



## Mr. Christos Spanis

November 5, 2019

Passed peacefully at Woods Park Care Centre in Barrie on Tuesday, November 5th 2019 in his 97th year. Survived by Jacqueline Challenger, his beloved life partner of 22 years. Predeceased by his wife of 35 years, Rosa (née LaVerdiere). Loving and beloved father of Christa (Wesley Fellows), Steven, Nicholas (Lynn Bayley) and Peter. Cherished grandfather of Seanna, Christopher, Brandon, Alexandre and great grandfather of Alexandra "Lexi" and Julian. Loved and respected by his extended family "The Challengers", Ross (Heather), Gregory (Sandra), Cameron (Julie) and grandchildren Crystal, Sarah, Zachary, Emily, Dustin, Jessica and great granddaughter Mackenzie. Survived by his brother William "Curt" (Barbara) Spanis and predeceased by his sisters Helen Spanis and Sophia Conlon. Will be sadly missed by his many nephews, nieces and lifelong friends in the Barrie Area. Visitation will take place at the Steckley-Gooderham Funeral Home, 30 Worsley St., Barrie on Thursday, November 7th, 2019 from 7 – 9 p.m. and on Friday, November 8th from 10:30 a.m. until the time we celebrate Chris's life in the Chapel at 1 p.m. Following interment at Barrie Union Cemetery, guests are invited for a reception gathering and toast to Chris's life and achievements in the Lounge. In lieu of flowers, donations to the War Amps, Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre or the Mental Health Services would be greatly appreciated by the family. Online memories and condolences may be forwarded via [www.steckleygooderham.com](http://www.steckleygooderham.com).

Chris was a veteran of the Royal Canadian Navy during WWII and served on the North Atlantic as a crew member of H.M.C.S. Brantford. His Commanding Officer offered him special training as a frogman and was sent to Florida then Halifax harbour to finish his training. He was on his way to the Pacific front from Vancouver when the war ended. After training in Kingston, he earned his commission as a Lieutenant (N) and became devoted to the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets and Navy League of Canada. Chris was instrumental in the formation of the Sea Cadet Band in Barrie and the Sea Cadet Boathouse on Barrie's waterfront. His many years of service to the corp earned him his Captain's papers on retirement. He took pride in all of his "boys" and was thrilled when they excelled.

He was a very active member of the Trinity Anglican Church for more than 65 years. He

started in the Junior choir as a boy, then Senior choir then after the war, he served as a sidesman then ran the Senior Sunday school while teaching the confirmation class there.

For 30 years, Chris acted as the Chief Building and Plumbing Inspector for the City of Barrie. He was the first with that title after Barrie became a city. That small department grew over the years and after the tornado hit, his crew numbered over 20 inspectors as the Ministry and Central Mortgage and Housing had sent help. From that occurrence the building code was modified to add special rulings for roof clips and other safety measures that are still in place today. Chris served as President of the Ontario Building Officials Association and together with other local area inspectors, opened the Simcoe County Chapter to help all inspectors grow their skills and try to standardize all the townships to the same excellence level. He also taught both the Building and Plumbing courses at Georgian College's continuing education department for many years.

The Veteran's Club of Barrie also held a special place in his heart and he was a member for many years serving as President and Past President. He also volunteered with St John Ambulance for many years and pushed to have the young people trained in CPR and 1st aid.

Chris lived a long and active life. He loved to play snooker or golf. He really loved tinkering at the boathouse and spending time on the water surrounded by his family and friends. Everyone was always welcome. We believe he is dancing his way to the stars with the angels. Hope they can double time the jitterbug to keep up with him.

# Events

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**NOV**   **Visitation**                      07:00PM - 09:00PM

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Steckley-Gooderham Funeral Home Worsley Street Chapel  
30 Worsley Street, BARRIE, ON, CA, L4M 1L4

**NOV**   **Visitation**                      10:30AM - 12:30PM

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Steckley-Gooderham Funeral Home Worsley Street Chapel  
30 Worsley Street, BARRIE, ON, CA, L4M 1L4

**NOV**   **Service**                          01:00PM - 02:00PM

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Steckley-Gooderham Funeral Home Worsley Street Chapel  
30 Worsley Street, BARRIE, ON, CA, L4M 1L4

**NOV**   **Interment**                      02:00PM - 02:30PM

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Barrie Union Cemetery  
338 Sunnidale Road, BARRIE, ON, CA, L4M 4S4

**NOV**   **Reception**                      02:30PM - 04:30PM

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Steckley-Gooderham Funeral Home Worsley Street Chapel  
30 Worsley Street, BARRIE, ON, CA, L4M 1L4

# Comments

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“ Chris was the Building Inspector when I came to Barrie and worked as a lawyer with the late Ozzie Rowe as city solicitor. He was always fair in the building code prosecutions I did with him. Much more than his city work he participated in youth development in eh Sea Cadets. Barrie has lost a fine gentlemen. My condolences to his family.

George Taylor - November 12, 2019 at 02:36 PM

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“ I was fortunate enough to arrive in Barrie in time to spend a year working with Chris just before his retirement at a very young 65. I was the new Director of Planning and Development and Chris was the Acting Director as well as fulfilling his duties as the City's longtime Chief Building Official.

