

YOUNG AT HEART

*The Inspirational Lives of
Richard and Louise Guy*



by Chic Scott

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All photos © Richard and Louise Guy unless otherwise noted.

Front cover inset photo: Richard and Louise on the summit of Heart Mountain.

Photo by Steve Grantham

Front cover background photo: Larch trees in fall colours by Rod Plasman.

Back cover photo: Richard and Louise dancing at their 60th wedding anniversary celebration, held at the University of Calgary Faculty Club in 2000.

Title page photo: Louise and Richard Guy, mountaineers.

INTRODUCTION

Richard and Louise Guy have been an inspirational team for a long time. Through their optimism, strength and love for life, they have been role models and guides for many of us. Since arriving in Canada in 1965 Richard and Louise have devoted much of their time and energy to the mountains and, as they aged, they kept up their active life, climbing mountains into their 90s. But before coming to Canada, Richard and Louise had already lived rich and interesting lives. Those of you who have long wondered: “Who is this remarkable pair?” will find their answer in this book.

Quite simply Richard and Louise loved life. They loved the alternation of an active physical life and an active intellectual life. They loved learning and the best that culture has to offer. They loved to work hard out in the hills, but when they came home they loved to get cleaned up, put on nice clothes and go out to a concert or a party. Richard and Louise loved to dance and many of us will cherish memories of them swirling elegantly around the dance floor.

For 25 years now, Richard and Louise have been like parents to me and have supported me in my non-conventional career path. When I organized the Calgary Climbers Festival back in 1988, Richard and Louise bought the first two tickets to that event; later they joined me on numerous ski and climbing adventures; they bought a ticket for me to the Mountain Guides Ball when I could not afford one; they gave me encouragement when I needed it and they fed me when I was hungry. And I was not alone, for Richard and Louise have supported dozens of young friends over the years.

In this book I have celebrated their inspirational lives in order to share them with the rest of the world. It is my attempt to repay the love and friendship that they have shown me for so long. Thank you Richard and Louise.

—Chic Scott



The author, Chic Scott (left), with Richard and Louise at Mount Assiniboine, in 2006. Photo Cliff Popejoy.

AN UNCONVENTIONAL COUPLE

In the summer of 1939, 22 year-old Richard Kenneth Guy and 21 year-old Nancy Louise Thirian set off on their life's journey together. They had met several years earlier and found that they shared a love of mountains. Although it was very unconventional at the time, Richard, who had recently graduated from Cambridge University, proposed a two week hiking and scrambling journey in the Lake District of northwest England. Louise, who had just graduated from Leicester Domestic Science College, said yes and off they

went, climbing everything in the region: Scafell, Pillar, Great Gable, Blencathra, Conistone Old Man. Staying in Youth Hostels, which were segregated into men's and women's dorms, and eating meals prepared in the hostel kitchen, they hiked the paths, reaching numerous mountain tops, enjoying the great beauty and each other's company. Their trip no doubt raised eyebrows and got tongues wagging but they didn't care. Life was for the living and they both were going to get their fair share of it. Louise later confided that after that trip "I decided that he was reliable."



Langdale in the English Lake District. Photo Chic Scott.

Richard at 13 months



RICHARD

Richard Kenneth Guy was born on September 30, 1916, in Nuneaton, Warwickshire. Richard remembered, "I was the first of one. That's it: an awful, spoiled, only child. Of course there are enormous advantages and disadvantages to being an only child, but it also means you grow up to be a rather selfish person and you aren't always able to accommodate to other people around you later."

According to Richard, he had good parents. “They both had very good principles: they were always impeccably honest, straightforward and outspoken against anything that was not for the common good.” Richard’s mother, Adeline Augusta Tanner (but everyone called her Gus), was headmistress at a large girls school near Birmingham. She was 37 years old (8 years older than her husband) when she married so had already had a long teaching career. After she married she continued to teach part time for the rest of her life. Gus had a very strong personality. According to Richard, “She was one of those people who are always right, even when they are clearly wrong.” She was also a very good manager of money and ensured that the family had a good standard of living.



Richard’s mother, Adeline ‘Gus’ Tanner

Richard’s father, William Alexander Charles Guy (but everyone called him Wacky because of his initials), was also a teacher. He and Gus met in 1912 but shortly afterwards they went to Australia where he taught at Perth Boys’ School. Gus was supposed to join him but when WWI started he joined the ANZACS (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps). In April 1915, he was one of the few who survived the disastrous landing at Gallipoli in Turkey. Back in Britain Gus and Wacky were married later that year and Richard soon appeared. Wacky went off to war again, this time to France, and Richard lived with his mother in a little village called Christian Malford.

After the war, Richard’s father was demobilized in Britain and he decided not to return to Australia. He went back to teaching, instructing English and crafts at a school at Stratford-on-Avon from 1919-1924. From here he moved to Bishops Itchington where he was headmaster at the village school for seven years, then served as headmaster at a secondary modern school in Atherstone from 1931 until he retired.

Both Richard’s parents were good craftspersons. “You can’t think of a craft—metal work or basket work or bookbinding or whatever—that they did not do, and with a very high standard.” Richard’s father also was very literate and often quoted Shakespeare.

Richard’s father, W.A.C. ‘Wacky’ Guy



On one holiday to the Lake District with his mother, Richard climbed Helvellyn, a popular summit, alone while his mother waited patiently in the car. Richard remembers, "I was fascinated with mountains and I was fascinated with maps. I loved finding routes."

After his first day in kindergarten, three-year old Richard told his parents, who were very eager to know how the day had gone, "It was all right, but the teacher doesn't know much. She asked me what shape the world was and all sorts of things that I thought she would have known."

Richard was sent to Warwick school, the third oldest school in Britain, founded about 900 AD, where he was a boarder for nine years, 1926 to 1935. It was an expensive proposition to send Richard to this school but Richard remembers, "Mother was very economical and pulled the money together."

Richard disliked history, geography, English and most languages. "Any subjects that required critical thinking or aesthetic appreciation, this was completely lacking in me." But he liked mathematics, physics and especially chemistry. "If it was something logical, where things hung together, mathematics or the sciences, this appealed to me very much."

A bit of a prodigy, Richard learnt tables and could do calculations well beyond his years. In school he was two years younger than those in the same class. When he was about 13 years-old and in the sixth form and making his choice on an academic path, his math teacher, who was a go-getter, saw that Richard showed aptitude and grabbed him and said, "You're going to do mathematics".

Richard was also athletic and liked sports, playing cricket, rugby and handball. In particular he loved playing a game called 'Pirates in the Gym', swinging from ropes and hanging on the bars. A good cross-country runner, he explained, "I've always had plenty of stamina."

At about 17 years of age, Richard bought a copy of Dickson's *History of the Theory of Numbers* and was fascinated by the book. Number Theory is perhaps the oldest branch of mathematics, dating back 4000 years to the Sumerians. The book cost six guineas, which was a lot in those days, but he talked his parents into buying it for him. Richard remembers that "It was better than getting the whole works of Shakespeare and heaven knows what else." Richard was launched on his career.



Young Richard

Another of Richard's loves was chess. Neither of his parents played the game but when Richard got to boarding school he picked it up and played steadily. "The endgame, which is capable of exact analysis, appealed to me very much and I used to love to get hold of books on the endgame."

After school Richard went up to Cambridge, having won three scholarships: a Kitchener scholarship because his father had been a serviceman during the war and the County Major Scholarship offered by the county of Warwickshire (they held an exam and if you did well you got a scholarship). His main scholarship, however, was the Gonville and Caius College scholarship. To win this Richard had to travel to Cambridge and write exams for two days. Luckily for him the emphasis was on mathematics.

In 1935 Richard entered Cambridge University where he was a student at Gonville and Caius College, an institution that dated back to 1300. Richard admits that he was not a good student. "I played 24 hours a day bridge, 24 hours chess and 24 hours snooker." Later, when he realized that he couldn't make a living at any of these, he got more serious. However, when Richard graduated in 1938, he received only a second class honours degree.

LOUISE

Nancy Louise Thirian was born May 26, 1918, in Islington, a borough of greater London, where her father, Eugene, was the chef at a hotel. From the Alsace region in the northeast of France, Eugene had a continental flair and enjoyed good food and a glass of wine. Louise's mother, Nancy Kelly, was a stay at home mom. Shortly after Louise was born the family moved to Basel, Switzerland where Louise spent the first three years of her life. Louise had an older brother, Charlie, who died in a fall from a balcony at age 5, only a year after Louise was born. In later years she was very close to her other brother, Eugene (who preferred to be called Michael) who was two years her junior. After Switzerland, the family returned to England where Louise's father worked at the Queens Hotel in Leeds. It was in this city that Louise really grew up. Many years later, about 1935, her father moved to Stratford-on-Avon where he was chef at the Welcombe Hotel.

One summer, during the mid 1930s, when Louise and Michael were in their teens, they went on a long hiking trip through Switzerland. Over a period of three weeks they rambled the trails and crossed the occasional glacier and numerous

Louise's father, Eugene Thirian



Louise, Christmas 1919

high passes, taking trains periodically to connect the interesting parts. Their route took them from Heidelberg to Basel, then on to Lucerne, over the Gotthard Pass to Locarno and Lake Como, through the Simplon Tunnel and up to St. Niklaus, Saas Fee, and Zermatt, then over to Kandersteg, Mürren and Interlaken, and finally back to Basel where the pair had relatives.

Louise (centre), her brother Michael (right) and a young American (left) that they met, among the Edelweiss in Switzerland



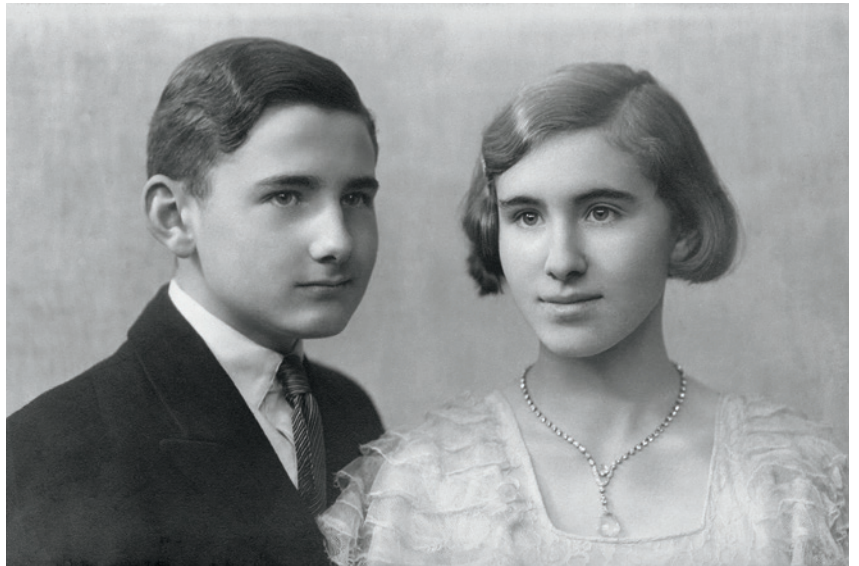
Covering up to 40 km in a day, brother and sister lived frugally and absorbed the culture. Louise wore only a pair of walking shoes and suffered for it. In a letter home she wrote, "In the morning it rained and we were soaked, my shoes especially. By afternoon my feet were awful and when we got to Titisee I ached in every bone." But a few days later, high in the hills she wrote, "The evening view from the hostel was marvellous, looking out across the mountain tops, and the clouds down in the valley and the red sunset."

