

## WCRTA Memorials 2021 - 2022

### **Anne Rita (Konarski) Neff**

**July 26, 1929 - February 14, 2022 (Age 92)**

Anne was born on her parent's farm at Hubbard, Saskatchewan on July 26, 1929, the seventh of 10 children, the daughter of Stanley and Mary Konarski. As a child she shared her home with five sisters and four brothers. She was educated at the Hubbard Public School. After graduation from Hubbard High School in 1948 she attended Teachers' College at Moose Jaw, Sask. She later attended summer school courses at the University of Edmonton.

Ralph and Anne were married in Calgary and moved to Rockyford in August of 1954. In September, Anne continued her rewarding career which spanned thirty consecutive years until her retirement in June of 1984. She was also principal of the Rockyford School from 1970-76. After many beautiful memories in Rockyford, Anne moved to Ponoka in May of 1999, following Ralph's passing in 1997.

### **Nellie Anna Finnell**

**February 16, 1937 - May 8, 2022 (Age 85)**

Nellie Anna Finnell of Camrose, AB, formerly of Ponoka, AB, passed away on Sunday, May 8, 2022, at the age of 85 years. Nellie attended the Washington State College and received a Bachelor of Science and Home Economics. She married a US marine and every two years, they moved and she taught in different places every two years such as in Korea and many other places across the USA. She was offered a Home Economics temporary position in Canada at Ponoka Composite. She often told the story of getting her mother to find out where Ponoka was in Canada as she did not know. Nellie taught in several schools in Ponoka, Ponoka Composite, the Ponoka Elementary School (Brick School) as well as Riverside School. Nellie disliked developing "Professional Grown Plans" so she made jokes about developing them. Nellie was very active in the ATA, IODE, Hospital Auxiliary, and worked many hours at the Gift Shop. She knitted prayer shawls, did quilting and most of all enjoyed cross stitch. She even helped some former students make wedding dresses. She loved to drive and enjoyed Gospel Music. Nellie had an infectious laugh, a sense of adventure and a love of life.

### **John Richard James Bauer**

**Feb 6, 1951 - Feb 26, 2021 (Age 70)**

John was born in Drumheller, Alberta, to John and May (Pliva) Bauer on February 6, 1951, the oldest of four children.

He was a dedicated teacher and administrator. He was an avid athlete, referee, and sports fan, completing many marathons, including the Boston marathon twice. He had a passion for travel. In his retirement he and his wife spent many winters in Arizona and enjoyed going on cruises. John was very proud of his children and always treasured time with his grandchildren.

He will be dearly remembered and greatly missed by his wife Debbie and their children, his siblings, and extended family, colleagues, and friends.

**Lenora Lorette Carter (Sauve)**  
**Passed away on March 8, 2022 (Age 95).**

Lenora was a devoted daughter, wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She shared her love of children, animals, and teaching with all who knew her. She taught school in Lacombe, beginning in 1949.

She leaves to mourn her three children and their families.

***Arthur Anton Szykowski***  
**July 15, 1953 - July 2, 2022 (Age 68)**

Art was born in Edmonton to Eugenia and Leon Szykowski. He grew up very involved in sports, especially basketball and soccer. Art graduated from the University of Alberta with an Education degree.

He enjoyed a positive and productive career as part of the St. Augustine School community from 1976 to 2010. He touched the hearts and minds of many children throughout his career with his humor, wisdom, and caring nature. Many former students have let him know that he had had a positive influence on their lives.

Many hours were willingly devoted to coaching school sports, soccer, and hockey. A positive rapport was always evident as he worked and played with the kids.

Art loved life on the acreage and enjoyed the outdoors. His passions included biking, camping, kayaking, cross country skiing, visiting, and apparently, cutting grass and blowing snow. He genuinely enjoyed and cared about people. There was always time to stop for a lengthy visit with people he knew as well as many he had just met by chance. Art touched many people throughout his life and will be missed.

