



## Robert James McFarland

May 18, 1957 - November 15, 2024

With much shock and sadness we announce the passing of Rob. Husband, brother (in-law), uncle and buddy to many. Not a husband to many, there was just Andrea!

Robert was born into an Air Force family in Cold Lake, Alberta, moving around both inside and outside the country. It inspired him to get his pilot's license when he was a young man. He was a life-long traveller and he and Andrea went on many adventures together, with Cuba being most dear to his heart. Robert had a career driving trucks; courier, freight and home heating oil. He knew every corner of Halifax. He spent a large part of his career driving for Sameday, where Andrea worked dispatch. There he made many fast friends. Many times he acted as our personal mover and delivery man.

And then there is the Wednesday night boys! What started as a cheap steak and beer at a local pub became a weekly games night at Robert's. Thousands of games of pool, washer toss, shuffleboard (homemade by the gang), ping-pong were played and thousands upon thousands of records spun. Belly laughs too numerous to mention. This was a very special gang of ex-Greenwood 'boys'. Some came and went over the years, but at its' core were Robert, Steve, Donald, Danny, Michael, Greg and Judy.

Lake Pleasant, aka 'the Lake', was a place where the McFarland clan and entourage, gathered most summer weekends. There was always something on the go. Structures to repair, build, tear down, rebuild. Rob was a hard guy to get to sit down and do nothing....unless it was sitting in his kayak. He and

Andrea spent many, many hours exploring the Lake and many other lakes around the province. The after supper campfire was legendary. Robert liked to stoke it higher and later than necessary and then sneak off to bed, despite the rule that whomever added the last piece of wood stayed up with the fire. He also liked to serenade us with many tunes, with a favourite being Gordon Lightfoot...any song. Name it and he knew the words.

Robert was a devoted Montreal Canadiens and Saskatchewan Roughriders fan. He played hockey all his life until he couldn't. He played softball for many years with Sameday.

Robert is survived by his wife of 35 years and partner in bad puns, Andrea MacDonald. His sisters Laurie St. Amour and Karen (Donald) Dodge, brother Michael and his other brother Steve Gaudet. He was a loving, fun and active uncle to Erin (Alan Slipp) Gaudet, Coco Gaudet, Angeline (Amy Pyne) St. Amour, Jane (Eric) Hamilton and Sam (Arissa) Dodge. He was a great (so he told us) uncle to Thea Hamilton. Also, the Strackerjan clan, you know who you are.

He is also survived by his MacDonald clan. Andrea's brothers Craig (Patti) and Jimmy (Sherry), sisters Kim, Eleanor (Wilfred), Lois, Diane and Marilyn. Numerous and well-loved nieces, nephews...great and otherwise, plus a host of Chezzetcook family.

Robert was predeceased by his mother Janice (Hadden) McFarland, who he loved to hug a bit too hard for her liking and very recently by his father Earl to whom he bore an uncanny resemblance.

A celebration of life will be held for Robert at the Buffalo Club, 625 Cow Bay Road, on Saturday, November 23rd at 1 pm.

in lieu of flowers "Cuba was very dear to Roberts heart and they need our help. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Canada Helps" <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/vision-infantile-de-cubavision-infantil-de-cuba/> Rob also donated to Doctors Without Borders. Thanks,

# Tribute Wall

CP

“ My sincere condolences to the whole family. Although my memories of Robert are many years ago, they are filled with smiles, fun and the warmth that goes to the soul. RIP Robert, may the happiness you gave in life live in our hearts forever.

*Carol Petrie*

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**Carol Petrie** - November 29, 2024 at 03:20 PM

KC

“ Our sincere condolences, Andrea. We have made a donation to Canada Helps VISION INFANTILE DE CUBA/VISION INFANTIL DE CUBA in Rob's name. - Rob and Karen Charlton

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**Karen Charlton** - November 23, 2024 at 08:18 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert James McFarland.



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November 21, 2024 at 07:38 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert James McFarland.

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November 21, 2024 at 07:38 PM

MD

“ *Wendy, Alex and I send our deepest condolences. His loss leaves a hole in all of our lives. Malcolm Dunlop, Wendy Finn, Alex Dunlop*

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**Malcolm Dunlop** - November 21, 2024 at 12:16 PM

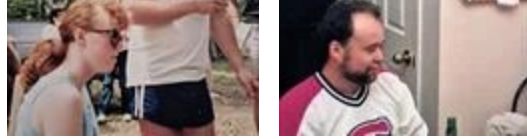
MD

“ My heart goes out to you, Andrea, and Laurie, Karen, Mike, the Strackerjans, kids, friends.

