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LOCAL

Harold Hoey leaves money to charity

By

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By Herald staff

The late Harold Hoey's support of his community continues through his generous bequests to a number of charitable organizations.

A Penticton resident for over 60 years, Hoey passed away on August 29, 2009. In his will Hoey left \$75,000 to the Agur Lake Camp Society and \$50,000 each to the South Okanagan Similkameen Medical Foundation, Penticton and District Hospice Society, Okanagan-Similkameen Child Development Centre and the B.C. Children's Hospital Foundation.

Over 20 other charitable groups were also named in Hoey's will.

The list includes organizations dedicated to health, recreation, conservation and helping the neediest in our society.

"Absolutely wonderful news!" said Simon Wells of Agur Lake Camp Society board member.

The camp for children and adults with special needs and their families is being established near Summerland.

Hoey made no stipulations on how the funds could be used, requesting only that it be acknowledged that the bequest was made in memory of his wife, Flora.

"I am sure we will find a suitable way to memorialize Mrs. Hoey at the camp," said Susan McIver, camp society president.

"Harold and Flo were the most loving of people who reached out to the community by opening both their hearts and their wallets. Helping others was simply part of their everyday life," said Sylvia Summers, long-time helper and friend.

Summers recalled that when Harold saw a rickety old fridge at the soup kitchen, he promptly went out and bought a new one.

Born in Winnipeg, Hoey served in the RCAF in World War II before moving to Penticton with his first wife, Marjorie. In 1947, one year after arriving in Penticton, Hoey was a founder of what is now known as the Valley First Credit Union.

"I recall that 10 of us chipped in and paid \$12.50 each to purchase a safe. We each took the value out in shares," Hoey is quoted as saying in an interview several years ago.

Hoey worked at the O.L. Jones Furniture store before joining the post office where he was employed for 28 years before retiring in 1980.

Seven years after Marjorie's death in 1973, Hoey married Flora who passed away in 2005.

For much of his retirement Hoey cared for Flora who suffered from Alzheimer's disease.

An active member of Penticton United Church, Hoey, supported the BC Cancer Agency, the Knights of Pythias and the Kettle Valley Railway among other deserving organizations.



He also rolled up his sleeves and worked in the soup kitchen.
Hoey arranged for scholarships for students at Penticton and Princess Margaret secondary schools in both his and Flora's names.

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