**KALITA, Stanley**  
**1933 -September 2021 (Age 88)**

With much sadness, the family of Stanley Kalita announce his passing on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at the age of 83 years.

Mourning his loss are his wife, Leona; one son Patrick; and one daughter Michelle (Darren) Onushko. Nicholas, Lauren, and Michael Kalita will miss their always loving and amazing "Gramps." Ray (Marie) Kalita and Marie (Don) Gauthier lost their eldest brother.

Honoring his wishes, a Private Funeral Service will be held at Autumn Rose Funeral Home. Stan taught many years at Ponoka Composite High School

## **Maureen (Mo) Thomas**

**1933 - September 2021 (Age 88)**

Mo was born in Lethbridge, Alberta in 1933 and passed away at the Ponoka Hospital and Care Centre in September of 2021. She just went to sleep. She trained as a psychiatric nurse at the Essendale Psychiatric Hospital in British Columbia. Mo joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1951 as a nursing assistant, trained at St. Jean, Quebec and served at Gimli, Manitoba with the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. Maureen was a very bright lady, always interested in politics and watched CBC daily. She quoted poetry that she learned from her sister. Eldred and Maureen were friends for 71 years. Both raised their families and shared friendship together. Mo moved to Ponoka 13 years ago. Eldred and Mo shared many good years together. She leaves behind to mourn, her partner Eldred Stamp, four daughters and grandchildren.

## **Laurence Roy Anderson**

**May 27, 1932 - October 16, 2021 (Age 89)**

Laurence Anderson of Rimbey passed away on Saturday October 16, 2021 at the age of 89 years. He was born in Bashaw. After his mother died he was adopted by Daisy Anderson, a teacher and Andrew Anderson. After the death of his step father, he took over the farm NE of Rimbey. When he was 19 years old he met Rose Hagemann, the teacher at Crystal Springs. After a seven-year courtship they were married on August 6, 1958. They had two daughters Debbie and Brenda. He was a kind and loving family man with his wife, Rose, daughters, son in laws, granddaughter and grandson.

## **Thomas George Webber**

**June 13, 1955 - February 21, 2022 (Age 66)**

After finishing high school, Tom went on to the University of Alberta graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Recreation and Administration in 1977. He wore his U of A ring throughout his life.

Tom later achieved the University of Alberta certificate in Local Government in 1982 and Local Government Administrators designation in 1983.

Born and raised in Ponoka, Tom worked many jobs growing up. From mowing lawns to shoveling snow to working at the outdoor swimming pool as a swimming instructor, lifeguard and then pool manager. When the indoor Aquaplex pool was built, Tom was hired as the first pool manager. From University, Tom accepted a job in Okotoks, Alberta as the Recreation Director. Two years later Tom and Sandy were both offered positions in Swan Hills, Alberta. Tom became the Director of Parks and Recreation, and Sandy took a teaching job. Tom was quickly promoted to Administrator for the Town of Swan Hills and held that position for 6 years. In 1986, Tom accepted the position of Controller with the County of Ponoka. He again was promoted to Assistant CAO. Tom worked for the Ponoka County for 35 years retiring in June 2021.

## **Richard “Dick” Myrle McElroy**

**February 19, 1934 – March 9, 2022 (Age 88)**

Richard “Dick” McElroy passed away peacefully at the Lacombe Hospital on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was the youngest child of Owen & Buelah McElroy and grew up on the farm west of Rimbey. He is lovingly remembered by his wife, Pat (nee Collis); his daughter, granddaughter, great-grandchildren, and other family members. Dick moved to Lacombe in 1957 and completed his apprenticeship to become an automotive mechanic. His skill as a mechanic earned him a reputation as a complete “trouble shooter”. In 1982 he joined the Town of Lacombe staff as shop foreman until his retirement. As a father, he was actively involved with the Lacombe Scouts & Venturers and the Red Deer Ski Racing Club. Dick was a member of the Lacombe Lions Club for over fifty years and dedicated many hours to the ball tournament and the Lions bus as well as other projects.