

# Remembering Dave Elder

## Pillar of the British Columbia Complex Rehab Community & Patriarch of the Advanced Mobility Family



Dave Elder was born on November 22, 1950, in Edinburgh Scotland. He came to Canada in 1953 with his older brother Norm and his Mum and Dad.

Growing up, Dave was a really talented athlete – loved golf and soccer.

On October 31st, 1969 at the age of 18, Dave was injured when a balcony/deck collapsed in Richmond BC. From there Dave attended Rehab at GF Strong in Vancouver. Although it was a rough time in his life, he always remained positive and liked to make people laugh. He made some great friends and had fond memories of the Rehab staff at GF Strong who helped him in his recovery.

In 1983 Dave moved to Alberta and started selling wheelchairs there in 1984. He wanted to bring in a chair that would be different and more user-friendly. In those days, a wheelchair was a wheelchair – no customizations to improve mobility or independence. In 1985 Dave met the love of his life Cathy, who would later become his partner in all aspects of life.

In 1986 Dave's father passed away and he decided to move back to Vancouver to be closer to family. Shortly after returning to Vancouver, Advanced Mobility Products Ltd. was born and was officially incorporated on July 14, 1987. Advanced Mobility and Dave Elder would soon become an icon in the complex rehab community of BC. Dave was instrumental in bringing the latest and greatest technology to the industry in BC. He was the first person to Permobil to Canada. And he didn't stop there, throughout the years he would find a way to get his clients the best equipment possible, from Colours to Sopur, Progeo and even the Smartdrive. Dave had a way of building relationships with manufacturers so that they wanted their products sold by him, they knew that Dave would always put the client first.

Dave also had a great relationship with BC Wheelchair sports. Not only did he provide their equipment, but he also sponsored their athlete of the year every year. When the Olympics were in Vancouver in 2010, Advanced Mobility was chosen to be the dealer for all equipment repairs for all athletes at the Paralympics. It was a great honor, and we still display that banner proudly in our Burnaby location.

As much as he was successful in Business, Dave always put his family first, and he thought of a lot of staff as family. He loved his horses and watching hockey and was no stranger to a good glass of red wine. He had a quick wit and a thirst for knowledge of all subjects. He was always the first to crack a joke and will be remembered as an incredibly positive person. When he was leaving GF Strong, one of the Therapists said to his family that it would feel like the lights were turned out, they would miss his positivity. Dave's attitude never faltered throughout his life, when he became ill, he remained optimistic, and never complained the entire time he was battling cancer.

Dave will be remembered fondly by everyone. He was a pillar in our community and the patriarch of our Advanced Mobility Family, and he will be forever loved and missed.