

Donald Bowne Roberts

Died: August 5, 2003

Don died of esophageal cancer at his home in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on Tuesday, August 5, 2003, at the age of 64.

He grew up in Port Washington, New York, on Long Island's north shore about 25 miles out of New York City. He went to Tabor Academy in Marion, Massachusetts, where he was on the school newspaper and sang in the glee club. His sports were football and lacrosse.

At Dartmouth Don majored in history and became a member of Psi Upsilon. He was in the canoe club his freshman year and the sophomore orientation committee the next. He rowed crew all four years.

Don tells the story of taking an introductory course in art from Hugh Morrison in the first semester of his freshman year — “covering western architecture from earliest times to the present” — that was such an “involuntary turn-on” for him that he decided to become an architect.

After Dartmouth, Don earned his M.Archit. degree at the Harvard Graduate School of Design in 1965. He afterwards worked for architectural firms in the Boston area, until becoming registered in 1975, when he became a founding partner of Roberts and Associates. The firm designed and restored buildings.

Don's particular passion was running, which he took up after architecture school. It became an integral part of his life. An obituary in the Boston Globe on Sept. 6, 2003, said Don “was a runner who competed in seven Boston marathons as well as many other endurance races. He was also a mountain climber and a passionate dog lover, who had as many as four dogs in his home at one time.”

Don had two daughters, Kristina and Nina, and two stepsons Christopher and Michael.