Spending only five francs a day for the two of them, they lived on a diet of bread and milk. Luckily they both spoke reasonable German and French so communication was not a problem. However, they seem to have had little in the way of maps and must have been very talented route finders to make their way.

Near Zermatt they hiked up to Gornergrat. Louise wrote, "We had a marvellous view of a great circle of mountains all around us—the Matterhorn very isolated and aloof, the Breithorn and Monte Rosa all lovely rounded slopes of snow, and looking to the west, more jagged ridges with the Dent Blanche." Not very well prepared for the high mountains, Louise continued, "It is very cold here and the wind blows uncomfortably round my shorts and bare legs. Next time I come I must have ski trousers and proper boots."

At the end of the adventure Louise wrote, "We look like a couple of tramps now, and of course our clothes are shocking... Eugene makes it all sound very matter of fact, whereas I think we're positive explorers and very nearly mountaineers now. My feet are like leather, being covered with the scars of old blisters, of which I collected at least two every day till the last three days. Both our faces look terribly weather beaten...."

Louise was always a good student but according to Richard, "In those days women were only going to be secretaries or possibly school teachers". So Louise went to Domestic Science College in Leicester from 1936-39 where she got a teaching diploma. Nancie Miller remembered years later: "I'm thinking back to 1936, and our first Sunday at college. By sheer chance I sat next to Louise (then called Nancy) at breakfast. She said, 'What a lovely day, I think I'll go for a walk, is anyone else interested?' Nobody spoke up, but looking out at the sunshine I said, 'Yes, I'll come with you.' So two complete strangers set off to explore new surroundings (following the canal towpath), and we came back as firm friends. Soon



Michael and Louise Thirian about 1933

four others joined to form a group, and amazingly we remained in touch for always. We had so many happy reunions over the years, and we always said that Louise had done more with her life than the other five of us put together."

After graduation Louise taught briefly but by then she had met Richard.

Louise



Some edelweiss that Louise pressed between the pages of her photo album.

LOUISE AND RICHARD

It was through Louise's brother, Michael, that Richard and Louise met. Michael, who was three years younger than Richard, had also gone to Warwick School and won a scholarship to Gonville and Caius College, arriving in Cambridge in 1937. Richard first met Louise when Michael came to Cambridge to see the rooms that he would occupy. He met Louise again at Michael's home in Nottingham. "I was meeting Michael and I wasn't really bothering much about his sister. We were just interested in mathematics."

Providence seemed to shine on the meeting—Richard liked to dance and previously had made trips to London to dance at the Cricklewood Astoria dance hall. So when Louise invited Richard to a

dance at Leicester College, he said yes. "Louise was very keen on dancing and was very pleased that I knew how to dance." Louise also loved mountains so when Richard invited her on the Lake District adventure she was more than interested.

When Richard graduated from Cambridge he did not have a job and did not know what he was going to do. Although his parents strongly advised against it, he decided to become a teacher, taking a one-year teaching diploma at Birmingham University. Afterward Richard was hired by Stockport Grammar School, located just south of Manchester, and began teaching in September 1939. Luckily the school had a very good mathematical environment and Richard was happy working there.

Richard and Louise leaving the church on their wedding day



By this time Richard had decided that Louise was the woman for him and had wooed her by frequent correspondence. The pair were engaged on November 4, 1939 and married on December 21, 1940 at the Roman Catholic Church in Nottingham.

At first the war didn't make much difference in their lives. But in 1941 Richard was offered a job as a meteorologist and went to training school in Gloucester then completed his training in East Anglia, forecasting for bombers flying over Europe. For the next nine months he was posted to Prestwick in Scotland, which, in those days was a little remote airport, where he forecast weather for transatlantic flights.

For a year (1942-43) he was posted to Iceland where he lived on a base near Reykjavik. To begin with Richard was a civilian but while he was in Iceland he was given a commission as a Flight Lieutenant in the Royal Air Force. Also, while in Iceland, Richard did some glacier travel, skiing and mountain climbing, marking the beginning of a long love affair with snow and ice. In 1944 Richard was posted to Bermuda where he stayed until he was demobbed in 1946. Although he tried to get permission to bring out Louise he was refused.

Meanwhile back in Britain Louise was having a difficult and lonely life, living with her parents in Nottingham and bringing up three children. Adding more worry, Louise's brother, who had been captured



Flight Lieutenant Richard Guy

in Sumatra, was interned in a Japanese prisoner of war camp in Changi, Singapore. Although Richard was far away for most of this time, he did get home on occasion: Elizabeth Anne was born on October 24, 1941, Michael John was born on April 1, 1943, and Peter Richard was born August 17, 1944.

Louise and the three children: Elizabeth Anne, Michael and Peter.



"Love is not a state of being; to love is an action, a verb, it is something you do. It requires energy to sustain love and keep it going."

—Louise

Many years later Elizabeth Anne wrote: “My brothers and I were all born during the second world war and at one time, Louise had three children under three as well as an invalid mother and a husband who was constantly posted to different places. Like everyone else, she had to cope with rationing of food and clothing. She made nearly all our children’s clothes herself, sometimes ingeniously reusing the material from outworn adult garments.”

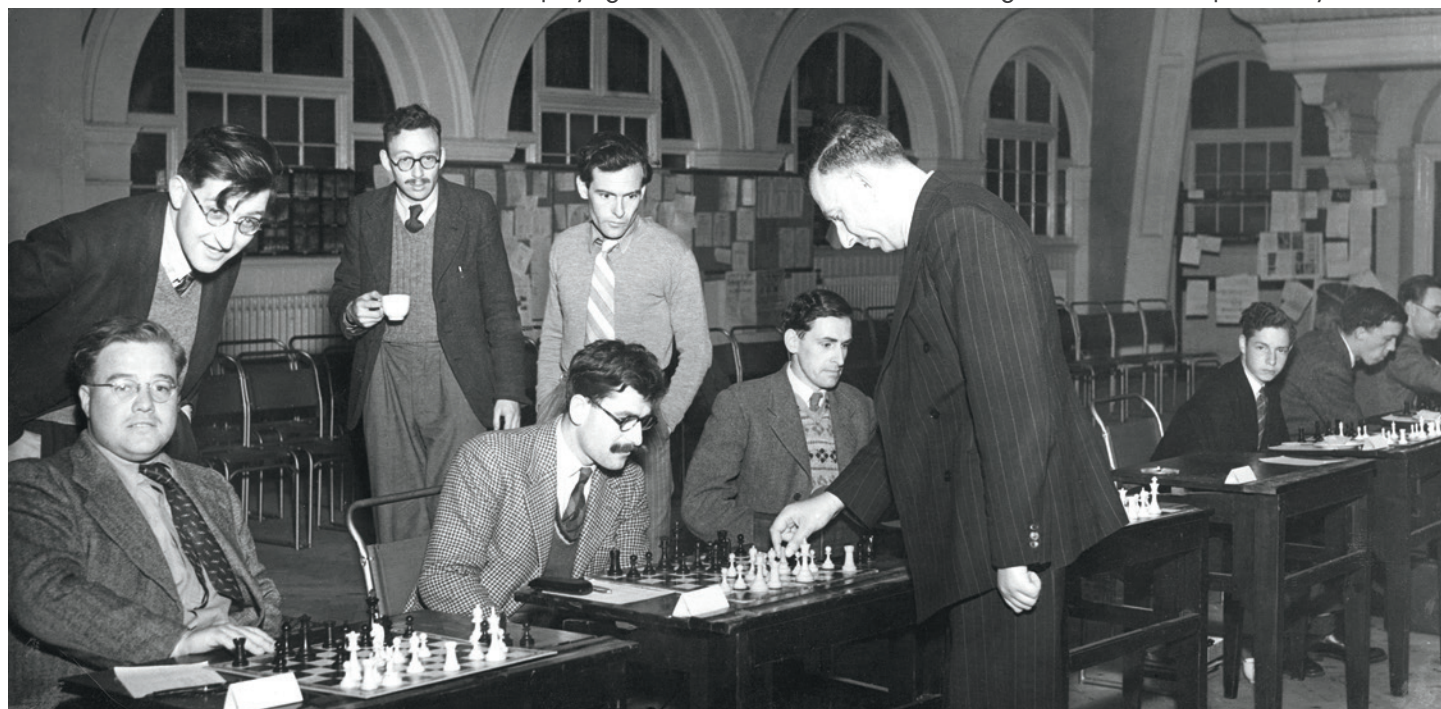
When Richard returned to England after the war he went back to teaching at Stockport Grammar School but stayed only two years. There were two colleagues in the math department who were still young and had seniority so it was going to be a long while before Richard moved up in the school hierarchy.

In 1947 the family moved to London where Richard got a job teaching math at Goldsmiths’ College, a teachers training college associated with London University. This was an exciting and busy time in Richard’s life: “I worked much too hard. I spent a lot of time on chess endings, a lot on graduate mathematics, a lot on the job, and far too little on my family. I was teaching 22 periods a week and many of the lectures were pretty much university level courses.”



Richard at University College London

Richard playing a chess match at Goldsmiths’ College with British champion, Harry Golombek



SINGAPORE

Soon, however, wanderlust took over and Richard looked for distant horizons. Although Louise was not keen to go, he packed up the family in 1951 and moved to Singapore where they stayed for ten years. Richard remembered, “It’s a very curious thing, because when I first met Louise, she was the one who wanted to travel. But as soon as we got married, the nesting instinct came into play and she wanted to make a home for the children. I’d gone off to the war and travelled about and got terrific wanderlust.”

In Singapore Richard taught at the University of Malaya where he had an excellent experience. The university was small, as was the math department, but of an excellent standard. At that time Singapore was part of the Federated Malay States which was part of the British Empire but was experiencing serious political turmoil. The first university function that Richard went to when he got to Singapore was the memorial service for Sir Henry Gurney, the British High Commissioner, who had been killed by fighters from the Malayan Races Liberation Army.

The children were young when they moved, aged 7, 8 and 10. Elizabeth Anne went to a regular public school in Singapore and the boys were in a private school for expats. But after two years, when Elizabeth Anne was about 12 and ready for secondary school, they decided to send the three children to boarding school back in Britain. Richard and Louise took the kids to England in 1953 and on their journey stopped off in Switzerland to hike and climb.