*I met Rob when the McFarlands were posted to Greenwood from Shearwater, 1972 or '73. He was standing on the sidelines while about a dozen or so of us were playing tackle football in the field by the Rec Centre the (no pads, no refs, a rag or something to mark where you had to get to for a first down) and I walked over and asked him if he wanted to play. We're all air force brats, know the feeling too well of being the new kid. Of course he did. I counted heads, and the other team needed an extra guy, make it seven vs. seven, so I said go join those guys. Tackled him two plays later. Two or three plays later, he tackled me. Like, hard. I got up and he kind of tensed in case I was going to take umbrage, (and put up the dukes), and I just laughed and said "Nice tackle, what's your name?" Been tight ever since.*

*West Kings High, drinking underage by Zeke's Creek, Valley Barons Jr. C hockey team (he was our trainer, ran the back gate), him coming to B.C. to hook up with me for work, mad ride with a friend of a friend in a station wagon with bald tires in snowy conditions through the Rockies, dropped off at Greyhound station in Calgary to make it to Edmonton (we both had rucksacks, I was also carrying a garbage bag with our unwashed laundry, and he yells across the terminal "Hey you, with the Newfoundland suitcase, hurry up, bus is leaving!" Everybody stared, I still remember the blushing), jobs in Edmonton we would quit, he couldn't wait to get back Down Home. I ended up Down Home again, and through the years, so many good times. The lake. Him in the powerboat with the honkin' big outboard towing us waterskiing. Sitting around the fire. Kids growing up under our feet. Wednesday night events. One could never meet a better man, nor have a better friend. Farewell buddy, smooth sailing. Malcolm*





**Malcolm Dunlop** - November 20, 2024 at 10:54 PM



*Thank you Malcolm.*

**Mike McFarland** - November 25, 2024 at 06:10 PM

CM

*“ I met Rob in my younger days when we partied at the same watering hole. Years later I went to school for an upgrade in computers and Andrea was in my class. It didn't take us long to become friends, and we had some memorable adventures. In all the years I knew Rob, not once did I ever see him without his big smile. My heart goes out to Andrea and his family during this difficult time.*

**Cheryl Mitchell** - November 20, 2024 at 10:19 PM

KS

*“ To Andrea , Jessica and I are so sorry and shocked to hear of the passing of Rob.I will miss his joyful laughter.If there is anything we can do to help you please reach out to us! Your neighbours Kern and Jessica*

**Kern Scott** - November 20, 2024 at 01:59 PM

“ To Andrea, Laurie, Karen, Mike, extended family and 'the gang' I don't know where to begin?

*First my sincerest and deepest condolences to everyone, we are all heartbroken.*

*To me Rob was bullet proof and always felt he would be around forever, however someone had other plans for him.*

*Rob was such a terrific guy and the 'Apple didn't fall far from the tree', his parents Jan and Earl were exceptional people and Rob followed them to a tee.*

*Time passes us all by, sometimes so quick it seems like yesterday. Even though Rob and I didn't spend much time together over the years I always considered him a GREAT friend, a BEST friend. When we would catch up it was like we were never apart, we just continued on like we left off from the last time we met. That was Rob in a nutshell.*

*So many memories, I will forever remember the parties (so many) at 5th Crescent, Bends, Lake Pleasant, North and South Mountain, in that great old Volkswagen.... we had a ball! Rob was the singer in the group and dragged us along to destroy the harmony.*

*I trusted Rob so much that when he got his pilot license I went flying with him right away and had no fear that he would get us home in one piece. Rob would be serious when he needed to be but his "go to" personality was an easy going fun loving guy!*

*Rob had patience, as I look back at the time when Rob tried to teach me how to water ski lol, what a long, ugly and painful exercise that was (no slalom in the cards for me). When we were at West Kings he would get us to go to the school basketball and hockey games which I would never do if he didn't drag me along (always having a great time when we got there). I will miss but never forget the tag football, Grey Cups, limericks, the harmonies of his songs, the jokes and that unmistakable chuckling laugh...you often heard him before ya saw him.*

*To Laurie, Karen and Mike you were Rob's foundation and Andrea you were the rock that kept him grounded in life. He loved you all!*

*Rob I miss you and love ya buddy!*

*See you again someday...*

*Bob*

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**Bob McDonald** - November 20, 2024 at 01:29 PM



*Thank you Bob.*

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**Mike McFarland** - November 25, 2024 at 06:09 PM

PM

“ *We were very sorry to hear of Rob’s sudden passing. our deepest condolences especially to Andrea, Mike Laurie and Karen for this very sad loss. Our thoughts are with the entire family and friends and hope they find strength in each other at this difficult time. As Doug said in his note ,because we had relocated to Ottawa years ago we only had the opportunity to visit our Maritime family of friends occasionally. Those visits were always a high lite of our trips. Rob and Andrea’s door always had a welcome sign on it and it was nice on occasion to find myself there, especially on a Wednesday. I recall in our earlier days that the boys grouped together for some GreyCup celebrations in Montreal and here in Ottawa. Rob loved his GreenRiders and celebrating of course but it was being with friends and family (I recall Earl being towed along at the Montreal event)that Rob enjoyed the most. Fun times and nice memories....*

