John Brohman

June 25, 1951 - June 9, 2014

JOHN BROHMAN of Vancouver, passed away suddenly at his cabin at Anderson Lake, British Columbia, on June 9, 2014. Treasured soul mate of Theresa Bennett of Vancouver. Dedicated and devoted father to his children, Jay and Isabella of Vancouver, their mother Holly Keller, and his extended family, Matthew and Jill, Ruby and Noel. Cherished brother of Mary Ellen Brohman and Nicholas Mymka of Petrolia. Much loved son of the late E.H. (Ted) and Florence Brohman of Petrolia. Beloved nephew of Irene Kirkham (Perth), and Willard and Almina Strong (California). Dear cousin of Brent and Bill Kirkham (Perth), Jane, John, Gary, and Ann Strong (Perth), Ernie, Cathy, and Barbara Strong (California), Michael and Sareena Hopkins (Ottawa), and their families. Born in 1951 in Hamilton, Ontario, John moved with his family to Petrolia in 1960. John’s parents were loving, supportive, recognized his talents, and always encouraged him to pursue his interests and his passions. He was an irrepressibly active and curious child with a mischievous streak. In these early days, John formed many lifelong friendships which he cherished and maintained over the years. He valued the camaraderie of his friends in Petrolia, and would frequently reminisce about the great times he had growing up in this small town. John was an undergraduate student of the University of Western Ontario and Carelton University. He received a Chancellor Fellowship at Carelton to pursue graduate studies in geography at the University of California, Los Angeles, and was awarded a Ph.D. in 1989. His doctoral dissertation focused on rural development and agrarian reform in Nicaragua. His extensive travels to some 70 countries lead to his vocation and to his passion for the Third World. In 1987, John was appointed to the Geography Department at Simon Fraser University where he continued his research and his teaching as an Associate Professor. He was Director of the Latin America Studies Program from 2001-2004,
and was active in the Centre for Community Sustainable Development, the School of International Studies, and the Development and Sustainability Program. He authored numerous articles and two books. He contracted a major CIDA research project in Bolivia concerning community economic development. John was a respected colleague and an engaged educator always active as a crusader for social justice focusing on community economic development particularly in Latin America. Beyond his academic achievements, John cared deeply for his soul mate, Theresa, his loving family, and his many friends. He loved to laugh, to tell stories of his many travels, and to plan his next adventures. He recognized and appreciated the diversity and the talents of all people. He was a decent, kind man who contributed immensely to the betterment of the world. He will be missed beyond words. Hasta Siempre, John. A memorial celebration will occur at a later date at which time John’s ashes will be spread at Anderson Lake, a place that John had grown to love. Those wishing to make a donation in John’s memory may consider the “Ted Brohman Scholarship Fund” by contacting the Needham Jay Funeral Home, Petrolia, Ontario at 519-882-0100, www.needhamjay.com.