Richard at a math exhibition in Singapore with student Teoh Gim Hok



Richard remembered, “We took a boat to Genoa, spent a few days in Milan, and a few in Kandersteg [Switzerland]. While there, we all five climbed up to the Blümlisalpütte, the last half being on snow and ice, and involving some scrambling. Louise was wearing sandals which disintegrated on the way up! I used the cord from the top of my rucksack to do a temporary repair and we were able to reach our destination. The things I made Louise and the family put up with.” In England the boys went to Dulwich College and Elizabeth went to Berkhamsted School for Girls. Louise stayed with them for a year to help them get settled, then went back to Richard in Singapore. This must have been a very difficult decision to make—to leave her children behind and be with Richard—and in later years gave her cause for regret.

In 1955, Richard and Louise returned to Britain to visit the children. In September, on the way back to Singapore, they stopped off at Mürren in Switzerland where they hired a guide, Alfred Steger, and climbed for a week. It seems that by now mountains were in their blood.

Alfred led the pair up the Bütlässen, a climb graphically described by Richard in letters to his daughter Elizabeth Anne. “After going parallel with the ridge for some time and rising slowly, we suddenly attacked the mountain itself, up a most unlikely looking rough steep gorge of ice and rotten rock. Alfred would leap up a few yards (stand there! keep still!) and then haul me up bodily, giving time for one to find about ½ of the hand and foot-holds one thought necessary....” Eventually the gully led out onto a slope of snow and ice where: “We put our hands in it once or twice, and also held frozen rocks, and soon we neither of us had any feeling in our hands. Near the top it got terrifyingly steep on the snow and even worse were steeper, icy rock pitches, which Alfred leapt up again and hauled us after him (to your left! pull with the right hand! not that, it’s loose!).”

Reaching the top at 9:00 am, they stayed for an hour, eating and admiring the view. From their lofty perch they could see most of the great peaks of Switzerland but for Richard, “Best of all, my first sight of the Matterhorn, albeit a somewhat distant one.”

Soon it was time to go and Richard’s worst fears were realized: “I was to lead, Alfred of course acting as anchor at the back... I just gasped at the steep white slope in front of me, steepening further into nothingness.” Down-climbing the icy gorge, torrents



Louise and guide Alfred Steger climbing the Bütlassen (right). The large summit at the left is the Gspaltenhorn.

of loose rock hurtled past. “We watched them horrified for a long time, and even after they had disappeared from view, horrible noises echoed up from the valley below.” All went well, however, and the trio were back at the hut by noon and already planning the next day’s climbing adventure.

Richard and Louise sailing Louise II



After Switzerland, Louise and Richard carried on to Singapore, where Richard’s students were locals—Chinese, Malays and Indians. There were about 1000 of them and they were good students. The University was located right in Singapore which is an island with a big harbour and is surrounded by smaller islands. Not far away was Sumatra. “You couldn’t go too close to Sumatra or they started firing at you. The Indonesians were rather touchy.”

Richard and Louise did lots of sailing and were members of the Royal Singapore Yacht Club. They had a sailboat of the Snipe category which they called *Louise* and they raced it quite successfully. They lived luxuriously, close to the botanic gardens, and had a gardener and a cook.

In 1957 Richard hired Peter Lancaster to come from England to teach mathematics in Singapore. According to Peter, Louise played an important role in helping them and other faculty to settle down in this dramatically new environment. “Louise gave invaluable support and advice to the young mothers and played a huge role in creating an exciting and productive mathematics department (in terms both of mathematics and offspring).”

For a while during her stay in Singapore, Louise took it upon herself to teach at a leper colony. Richard says, “It just needed to be done. It was typical Louise.”

On one occasion a python got into their house and was discovered hanging from the light brackets warming itself from the heat of the bulbs. They phoned Johnny Hendrickson, the herpetologist at the university, and he came over and captured it. Then they took it to the university. Richard remembered, “I was driving and Johnny and Louise



On the summit plateau of Kinabalu

were sitting in the back of the car and this thing kept wrapping itself around his arm which was going blue and Louise was trying to uncoil the snake.”

In 1959, while living in Singapore, Richard and Louise climbed Mount Kinabalu in northern Borneo with Roger Smart, a South African who wanted to get up the unclimbed South Peak. The first part of the ascent was along a good trail to a radio station at about 2,000 m, then they bushwhacked above to Paka Cave at 3,000 m where rats kept them awake

all night long. Above 3,500 m there was no vegetation and the summit plateau, where they camped for five days, was a broad expanse of granodiorite. Here they climbed numerous peaks, including Low's Peak which is the highest point (4095 m). Louise was probably the second woman to climb the peak.

In 1959 Richard attended a three-week conference on Number Theory in Boulder, Colorado. This was a very important experience in his life for here he met some of the leading men in the field and made friendships that would last a lifetime. This experience also stimulated a growing interest in high-level mathematical research. While in Colorado Richard still had time, however, for mountain climbing, ascending Navaho Peak with a group of mathematicians.

Richard and Louise had many other adventures and explored extensively while in Singapore. In 1960, in a little Morris Minor, they drove for hundreds of miles up the coast of Malaya. The following year, a group of six of them ventured up the Pahang River into Pahang National Park. Photos from the trip reveal a dark river overhung by luxurious jungle and native cultures little touched by modernity.



On the Pahang River

DELHI

In January 1962 they moved to Delhi where Richard taught at the newly forming Indian Institute of Technology. Here he instructed mainly engineering students which he enjoyed. In India the most prestigious profession is engineering so “We got the best students and the best staff from all over India.” Richard says, “Much of my career I’ve spent teaching engineers. I enjoy this very much because you can see the mathematics working in the ordinary three-dimensional space that we think we live in.”

In Delhi they were provided with a house and servants—too many servants as far as Richard was concerned. But you had to have them. Richard played a lot of tennis and performed in plays at the British High Commission. After one performance he even had the opportunity of shaking hands with Indian Prime Minister Nehru. Unfortunately things did not go well at work. The director of the institute knew only one word and that was ‘No!’. He also was resentful of the British Raj.

While in India, Richard and Louise went on several treks to the foothills of the Himalaya with their driver Sanu Rai who, according to Richard,



Richard (right) playing Cranmer in *Rose Without a Thorn* performed in Delhi

“was a wonderful chap to have in the mountains.” They went to the Rhotang Pass and the Kulu Valley and on a later trip they “spent a morning picking wild strawberries on the way to the Pindari Glacier.” On another trip Louise, Elizabeth Anne and Peter visited Kashmir. Staying in rest houses along the way, these trips were a pleasant break from the heat of Delhi.

Richard at Rhotang Pass



Louise at Rhotang Pass

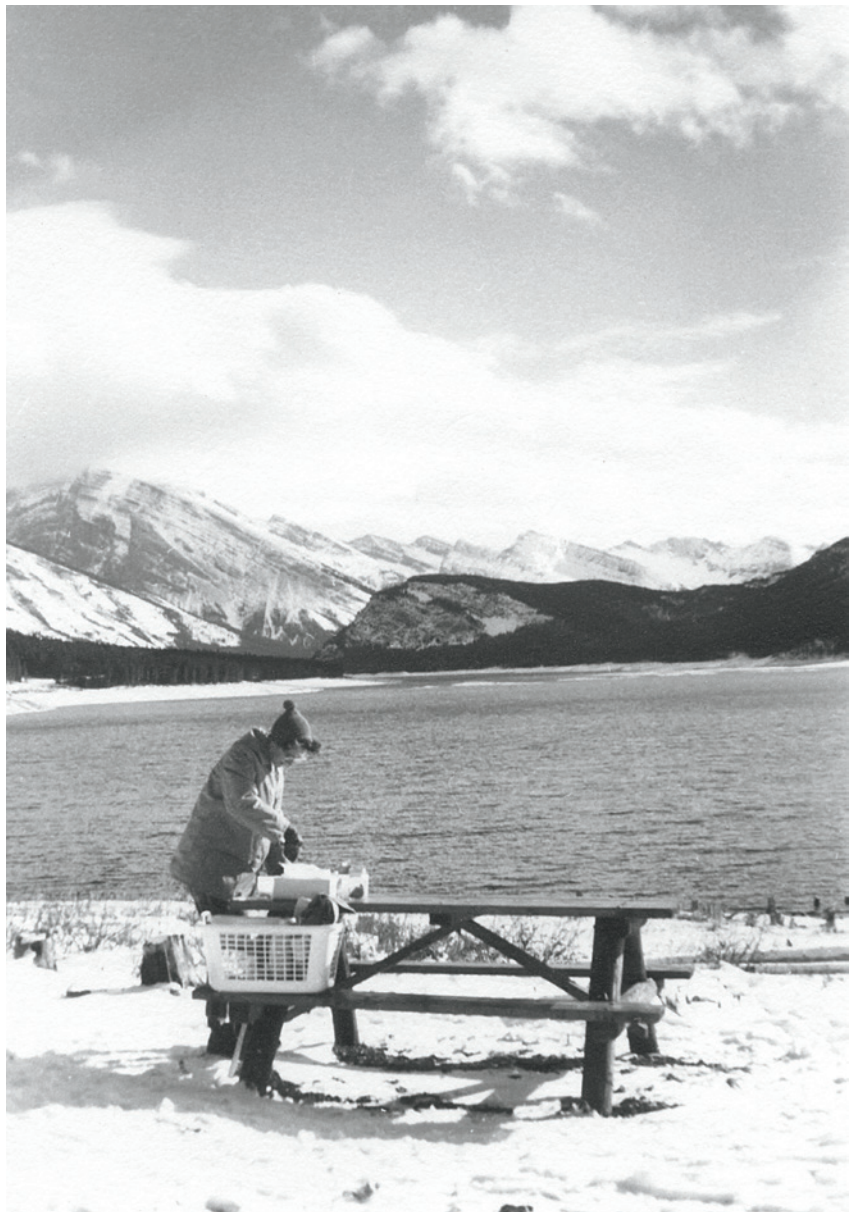


Meanwhile Peter Lancaster had moved to Calgary from Singapore and was teaching at the newly formed Calgary campus of the University of Alberta. Peter's wife, Edna, sent a letter to Richard and Louise with photos showing the family frolicking in the snow at Spray Lake. Richard remembered, "It was just before the monsoon in Delhi and it looked awfully refreshing." Peter suggested in the letter that they join him in Calgary and they agreed, "Why not?"

Richard recalled, "I was getting into my late forties by then and as you get older climates matter

more. The Delhi climate is particularly bad. The temperature in Singapore never gets above blood heat. It's never much below either. But I think once the temperature gets above blood heat there's nothing you can do about it. That's my criterion for rejecting a climate. If it gets warm you can perhaps run a bath of water and lie in it and hope. If it gets cold, you can run around, or burn the furniture and keep warm. But you can't keep cool."

