

# Gerald "Jerry" Klimchuk

OCTOBER 14, 2020

Our family sadly announces the passing of Gerald "Jerry" Klimchuk on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 77 years young. Jerry was born May 4, 1943, in Yorkton, Sk, only son of parents Metro and Stella Klimchuk and brother to Eleanor.

He spent his first five years on the family farm in the Hamton district and in 1948 the family moved to Yorkton where he grew up. He attended Victoria Elementary School and completed his high school education at YCI (Yorkton Collegiate Institute) in 1961. He often spoke of the friends he made during his school years, and shared stories of his many "adventures" with them. After high school he worked for a highline construction company, attended Mount Royal University in Calgary, and worked for the Department of Highways as a surveyor and draftsman.

It was in 1965 while surveying in the Porcupine Plain area that Jerry met his future wife, Joanne Martyn, and on August 12, 1967 they were married in the United Church in Porcupine Plain. Jerry and Joanne were blessed with three children. Sons, Dean born in 1968, and Kade, born in 1970. Their daughter Kara was born



in 1975.

In 1969 they “homesteaded” on Jerry’s parents’ farm northeast of Hamton. They lived for the first few years in a two room log house without running water or a telephone, and wood burning stoves for heat. Jerry continued to work for the Department of Highways along with helping his father farm. In 1976 he decided to leave surveying and pursue farming full time.

He raised Hereford cattle as well as farmed, maintaining a herd until 1985. He actively farmed until 2016. After renting out the land for several years, he and Joanne sold the house and home quarter, and moved to Regina in 2018 where he resided until his passing in 2020.

Jerry was active in the community, coaching minor hockey in Canora for many years, and serving as a school board trustee for the Canora School Division from 1986 to 1993.

Jerry was involved in some form of sport or activity his entire life. He played and taught tennis, participating in many tournaments including the first Saskatchewan Summer games in 1972. Hockey was a favourite sport, both as a fan and a player. He played senior men’s hockey for the infamous Canora Colts from 1978 to 2008. The practices and games were not just a weekly highlight but the source of some of his closest, lifelong friends. In 2018 the team retired his number, #8, and jersey. When he could no longer play hockey due to health reasons he took up swimming, faithfully driving from the farm to Yorkton several times a week until

his move to Regina.

He was sportive in nature, challenging one to a foot race, game of pool, cards, or chess. With a grin, he would often say before beginning: "I saw this on TV once". That jesting quality also came in the form of spontaneous trivia questions on some obscure bit of knowledge on any topic, or the annual wake-up call at 4 am to wish you a happy "Longest Day of the Year".

Chess had a special meaning to him. It was something his father had taught him, and was a pastime they shared. He took the time to teach his children and each of his grandchildren to play. They loved to challenge him once they learned the game.

Jerry loved his children and their families, and was very proud of their accomplishments. Their love and support was deeply appreciated.

His grandchildren were his shining stars. Their time spent at the farm was never boring, from motorcycle rides and learning to drive (sometimes over the occasional swath), to the traditional fireworks displays at family gatherings . There were many pick up games of football or baseball on the raindrop, and golfing in the "Hamton Invitational" golf tournament on his makeshift course around the farm. There was even the "Klimchuk Olympic Games", complete with medals made from flattened loonies.

Living in a community for over fifty years cultivated a close circle of friends. Many good times were shared at the rink, on road trips, BBQs, and countless family occasions.

There were things in Jerry's life that provided great satisfaction and a sense of freedom, which was important to him. Things like riding his motorcycle, reading a good book, listening to music, and engaging in conversation. He loved nature and enjoyed going for long walks.

Jerry leaves his memories with his wife Joanne, son Dean (Michelle) of Regina and their children Sarah and Matt, son Kade (Michelle) of Calgary and their children Morgan and Jayme, daughter Kara (Chris) Boulanger, of Denver Colorado, and their children Lucy and Will. His Aunt Florence (Ed) Kryski of Regina, nephews Brad (Connie) Anaka, Todd Anaka of Edmonton AB, niece Jana (Rod) Steciuk of Canora, numerous cousins, and a multitude of lifelong friends. Jerry was predeceased by his parents Metro and Stella Klimchuk of Yorkton, Sister and Brother in Law Eleanor (Allan) Anaka of Norquay; Father and Mother in Law John and Anna Martyn of Porcupine Plain, and Sister in Law Deanna Martyn of Porcupine Plain.

Our family would like to thank everyone for their love and support during this difficult time. Your words of comfort, flowers, thoughts, and prayers, (and food) is immensely appreciated.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the incredible caregivers at the Pioneer Village Nursing home in Regina. The staff on Jerry's floor gave him the care that a family can only hope for for their loved one. Their professionalism, dedication and sincerity will forever be remembered.

Those wishing to make expressions of sympathy in Jerry's memory please do so for a charity or an organization of your choice. A private gathering to celebrate Jerry's life will be held on November 3, 2020 at the Pioneer Community Cemetery in the Hamton district near his family farm.

