

DERRICK SUROWSKI 1956—2016

On May 17, 2016, after a 13 year courageous battle with cancer which he fought with dignity, Derrick Surowski, passed away peacefully with his family by his side.

Derrick was involved with the British Columbia Babe Ruth League program for 30 years. He got his first taste of baseball while practicing with his father's team, then eventually played in Calgary, Winnipeg and Surrey. He was a short stop and second baseman, then a catcher at the end. He also played as an adult, then took time off when he had kids. Eventually, they lured him back because of their own interest to play.

At the time of his death, Derrick was serving as Assistant Provincial Commissioner and as a District Commissioner for the British Columbia Babe Ruth Provincial organization. In addition, Derrick was involved with the Penticon Minor Babe Ruth League from 1986 to 2007, the British Columbia Baseball Umpires Association (BCBUA) from 1995 to 2008, and had been an umpire and the Umpire-In-Chief with the Summerland Minor Baseball Association from 2005 to 2008.

Deserved honors include receiving the Richard Christie Unsung Hero Award for his efforts with the BCBUA, and induction into the British Columbia Babe Ruth Hall of Fame in 2014.

Derrick's philosophy was to go out and make a difference in your life. This impact drove him to help the sport at the grass roots level. He often said, "Go out and show the kids, no matter how far down you are, you are never down and out." Derrick grew up idolizing Babe Ruth, Mickey Mantle and Yogi Berra as they never gave up.