After three and a half years of a five-year tour in Delhi, Richard and Louise packed their bags again and came to Canada.



Edna Lancaster at Spray Lake. This is one of the photographs that interested Richard and Louise in coming to Canada.

CANADA

Richard and Louise arrived in Calgary in the autumn of 1965 when they were both approaching 50 years of age. As he was already late for the start of classes, Richard flew and Louise came later by boat with the furniture. They came planning to stay only for a year, so at first they lived in Peter Lancaster's house as he was away on sabbatical. During the second year they stayed in fellow mathematician John Peck's house as he had also gone on sabbatical. But after two years it had become obvious that they were here to stay, so they bought a house on Barron Crescent in the Brentwood district of northwest Calgary not far from the university.

The university was a hive of activity in those days. During the second year that Richard was here (1966-67) there were 19 faculty members in the math department and 2/3 of them were new that year. The university was expanding rapidly as the wave of the

baby boom generation was just reaching university. Richard recalled, "It was a time when the new universities such as Calgary were being developed. The universities were growing rapidly and there was an enormous demand for faculty in all subjects."

According to Richard, faculty was hard to find. "You couldn't get people. I spent my first three summers visiting British universities raiding their math departments and persuading people to come to Calgary. The only way I could get staff was if they climbed mountains." Jim Jones and Peter Zvengrowski came to Calgary from the USA and Eckhardt Grassmann came from Germany via Switzerland. Rex Westbrook and Eric Milner, both old friends and colleagues from Singapore, also came to Calgary. Jon Rokne, who joined the faculty from Norway, remembered, "We were all newcomers to the University, all happy to make new friendships and try new adventures."

Richard and Louise cross-country skiing during their first years in Canada



Richard the teacher



Richard had come to Calgary on the condition that he would not be head of department, but on April 1, 1966, the department head resigned and someone had to take over and that someone was Richard. For the next four years he served in that capacity. Meanwhile Richard taught a mix of courses but about half the time he taught calculus to engineers.

Louise did a little substitute teaching when she arrived in Calgary and taught the deaf for the Calgary Board of Education but she gave up teaching because she would have to get recertified here in Canada.

During their first winter in Canada, Richard and Louise took up skiing on the wooden cross-country skis that were popular in those days. One of their first ski trips was to the Wheeler Hut, deep in snow, where they were duly impressed and spent their days learning to ski on a small hill nearby. Over the next few years they would discover many of the classic Rockies ski tours – Healy Pass, Molar Meadows, Skoki, and the Dolomite Circuit.

In the summer of 1966 Richard and Louise drove the Banff Jasper Highway to get a look at the extent of the Canadian Rocky Mountains. Needless to say they were impressed. That summer they hiked and within a few years had discovered many of the classic trails. Ha Ling Peak was also climbed that summer and would become one of their favourite hikes.



Richard and Louise in Canada in 1966

On the way up Grotto Mountain about 1972 (left to right) Jane and Jill Lancaster, Louise, Lorna Watson and Richard. Photo Peter Lancaster.



Their Canadian climbing career began with the university math department, climbing Mount Rae. Soon they were out on their own, climbing peaks like Mount Temple. Louise loved the feel and thrill of rock climbing and the pinnacle of her career came about 1973 when she climbed the King's Chimney route on Yamnuska with Eckhardt Grassmann. Eckhardt wrote in the register: "Eckhardt and Grandma". Louise remembered, "When I got to the top, I looked around—I was so full of happiness I felt I could have opened my wings and flown off."

In 1967 the math department organized an expedition to celebrate Canada's centennial. The camp was held on August 20-23, near the headwaters of Waiparous Creek, about 100 km WNW of Calgary. Here they located six unclimbed peaks arranged in a semi-circle and connected by a high ridge. It was a traditional camp with 31 people in attendance including several young children. The participants walked the last 5 km to camp while their equipment was taken in by packhorse. On August 22 Louise Guy, Peter Lancaster and Kim Kubinski made the first ascent of Peak Number 5 in a 10-hour effort.

THE ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA



Louise at the Farnham Creek GMC in 1987

When Richard and Louise began climbing in Canada they were initially reluctant to join The Alpine Club of Canada (ACC). According to Louise, “The ACC seemed very lofty.” However there were members of the math department who were members of the club – Peter Lancaster and John Peck and there were ACC members in the chemistry department – Tom Swaddle, Mike Benn and Ted Sorenson.

Richard and Louise eventually joined the club in 1970, John Peck, Tom Swaddle and Skip King signing their applications. Soon they became enthusiastic members and went out regularly with the club, both summer and winter. In 1972 Louise went to her first ACC General Mountaineering Camp (GMC), held that year at Fryatt Creek near Jasper. Richard joined her at the Mount Robson camp in 1974. According to Richard, “The camps were wonderful.” Bill Harrison was still transporting the camp on horseback and everyone walked in. Over the years Louise attended 31 camps and Richard attended 29, climbing hundreds of mountains.

Being a joiner and a team player, Louise was soon volunteering for the club and during these first few years she was very involved with the huts committee for which she received the Distinguished Service Award in 1984.

In 1984 the club was experiencing serious financial difficulty and the ACC Board of Directors was considering dropping the GMC as it had lost money that year at the Glacier Circle Camp. The GMC has traditionally been the cornerstone of the ACC—it was the first event that the club organized back in



Louise and Richard exhausted after a hard day at the GMC

1906 and had been held every year since then. In 1985 Bill Harrison’s son Brad took over the GMC, running a camp at the Wates-Gibson Hut near Jasper. Louise soon stepped forward to assist Brad by promoting the camp, personally writing dozens of letters to ACC members and clubs in the USA and elsewhere urging them to attend. This effort paid off and by 1987, after the success of the Farnham Creek Camp, the future looked very positive. The camps continued to thrive and today the GMC is still the cornerstone of the club.

According to Richard, “At the camps you got a great opportunity to express yourself, to do what you would like to do. But on the other hand... you were able to climb mountains that you barely could think of climbing if you were on your own.”

Don Vockeroth often guided Richard and Louise at these camps. Always entertaining, Don had 101 little tips to help you in the mountains. Richard remembered, “Don Vockeroth was really my hero. You always climbed something with Don, but it was not always what you set out to climb.”

Camp manager, Brad Harrison, took good care of them. Despite their growing years, Louise and Richard continued to attend the camp. Sleeping low to the ground became difficult, so Brad built a raised bunk for them. The more adventurous climbs gave way to modest climbs and hikes, but still they came. Louise became an expert on alpine flora and an expert fixer of blisters. Whenever a job needed doing Louise was the first to volunteer. She was also a wealth of information and support for Brad, who began running Canada’s largest mountaineering camp while still in his twenties.



Louise and Richard at the Farnham Creek GMC in 1987



Louise rock climbing at Wasootch Slabs

At the 1989 Fryatt GMC, when she was 71 years old, I climbed the Three Blind Mice with Louise. Steep loose rock and exposure seemed not to faze her. She revelled in the heights. Eleven years later, at the Fairy Meadow GMC, when Louise was 82 years old, she was



Louise displays steady balance crossing the creek at a GMC

still rock climbing. Led by Cyril Shokoples, one of her favourite guides, Louise made an ascent of Quadrant Spire, an exciting and tricky climb. At one point it is necessary to cross a very narrow and exposed ridge. Most people negotiate this section of the climb by straddling the ridge, one leg on either side, and inching along, a technique known as “a cheval”. But according to Cyril, “When Louise reached the section of ridge she chose a more elegant approach. She simply placed her right hand on her right hip and carefully walked atop the thin ‘righ trope’ edge with not even the slightest sign of concern... She made the ridge look like a stroll with a cup of tea in hand.”

Richard often acted as camp manager. According to Edie Shackleton, he would sit in a lawn chair at the trailhead greeting the participants as they arrived. All the while at the camps, Richard continued to do his mathematics. On a clipboard full of paper (what he called OSP or ‘One Sided Paper’—in other words paper that had already been used on one side), Richard would create his equations. A myriad of numbers, symbols and Greek letters were strung together and somehow made sense to him although all they did was amaze and impress us. We never did understand what he was looking for or what problem he was ‘solving’.



Louise always pitched in and helped get the job done. Washing dishes at the 1989 Fryatt Creek GMC.

POEMS WRITTEN BY RICHARD

THE BALLAD OF TAMARACK GLEN

Do you think we could hike up to Tamarack Glen?
Louise says, not “if”; it’s a question of “when?”

We decide to set out, ere we get any older
And find ourselves hopping from boulder to boulder.

Now Wilma had shown us the start of the route
And we often could follow the marks of a boot.

But, as time passes by, how one’s memory fades!
We remember our walking through gorgeous green glades.

Now we’re walking a tight-rope of thin sandy ridges;
Being bitten by nasty mosquitos and midges.

And if I ventured to step on this slippery sand
’Twould be hard to predict just where I might land!

But I have an idea! If I take off my pack
I can manage to squeeze through this eighteen-inch crack.

And then we are wondering which way to go.
Perhaps we should aim for those steps in the snow?

But how do we thread through this vast rocky maze?
We mustn’t despair of our finding our ways.

At last it is looking a little more lush:
It’s good that we feel the adrenaline rush.

Matt had radio’d Rob to make sure we’re still whole,
And he meets us, and guides us both, safe to our goal.

The plateau where CMH patrons are able
To have barbecued lunch while seated at table.

Cassandra and Norman and Sandra and Dan
Were climbing the rocks wherever they can.

And Steve, Jean and Leny (seventy-one year beginner),
And Kim, till she had to rush off to cook dinner.

And we couldn’t stay long, ’cos we knew our down climb
Would be like our ascent, and take just as much time.

But Rob’s there again, to smooth our descent,
And after only eight hours we are back at our tent.

—Written by Richard Guy at the Vowell GMC in 2008



Wherever Richard went in the mountains, to camps or to huts, Richard always took his mathematical work with him

ABOVE SNOWY PASS

I’ll tell you a tale of a couple of guys
Who scaled a mountain twice their size
Louise it was, who had the hunch,
So they bottled some booze and packed some lunch,
They seized their poles and donned their packs
And set off through the snow on westward tracks.
Traversing the slopes above the lake
With never a care that their backs did ache
Leaving the tracks, they blazed a new trail
Where nary a white man had ere set sail.
To find a new route was their wildest dream,
So with fearless leaps they crossed the stream.
Then came the question – which way to go?
Should they take the rock? Should they take the snow?
Louise kicked steps, having taken the lead,
Higher and higher, till they at last succeed.
They ate and drank and admired the views
Built cairns to later folks confuse.
From by the boulder they gave a hail
And an answer echoed across the vale.
Steadily down the way back they came:
It’s funny how routes never look the same.
Plowing their way through a sorry morass
From time to time they were up to their knees.
Eventually they regained the trail
And lived to return and tell this tale.

