

Volunteer Appreciation Article - May 3, 2023



Guy and Linda Schmirler have lived in Desert Cove since 2007 and since then have been very involved in the community in so many ways. Guy started providing musical entertainment in the hall, including Karaoke nights for three years or singing with his wonderful “crooner” voice accompanying himself on keyboard. His “Frank Sinatra” inspired show was a big hit for Covians wanting some entertainment when Covid was keeping all of us close to home. His talents were featured yearly in the Galaxy of the Stars, Christmas Carol sing-alongs and Gospel music afternoons. He also performed at many Happy Hours.

In addition, Guy and Linda were part of the 5th Avenue residents who hosted a number of themed events in the hall in their early days in the Cove, including a full Italian dinner and a Ukrainian dinner and as usual Guy provided the musical entertainment.

Their commitment to the community also included Guy acting as Director on the DCHA Board for one term in 2009 and Linda volunteered to deliver donated items from the grey box in the hall to the Upper Room Mission for 6 years.

This couple have led such interesting lives (although Linda says that Guy was much more adventurous than her). From the age of 12, Guy has been playing music. At age 16, he played saxophone in a band called The Saints with his older brother and two cousins who lived in the US. They played in various venues across the western states. Guy returned to Saskatchewan, completed Grade 12 and worked as a telegraph operator for CN for 5 years. He then went to the University of Alberta, earned his Bachelor of Commerce degree, then articulated with a national accounting firm and got his CA designation. But before he opened that business, he travelled the world including Australia, New Zealand, Asia, the UK and most other countries in Europe. He worked as he travelled, driving a taxi in Hong Kong, carpenter in New Zealand, Quantas Airlines in Sydney, sold used cars in Munich and drove a delivery van in London, to name a few. With his beat-up old guitar, he busked in most of the major cities in Europe. Following his travels, he worked as a Chartered Accountant until he sold his practice in 1994. To say that he has experienced life to the fullest is an understatement.

A bout of cancer in his arm left his hand paralyzed but his determination to play music on the keyboard helped him to recover, much to his physician’s surprise. Despite his latest bit of bad health, Guy is once again planning to entertain at various senior residences throughout the Okanagan.

Guy and Linda are both exceptional curlers, winning many Championships. They were both on the Seniors Mixed Curling team for the BC Inter-Provincial Championship. Guy has won 6 times in the BC Senior Men’s Curling, and a Master Curling Championship in Vernon in 1996. Guy was quite proud of the fact that at the age of 80, he won a Provincial Senior Mixed Curling Championship (where the age bracket started at age 60). In addition to curling, Guy also loves to golf and hopes to get back into playing both of those sports that he loves so much.

Guy and Linda live at 5006 - 5th Avenue and this year will be celebrating their 45th Anniversary. We thank them for all that they have done for Desert Cove.

Article written in conjunction with Guy and Linda Schmirler and posted with their permission.