*Sorry to Rob’s Wednesday night friends that for so many years have come together to enjoy and support each other and become a second family .*

*Hugs and strength to you all. Goodbye Rob...*

*Paul and Shelley McDonald and brother Bob as well. Take care*

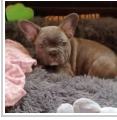
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**Paul McDonald** - November 19, 2024 at 11:06 PM

AM

*Thanks for these kind words. Rob always loved when an old friend dropped by.*

**Andrea MacDonald** - November 20, 2024 at 08:37 AM



*Andrea I am so sorry for your Loss as you know I met Rob at work years ago he will be missed*

**Marlene Kummer** - November 21, 2024 at 02:15 PM

JG

*Andrea,Laurie,Karen,Mike my heart breaks for all of you, Rob was a special guy. I think I am still in disbelief can not wrap this around my head. So many memories from back in the day to now.Know that you are though of and loved my condolences to you all  
Judy Glover*

**Judy Glover** - November 22, 2024 at 11:55 AM



*Thank you, one and all.*

**Mike McFarland** - November 25, 2024 at 06:11 PM

LM

*“ I was so incredibly shocked and saddened to hear this news about Rob. So many of my wonderful memories of my high school years in Greenwood included Rob. I can't imagine the loss his family and friends are trying to navigate at this time. So many of you remained so close. I'm just so glad we had a chance to chat this past summer at the West Kings reunion. Brian and I send our most sincere condolences to all Rob's family and friends!*

*Laura (Marchand) Morse*

**Laura Morse** - November 19, 2024 at 10:54 AM



*Thank you Laura.*

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**Mike McFarland** - November 25, 2024 at 06:12 PM

DE

“ *It was always a pleasure to see Rob when walking the doggies, if he wasn't out his wife would always let him know we were visiting. 😊  
❤️, he was a nice and caring individual and I'm glad to have met him.*

*The fluffs and family will always remember you 🙏*

*Sincerely,*

*Devon Gresiuik*



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**Devon** - November 19, 2024 at 12:12 AM



*Thank you.*

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**Mike McFarland** - November 25, 2024 at 06:12 PM

DK

“ I met Robert (that's his family name), I called him Rob, Back in grade 10 at West Kings.

Rob was a short stocky little guy & had a little weight room in his dads garage. I remember I was at his place in Greenwood one Summer & we were about 16. Here we were, 2 shorts guys in the garage lifting weights to build up our muscles. We both knew that we couldn't control how tall we were going to get, but we can determine how thick we got....this one Saturday we were having a weight lifting competition, to see how much weight we could lift over our head using one arm.

I never really tried doing this before, but was up for the challenge. I quickly realized that I might have bitten off more than I could chew

1. The extra 2 inches in height was not an advantage when lifting weights over your head.

2. The balancing act involved when lifting over your head with only one arm.

3. This was not Rob's 1st time doing this

4. I quickly realized that Rob was a strong MF, as I struggled as we got up in weight & he was still clean & jerking the weight with ease.....

I was shocked & saddened by his death. I feel very fortunate to have seen Rob the Mon before, when he was in the hospital. I was leaving the country on Tue & told him to stay strong & I would see him in the spring. I didn't realize I would not.

I was also a member of this Wed nite crew for quite a while off & on over the years. This kind of kinship to be sustained over the yrs, is a one of a kind opportunity & I am very grateful that Rob hosted this group of Merry men & has bonded us all, for the rest of our lives, as well as was a meeting place for out of towners...There were many, many special Hash Wednesday nites, lots of winners & losers, whether it be washer toss, pool, shuffleboard or ping pong.....

My condolences to Andrea who has lost her best friend & soul mate. To Laurie, Karen & Mike who have lost their best big brother.

You all have to know that you are surrounded by many people who

*loved Rob for the special, big hearted guy, we all had the pleasure of knowing & will continue to remember this special guy for ever...*

**Dale Knickle** - November 18, 2024 at 09:34 PM



*What wonderful memories of my brother. Thank you for sharing them with us and thank you for your steadfast friendship with the entire McFarland clan. Apologies for the Wednesday night crew omission. I don't know how I missed that! My best to you and Linda.*

**Mike McFarland** - November 19, 2024 at 08:48 PM

DR

*“ Living out West since we graduated made it tough to see Valley friends but occasionally I had the opportunity to meet up with the boys in Halifax. Like most of Rob's friends we were all shocked when we heard of his heart attack and passing. I want to send my condolences to Rob's family who must be still shocked. RIP my friend*

**Doug Ripley** - November 18, 2024 at 07:12 PM

TB

*Once a Greenwood alum, always alum. I knew Rob back in the day, and always thought him genuine and kind. To Laurie and all the family I wish to send sincerest condolences.*

**Terry (Bartkow) Brownrigg** - November 20, 2024 at 01:24 PM



*Thank you.*

**Mike McFarland** - November 25, 2024 at 06:13 PM