

### **Gary Louis Dogterom passed away July 1, 2019 at Spruce Grove, AB**

Gary was born in Lethbridge, Alberta to Grace and Louis Dogterom. He went to McNally School and then graduated from Lethbridge Collegiate Institute (LCI). He earned his Bachelor of Education from the University of Lethbridge and completed his Master of Education in English Literacy later in his career. Gary was a secondary school English teacher and worked in Okotoks, Swan Hills, Lacombe and Stony Plain. After retiring he still enjoyed substitute teaching. Volleyball was a large part of Gary's life. While at the U of L he played for the Pronghorns from 1975-1979. From there he continued his love of the game by coaching and refereeing for over 30 years. His longest coaching tenure was at Lacombe Composite High School where he coached in the women's program for almost 20 years. His teams won consistently at the provincial level and he was thrilled to be able to coach his daughter during that time as well. He enjoyed many sports and could be found lane swimming in the mornings, golfing in the summertime and playing pickup hockey in the winter. Music was an important part of his life. In high school Gary played the trombone in the high school band as well as in their jazz band. In 1974 the band travelled to Toronto for the National Stage Band Competition placing 2nd. Later in life he enjoyed playing trombone and piano with his children and introducing them to his favorite bands. He was a member of the United Church, most recently attending St. Andrew's in Spruce Grove. As part of the church he participated in the choir, was board chair, and played many bridge games.

He is survived by his children: daughter Katherine (Eric) Dogterom and son Wyatt (Kristin) Dogterom; grandchildren: Barrett and Madison (Wyatt and Kristin); siblings: Linda (Kevin) Joncas, and Cheryl (Laurence) Turner along with many nieces, nephews and extended family.

**Dorothy J. (Nicholson) Hagemann**  
**July 11, 1941 - July 8, 2020 (age 78)**

Dorothy was born on July 11, 1941 in Wetaskiwin, Alberta to her parents, Inga and Arthur Nicholson. She met her husband of 56 years, Wayne, in 1962 in Ponoka, Alberta. Dorothy and Wayne lived west of Ponoka where they nurtured their children and the family farm. She will be lovingly remembered by her husband Wayne; her daughter Lori of Okotoks; her son Rob (Shelagh) of Ponoka; her brother Lorne (Carol) Nicholson of Alix, AB; sister-in-law Audrey Williamson, sister-in-law Irene (Bill) Thomas; nieces and nephews; her grandchildren, Jayden and Rylan of Ponoka, as well as many other relatives and friends.

Dorothy was devoted to her family and the farm, doing whatever was needed whenever required. She graduated from the University of Alberta Education program and taught Grade 4 at Ponoka Elementary prior to starting her family. Her many talents included cooking and baking, gardening, sewing, skiing, and playing piano. Dorothy and her family enjoyed her bountiful vegetable gardens and she loved her flowers. Many hours were spent at the local arena either watching Lori figure skate or Rob playing minor hockey, and she continued to do so years later for her grandchildren. Both Wayne and Dorothy were delighted to display Wayne's antique McCormick Deering tractor and host and cook for their threshing parties during harvest. During the last three years, Dorothy valiantly battled Alzheimers and was placed in the care of the Northcott Care Centre in Ponoka.

**Robert Blaine (Bob) Johnston of Rimbey**  
**February 3, 1949 - July 10, 2020**

On July 10, 2020 Robert Blaine Johnston (Bob, BJ) of Rimbey, Alberta passed away at the age of 71 years of pancreatic cancer. He leaves his wife Sharon (nee James), his children Heidi (Kevin Tennant) and Ben (Krystal Hebert). His four grandchildren – Ella & Andrew Tennant, Max & Marley Johnston – will miss him every day. He is

survived by his sister, Elaine (and Nestor Saskiw), his brother-in-laws: Robert, Dale (Betty) and Douglas James.

Bob started his teaching career in Smith, Alberta in 1972, later moving to Rimbey in 1979. He retired in 2004. Bob's career in education as a teacher and a principal was a perfect fit for his personality of caring. He enjoyed humor, was optimistic and only saw the best in people. He treated people with grace. He had a love of reading, was a gifted story teller, and had an appreciation of war veterans through his passion for school Remembrance Day assemblies.

Bob was fortunate to have strong, warm connections with all members of his extended family. A chance to come together was always a priority which allowed him the opportunity to share stories of life experiences.

He established many firm, committed and loving friendships throughout his life that he valued immensely. He had the gift of touching one's heart forever.

**Ramon Munoz Llorente**  
**March 2, 1931 - January 17, 2017**

Ramon passed away in Wetaskiwin on January 17, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Roma Llorente, children; Monje (Pandora), Diana, Theresa, Heather and George (Shari): 9 grandchildren and 4 siblings.

Ramon immigrated to Canada from the Philippines in 1967. He impacted the lives of many in our community through his time as a school teacher, his church involvement and participation with the Alberta Filipino Folk-Dance troupe.