One of my early memories of Chris was when I was working in my office when I heard a raucous commotion and cheering!!. When I asked what that was all about? - the answer was - "It's Chris's Birthday today and he always vaults the counter on his birthday - He's Greek".

He was a living legend and a respected member of the City staff and a mentor to other Building Officials in Simcoe County,

Jim Taylor

James Taylor - November 07, 2019 at 05:19 PM

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“ Rest and Be In Peace my Dear Sweet Chris!  
Truly one of the most Loving, Sincere and Kindest Humans I have ever met!  
A Real Gentleman to those who Loved him!  
My Love and Heartfelt Condolences to his Perfect Match and Soul Mate Jacqueline Challenger and to both of Chris and Jackie's Families!  
Chris, you always called me your 'Darling Cupid' after introducing you to Jackie!  
Truth is, God meant for you two to be together and in each other's lives!  
You were a Huge Part of my Family and my Heart and will be Truly Missed!  
Thank you for being in my Life!  
I will Remember You Always!  
Love You and God Bless!  
Your 'Darling Cupid'!



**Patricia Challenger** - November 07, 2019 at 05:12 PM

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“ Dedicated Officer and supporter of the Sea Cadet program and a true gentleman. Always had kind words for everyone. Our condolences to the family. Fair winds, Sir. Michael Nixon.

**Michael Nixon** - November 07, 2019 at 05:10 PM

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“ I am sorry to hear about Chris. Like a lot of local building officials, he gave me the base knowledge to successfully have a 30 year career as a Building Official. I owe my start all to Chris. He was a great instructor in a time when there was little training being provided. Teaching night courses at Georgian College in Barrie came easy for him as he had a passion for enforcing the OBC and it's regulations. Even after Chris retired, he was an active member of the Simcoe County Chapter of Building Official. Always taking a position nobody else wanted. And he was proud of his participation. He will be fondly remembered. RIP Chris. I for one will miss you. Bill Plewes.

**Bill Plewes** - November 07, 2019 at 04:01 PM

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“ I miss you already Grandpa. I hope you are at peace and smiling down on us. I can't wait until we'll meet again one day. Love your 'sweetheart' xoxo



**Emily Challenger** - November 07, 2019 at 11:36 AM

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“ We've been so lucky to have you in our lives for the last 16+ years, I will miss your amazing smile,hugs,laugh and stories. You were truly one of a kind, you will be missed so much. Lots of Love to Jackie and the whole family. Don and Dawn Marie Dunphy xo



**Dawn Marie Dunphy** - November 07, 2019 at 10:16 AM



“ We always had a good laugh when together.... RIP Chris ... Thoughts and Prayers are with Jackie and the families

**Don Dunphy** - November 07, 2019 at 09:18 PM



“ I am one of the fortunate people to have known Chris over my career in Building Code Enforcement, starting long ago with his building courses and continuing with his dedication to the building industry. The Ontario Building Officials in Simcoe County were never at a loss for his opinion and experience and he will be greatly missed by us all.

Heather Rutherford

**Heather Rutherford** - November 09, 2019 at 09:35 AM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



**Heather Challenger** - November 06, 2019 at 03:14 PM



“ Thank you for sharing your knowledge, wisdom, encouragement and pleasure for life with me. I loved our visits and could sit and listen to your life stories endlessly. It was truly a blessing and an honour to have you as my father-in-law. Rest easy Sailor.

**Heather Challenger** - November 06, 2019 at 01:45 PM



“ Honoring a life well lived..... I first met Chris through his dedicated service with the Navy League. He was a Commissioned Officer and provided leadership to so many Royal Canadian Sea Cadets, many of whom went on to serve our Country in the Armed Services. Chris graciously gave me a summer job while he was the Chief Building Inspector for the City of Barrie. He was mentor extraordinaire. A proud Husband and Father who spoke frequently of his love of his children and Wife Rosa. Chris Spanis will long be remembered for his kindness, love of Family and dedicated Servant of his Community and Country.

A life well lived and job well done. Thank You Sir, farewell and sleep softly in eternal peace.

-Brian Abraham.

**Brian Abraham** - November 06, 2019 at 09:02 AM



“ Chris and Rosa were close family friends with my parents. As he became involved with the cadets, he and my father became the faces of the Sea Cadets in Barrie. Chris worked tirelessly for the cadets. They loved him well. I was blessed to have known him. He will be missed and long remembered. My condolences to his family and many friends. Rest in peace my friend.

**Kim Seidl** - November 06, 2019 at 04:50 PM



“ Sending heartfelt condolences to you all. My childhood is full of happy memories of Chris ( Mr Spanis) growing up waterside with the Spanis family as our neighbours . From letting me borrow fun boathouse toys such as the styrofoam water walkers, masks and snorkles, to taking my elderly father to the veterans dinners after his stroke, he was always so kind .

**Lynne Primrose ( Palmer)** - November 05, 2019 at 10:07 PM



“ Dear Jackie, Christa, Steven, Peter and Nicky,

Some people come into our lives, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never the same. Uncle Chris was truly a blessing in my life.

When I was a young boy, Uncle Chris graciously opened his home and his church, and happily welcomed me into his family when my mother was ill. His presence, wisdom, guidance, generosity, inspiration, and love will forever be with me.

Our most heartfelt condolences,  
Victor, Jennifer, Nicholas and Jack LaVerdiere

**Victor LaVerdiere** - November 05, 2019 at 09:31 PM