS OF GREEN GRASS
AND LEADS ME TO QUIET POOLS OF FRESH WATER.
HE GIVES ME NEW STRENGTH.
HE GUIDES ME IN THE RIGHT PATHS,
AS HE HAS PROMISED.
EVEN IF I GO THROUGH THE DEEPEST DARKNESS,
I WILL NOT BE AFRAID, LORD,
FOR YOU ARE WITH ME.
YOUR SHEPHERD'S ROD AND STAFF PROTECT ME.

YOU PREPARE A BANQUET FOR ME,
WHERE ALL MY ENEMIES CAN SEE ME;
YOU WELCOME ME AS AN HONOURED GUEST
AND FILL MY CUP TO THE BRIM.
I KNOW THAT YOUR GOODNESS AND LOVE
WILL BE WITH ME ALL MY LIFE;
AND YOUR HOUSE WILL BE MY HOME AS LONG AS I LIVE.

Psalm 23, from Good News Bible Text



FUNERAL MASS

St Augustine's Catholic Church, Vancouver, B.C.
Friday, September 23, 2005

PALLBEARERS:

Michael Battle
Pete Gregory
Bill Sweeney
Ed Sweeney
Frank Sweeney
Don Vallee

Reception in the Parish Hall immediately following Mass.