



Gordon Priestman

August 4, 1936 - August 4, 2003

Gordon Priestman was born and grew up in Ontario. After a brief stint as an editor in Merritt, he moved to the Shuswap in 1967 to take the position of editor of the Salmon Arm Observer—a position he held for 30 years.

Gordon was always deeply concerned with matters of social justice, and many of his editorials and columns reflected his constant preoccupation with wanting to build a better community, a better society.

He took time away from the editorial desk in 1986 to stand (unsuccessfully) as an NDP candidate for Shuswap in the Provincial election.

When he died, Gordon was serving his second three year term as a Director of the Shuswap Community Foundation. He was also a long time member of the Salmon Arm Fall Fair Board. In 1976, Gordon suggested creating a “Friends of Okanagan College” trust, which led to the establishment of the extremely successful Salmon Arm College Scholarship Fund—the largest agency fund held by the Shuswap Foundation.