

In memory of Mike Matthews, an award has been established for a VIU Arts and Humanities student who has demonstrated interest in Canadian Literature and is continuing graduate studies in this field. All donations are eligible for an official tax receipt.

**GIFT AMOUNT:**

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ONE TIME GIFT
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ RECURRING GIFT (amount/frequency): \$ \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

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**RECOGNITION:**

Anonymous gift: yes  no  I am a VIU / Malaspina Alumni: yes  no

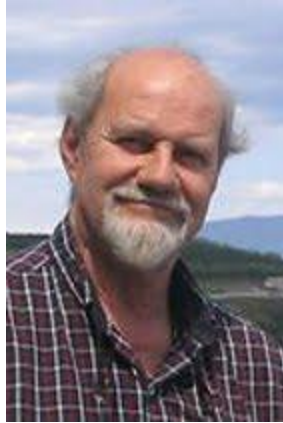
I wish to be recognized as follows:

**PAYMENT METHOD:**

- Cheque (Please make payable to the Vancouver Island University Foundation)
- VIU staff payroll deduction Monthly gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Employee Number \_\_\_\_\_
- Credit Card  Visa  Mastercard  Amex |  Business charge  Personal charge

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Born in Aklavik in 1937, Mike Matthews died on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Nanaimo, B.C. after a brief and intense confrontation with cancer. His wife, daughter and beloved dog, Victor, were at his side.

Until a few weeks before his death, Mike was a vibrant, energetic and witty man, treasured by his friends and family for his youthful and irreverent exuberance. He celebrated his lengthy undergraduate career at UBC, his carefree days in Montreal where he worked at the McGill Library and attended graduate studies at Sir George Williams University, his second graduate studies program at Simon Fraser University, and his thirty-three years teaching English at Malaspina College, now Vancouver Island University.

Mike took pleasure in chatting to checkout clerks, bank tellers, shopkeepers, passengers on the Protection Island Ferry, and whoever else would respond to his skill-testing questions, word games, rants and puns, encounters which he believed brightened people's lives. Children, dogs and birds delighted him, and he was a great champion of the Protection Island Community Garden. He loved the music of Handel, Mozart, Blind Willie Johnson, and all the Protection Island musicians. A great cook, his specialties were plantain frittata and Saskatoon berry pie. He was keen on crossword puzzles, and his extensive collection of pens and reading glasses was renowned.

He detested cruelty to animals, orange safety vests, sentimentality, bragging, car alarms, prepared food, plastic water bottles, and the use of the word "multiple" rather than "many", or any long word when a shorter one would do.

Mike Matthews was a lifelong supporter of Canadian books and Canadian writers. As former Dean of Arts and Humanities, Ross Fraser, said at Mike's memorial, "During the early years of what was emerging as a future university English department, Mike was a real champion of Canlit, arguing passionately that it should have a central place in the Department's offerings. And he succeeded."

In addition to teaching Canadian Literature at Malaspina throughout his 33 years there, Mike wrote dozens of reviews of Canadian books for the Malahat Review and the Globe and Mail. After retirement he continued to offer courses on Canadian authors for Vancouver Island University's Elder College program.