—Written by Richard Guy at the
Snowy Pass GMC in July, 2003

In November, Louise always hosted a GMC windup party for about 30-40 people at her home in Calgary. Chuck Young remembered, “Louise put on a grand spread of home-made items that she had obviously spent days preparing... Then it was downstairs for the slide show. All the GMC weeks were represented in the show... you could watch the snow disappear from week to week and see familiar faces that were not in your week.”

Richard and Louise loved the camaraderie of the camps, the wonderful friendships, the helpfulness and the fun. But more than anything they loved the peacefulness and beauty of the mountains. In 1996 at the Icefall Brook camp, five old timers, the Wooden Ice Axe Team, climbed Mons Peak under the leadership of mountain guide, Helen Sovdat. Of that group—Don Forest, Wally Joyce, Ron Naylor, Louise and Richard Guy—only Richard remains.



The Wooden Ice Axe Team on top of Mons Peak in 1996. (left to right) (kneeling) Richard Guy, Wally Joyce; (standing) Ron Naylor, Louise Guy and Don Forest.

It is a lovely memory, however, and a reminder of the beauty and transience of the moment.

Richard and Louise often went on ACC section outings as well. One of their favourites was the Stanley Mitchell hut clean-up held each year on Thanksgiving weekend. Another was the regular ski weeks at the Wates-Gibson Hut in the Tonquin Valley organized by John Tewnion.

On one winter ski trip with the Calgary Section, after having ascended Mount Patterson, Louise had a close call descending the creek below the Barbette Glacier. Having taken her skis off, she fell through the ice. Luckily the drop was not far and the water was only ankle deep. Before long, her companions had her safely on top with pair of dry, warm socks on her feet.

Over the years Richard and Louise have been generous with the ACC and in the late 1980s made a large donation to help the club build the Lake Louise Alpine Centre. For their commitment to the ideals of the club, Richard and Louise received the A. O. Wheeler Award for Outstanding and Prolonged Service in 1997. The next year, Richard and Louise were patrons of the Mountain Guides Ball. At the ball it is customary that the patron [or patrons] donate something very special to the silent auction. The organizing committee wanted the pair to donate their ice axes but Richard and Louise were not very happy with this as they felt that their mountaineering careers were not over. However they did donate the axes. During the course of the evening the bidding took the price of the axes higher and higher. Unbeknownst to Richard and Louise, a group of young friends had banded together and were bidding for the axes and at the final tally the friends had won. After collecting the axes, Edie Shackleton, who had led the group, walked across the dance floor in the Victoria Ballroom at the Chateau Lake Louise and gave the axes back to Richard and Louise—their climbing careers were not yet over.

In 2006 to celebrate the centennial of The Alpine Club of Canada, Richard and Louise were selected to participate in a project called *The Mountaineer and the Artist*. Thirteen mountaineers chose their favourite mountain then were paired with a notable artist. After discussion and perhaps a hike together to visit the peak, the artist then tried to interpret their love for this mountain in a work of art. Richard and Louise chose Mount Lorette, a beautiful limestone peak in the Kananaskis Valley that they had climbed together in 1983. Louise wrote that they “passed it often and admired its shapely summit and the lovely line of the ridge... Lorette will always be special to us, and we greet it every time we pass down the Kananaskis Valley”. They were paired with Mary Lynne McCutcheon who created a beautiful and massive piece of fine woodworking made of maple, walnut and cherry. She wrote about her creation: “Richard and Louise have a mutual respect for each other that is intertwined with their love of the out of doors. And although they have this common shared part of their life, they also have their separate interests. The work I have created for the ACC Centennial Art Project is a cabinet where the two halves can slide apart or can be brought back together, fitting together perfectly.



Louise and Richard, patrons of the 1998 Mountain Guides Ball

The cabinet is supported by two ice axes used as brackets, representing their love of the mountains.” Richard and Louise’s cabinet now hangs on the wall in the reception area of the Alpine Club of Canada clubhouse in Canmore.

Richard and Louise have come to the Mountain Guides Ball every year since it was begun in 1990: Richard always dressed in his tuxedo with a ruffled shirt and Louise always wore a beautiful dress. They were the first up on the dance floor and the last to leave. In 2008 at the Mountain Guides Ball at the Chateau Lake Louise they were awarded honorary memberships in The Alpine Club of Canada; a fitting tribute to their lives devoted to mountains and to the club.

MANY ADVENTURES

Richard and Louise have had many adventures in the mountains and not all of them with the ACC. They have slept in snow caves and tents, trudged in pouring rain, skied in subzero temperatures and completed long marches into the dark to reach their destinations. But during almost fifty years in the Canadian mountains, Richard and Louise have had few accidents or close calls. At the Fairy Meadow Camp Louise slipped on a bit of moss and grass, cracked against a rock, and broke her leg. In the late 60s she wrecked her knee in a skiing accident and had it operated on. After that she always wore a brace. On another occasion

Richard and Louise were swept a short distance down the mountainside by a small avalanche on the way to Cory Pass. There was only about a foot of snow but it had built up into a little drift along the trail and it broke away and carried them down a distance. "No harm was done, but it shook us up."

Wherever they have travelled they have climbed mountains. For three months, from September to December of 1980, Richard and Louise lived in Boulder, Colorado. Richard was on sabbatical and spent his working days writing two mathematical books. But on the weekends they got away to the mountains, climbing 30 peaks over 11,000 feet

Richard and Louise playing in the snow near Cory Pass in 1968



Louise and Richard at a gathering of the Calgary Mountain Club in a Calgary pub. Mike Mortimer (black shirt), Barry Blanchard, Glenn Reisenhoffer and Andrew Brash (blue check shirt). Kevin Doyle with back to camera.



(including six over 12,000 feet). It was a bold thing to do considering their age, the approaching winter and the fact that most of the time there were just the two of them.

Beginning in 1977, Richard and Louise became very active members of the Calgary Mountain Club, an eclectic group of mountain lovers. Although known across Canada for the many hard-core climbers in the club, Richard and Louise fit right in because they just like to have fun. At the annual dinners Richard and Louise were always the first up on the dance floor just as they were at the ACC Mountain Guides Ball. They joined the group at the annual barbecue below Yamnuska, camping in the meadows with all the kids and dogs running wildly about. At the club's annual dinner in June 2010, just four months before Louise's death, Richard and Louise were awarded honorary memberships in this

club. They received this honour not for bold and difficult mountain climbs but for being good sports and role models.

Stories of Richard and Louise's indomitable strength in the mountains abound: a ski ascent of Mount Hector with Mike Galbraith, Carl Hannigan and Gordon 'Speedy' Smith when they were over seventy years old and a midnight ski to reach the Fay Hut only to discover when they arrived that they had been given the wrong combination number to the hut lock. Paule Poulin remembered meeting Richard and Louise as they were coming down from the summit of the Middle Sister—they were celebrating Richard's 80th birthday! Richard Burke remembered a Christmas at the Elizabeth Parker Hut when Richard and Louise carried in the turkey but only one sleeping bag then "giggled the night away."

Richard and Louise's favourite climb was Ha Ling Peak above Canmore, a summit that they reached together about 20 times. On their last ascent in 2009, while Richard and Louise enjoyed a cup of tea and the view from the summit, a pair of young rock climbers, appeared over the edge, having climbed the northeast face. One of them, surprised to see a couple of nonagenarians on top, engaged Louise in a bit of conversation and proudly stated that his mother had climbed Mount Kinabalu, "I don't suppose that you know where that is." Louise responded, "I certainly do. I made the second ascent fifty years ago."

One of their most unique adventures was a ski trip to Mount Logan in 1989 when Louise was 70 years old and Richard was 72. I was privileged to be their guide on that trip. We flew from Kluane Lake to the Seward Glacier on the south side of Mount Logan. Louise later described the flight: "There was no time to get nervous and suddenly we were in the tiny red plane and soaring up from the lake and up the Slims River Valley... Within a few minutes, it seemed, we had left behind all green and the valleys were filled with ice. Everywhere was snow and ice and rock in every direction and as we skimmed over passes it seemed one could touch the snow walls and the jumbles of crevasses." Stepping out onto the glacier below the immense south face of Mount Logan, Louise was overwhelmed: "It was an incredible feeling to stumble out of the plane onto that vast expanse of glistening white, so much huger than anything I had ever seen before."

Over the next ten days, with Banff poet Jon Whyte and mountain guide Roddy McGowan, we skied up the Seward Glacier to reach the Columbus Glacier then around the southwest corner of Mount Logan and up to the site of base camp on the Quintino Sella Glacier. It was a difficult trip for Richard and Louise, waking up in subzero temperatures in a small tent, then skiing under the hot sun all day long. But they never complained or asked for help. They were real troopers. Louise

described a typical day on this journey: "June 6 was a gorgeous cloudless day, after a very cold night. A pink glow was lighting Mount Augusta at 4:30 am as I went reluctantly to the biffy. I turned back to the tent but by the time I had changed my film with frozen fingers it was almost too late. I wriggled back thankfully into the sleeping bag for the extra hour that Chic had promised us. This morning I went into the big tent to dress, instead of the painful contortions in our low tent. Chic had porridge ready but fingers warmed by the bowl were soon aching and numb with cold as we fought to get the struts out of the frozen tent, with the wind whipping it around. However, at last we were off again at 7:45 am, now in full sunshine sparkling on the snow, and long shadows marching ahead of us. We plodded steadily for 6 hours, stopping every hour or so for a few minutes to nibble or ease sore shoulders. It was now perceptibly uphill and we could judge progress as dots on the horizon gradually grew into peaks, and we drew abreast and passed by Mount Newton, Jeannette Pass and Mount Malaspina, awesome faces plunging into icefalls. The wind grew light and we stripped to shirtsleeves as we pushed up a rise onto the Columbus Glacier, level with Mount Saint Elias. Here we halted again and made camp. The sun was scorching, but the wind had got up again and we were glad to sit in the big tent to eat our lunch of oysters, crackers, sardines and herring."



Louise and Richard ski up the canyon on the way to the Bow Hut in 1994. Photo Stan Wagon.



Louise and Richard at base camp on the Quintino Sella Glacier

We were an eclectic mix of people as we gathered every evening for dinner in our 'cook tent'. Afterwards, huddled around the radio, we talked with the pilot, Andy Williams, back in Kluane Lake. We felt like sailors alone on a giant sea of ice. The radio call completed, Jon, who had a beautiful baritone voice, read to us from some of the finest mountain climbing accounts ever written. He also read from René Daumal's *Mount Analogue: A Novel of Symbolically Authentic Non-Euclidean Adventures in Mountain Climbing*, one chapter a day. This is the tale of a group of Parisians attempting to find and climb the mythical Mount Analogue, reported to be over 35,000 feet high and hidden away in the South Pacific. The mountain appears to pilgrims only at a particular time of day and place. Our little band of misfits seemed to be in harmony with the group in the book. Unfortunately, Daumal died before he finished his novel, which now seems fortuitous, for how could he have completed a book such as this.

