

Kelly felt it was important to speak the truth on behalf of the most vulnerable in society. Thus, she was often impatient with a bureaucratic system that was slow to change as she remained steadfast in her beliefs and in the goals she wanted to achieve. But she marched on, because children needed to have a voice and she wanted to protect them from the violence and oppression perpetrated against them by the system and by social conditions.

Shortly before Kelly passed away, Patsy George, a close friend of hers, shared a quote from Rabindranath Tagore (a Nobel Prize winner for literature from India) that caught her attention and, in our view, captured both her indomitable spirit and her legacy: "I slept and dreamed that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold service was joy."

Kelly loved, and was tremendously grateful for, her family, friends, and community and lived her life to the fullest to the very end. She made a point of connecting as many of the people in her life with one another as she could, knowing our lives would be the richer for it. Her departure leaves all of us with a profound sense of loss, but also with a renewed appreciation for the value of a life lived with purpose.

Alan Baycroft and Nancy Morgan

## Jari Sokkanen

Jari left us on July 4, 2014, at only 37 years of age—far too young, and at the height of his life and career. His loss has been devastating for all who knew him, especially his family and friends.

Jari was born in Vancouver on November 21, 1976, to Arja and Markku. He was the first of two sons: his brother, Mikko, followed three years later. Jari spent most of his early years in Vancouver and Burnaby. He travelled to Calgary for his undergraduate years and returned to the city he had grown to love and call his home in 2005.

Jari was an old soul, a wonderful person. Even though his profession was to argue, in his private life he was never argumentative; he was a very soft-spoken man. Jari could be counted on always to greet people with a smile,



provide sage and thoughtful advice (personal and professional) and give of his time. He was an accomplished professional, but more importantly a wonderful man—a loving partner to Caitlin (to whom he was engaged to be married) and a loving stepdad to Anderson. From the moment they met, whenever Jari spoke of Caitlin, he had a glint in his eye and a broad smile. He was deeply in love with her. He quickly developed a strong bond with Anderson, who called him Isi (Finnish for Dad). They both loved golf and skiing. Jari left Anderson with some amazing memories. He was very excited about his upcoming marriage to Caitlin and was filled with plans for creating many more memories with his new family.

Jari was an elite speed skater and competed in community, regional, provincial, national and international competitions during his competitive career from 1983 to 2000. Following his retirement from competitive speed skating, Jari coached athletes ranging in age from 3 to 75 and from beginner to national/elite level at the Burnaby Haida Speed Skating Club and six Fraser Valley speed skating clubs from 2000 to 2005. He was also a referee for Speed Skating Canada, having refereed all the way from competition at the local/beginner level to the World Championship level. Most of his visits to B.C. these last few years were to referee speed skating events (except when he brought Caitlin and Anderson to meet us in the summer of 2013).

Jari completed his B.A. in English at the University of Calgary in 1998 and received his law degree from UBC in 2003. During his time in law school he volunteered with the Law Students' Legal Advice Program in downtown Vancouver, where he provided legal advice on a pro bono basis.

Jari had joint articles at the criminal law firms of Gordon & Sutherland and Brian E. Mickelson Law Corp. in Vancouver in 2003, after which he spent a year as a Crown prosecutor. He then joined the very distinguished criminal defence firm of Wolch Ogle Wilson Hursh & deWit in Calgary, and from 2005 to 2006 he represented clients in Provincial Court, at the Court of Queen's Bench and at the Alberta Court of Appeal.

From 2006 to 2009, Jari practised civil litigation at Burstall Winger. In 2009, he joined the legal department at the City of Calgary, where he worked until his death. I am told by his boss there that Jari excelled in his work and was highly regarded by his colleagues and clients. Jari was also very active in the Alberta Expropriation Association, most recently serving as the Vice-President South of that organization.

Jari was a believer in teamwork and was terrific at building relationships. He was elected the captain of almost every team he ever played on—not surprising, given that Jari was exactly the type of happy, supportive mentor everyone would want leading their team and inspiring their teammates. He

once told his boss at the City of Calgary that "a leader of a team is, first and foremost, a member of that team".

Jari spent a lot of time between his classes at law school playing pool at Koerner's pub. Jari was the shark. He learned to play pool from his father, Markku, on the antique pool table in the basement of their home in Burnaby. If you beat Jari, it was either by luck or because he let it happen to keep you coming back for more. Even after law school, Jari often met up with a group of friends to play pool at Soho in Yaletown.

A group of lawyers formed a band, No Reply, at the end of their third year of law school to play at a beer-up. I'm told that the reason the band was formed was to make sure the other members could get together with Jari (who wasn't a member of the band but an integral part of this group of musicians).

Dave Farmer, No Reply's drummer, moved to Calgary after law school. Not long after, Jari joined him there. Dave and Jari made a point of getting together as often as they could—nearly monthly, I am told. Because of Dave's connection to Cowtown, No Reply started playing one or two shows a year there. Jari always made a point of finding time to hang out with the group. The band was always looking for something fun to do when they played. One year, the idea of wearing panda costumes came up. The band decided they couldn't play while wearing the costumes but that it would be a great idea if they had a panda dancing on stage. Through the magic of the Internet, the band purchased a panda costume and Lucky (the Panda) arrived in a huge box. Jari filled that suit when No Reply played in Calgary. He was masterful at it. He danced on stage, got a little fresh at times, rolled around on stage, jumped into the crowd (to be surrounded by women). He made those shows spectacular. Wearing the suit was like wearing an oven, and Jari was soaked through at the end of the 30-minute set. Thus the legend of Lucky was born, and Jari will always be remembered for his antics as Lucky.

Jari wasn't the type of lawyer to talk only about work or the law, other than to touch base about how work was going. Even though that was something he and I had in common, we rarely talked about our respective careers—instead we talked about family, sports, golf and wine tasting, not necessarily in that order. The last time we spoke, it was about his upcoming wedding; how excited he was about it and his hopes for the future.

Unfortunately Jari's future was cut short before he had a chance to fulfill his promise; he certainly excelled during his short time on this earth. There is no end of things he could have done had he been given the chance. We will miss him.