



**SUMMER/FALL 2023**

## We Remember Patrick Byron

Submitted by Patrick's long time friend, Laurie Duke



Patrick William Byron was born on Sept 19, 1963 at a time when a new understanding of children with developmental disabilities was taking place in North American society. Parents began to look for options other than placing their children who were born with different abilities into institutions. Patrick's father was very clear that he would remain at home and his mother devoted herself to his care.

Patrick was in the first cohort of people with intellectual disabilities in Burnaby who experienced the integrated schooling revolution. This experience gave him solid friendships that lasted his lifetime.

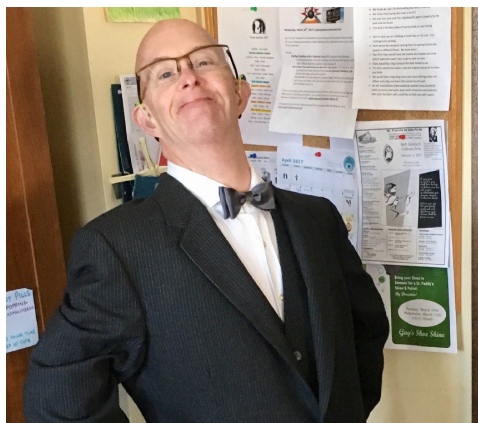
Patrick grew up attending St. Francis de Sales Church where his father was an usher. Catherine, Patrick's sister, recalls coming to church and seeing Patrick as a young boy, standing next to his father and joining him in his welcoming duties. Even at this young age Pat was fully immersed in his church community. Patrick knew

he belonged. These deeply rooted experiences gave Pat a unique and solid upbringing. By the time he moved into L'Arche at the age of 19, he was independently using the bus system and participating in social programs in and around Burnaby.

Pat knew he had a purpose and was curious about how he fit into the world. He was not content to just observe. He experimented with social boundaries and often crossed over the line of what was considered 'socially' appropriate. He looked for the extraordinary and wanted every day to have a bright spark in it.

Most of Pat's life took place within a six kilometer radius in Burnaby. He knew this city well and many times he was the navigator for a young assistant who was in the driver's seat.

During his 40-plus years at L'Arche Pat was a regular representative at regional and national gatherings.



He also took some special international holidays to visit former assistants in Europe who had become life-long friends.

Often assistants put down deeper roots in our community, specifically at Nazirah House and specifically because of Patrick. He cultivated a group of faithful friends to the end. His housemates bore witness to his ability to welcome and engage our hearts in a way that pulled us so deeply inward.



Pat worked at L'Arche Wood Products for many years and then he moved on to L'Arche's Neighbours Helping Neighbours. To be clear, Pat was not fond of work. He found rules confining and labour too "labourious".

But if there was anything bright or unique to be made of a day, if anything needed to be celebrated or made memorable you would find Patrick at the heart of it.

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## Community Life Photos



## Remembering Patrick

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Over the years, Pat matured into a man of deep compassion, welcome, and love. It was not all lighthearted for Pat. His ability to celebrate life went much deeper. His care for his mom when she was aging and dying and his care for his neighbour, Anne Marshall, showed us all how deep he was able to go in his love. He taught us what faithfulness looked like.

The world is quieter without Pat. His exuberant entrances into a room with upset or with celebration always created the sound of life. How his life filled our ears over the years.

He was opinionated, strong-willed, and determined to the point of intense, and he was also faith-filled, soft-hearted, and forgiving to the point of heartbreaking.

As a member of his family aptly said, "I think everyone should have a Patrick in their life".

You could not help but love him. He loved you and you would love him back.



## Community Life

A unique aspect of L'Arche's mission is our Community Life Program. Support for people with developmental disabilities is often primarily focused on the individual's housing, financial needs, work opportunities, and social activity. At L'Arche people also have the opportunity to develop their spiritual lives. We gather regularly to sing, celebrate, share news, and pray together. We also support each other in times of joy and sorrow.

Although L'Arche is rooted in Christianity we welcome people of different faiths or no faith tradition.

Together we believe that each person has unique value and purpose in life and deserves to be loved and cherished for who they are. Spirituality is something beautiful that we share and celebrate together.





# Who's Who at L'Arche



**FeiFei Peng** – *Interim Community Leader/Executive Director L'Arche Greater Vancouver*

FeiFei has been part of the L'Arche community for almost 20 years in various roles. Most recently she held the position of Director of Human Resources. She will lead the community in its mission until a new Community Leader/Executive Director is appointed.



**Elizabeth MacKeigan** – *Interim Senior Director of the L'Arche Foundation of Greater Vancouver*

Liz joined L'Arche 18 years ago as the Director of Finance and Support Services where she has provided oversight to the Finance Department, Facility/Property Management and our IT needs. With the help of her strong team she will continue in that role. While serving as Senior Director of the Foundation she provides leadership to the work of the Foundation.



**Jim Lattimer** – *President of the L'Arche Greater Vancouver Board of Directors*

Jim joined the Board of Directors nine years ago when the need for an accessible building was just being discussed. He is excited about L'Arche's future and how our mission will expand in the new building.



**Sig Stark** – *Director of Philanthropy and Communications*

Sig led the Fund Development team from 2008 until her retirement in 2020. She's come back to help us and other contractors with the Capital Campaign and is glad to be connected with this important work once again.

## Neighbours Helping Neighbours Special Projects



Conrad, Erol and Garth working together in building stairs for a customer



Garth, Erol and Conrad replacing a railing



Christina and Garth



Garth and Conrad



Niall and Garth

WE ALL **BELONG**

# Supporting Organizations

We gratefully acknowledge the following Organizations for their support from March 1 to May 31 2023

Agape Catholic Charities Fund held  
at Vancouver Foundation  
First Christian Reformed Church of  
New Westminster  
Grant Thornton LLP  
J & G Servant Foundation  
Knights of Columbus Council No. 8853  
Knights of Columbus Fraser Valley  
Council, No. 2552  
Living Hope Fellowship  
Patrick and Elizabeth Hill Charitable Fund  
Provincial Employees Community Services Fund  
Raymond James Canada Foundation  
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver  
Saint John's Anglican Church ACW  
Saint Joseph the Worker Parish  
Sisters of Instruction of the Child Jesus

# Tributes

The following were honoured or remembered with a tribute gift to L'Arche

## In Honour

Melina Boote  
David and Diane Reesor  
Sharon Townsend  
Shen Dental Office

## In Memory

Patrick Byron  
Cliff Fedosa  
Iris Henderson  
Thea Hoffman  
Anna Marie  
Paul Mosca  
Steve Sharlow  
Sherrill Weeks

## WAYS TO SUPPORT L'ARCHE GREATER VANCOUVER

**Mail:** Mail your cheque to L'Arche in the postage paid envelope provided  
**Online:** [www.larchevancouver.org/donate](http://www.larchevancouver.org/donate)  
**E-Transfer:** [giving@larchevancouver.org](mailto:giving@larchevancouver.org) - Add your name and address in the message box along with any special instructions  
**Phone:** 604-435-9544 ext 120

Charitable Registration No. 1376468671-RR0001



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