"We keep each other young. We love the mountains—they are such a source of happiness. It's doing whatever you can—stretching your muscles and your mind at whatever stage you're in. I get such a kick when we get to the top of a mountain. Even a little mountain like Prairie Mountain—when I manage to do it again, it fills me with elation."

—Louise

A few days after we reached base camp on the Quintino Sella Glacier, we all skied to Camp I at 3,000 metres on the King Trench route up Mount Logan. I took great pleasure in telling Louise and Richard that they had been half way up Canada's highest mountain. The trip back down to our tents was difficult as we were skiing roped together. The next day was clear with fluffy white clouds floating in a blue sky. Louise wrote: "The afternoon was magnificent. Rod, Richard and Jon were in their tents, Chic and I sat in the kitchen and watched the ice blocks melting into a tracery against the deep blue sky and decided that this must be Nirvana."

Late in the evening, Andy came to pick us up. "Before I had time to think we were in the air, rushing up the trench and swooping past the huge icy flanks of Logan. The flight back was truly magnificent, in perfect light; plains and huge rivers of ice, awesome jumbles of crevasses, soaring walls of snow and ice, rocky ridges newly sprinkled with snow, passes where it seemed we were almost touching the sides." After a flight of 40 minutes, Louise

Richard and Louise below King Peak on the way up Mount Logan



was back at Kluane Lake where, “A blaze of purple lined the runway—the *hedysarum* had bloomed in our absence, then we were back on earth, smells and sounds seemed so strange after the cold still purity of the glaciers.”

Several days of hard driving down the Alaska Highway, including an early morning soak in Liard Hot Springs, and Louise was back at home and “The glacier was like a dream.”

Two years later, in 1991, Richard and Louise joined me on a camp that I organized for the Calgary Section of the ACC to the Upper Tellot Glacier area near Mount Waddington. Richard and Louise wanted to see this remote mountain range close up. After a long drive to Bluff Lake, located on the western rim of the Chilcotin Plateau, about 20 of us flew by helicopter to our campsite located not far from the tiny Plummer Hut. In the middle of the two-week camp a ferocious storm hit. While Louise and Richard lay in their tent, hacking and spewing with a terrible flu that had infected them, the wind blew and the snow piled higher and higher until

Richard (back), Louise and Morrin Acheson (in front) on Photo Point below Mount Waddington. Photo Chic Scott.



Richard and Louise competing in the Kananaskis Cookie Race. Photo Gill Daffern.

eventually Karl Nagy would shovel it away before it completely buried them. Richard and Louise just burrowed deeper into their sleeping bags and toughed it out.

Richard and Louise loved cross-country skiing and for years supported the Kananaskis Cookie Race and the Lake Louise Loppet. They have also had a long love affair with Mount Assiniboine, first visiting the area in 1966 when they stayed at what were at that time the ACC huts. But in the mid 80s, not long after Sepp and Barb Renner took over operation of Mount Assiniboine Lodge, Richard and Louise began going to the area for a week at the end of September to celebrate Richard’s birthday. In 2006, on Richard’s 90th, he still managed to climb The Towers.

Richard celebrates his birthday every year at Mount Assiniboine. In 2006, at age 90, he climbed The Towers.



The last big adventure that I shared with Richard and Louise was to Lake O'Hara at Valentines 2007. On a bitterly cold morning we strapped on our skis and set off up the road. Louise was 89 years old and her 'Little Piggy', as she called her replacement aortic valve, was wearing out. Bundled in a down jacket, she put her head down and clenched her teeth—she would do it. After about 10 km, not far short of Lake O'Hara Lodge, she finally relented and accepted a snowmobile ride the rest of the way. It was that day that I really saw the steely determination of Louise. Although almost frozen immobile in the parking lot, she set off and maintained a steady pace. She slowed during the day but she would not give up. When it became apparent that she just could not complete the last few kilometres, she accepted help. However, after a few hours rest at the lodge she was cheery as ever. It was a lovely weekend and two days later, as we raced back down the trail to the car, she squealed with joy at the downhill runs. Life though hard, was still very beautiful.



Louise skiing to Lake O'Hara in 2007 at 89 years of age. Photo Chic Scott.

Richard skiing to Lake O'Hara in 2007 at 91 years of age. Photo Chic Scott.



Louise and Richard at Lake O'Hara Lodge on Valentines Day 2007. Photo Chic Scott.



MATHEMATICS

Richard has often told me that he has had three loves in his life: Louise and mountains of course are two of them, but his first love was mathematics. Although he has published a number of books and over 300 scholarly articles he does not regard himself as a professional mathematician. Richard regards himself rather as “An amateur. I’m an amateur in the more genuine sense of the word in that I love mathematics and would like everyone in the world to like mathematics... My desire has been to pursue mathematics, mainly in the selfish way of just enjoying it on my own, but also wanting to pass this enjoyment on to other people, particularly as I get older and feel that at least I owe something for the terrific privilege that I’ve had of being able to live, all the time doing what I wanted to do.”

Richard’s mathematical interests have been Combinatorics, Game Theory and Number Theory. Interested in Number Theory since before he went to Cambridge, Richard had taken a course from Estermann at University College London and regularly attended Harold Davenport’s seminar where many famous number-theorists attended or visited.

During his career Richard has authored seven books, two of them in multiple volumes—*Winning*

“Do what you like. I think that is the important thing.”

—Richard

Ways in 4 volumes and *Reviews in Number Theory* in six volumes. His other books are: *The Book of Numbers*, *Unsolved Problems in Number Theory*, *Unsolved Problems in Geometry*, *The Inquisitive Problem Solver* and *Fair Game*. *The Book of Numbers* has been translated into seven languages.

On these publications Richard has collaborated with some of the great mathematicians of the day. The book *Winning Ways* is a collection of essays that Richard wrote in collaboration with John Conway and Elwyn Berlekamp. Richard was the one who gave their ideas expression, who could put them in words. Richard remembered, “The ideas came from Berlekamp and Conway, but they were mainly written by me, almost entirely from Conway’s dictation, either of his original ideas or of the ideas written out by Berlekamp....” Richard’s writing is said to be marked by clarity and wit.

NUMBER THEORY is a branch of pure mathematics devoted primarily to the study of the integers. Number theorists study prime numbers, as well as the properties of objects made out of integers (e.g. rational numbers) or defined as generalizations of the integers (e.g. algebraic integers).

The GAME THEORY that Richard is interested in is not the classical game theory studied by economists and military strategists, but the theory of games such as Chess and Go where you have complete information and no chance moves such as rolling dice or dealing cards.

COMBINATORICS is a branch of mathematics concerning the study of finite or countable discrete structures.

“I love mathematics so much, and I love anybody who can do it well, so I just like to hang on and try to copy them as best I can, even though I’m not really in their league.”

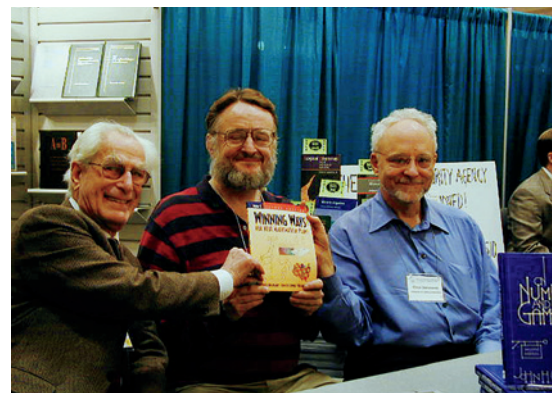
—Richard

According to mathematician Mike Bennett, “Richard... is someone whose work has centred upon exposition and advertisement of elegant mathematical theories to other professional mathematicians, through his series of books and articles. Many, many professors working in Number Theory... got their start in the field trying to solve problems from Guy’s famous book *Unsolved Problems in Number Theory* (UPINT, now in its third edition). It was certainly the proudest moment of my young career to find a result from my thesis appearing in print in the second edition of UPINT. It is no exaggeration to say that this marvellous book has inspired generations of aspiring Number Theorists!”

“But Richard is not just a Number Theorist. In the entirely different field of Combinatorial Game Theory, he is to an even greater degree, an icon, not least through his co-authorship of the ‘bible’ of the field, *Winning Ways for your Mathematical Plays*, with John Conway and Elwyn Berlekamp.”

Richard is also a popular lecturer “who has an unerring sense of when to drop the unexpected pun on his listeners. His punning is usually accompanied by a sly smile and a subtle twitching of his notable eyebrows.”

According to Richard, “most of his serious mathematics is done while sleeping!” Richard explains, “For most mathematical problems, immediate thought and pencil and paper—the usual things one associates with solving mathematical problems—are just totally inadequate. You need to understand the problem, make a few symbols on paper and look at them, and draw a few sausages on the paper. Most of us... would then probably have to go off to bed and, if we’re lucky, when we wake up in the morning, we would already have some insight into the problem. On those rare occasions when I have such insight, I quite often don’t know that I have it, but when I



Richard Guy, John Conway and Elwyn Berlekamp hold up their book *Winning Ways for your Mathematical Plays*. Photo Klaus Peters.

come to work on the problem again, to put pencil to paper, somehow the ideas just seem to click together and the thing goes through. It is clear to me that my brain must have gone on, in an almost combinatorial way, checking the cases or doing an enormous number of fairly trivial arithmetical computations. It seems to know the way to go.”

Richard ‘retired’ in 1982 at age 65 after 17 years of service at the University of Calgary but continued to work. He says, “I didn’t retire, they just stopped paying me. I was quite happy to retire. I knew that I could go on doing what I wanted to do.”

At Richard’s retirement party in 1982



Richard had received a bachelor's degree from Cambridge in 1938 and three years later, in 1941, received a master's degree. According to Richard, "The mathematical education at Cambridge was so superb that getting an ordinary bachelor's degree there was equivalent to getting a master's degree anywhere else. So for the price of five guineas and a decent interval of time you automatically got a master's degree." But, despite Richard's obvious abilities and immense experience, he did not have a Ph.D. which most university professors possess. On June 6, 1991, the University of Calgary awarded him an Honorary Doctorate. Richard says that, "the university got a bit embarrassed I think." What the university actually said is much different:

"The ancient tridentine missions of the university are simply: to teach, to research and to serve. The eternal obligation is to do each well.

"The apostolate for any University's successful discharge of its mission is found in that diverse group of people who have dedicated their lives to this tricorn trust as members of faculty.

"No person better exemplifies the professorial paradigm than Richard Guy. As a teacher, he has attained the ideal by inspiring the curiosity of students while explaining complex topics with simplicity and clarity.

