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From Comox Valley Record newspaper, Nov. 25, 2013:



## Thomas John Jenkins

January 25, 1941 – November 25, 2013

John left us on November 25, 2013. He was loving spouse of Tannis, father of Philippa (Arden), grandpa to Jamie, Justin, Kevin, Aleshia, “big brother” to Ray (Karen) and uncle to Terry (Wanda). Predeceased by son, Rob, in 1998; they are together again.

John, known as “JJ” by his BC Tel colleagues, loved a good laugh and enjoyed the company of his friends. Camping, waterskiing, dog shows and music festivals filled his days. Always present with camera at hand and smile wide, John enjoyed life.

With hollowed hearts but fond memories we celebrate John’s life on January 3, 2014 at 1:00PM at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 17, 367 Cliffe Avenue, Courtenay, BC

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From January 2013 and January 2014 HepCBulls by Michael, pseudonym for John Jenkins

MICHAEL’S STORY (NOTE: Michael’s actual name, John Jenkins, was revealed by his wife Tannis Booth after his death)

Editor: Michael is a long-time member of HepCBC. The CanHepC list and the HepCan list. He and I have been emailing frequently since 2004. He has volunteered for HepCBC and has provided caring support and information to many fellow Hep C sufferers in our community, both by email and in person. Perhaps you have spoken to him on the phone. I just spent some time chatting with him. This is what I learned:

Michael was born in Oxford, England in 1941, and moved to Canada in 1965, along with his wife and baby daughter, because his wife's sister lived here and loved it. They first settled in Prince George.

In 1986, Michael was hospitalized for a hip replacement. The surgeon at the time advised him, because of test results, to never donate blood. Later, he had emergency surgery to remove his gall bladder, and suffered what he believes to have been peritonitis. Michael was employed by BC Tel for 32 years. He has since retired.

Their daughter, now grown, is the mother of two boys. Michael and his wife also had a son, whom they lost in a car accident. Their son left behind a son and daughter.

When he was well, Michael and the family enjoyed boating, water skiing and camping. Unfortunately, Michael is now suffering with end-stage liver disease, and is interferon-intolerant. He has been through at least 3 attempts at treatment, all unsuccessful: Interferon alone, IFN/RBV and Pegasys/RBV. He hasn't given up. He is investigating the possibility of one of the new clinical trials, but is not interested in a transplant because of his age. He is receiving home nursing support, and takes lactulose to ward off brain fog. He reports having trouble writing/typing. He has been in hospital several times this year. Once, the doctor told him he wasn't going home. Fortunately, the doctor was wrong. He has recently had a fall in the bathroom, and since then, uses a walker or cane.

We have seen many similar stories, but hopefully with the new medications, we will soon see more people, maybe Michael, living full, healthy lives, unburdened by hepatitis C.

"This disease is not for sissies. 'Bye for now.'" --Michael

MICHAEL'S STORY: THE SEQUEL (written by Joan King following "Michael's" death in late 2013; this story is in the January, 2014 *hepC.bull.*)

We just received this email:

"I am replying from the computer of John Jenkins. Please be advised that Mr. Jenkins passed away on November 25, 2013 from complications relating to Hep C." --Tannis Booth "

Michael" was, in real life, John Jenkins, of Campbell River, diagnosed in 1997. You may have known Michael from the hepcan and other lists as "Michael Peterson" or "searcher" (searcher\_ca). "

Michael's Story" was published on the front page of our January 2013 issue of the hepC.bull. I called Tannis this evening, and she has kindly given me permission to use his real name. John was a long-time member of HeCSC (1999 or earlier), and member and volunteer phoner and donor for HepCBC at least as far back as 2004. He was a member of the '86-90 Class Action suit. He kept in touch with me many times over the years. Also a patient of Dr. Anderson, Natalie, and Lori Lee, at the LAIR Clinic in Vancouver, he was pro-active with his health. He was one of the first to sign up for a Fibroscan. He and his beloved life-partner Tannis were able to squeeze in an Alaska cruise in spite of their health problems. They moved to Courtenay in 2008. She was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and began treatment back in 2009, and my partner was going through cancer treatments at the same time. We compared notes and shared worries. She had 1-2 years to live then. John had a scope, ultrasound and CT scan done in 2009, and his AFP levels had gone up. This is a possible sign of liver cancer. (Have you had your AFP done lately?) He shared his experiences with Pegasys back in 2010. His cirrhosis was still compensated then. Unfortunately, he relapsed.

By Jan 2010, John's AFP levels had doubled from the year before...but his scan showed no tumour. His local "hep-god" recommended low-dose maintenance, and they were finally able to get coverage for it, so in April 2010 John started a 15-month treatment of Pegasys low-dose maintenance

This was his fifth time taking interferon; he'd been on Pegasys maintenance for 8 months a few years previously. His first week's prescription cost \$441.00, and as a member of the '86-90 class action, he was covered but had to wait for reimbursement. "I feel so bad for patients who can't get coverage," he wrote.

We chatted and bragged about grandkids, "Back to ice cream, I told Aleshia (granddaughter) that I would take her for ice cream too...Being a grandparent is special ... I spent most of my time with my gran and grandad. learned to drive tractor, milk cows etc. .. Yes, they were farmers and hold some treasured memories for me ....."

John complained about severe brain fog on the hepcan list March 27 of this year, and he cried with us over the passing of Gloria Adams in April. If only John--and Gloria--had had the opportunity we now have with the 2nd generation drugs!  
"This disease is not for sissies. 'Bye for now.'" --Michael