Former long-time Yellowknifer, Alexander “Sandy” MacDonald Holmes, passed away in Penticton, BC, on October 11, 2009. He was 80 years old.

Sandy resided in Yellowknife from 1977 to 2004, working as a systems analyst for the Government of the Northwest Territories. He steered the development of the government’s financial information system and, working for the Financial Management Board Secretariat, was responsible for the preparation of the government budget. He later formed his own company, Dragonfly Consulting, and worked as an independent consultant.

In the early 1950s, Sandy worked for NTCL on the barges on the Mackenzie River as a summer student while attending the University of Alberta (BSc, 1953). He also attended the University of Western Ontario (MBA, 1965) and afterwards became involved in the new field of computing.

Sandy was a fine gardener, outdoorsman and handyman. He built two houses in Frame Lake South and “Dragonholm” at Prelude Lake, where he settled.

Known for his political views and activism, he was founding member and long-time president of the Ingraham Trail Association. He ran for election on multiple occasions to both Yellowknife city council and the NWT Legislative Assembly.

Sandy is survived by his three children, Nancy, Doug and Jennifer; five grandchildren, Douglas, Ian, Alex, Pierre and Marie; and two brothers, Bob Holmes and Rett Holmes.