"To the credit of the University, his extensive research efforts and prolific writings in the field of number theory and combinatorics have added much to the underpinnings of game theory and its extensive application to many forms of human activity.

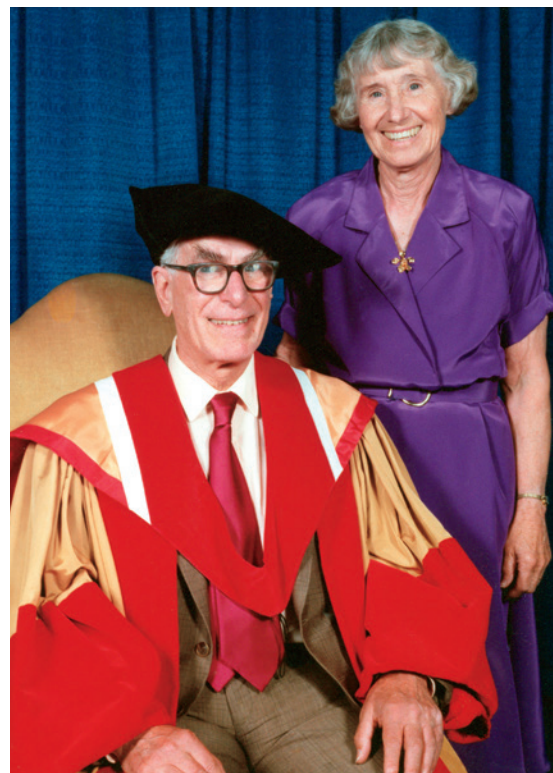
"His leadership in the area of recreational mathematics has done much to demonstrate that it is possible for mathematics to be amusing as well as worthwhile. His contributions to scholarship have continued unabated well into retirement from the university.

"In service, he shaped the department of mathematics and statistics of this University to be a strong aggregation with a productive reputation well beyond Canada.

"There is also another Richard Guy worthy of our recognition. This is the concerned citizen and veteran whose quiet personal quest for a just, sane and peaceful world has been undiminished by the passage of time.

"Eminent Chancellor, I present to you Richard Kenneth Guy, inspirational teacher, dedicated researcher, loyal and generous servant of the highest ideals of the academy. On behalf of the Senate and the University, I invite you to invest him with the Degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*."

Since his 'retirement' Richard has worked almost twice as long for free. He is still publishing papers today but says, "Other people are writing them for me and putting my name on them. I shout encouragement." Mike Bennett writes that, "Richard's influence on his younger colleagues goes well beyond simply writing classic books and papers, however. Over his career, he has taken the notion of publishing papers with junior colleagues rather seriously. In fact, he



Richard receives his honorary doctorate in 1991

"For seventy-odd years, Louise cared for Richard through good times and bad. His success is the crowning achievement of her life."

—Daughter Elizabeth Anne

holds the unofficial world record for gap in ages between mathematical co-authors, for a series of four papers published between 2007 and 2010 with Alex Fink. At the time of the appearance of their first paper in print, Richard was 91, Alex, 19. Even now as he approaches his 96th birthday, Richard is jointly supervising an M.Sc. student at the University of Calgary, his mathematical home for the past 50 years."

Bennett continues, "In June 2012, I was involved in organizing a summer school at the Banff International Research Station, for advanced graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty members on an advanced topic in modern Number Theory. Amongst the students from MIT and Cambridge, many more than 70 years his junior, Richard stood out only for his age, attending all the lectures and participating fully in the problem sessions (10-12 hours per day!). His joy for mathematics and zest for learning were an undiminished inspiration for all his fellow 'students'".

FAMILY

Richard and Louise's three children all acquired an interest in mathematics. Elizabeth Anne studied at Cambridge in the early sixties and went on to do graduate work in mathematics at the University of Warwick. Mike is also a Cambridge mathematician—reclusive and brilliant but not too bothered with publishing papers. Peter studied Statistics at University College London and went on to work in the computer business.



The Guy boys have almost all become mathematicians: (left to right) Kenny, Peter, Andy, Richard and Mike.

Richard and Louise have five grandchildren, three of whom became mathematicians. Daughter Elizabeth Anne has two daughters by Peter Scott—Kathy and Carol. Kathy received a mathematics degree from Warwick University and a Master's degree in Computer Science from Sussex University. Carol, after a false start in engineering, received a degree in languages from Durham University then, much later, a master's degree in computer based information systems. Son Peter and his wife Janet have three children—Andy, Kenny and Rosie. Andy and Kenny have two degrees apiece in Computer Science while Rosie has followed a unique path: she studied Chinese and Arabic and then served with the British Army in Iraq. Today she works as a civil servant for the British Ministry of Defence.

Several of Louise and Richard's grandchildren, Andy, Kenny and Kathy, came to live with them at times in Canada. To most of us, these grandchildren appeared to be their children and it was hard to get our heads around the fact that they were actually grandchildren. Richard and Louise often went skiing and hiking with them and took them to mountain climbing camps.

Grandson Andy came to Canada for several years and did a master's degree at U of C. He lived with Richard and Louise who treated him like a son. Andy wrote: "I would like to thank Louise most for showing me some of the most beautiful places in the world and making them special. I particularly



Richard, Louise and grandson Andy skiing below the Ramparts in the Tonquin Valley



The Guy family gathered together: from left: Peter Guy, Colin Booth, (back row) Anne Scott, Carol Booth, Janet Guy, Rosie Guy, Andy Guy and Kenny Guy, (front row) Sarah Booth, Emily Booth, Louise, Kathy Scott and Richard.

remember my first brush with altitude on Mount Temple... Getting near the top I hared off in front but suddenly was brought to a halt by the altitude and Louise caught me up. She gave me hot lemon tea and encouraged me to take a slow and steady pace... The trips to backcountry huts in winter were magical. Sitting around in the evening together; the cold winter outside but snug inside. I remember a beautiful day we had from the Elizabeth Parker hut skiing perfect powder without a cloud in the sky. Despite Louise's protestations that she didn't do

Telemark turns, I can still see her carving some down the slope with an infectious grin... I was lucky to spend several years living with Richard and Louise in Calgary and she helped me through some difficult times for which I am forever grateful"

Granddaughter Carol is married to Colin Booth and is the only grandchild to have children—daughters Sarah and Emily. So Richard and Louise are great-grandparents.

Although their family lived far way—Peter and Janet in Australia and the rest in England—they got together regularly. Granddaughter Carol wrote, "Louise was at the centre of so many groups and also the centre of our family. She was always the one who took the time to call, to invite us to be together."



On the Pennine Way path, Richard and Louise's great granddaughters Sarah and Emily in front and granddaughter Carol at right.

A WOMAN FOR ALL SEASONS

Louise was quite simply a very good person: unselfish and caring and always considerate of others. She was an optimist who could find the good in everything and everyone. Above all Louise had an indomitable spirit. Over the years she had several serious health issues but she did not let them discourage her or stop her from enjoying life. In 1967 and 1974 she had ski injuries that damaged the ligaments in her knees. After that she continued to ski but wore a brace. There were two bouts of breast cancer in the late 1970s that led to mastectomies. In 1983 she had part of her right lung removed due to the effects of the chemotherapy. In 1999 she had heart surgery and got a new aortic valve, but she soldiered on. In 1999 and 2005 she had cataract operations on both eyes. Through all of this Louise had a great sense of humour and was

quoted as saying, “Oh well. I’ve reached the age where they start chopping bits off.”

Richard and Louise lived in the community of Brentwood for 45 years where they were an inspiration to their neighbours. Louise loved the area because of its proximity to the mountains, the university, shops and buses. She went to the farmers’ market, supported the building of the Sportsplex and told her stories at the library. She helped with the weeding in Whispering Woods, a natural area park adjacent to the Dr. E. W. Coffin School, and according to the *Brentwood Bugle*, “no one could haul out thistles better than Louise at age 91.” Both Louise and Richard marched to protest the construction of a high-rise apartment in the area and fought to save Nose Hill Park from development.

A very generous woman, Louise supported a myriad of charities both financially and with her time. She drove for Meals on Wheels, eventually winning her 900-hour award for delivering meals. She was very concerned about nuclear weapons and worked for peace through Project Ploughshares. Sally Hodges remembered that Louise was “...a shining star in Project Ploughshares. Her common sense approach and strong support were noticed and greatly appreciated over the 25+ years she was a member.” She supported Eyesight International

Super Louise!



*“I’ve
always held
that life
should be
fun... You
can’t stop
growing
old, but you
can choose
to be young
inside.”*

—Louise

Louise talking about aging: “You have to tell yourself, this is natural and you are lucky to do what you can do. Just keep on trying. People think that I am more than I am. But I am just glad to be alive and still moving.”

Louise weeding out the thistles



and fought for the environment as a member of the Friends of Nose Hill Park. In fact environmental issues gradually became more and more important with Louise. She said, “I am cutting down on driving and take my bike to the local shops. I suppose that I am reducing my carbon footprint as they say.”

Louise was a wonderful cook, having been formally trained and having picked up much from her father. According to Richard, “Louise was a true professional.” In the kitchen she was always calm and well organized. She was also a marvellous hostess and made everyone feel at home. Over the years she received many of Richard’s colleagues into her house and made them all feel special. Above all Louise loved a good time: scintillating conversation and interesting people. A dinner at the Guy house was so much fun—Louise was charming and Richard was witty. But it was in her baking that she excelled, her apple and rhubarb tarts were delicious but crème filled chocolate éclairs were her specialty. Dessert was always the high point of the meal.

Louise was also an excellent dressmaker, needlewoman, seamstress, knitter and embroiderer. Richard wrote, “For much of her life she made her own clothes, including her wedding dress. Her son Mike’s socks have all been knitted by Louise, and Richard’s socks have similarly been made only by his mother and Louise. Mother died on the operating room table, leaving a half finished sock which she had been knitting the night before. Louise picked it up, finished it and has carried on the tradition ever since. She also made several bright ties for Richard, which enlivened the otherwise dull lectures that he gave to the first year Engineering students. They

were the most frequent subject of comments made in the student surveys. Only a few years ago Louise knitted herself a brightly coloured jumper which prompted friend Andrew Bremner to ask, ‘Do you have a volume control for that?’”

Although not young herself, Louise cared for both her father, then Richard’s father, when they came in the 1970s to live with them in Canada. The two men were growing old and needed looking after so Louise was kept busy. But for Louise this was the right thing to do: she was always helping other people.

Of course Louise was a great help to Richard in his career. According to Richard, “Louise has been an enormous help to mathematics and to a large number of mathematicians, including some rather queer ones, whom she has given hospitality to at one time or another.” One observer remembered Richard saying, “that Louise actually knew a fair amount about mathematics but what she really understood was mathematicians.”

When asked what was important for keeping a marriage together for over 50 years Louise replied, “I’d say, being able to laugh at the same things.”

