

# Iain MacArthur

By Ken South

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt died, and Harry S. Truman became the 33rd President. Henry Winkler, Goldie Hawn, Bette Midler, Mia Farrow, Davy Jones, Steve Martin, and Rod Stewart were born that year.

Later that year, the UK general election showed a landslide victory for Clement Atlee's Labour Party, as he replaced Winston Churchill as prime minister. And the world's first atomic bomb is dropped on the city of Hiroshima by a US B29 bomber, called the 'Enola Gay'.

But, on May 7, 1945, Gen. Alfred Jodl, representing the German High Command, unconditionally surrendered all military forces to the Allies, thereby ending World War II in Europe. And, in the Royal Canadian Military Hospital in Fulmer, England, Mr. October enters this world followed by his brother, three years later.

Mr. O and his family spent all his early school days in his hometown of Windsor, England. At age 11 he passed mandatory exams which allowed him to finish his education in grammar school, graduating in 1964 at 19yrs of age. He went to university in Newcastle and studied both French and German, earning a degree in 1968. However, a major part of his education was his participation in a year-long student exchange program undertaking teaching English in a German school. Following graduation, he taught grammar school French and German for the next four years.

In 1973 he returned to Cologne, Germany for two years teaching English. He describes these years as some of the best in his life. When he returned to the UK in 1975, he headed to the University of Edinburgh where he earned a master's degree in applied linguistics. It was during this time he started experiencing his beginnings of "coming out".

For the next 8 years he worked in the corporate world, teaching English as a second language to employees. Upon moving to London, Mr. O moved into the life of

university academia, becoming an administrator of student affairs, and then on to Dean of Student Affairs. He took an early retirement from the university system in 1997. For the next several years he worked in the commercial arena at publishing companies, and even a wine distributor business, in office administration. A second retirement followed in 2014 at age 69.

The gay world opened up to Mr. O while studying in Edinburgh in 1975. Gay life there was quite active and Mr. O enjoyed lots of activities, including gay political activism. However, his life completely changed when, in 1977, (the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee) in Colchester, he looked across a friendly pub and saw the love of his life, Tony. It turned out Tony was a friend of a friend of Mr. O's. He is 8 years Mr. O's junior. They agreed to use the Queen's Official Birthday as their anniversary date, celebrated each year on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in June. Tony was immediately welcomed into Mr. O's family, his mother Ruth, considered Tony as a third son.

After visiting south Florida over the years, they decided in 2013 to purchase a condo in Palm Aire. They come to Florida for a few weeks each year, however, given the COVID epidemic this year, sadly they are obligated to stay on the other side of the pond. When they are here, they really enjoy meeting with Prime Gentlemen friends. This couple gives new meaning to "snow birds"!

