

Wayne died peacefully in Richmond General Hospital just shy of his 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday. He was the elder son of Chauncey and Mildred (nee Russell) Phillips and is survived by his brother Eric, girlfriend Nancy Bitcon, Aunt Bobbi Goddard, cousins and friends.

Wayne, a lifetime resident of Richmond, BC, was one of first class (“originals”) at William Cook Elementary and went on to attend R.C. Palmer and Richmond Senior Secondary schools. He struggled though the early years as a result of a speech impediment resulting from a brain hemorrhage as an infant. A school counsellor recommended Wayne take the vocational path in high school, but he persisted in the academic technical program. Through dedication to his studies, he succeeded and was a top student in BCIT’s Electrical & Electronics program. After graduating, Wayne worked for IPEC, a BC Hydro subsidiary.

Wayne was not a “natural” athlete but always wanted to be as good as he could be. After competing in English-trials motorcycle riding and long-distance running he developed a love of long-distance cycling. He rode his bicycle across Canada three times. The first coast to coast run was with his high-school friend David Beale and then set two Guinness Book of Records, cross Canada runs. In 1977, he completed the coast to coast 6,035-km run solo in under 20 days and broke his own record with a run of under 15days, with a support team, in 1982.

For many years, Wayne was a member of the Vancouver Bicycle Club as well as the BC Randonneurs. In 1979 he was one of the first four Canadians who completed the grueling 1200 km Paris-Brest-Paris “randonnee” in France. It was during his participation as a solo rider in the demanding 5,021-km Race Across America (RAAM) in 1985 that Wayne was struck from behind by a motor vehicle and left a paraplegic.

He was air-lifted from Amarillo, Texas to Vancouver and spent 13 long months in hospital and at GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre.

Despite his physical disability and several bouts of bi-polar disorder, Wayne continued to challenge himself. He participated in many 10-km wheelchair road events, including the Vancouver Sun Run over 25 times, but his love was doing marathons (42.2-km). This involved him travelling to different Canadian cities (Victoria, Cranbrook, Montreal), US cities (Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Honolulu, Chicago, New York, Boston), and European cities (London, Paris, Rome) – about 50 in total. He also competed the grueling 6-day, 430-km Midnight Sun Ultra Challenge in Alaska.

Another of Wayne’s favourite activities was summer-time sailing in adaptive sailing regattas throughout North America. He loved the freedom of being on the water as well as the camaraderie, competition and especially the challenge of a “shifty and gusty” wind. He was also proud to be an Olympic torch bearer twice, once in 1988 for the Calgary Olympics and then again in Vancouver in 2010.



Special thanks to Dr. D.K Dihn, Dr. R. Ying for years of care and to all of the doctors and nurses at Richmond General Hospital. Special thanks to his neighbours Denis Mitchell and Jim Lanning who made independent living possible. If you wish to make a donation in Wayne’s memory, please consider a donation to the Richmond Centre for Disabilities or charity of your choice.