

National Post

# NEWS

## B.C. retiree shot and killed in robbery near Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Postmedia News Jan 3, 2012 – 8:44 PM ET | Last Updated: Jan 4, 2012 8:33 AM ET



Laura Paquette / Postmedia Files

By **Sandra McCulloch**

VICTORIA — A retired mechanic from B.C. was shot and killed early Tuesday morning in a town south of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Robin Wood, 67, was returning from a concert when he was shot by robbers who had entered the home he was staying at in Melaque, the CBC reported.

Mr. Wood had lived in Puerto Vallarta for about four years, after several decades on B.C.'s Saltspring Island.

It was particularly shocking to hear that Mr. Wood's death involved violence, said his former business partner, Blaine Mr. Johnson.

"He didn't have a mean, frustrating bone in his body," Mr. Johnson said Tuesday. "He was the nicest, gentlest guy you could have around."

Mr. Johnson speculated that when Mr. Wood was confronting the burglars, "He was probably telling them he had nothing, to leave him alone. He wouldn't have been doing it meanly."

Mr. Wood quickly forgave anyone who wronged him, Mr. Johnson said.

Mr. Wood was originally from England and lived life "by the seat of his pants," said Mr. Johnson.

"He didn't care about anything in the world. All he cared about at the end of the day was he had a couple bucks in his pocket so he could go downtown."

Mr. Wood had two border collies who accompanied him everywhere, said Mr. Johnson.

“Whenever he got a lump sum of money in his pocket, his dogs ate prime steak.”

Mr. Wood was married to a Mexican woman and had lived in Mexico for most of the last four years, said Mr. Johnson. A wife from a previous marriage had died. He has a daughter in Wales and two stepchildren.

Mr. Wood was a challenging business partner, both aggravating and entertaining, said Mr. Johnson.

“Me and him had our go-rounds where we’d throw things at each other, but at the end of the day, we’d sit down and have a beer,” he said.

Mr. Wood still owns the property where the garage is located and lived on the rent he earned.

“He was living the life down in Mexico. He didn’t really care about too much and he didn’t need too much, either. Never once did he care about what he had.”

Mr. Wood’s death will have a huge impact on the Saltspring Island community, said Mr. Johnson, noting he’s already hearing about people reconsidering trips to Mexico because of the crime rate.

*Victoria Times Colonist*

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