



## Preston Ronald Smith

April 21, 1941 - December 2, 2021

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Preston Ronald Smith, age 80, on 2 December 2021 in the Halifax Infirmary. Born in St Thomas, Ontario on April 21st 1941, he attended high school in Campbellton NB before obtaining a bachelor of engineering degree (electrical) from the Royal Military College. He then served with the Canadian Air Force in Canada and abroad, retiring as a colonel after 37 years of service. Retirement was the ideal opportunity for Preston to be fully involved in all the things he was passionate about, including his MG cars through BATANS and the Royal Military Colleges Club of Canada. Preston is survived by Betti Ann, his wife of 54 years. He is predeceased by their only son S/LT Kristin Smith, parents Joyce and Guy Smith, and his brother Clayton. Preston's personal integrity, zest for life, and contagious smile were his trademarks. He will be sorely missed by his family and friends. Special thanks go to the staff of 7.2 IMCU for his care in his final days. In accordance with his wishes, cremation has taken place at Harbourside Regional Crematorium. There will be no visitation or funeral. Donations can be made in Preston's honour to the Alzheimer's Society or other charity.

# Tribute Wall

JF

“ Another Christmas has come and gone, and I suddenly realized I haven’t heard from Smitty in forever. I always looked forward to getting his winter e-card. In the hectic maelstrom of Covid holidays, I hadn’t noticed that his annual card was missing. A quick search brought me to Smitty’s obit and the smiling picture that captures his personality so perfectly. I met Smitty and Betti Ann in Colorado Springs when Smitty was stationed at the Air Force Academy. He and my father in law, Don, worked together at the AFA and maintained their close friendship after Don retired. Through the late 80s and early 90s, Smitty, Betti Ann, and Kris were part of our Christmas gatherings and other events throughout the year. I have core memories that include the always-smiling Smith trio: coffee and dessert after Christmas dinner; a pint and a bowl of stew on St. Patrick’s Day; fireworks in the park on the 4th of July; a highly competitive game of Jenga at the dining room table. When Kris died, we were all devastated, and it still hurts my heart to think of that dark time. In my living room today, I have a child-sized wooden rocking chair that belonged to Kris—a gift from Smitty and Betti Ann, used by my lads when they were small, perhaps to be used by their children someday. It’s a cherished heirloom that has a permanent place in my home and heart—as do Smitty and Betti Ann. My great condolences to Betti Ann and all who knew and loved Smitty. Such a good guy.

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**Jim Falloon** - January 11, 2023 at 06:02 PM

SO

“ Our sincere condolences to you, Betti Ann. Derry has many fond memories of RMC antics with Smitty and we share fond memories of our shared time in Ottawa with you, 1969-71. You bought your house in Gatineau. Remember the summer evening, we went to see your new house being built and left spare ribs on the spit in the barbecue on our apartment balcony. We were so young! When we got back, they were burnt to a crisp. We made do with hotdogs. Always lots of laughter with Smitty around. I hope a lifetime of memories will help you in your grief.  
Susan and Derry Oke

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**susan Oke** - December 22, 2021 at 08:19 AM

LL

“ My sincere condolences to Betti Ann and family, I remember Preston from high school, and I was very happy that he and his wife came to visit during one of our high school reunions. Lucille Leblanc.

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**Lucille Leblanc** - December 22, 2021 at 06:52 AM

BH

“ This was very sad news and I have wonderful memories of so many great trips with he and Betti Ann in our old British cars. My heartfelt condolences go out to Betti Ann and family. He will be missed.

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**Bob Hamilton** - December 21, 2021 at 11:04 AM

FB

“ *My sincere condolences to Betti Ann. I have fond memories of Smitty as fellow Cadet, electrical engineering classmate and TechTel officer. We had good times at Centralia in the fall of 1964 prior to our first posting. He was one of my regular bridge partners and we always made a few bucks at the card table. His good humour was infectious and he was always good for a laugh or two. I'm sure he brightened the lives of all those who were privileged to have known him. May he Rest In Peace.*

*Fred Bobiasz,*

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**Frederick Bobiasz** - December 13, 2021 at 07:16 PM