



From the Myers-Smith Family

With great sorrow we announce that James (Jamie) N.M. Smith died peacefully in his home on 18 July 2005 following an 11-year battle with cancer. Jamie was born in Rothesay Scotland in 1944, completed his B.Sc. at Edinburgh University and D. Phil. at Oxford University. He taught in the Zoology Department at UBC from 1973. Over the years Jamie has been referred to as the “birdman of UBC”, a reflection of his lifelong career in the study of bird populations, particularly song sparrows, as “the gentle giant” based on his tall stature and mild and modest manner, and as the “island man” for his love of islands and his long-term work on Mandarte Island near Sidney, BC

(www.tag.ubc.ca/resources/tapestry/jamie.pdf). Jamie’s research achievements have been recognized by awards from both the Canadian and American Ornithological Societies. Through his career in ecology, he had the opportunity to explore many of the world’s ecosystems from the Galapagos Islands, and the Great Barrier Reef to boreal and arctic Canada. He shared his passion for field ecology with students and the public, and was a respected teacher and community naturalist. He worked to protect habitats and preserve endangered species and inspired generations of students to study ecology and pursue interests in conservation biology. In addition to his academic pursuits, Jamie enjoyed golf, telemark skiing, birding, hooting for owls at his family cabin on Saturna Island, and singing while playing his guitar, particularly for small children. Jamie is survived by his wife Judy Myers, and his children Isla and Iain Myers-Smith, his mother Margery Smith of Dollar, Scotland and his sister Elizabeth Smith of Bridge of Weir, Scotland. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Jamie Smith Memorial Fund at UBC, (Attn: Michelle Messinger 6253 NW Marine Drive Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1) to establish a scholarship for students to attend field courses. Jamie and his family greatly appreciated the support of the Pacific Spirit Community Health Centre, the Canadian Red Cross and his physician Dr. Steve Kurdyak that made it possible for him to stay at home throughout his illness.



A celebration of Jamie’s life will be held at 3 pm on Thursday, the 28th of July, 2005 in the Reception Centre of the UBC Botanical Garden and all are welcome.