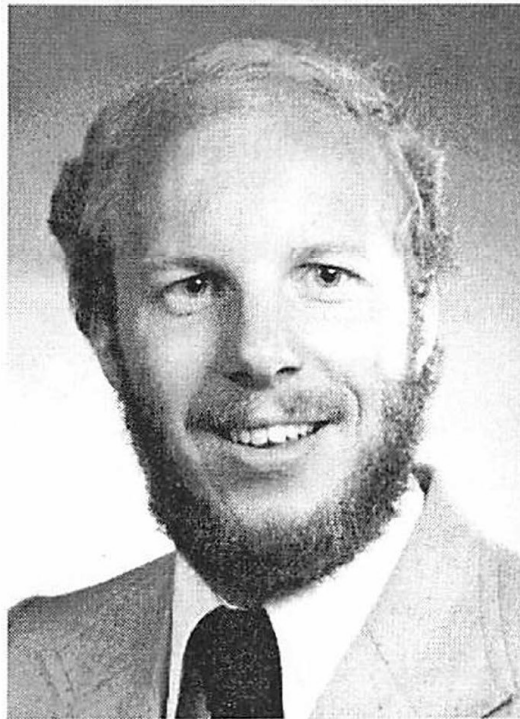


# Gregory Wirick

1952 - 1998

**G**regory Wirick was born in British Columbia but grew up and completed his first university degree in Saskatoon. After a year at the National Theatre School in Montreal he opted to follow a career which drew on his love of history, politics and social science, but the arts remained central to his being – theatre, modern art and especially jazz music.

After completing an MA in international relations at the London School of Economics he took on the challenge of executive director of the United Nations Association in Canada. When he moved on, nearly five years later, UNAC was not only stronger in terms of member-



ship and finances but also in terms of a serious involvement in foreign policy issues. Under his leadership it also established its important Pearson Peace Medal – a medal that has now been awarded 25 times to a Who's Who list of Canadian internationalists and remains one of Greg's lasting legacies.

His next two years were spent in New York but he then returned to Ottawa, where he spent the rest of his far too short life. Most of his work-

time was with the Parliamentary Centre for Defence and Foreign Affairs. This included acting as senior consultant to House Standing Committees; the drafting of several committee reports and serving as editor of the Centre's quarterly magazine, *Parliamentary Government*. He also consulted on issues of peace and security, parliamentary affairs, human rights and environmental concerns to clients that included CIDA, Foreign Affairs, IDRC, IRPP, the former CIIPS, National Defence and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Greg had an ability to absorb huge amounts of information from different sources, sort out and arrange the important threads and details, write a comprehensive and articulate analysis, and formulate appro-

priate and creative recommendations. He loved books, had a boundless curiosity, and excelled at debate and discourse. His last project (a book of essays on Canada as a builder of peace, co-edited with Robert Miller of the Parliamentary Centre) was completed as he battled the threat of blindness and the demanding burden of AIDS.

A quote from Robert Miller at the memorial service for Greg: "Greg thought of himself as a Renaissance man. He wasn't someone who could be easily categorized. Our work is often short-term, yet Greg brought a depth of learning and thoughtfulness to it. He had an historian's mind, a real intellectual integrity"