In 1970, when Richard was on sabbatical and they were sailing around the world, Louise actually learned Russian so that she could translate Russian academic work for Richard. Richard remembered, “To pass the time on the long sea trips, Louise provided herself with various things, including reading matter, needlework and a teach-yourself Russian course. Subsequently she attended at least two Russian courses at the University of Calgary and also a course in Cambridge. She translated Zykov’s book on Graph Theory from the Russian, and rather better than some translators, insisted on understanding what she was translating.” A few years later she went off to visit Russia! Her son Peter said “She insisted on seeing it the way the locals did, so they assigned her a guide who she was pretty sure was a KGB agent.”

Louise also got on well with young people and had many surrogate children, most notably Jane, Jill and Joy Lancaster and Mark Milner, whose mother died when he was young. She also had many young friends in the Alpine Club who treated her as a mother: Chuck and Leslie Young, Masten Brolsma and his wife Diane Schon and, of

Louise’s famous chocolate éclairs!



course, me. Young people were attracted to Louise because she was so young at heart and so approachable but wise at the same time. Jane Lancaster wrote: “Louise has always been my rock. She has been a constant in my life and those of my sisters and our children. She is our adopted and honor-

ary Grandmother.... Louise made my first birthday cake (I don’t remember that), my 50th birthday cake, iced my wedding cake, and has come to dinner bearing many wonderful desserts she created over the years. She was

“Louise bridged the generational gap like no other person I have ever met.”

—Chuck Young

a great friend to my mother. Louise and Mum are my most important female mentors. Their voices guide me about what would be the right thing to do and the value of living—simple and essential pleasures like sharing meals, companionship, wise council and humour; putting energy into things and people you care about; treating people with respect; persevering and being positive. Louise was the first person I knew to really model making a difference in the environment by her daily choices and actions.”

Louise celebrates her 70th birthday with the Thursday Hikers Group



Louise gets her Senior Citizen's Bus Pass from the City of Calgary in 1983. Reprinted with permission of the Calgary Herald.

One of Louise's largest community contributions was to the Faculty Women's Club at the University of Calgary where she was always welcoming new people to the group. She was the spark and the inspiration for the young women and she was their Grandma.

Maya Aggawala, the wife of a math colleague newly arrived at U of C, wrote: "Soon after arriving in Calgary my husband and I, newlyweds, were invited to a party given in our honour by Richard and Louise. When Louise called me the day before the party to enquire what colour sari I intended wearing I replied 'beige', meanwhile reflecting that I really knew little about Canadian customs. Little did I know that Louise would produce one of her delicious cakes meticulously decorated with beige icing to match my sari. An unforgettable welcome from an unforgettable lady."

Beth Davies, who came to Calgary with her professor husband, Ron, remembered that, "A week before Christmas in December 1972 we moved into our present house and the very next morning dear Louise was on our doorstep ready to clean! News had travelled fast that the place was filthy and there I was pregnant with our third child trying to deal with it."

Louise hiked and cross-country skied with a group of lady friends called the Thursday Hikers right to

the end but there was more. Louise was a student of yoga since 1982 and attended regular aquacise classes. In 2009 she was nominated for the CBC Eye Opener's Calgary's most active senior and she won. An anonymous donor gave Louise \$1000 when he heard about her winning the award and when he wouldn't let her give it to charity she threw a party for her aquacise class. Into her 90s she still gardened and did her own housework. She said, "I am quite fond of weeding and talking to the plants. It is good for them and good for me."

Richard wrote, "Louise always claimed that she wasn't competitive. She certainly never wanted to 'beat' anybody. How come she won so many events? Only because she was a team person, often the team leader; she didn't want to succeed herself, just that the team should. Back in the late sixties, when the Lake Louise Loppet started up, Louise would help with the tea and lemonade and make sure everyone was warm and happy. Then one year someone said that she should take part herself, and she did, and she won, but only so that the Alpine Club could have a winner in the women's aged 50-60 section. For several years



Louise rolling down the hill just for fun on a family hike in England. She was two days short of her 90th birthday.

Louise climbed the Calgary Tower more times than anyone else not more than twenty years her junior, but not in order to win a trophy; only to encourage others to have a go, and to garner good support for the Alberta Wilderness Association."

Richard and Louise were the poster couple for healthy living into old age. Beginning about 2001 they participated in the 'Climb and Run for Wilderness' an annual fundraiser for the Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA). The goal was to climb the Calgary Tower, 802 steps high, as many times as possible. When they started it took them about 20 minutes to reach the top and they could manage the feat about 7 times but by 2009 it was taking 40 minutes. Louise joked, 'It's not like we're still in our 80s anymore.'

Robin Cockett remembered that after the Tower Climb in 2009: "Louise was bubbling with life. I recall her commenting that it was 'such fun growing old' and both Richard and Louise joking about life and death as we barrelled home to Brentwood. Our children sitting in the back could hardly believe their ears!"

Louise climbs the Calgary Tower in 2010



LOUISE'S DEATH

Between 1987 and 2009 Louise attended every ACC General Mountaineering Camp, but in 2010, sensing that the end was near, Louise did not come to camp. She died September 30, 2010, Richard's 94th birthday, at the age of 92. After suffering a stroke, the end came quickly. Son Peter said, "She had a long and most wonderful life and we're happy that she went quickly and peacefully."

We all loved Louise—she was an easy woman to love. She was kind, tolerant and generous; she was optimistic and always enthusiastic; she was humble and modest; she had a beautiful smile and was a delight to be with. Louise was an example of how life should be lived.

"Louise knew that the secret of happiness is making other people happy."

—Granddaughter Carol



Louise celebrates her 90th birthday

Richard and Louise at the Mount Alexandra Camp in 2007



"Louise believed in treating everyone equally, not putting on graces and airs. It wasn't about being the best climber or the most brilliant thinker—for her what always counted most was what was in one's heart."

—Son Peter

Richard wrote for Louise's memorial:

"I'm the luckiest person in the world. There are several reasons for this, but the most obvious is that for more than 70 years I've shared my life with the best person in the world.

"I'm a very selfish person. Louise was a completely selfless person, so we got along fine. Of course, we had our occasional arguments, but we were always able to compromise—we did it my way. Except for the washing-up and the laundry and the cooking and the gardening, which I let her do her way.

"Louise was a great example and a great teacher, and she found only the good in people, even when the good was pretty hard to find.

"What has she taught us?

"That worldly goods are much less important than keeping our planet clean.

"That, whatever our individual differences and beliefs, we can all live peacefully together.

"That one's own comfort should not come before the needs of others.

"That 'serious' and 'happy' are not opposites.

"That 'determined' and 'pleasant' can live side-by-side.

"That hard work and fun can go hand in hand.

"That service to others and enjoyment for one's self are not incompatible."

Louise had been active right to the end, often riding her bicycle, a venerable British Moulton model with a box on the rear to carry groceries, to the corner store for milk and bread. When Louise died she and Richard were only three months short of their 70th wedding anniversary.

To honour Louise and her love for the General Mountaineering Camp, Richard donated \$100,000 to the Alpine Club of Canada to train amateur leaders. Amateur leaders have been fundamental to the success of the GMC since its inception and many of these men and women helped Louise reach her summits over the years. This donation is a way to ensure that the tradition of competent leadership at the GMC continues. In her own private way, Louise will be with us on our summits for many decades to come.

*"Louise was so interesting—
and so much fun—because she
was always 'in the moment'."*

—Aiden Bruen

Louise and her beautiful smile



THE ENERGIZER BUNNY

Richard did not allow his great loss to finish him too. At age 95 he still lives in the same house and goes to the university where he works eight hours a day, five days a week. He takes the bus then walks to the math building where he climbs the four flights of stairs to his office rather than take the elevator. He still does research and

has a few graduate students. Recently Richard attended a mathematical conference in Atlanta, Georgia, making his way there by himself and navigating three airports including Chicago's O'Hare, the biggest in the world. On the

"I count myself as the luckiest person in the world. I was married to the best wife in the world for 70 years and I was paid for doing what I like doing."

—Richard

way back he had to spend a night sitting up in the airport. Richard has been very lucky with his health and, although he had a pacemaker implanted in 2002, has not had many serious problems. He jokes that, "I chose my parents carefully."

Richard still goes in the Alberta Wilderness Association Calgary Tower Climb and in 2012 managed to climb the tower twice. There is now a Richard Guy Prize for 'Most Climbs Senior 75 and Older – Male' which Richard won to begin with but is now won by Bob McPherson, a youngster in his 80s. Since 2011 the AWA awards the Louise Guy Poetry Prize to a poet who evokes the wilderness or the wild in their work.

On June 30, 2012, Richard climbed Ha Ling Peak with Louise's ashes. His old colleagues from Singapore and Calgary were there, Peter Lancaster and Rex Westbrook, as was Jane Lancaster his almost daughter. The summit is a beautiful resting place for Louise. The day was moody and dark storm clouds hovered in the distance as we raised a glass of single malt to a beautiful and remarkable woman.

The descent was incredibly difficult for Richard and he had to dig deep to get down safely. But he never lost his sense of humour: we joked that he had no choice; he had to keep going. The mountain swarmed with young people that day and they all marvelled at Richard. Some hugged him, while others shook his hand or had a photo taken with him. The young ones high-fived him. He was still providing inspiration for all of us. It rained on us



Richard on the summit of Ha Ling Peak.
Photo Paul Gray.

and the rocks became slick. Although his legs were on the point of collapsing, he never lost his concentration, carefully placing each foot.

Later that evening, eating pizza and drinking a beer at the Lancaster cabin in Lac des Arcs, I watched Richard sitting quietly in the corner. He was very tired of course, but he seemed content and had little to say. He had climbed the mountain for Louise and done his duty. I think that he was at peace.

"I know that it's ridiculous. I clearly look like an old man and I no doubt behave like an old man but I feel like a kid."

—Richard



The button that Richard has worn on his jacket for many years. He had several hundred made and handed them out to friends if they promised to wear it.

YOUNG AT HEART

The Inspirational Lives of Richard and Louise Guy

Do you think that you are over the hill? You have retired and you feel there is not much more to look forward to. Well think again! This book, about the inspirational lives of Richard and Louise Guy, will show you that there is a great deal of life beyond the set retirement age of 65—and beyond 75 and beyond 85.

Arriving in Canada in 1965, near the age of 50, Richard and Louise Guy taught all of us what it means to be enthusiastic, positive and to embrace life. They climbed mountains well into their nineties, and Richard still works today at the age of 96. Louise rode her bike to the corner store until she was 92.

So stop your whining about your knees and hips! Life was never meant to be easy! But it can still be beautiful, long past the so-called age of youth and dreams. Life into old age can be a treasure to be enjoyed and shared. And if you are like Richard and Louise, the adventures and dreams just keep coming.



For further information regarding the Summit Series of mountaineering biographies, please contact the National Office of the Alpine Club of Canada.



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