Although our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend is no longer with us he will always be in our hearts.

Fond memories forever, and May the 4th be with you!

## Messages of Condolence

Dear Joanne!

I was saddened to learn of Jerry's passing. I will never forget his huge, bright smile.

My thoughts & prayers are with you and your family.

Juanita

**— Juanita Polegi**

My deepest sympathy to you Joanne and your family on your loss. Stay strong and safe.

Lawrence passed away on February 24, 2020 and we miss him ever so much.

Treasure your memories as Jerry will be in your hearts forever and ever. Love, Judy

**— Judy Matwijeczko**

To my cousin Joanne and family , Harriet and I did never meet your husband but by all accounts it seemed he was a nice guy ! I would have thought he would have to be nice guy if you picked him !!

Be strong and always remember all the good times .

Love cousin Ed and Harriet

**— Ed Dezura**

Dear Joanne & family: We are deeply saddened to hear the loss of your Beloved Husband, Jerry. Please accept our most heartfelt condolences. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this trying and difficult time.

Hold tight to MEMORIES ----to STRENGTHEN you; Lean on your FRIENDS ---- to COMFORT you; Love ---- to bring you PEACE!

Joanne, I would like to share this beautiful poem 'GRIEF' -- Author unknown

GRIEF NEVER ENDS ..... BUT IT CHANGES.

IT'S A PASSAGE, NOT A PLACE TO STAY.

GRIEF IS NOT A SIGN OF WEAKNESS, NOR A LACK OF FAITH .....

"IT IS THE PRICE OF LOVE"

— **Tyrone & Iris Klewchuk**

Sad to hear of his passing. Jerry and I worked together on numerous highway projects. I remember the "Doberman's" very well.

— **Don Anderson**

Dear Joanne and family. My deepest sympathy. Jerry was a dear friend and we had so many good times during our time in Canora. There are many stories and great memories. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends but we have so many fine memories of a truly caring, positive and fun loving person. Lets remember them!

Take care

Wayne

— **Wayne Back**

Our deepest sympathy Joanne to you and your family. There was always some laughter shared during the times that we were together. We will always remember Jerry's big smile. Hope your many memories will bring you some peace and comfort during this difficult time. Sending you all our love .

Gerry and Dorothy

— **Gerry and Dorothy Hughes**

Jerry was a good man. We send our condolences to the entire Klimchuk family. God bless you all and the old Flames will lift a beer for Jerry

— **Garnet and Maureen Park**

my sympathies to joanne and her family on the passing of jerry. I hold fond memories of his time on 5e at the general. His smile was contagious and very welcoming the days I worked and visited with him and his wife. He had a great sense of humour which made my day. He actually came to my thoughts the other day was wondering about him. A virtual hug to u all.

— **louise pfingstl**

Sending my Sincere Condolences to You Joanne & Family. May Jerry Rest In Eternal Peace!!

— **Marlene Weber**

Our deepest condolences Joanne and your families! Thank heavens for memories too many too list! Thank you for being a part of our lives when we were!!

— **Norm and Deb Leson**

Sincere condolences Joanne, to you & your family. Take good care.☐

— **Linda Matsalla**

My heartfelt condolences to all of you during this difficult time. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Roxane (Kosar) Burym

— **Roxane (Kosar) Burym**

I'm sure he'd tell anyone that I was his favorite hairdresser. Who else would put up with him?

He is MY favorite. Always will be.

You are one of the couples that I can't imagine separate.

I'm wishing you strength, Jo.

And wishing him peace. Xo

— **Sharon Shore**

Thinking of you. With hopes that you will find comfort and peace remembering the good times.

Pattee Flett

— **Pattee Flett**

So sorry to hear of Jerrys' passing I know the void in your family now. May you be blessed with strength to face all your tomorrows and may he rest in peace

— **Sophie Fullawka**

Our deepest sympathy to you and you family. May all your warm and happy memories give you comfort.

— **Larry & Laurie Tiechko**

Dear Joanne and family,

It is with heavy hearts that Donna and I extend our deepest sympathy. At this difficult time, take comfort from the many memories and the support of your loving family.

Many memories of Jerry will always be with me too. Your warm welcome of our visits to the farm for the best homemade pizza, refreshments and excellent company will never be forgotten. I will always remember the few years Jerry and I played hockey with the Canora Colts. Jerry was a great friend, teammate and line-mate. I wish we could have spent more time together.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Take care.

R.I.P. Jerry

Ron & Donna Matsalla

— **Ron and Donna Matsalla**

Talk about a close knit hockey family. They were never home, always in the community getting deeply involved. I think Jerry was coaching 3 or 4 teams at a time. Loved hockey, great coach, father, & role model

— **Jason Ludba**



<https://www.myalternatives.ca/obituaries/klimchuk-gerald-jerry>

Printed on June 3, 2026