

Jose Cabrita

~1930 - July 16, 2017

Birth Location:

Silves, Portugal

Death Location:

Abbie J. Lane Memorial Building, QEII, Halifax, NS

Worked For:

Avro Canada or Orenda?

Position:

engineer – worked on first Canadian Hydrofoil, AVRO Arrow and NASA launch pads

Obituary (online):

Obituary For Jose Cabrita

Age 87, of Halifax, passed away on Sunday, July 16, 2017, with his wife by his side in the Abbie J. Lane Memorial Building, QEII. Born in Silves, Portugal, he was the son of the late Joao and Aurora (Barradas) Cabrita. He had a very successful career in engineering and as a hosteller. He was well known for working on the first atomic reactor, first Canadian Hydrofoil, AVRO Arrow and NASA launch pads. He was Regional Manager of Wandlyn Inns and Director of the Department of Tourism, responsible for Nova Scotia's three provincial resorts. He was a proud member and past president of SKAL Club (Canada and Halifax). Jose was best known for his sense of humour and being adventurous and a great innovator. His loves were his family, the ocean, soccer, basketball, fishing, bird watching, wood carving, international travelling, cultural cuisines, and his dog, Omar. He was blessed to have so many friends, far and wide, whom he cherished. Jose will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by all. Survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Judith Cabrita; daughter, Suzana Cabrita; son, Harry Cabrita (Peggy), and his grandchildren, Wesley (Alexa), Liam (Caitlin), Judie (Ryan), Zacharia and Savanna. A celebration of life will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, July 21, in Trinity Church, 322 Main Ave, Halifax. Donations may be made to the SPCA or charity of choice. Condolences can be sent to donaldkwalker@accesswave.com.

<https://www.donaldkwalker.ca/obituaries/jose-cabrita/>



Researched by: Barry Copp (2023)

profiles

Metro Guide feels you might like to meet some of the people who make Halifax hospitality a joy for all. So we are happy to present a regular "Profiles" column to help add the personal touch to your enjoyment among old and new friends.



JOSE CABRITA

Most people would consider the man who is managing director for Nova Scotia's three provincial resort hotels as, well, a kind of superior hotel manager. They'd be right, but only in a very limited sense.

The truth is, Jose Cabrita could be better described as a destination manager for thousands of visitors from across North America and the world, as well as for countless Nova Scotians who know a good thing when they live right beside three of them.

For Jose, it all started in his native Portugal with a dream, a dream of seeing the world and of eventually settling down in Brazil. It's not that things weren't going well at home in Faro. In fact, they were going well indeed. Jose was a sports celebrity in his own right and the media were predicting great things for the young man. Still, far shores beckoned.

Canada was the first stop in his odyssey--and became the last.

"At first I had serious doubts about the climate; all I knew about Canada was that it had snow and ice, and the RCMP. But the remarkable thing I soon discovered was that the weather

didn't present any problems; it was the central heating that gave me trouble."

But apparently not enough trouble to quench a growing fascination with the first job he found, a very humble post in the Guild Inn of All Arts in Scarborough, Ontario. That turned Canada from a stepping stone to the world into a permanent home and, to date, a 29-year career in the hospitality industry.

It was in Ontario that Jose met his wife Judith, and subsequent family vacations in Nova Scotia started another love affair, this time at the provincial level.

The Cabrita team then went on to open and manage Imperial Oil's Voyageur Restaurants in Fredericton, N.B., and in Nova Scotia's Truro and Port Hastings townships.

By this time a fully fledged Canadian citizen for 12 years, Jose joined the Wandlyn Motor Inns operation which at that time stretched from Sydney, N.S., to Winnipeg, Manitoba. Then, to confirm that his fascination with the industry was a lot more than just a passing interest, Jose won the president's award for the best operation in the organization's chain. That was in 1976. He repeated the feat again in 1980, picking up the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia's Innkeeper of the Year award to boot. This made up a special merit hat trick when his 1979 commercial provincial government energy conservation award is included.

tion as units within a single destination operation with a mandate not only to provide something special and lasting to present and future guests, but also as important, supportive industries in their own local communities.

His aim is not to throw the weight of the operations into hard competition with the private sector, but to encourage the destination concept which can benefit private operators and, at the same time, present a quality picture of hospitality in the province as a whole.

Jose, of course, knows the private side well. He's been there. And he also knows what it is that keeps guests coming back. A working blend of these two considerations is always in the forefront of his mind, whether the immediate consideration is future planning or immediate and direct hospitality service.

With a little more salt than pepper in his hair, Jose combines a distinguished appearance with an open and friendly manner; perhaps the perfect picture of mine host.

But even if you don't get to meet him personally, take comfort in the fact that this picture is reflected in the operations he directs.