Ramon was passionate about students, his family and the community. He taught in schools in Ponoka and Hobbema, as well as Wetaskiwin.

**Heather MacMillan**  
**November 19, 1956 - December 14, 2019 (age 63)**

*Heather was born in Glace Bay, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia on November 19, 1956. She was the second daughter of Ronald and Jessie MacMillan. Heather graduated from high school in Glace Bay, then obtained her Bachelor of Education degree from Acadia University. Heather moved to Alberta in the mid -1980s and taught for many years with the County of Lacombe School Division, first as an itinerant teacher between Bentley and Eckville. Later she transferred to become a regular upper elementary classroom teacher, first in Lacombe and then in Ponoka. She loved her work as a teacher very much; it was her calling. After her retirement she continued to sub as a teacher in various Wolf Creek schools.*

**Betty Christine (Hoar) Matejka**  
**June 1, 1928 - October 30, 2020 (age 92)**

*"Your life was a blessing. Your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond words and will be missed beyond measure."*

*Betty (Hoar) Matejka passed away peacefully on October 30, 2020 at the age of 92 years. She lived her entire life in the Ponoka area. Betty was raised in the Fertile Forest farming community; attending the Fertile Forest School until grade 9 then on to high school at the Ponoka Brick School. She continued her education at the University of Alberta obtaining her teaching degree. Her first teaching position was at Ellice School east and south of Ponoka. She then returned home to teach at the Fertile Forest School for a year. She was one of the original teachers at Mecca Glen from 1949 to 1951. Once her children were all in school, she was a substitute teacher in Ponoka for many years.*

*Betty married Bill Matejka in 1951 and started their life together on Bill's family homestead in Ponoka County. Together they raised five children - Dawn, Anne, Lori,*

*John and Mark. Betty and Bill farmed together with their sons until 2016 when they chose to retire and move to the Seasons Retirement Community in Ponoka.*

*She was well known for her volunteer efforts with many groups in the community. Some of the groups were: The Rest Room Association, United Church Ladies group, Explorers and CGIT, Grand Meadow Ladies, Seafield Ladies, Ponoka Agricultural Society, West Ponoka 4-H Beef Club, and she was a member of numerous committees.*

*Betty will be lovingly remembered by her husband Bill of 69 years and family. She is survived by her children, Dawn, Anne (David), Lori, John, and Mark (Kathy); her ten grandchildren, Hannah, Charis, Sarah, Zayen, Shanti (Kenji), Casandra (Brodie) Anderson, Ashley (Justin) Van Gyssel, Brittney, and Carling & Tyson. Betty was also blessed with nine great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her mother Christine (Morrison) Skode, father Walter Hoar, brother Morris Hoar and sister Audrey (Hoar) Grier.*

**Alicia “Lee” Varty  
1959 - June 8, 2020**

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Alicia ‘Lee’ Varty on Monday, June 8, 2020.

Lee will be forever remembered by her husband and forever friend, Gerry; and their children, Kami (Kevin), and Ken (Christy). She will be dearly missed by her grandchildren: Brenna, Paisley, Kelton, and Lacey who knew her as ‘Nannie’, and adored spending time with her. Lee is also lovingly remembered by her stepfather, Edward; her sister, Chris (Gary); and her brother, Bruce. She will be fondly remembered by her extended family, nieces and nephews, friends, colleagues, and the students she loved so much. Lee was predeceased by her mother, Joyce and her father, Ken.

Due to current gathering restrictions, a small, private Remembrance Service in Lee’s Honor will be held.

**Alex J. Waldron**  
**December 2, 1943 - July 25, 2020**

Alex J. Waldron of Rimbey, Alberta passed away at the Rimbey Hospital and Care Centre on Saturday, July 25, 2020 at the age of 76 years.

Alex was born on December 2, 1943 in Farnham, England, and was a long-time resident of both Breton and Rimbey. He graduated from the University of Alberta with a degree in education, and taught at the Breton High School for 32 years. In his spare time, Alex enjoyed volunteering in the community, as well as to extensively travel throughout North America and various other geographical locations. He had a very kind heart and quick wit that was unmatched, and will be forever missed by all who knew and loved him.

Alex is survived by his loving wife, Penny; his two sons, Mark (Karen), and Michael (Daniele); as well as four grandchildren and four step grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother, Stuart (Heather); his sister, Barbara Malin; in addition to numerous nieces and nephews, other relatives, and many cherished friends. Alex was predeceased by his parents, John and Daisy, and his sister, Dale.

**Joanne Montegary**  
**Deceased August 17, 2020**

We are sad to announce that on August 17, 2020 we had to say goodbye to Joann Montegary (Lacombe, Alberta), born in Lethbridge, Alberta and raised in Red Deer with 8 siblings. On a break from the University of Alberta, Joann traveled to Vancouver, BC, and Honolulu where she met her husband. After marrying they went to New York City, and Phoenix, Arizona. In 1972 she resumed her studies at the University of Alberta completing a Bachelor of Education in 1975. She taught elementary school for the County of Lacombe until her retirement in 1994. In retirement she enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, dancing, music, singing, playing instruments, learning foreign languages, hanging out at the lake, long road trips, bowling, knitting sweaters or other artistic endeavors. She was an

active volunteer with the Catholic Church, Central Alberta Teacher's Convention and sponsoring the schooling of underprivileged children.

