

Dartmouth Funeral Home and Crematorium Ltd.

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Raymond Paul LeBlanc of Martins River, Nova Scotia | 2023 | Obituary



Raymond Paul LeBlanc

July 10, 2023

Obituary

(mailto:?) Obituary for Raymond Paul

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4:00 PM

Raymond Paul LeBlanc, CM MD FRCSP, Dalhousie Professor Emeritus, died on July 10, with Francoise at his side, as she had been for 59 years. He was 84.

Ray was a physician, teacher, scientist, and administrator, driven by a tireless work ethic to improve health and vision care.

Born in Moncton, educated at the Université de Moncton, Ottawa University, the Cleveland Clinic, and Washington University, Ray quickly rose to become a national and international leader in ophthalmology.

In 1979, he was recruited from Sherbrooke to head Dalhousie's Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. Over his 24 years as Chair, the department became a clinical, educational, and scientific leader nationally and internationally. He led the development of the Eye Care Centre, an integrated approach to vision care which now serves as a model for other provinces in Canada.

As a leader and agent of change, he was forceful and diplomatic. His approach was built on a foundation of self-less hard work, abiding decency, excellence as a clinician, and an unwavering commitment that patients must always come first.

He valued science and research. The latter years of his clinical practice were spent with considerable focus on building Dalhousie's research base, develop

lab capacity, and nurturing scientific talent. At the time of his retirement, he had authored over 60 peer reviewed publications.

Among many appointments, he was a founding member and chair of the National Coalition for Vision Health, and the president of the Canadian Ophthalmological Society. Within his focus on glaucoma, he was a founding member and president of the Canadian Glaucoma Society and the Glaucoma Research Society.

His contributions were broadly recognized. In 2005, he was made a Member of the Order of Canada for his services to ophthalmology and vision care, a recognition of his approach to patient care, teaching and research. Ray was also awarded honorary degrees from the Université de Moncton and Dalhousie University, with both universities remaining close to his heart.

Following his retirement from clinical practice in 2008, Ray became a full-time administrator with the Capital District Health Authority. His last position was Vice-President of Learning, Research and Innovation, a position so perfectly suited to his enthusiasm and interest that a two-year posting stretched to seven years.

Ray had a keen eye for excellence and a reluctance to accept less. He was uncommonly optimistic, believing that with enough perseverance and tenacity, good ideas and good people will succeed. His greatest delight was taken in the success of others, and throughout retirement followed with interest the efforts of colleagues and proteges to advance science or improve care.

He was a man of discerning taste and elegance. He loved the joy of bringing people and their ideas together through food and wine. There were no better dinner parties than those of Ray and Francoise. Although frustrated he did not inherit the same musical abilities as his 4 older siblings, he loved music and was a long-time supporter of Symphony Nova Scotia.

He filled his last few months with gratitude. He was particularly grateful to Martin's River, for its beauty and its community, both of which filled his retirement with joy. He was thankful for the myriad of friends and colleagues who came to bid thanks and farewell. He purposefully considered the broad good fortune of his life.

Ray is survived by his wife of 59 years, Francoise St. Denis, and their children: Jean-Michel (Irene), Vancouver; Marie-France (Gus Grant), Halifax; and Matthieu (Shannon Dowe), Vancouver. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Randy, Tommy, Ollie, Theo, Maxie, Robbie, Noah and Logan as well as his great-grandchildren Sara and Paige. All of whom were sources of happiness and inspiration to him.

On behalf of Ray, his family is grateful for the care he received throughout his illness, with particular thanks to the Neurosurgical team at the Halifax Infirmary and the wonderful staff at Halifax Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, Ray asks that you consider donating to the Eye Care Centre through the QEII Foundation, or Halifax Hospice. A celebration honouring his life will take place on July 26th at the St. Mary's Boat Club at 4 pm. A livestream will be available for Ray's friends and colleagues across the Country and around the world. by visiting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83009236183>

SERVICES

Celebration of Life Service

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

4:00 PM

St. Mary's Boat Club

1641 Fairfield Road

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4E8

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Light A Candle



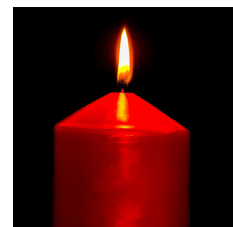
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