She is survived by her children Kathie (Luca) Vanzella, Jackie, Pat (Laurie), Maureen, Lynne, Reilly (Erin) Montegary, her siblings Jean (Denny) Brennen, Bill (Shirley-Anne) Pollock, Don (Beth) Pollock, Maryann Matheson and her grandchildren Jacob, Levi, Max (Frankie) and Ally. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

**Linda Marie (Muhs) Steinmann**  
**March 31, 1940 - September 12, 2020 (age 80)**

With sadness, we are saying goodbye to wife, mom, grandma, great-grandma Linda Steinmann who passed away suddenly on September 12, 2020 at the age of 80. Linda lived in the Ponoka area for most of her life.

Linda was educated as a school teacher, taught for a few years, and spent many more years with the Alberta School Trustees Association while she raised her family. She has played a prominent role in the community through the businesses she owned with her husband; Berni's Refrigeration and Super Food. Linda was politically active through the town council and on a volunteer level worked with the United Church, the Chamber of Commerce, the Loyal Order of the Moose and the Rotary Club of Ponoka. She also served on many boards over the years including the board for the Health Quality Council, the ASCH Appeal Board, the Credit Union Board, and the Ponoka Hospital Foundation Board.

She was a great role model for her family. She was independent, creative, positive, and sometimes a little controversial. She believed in always doing what is right and just. She took great pride in her children and grandchildren and always made sure they knew their roots and encouraged the family to gather often. She went to great lengths to support the whole family when they needed it.

She was a breast cancer survivor, and when her knees wore out from all those years of slinging burgers at Super Food, she insisted on having a bionic knee

installed. With her new knee she could continue her rituals of paying bills, getting mail, going for coffee, and of course visiting the casinos. In her final few years she enjoyed relaxing at the cabin at Gull Lake and loved going to the casinos. Anyone who knew her has heard stories of her big wins. She was very generous woman with a smile for whomever she met.

Linda will be greatly missed by her husband of almost 60 years, Berni Steinmann; her children Melodie (Craig Woods), Darin (Karen) Steinmann, and Serena(Rob) Steinmann-Russell; and her grandchildren, Orey (Mudita) Goudreault, Shannon (Lee) Kocyba, Mitchell (Alyssa) Woods, Derek Steinmann, Chelsea (Randy Leblanc), Heather Steinmann, James, Simon, and River Russell plus her 9 great-grandchildren. She will also be lovingly remembered by her older sister Lydia Richard of Alymer of Quebec and several cousins and many close friends. Linda was predeceased by her sister Christel Muhs and her son Rodney Steinmann.

**Merle Lee Jones**  
**August 10, 1939 - July 13, 2020 (age 80)**

Merle was born in Ponoka. He leaves to mourn his loss his wife Judy, ( a retired teacher); sons David Jones (Vicki) and Paul Jones (Bonnie); step-sons Mark Miller (Pam) and Greg Miller (Jolene); grandchildren Samantha Jones, John Jones, Jack Jones, Jamecia Miller, Nate Miller, and Neriah Miller; his brother Dennis Jones (Carol); sisters MaryEllen Wilson (Carl) and Lorna Law; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law Elaine and Dick Groom, Frank and Pat Cissell, and Connie and Bryan Pretula; the mother of his children, Diane Jones; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.



**Donald Ross Gammie**  
**June 25, 1954 – February 29, 2020**

Don was born in Calgary on June 25, 1954; the third child of Ken and Helen Gammie. Don and his wife Joan (a retired teacher) raised two beautiful daughters, Cailey and Lindsay, and expanded the family to include a son-in-law, Brett, and two special grandchildren, Jack and Isla. Don's working career began with driving a mail truck in Calgary. He then attended SAIT where he studied Petroleum Technology. Upon graduating in 1982, Don took a job with BP and he and Joan moved to Chauvin, Alberta. There were many moves working in the oil patch, but they eventually settled in Rimbey, their home for 24 years. Most recently, he worked as an oilfield consultant. Don enjoyed golf ("fore!"), camping, skiing, and the many summers he spent with his family at Swan Lake in Montana. He loved to visit with folks, remembered everyone, and would drop everything to help a friend or stranger.

Don is survived by his loving wife, Joan; his daughters, Cailey (Brett) Kruger, and Lindsay Gammie; and two precious grandchildren, Jack and Isla Kruger. He will also be dearly missed by his sisters, Margie (Bob) Niven, and Barb Gammie; his brother, Dave Gammie (Tracy McEachern); mother-in-law, Billie Delsing; sister-in-law, Jannette (Gerry) Haig; brother-in-law, Jim (Erin) Delsing, and their families.

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