

Ronald Earl Shanks

APRIL 30, 2019

Our hearts are heavy as we share with you the passing of Ron on April 30, 2019, at age 69, in Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Center. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Nola; children, Angel (m Ed Wesner), Nicholas (m Bethann Hulme) and Holly, 10 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, brother Wayne Shanks (m Janice Lanz), sister Gloria Mattick (m Bryan), and many cousins, primarily surnamed Tomik and Duke.



Angel and Ed have three sons: Jayson (m Babette Steijn and they have Stella and Ivy), Scott (who has Carter), and Justin. Nicholas and Bobbie (Bethann) combined have seven children: Simran, Cheyenne (who has Hudson), Jazmin, Kiran, Brooklyn, Maddison and Cole. Holly has two fur babies, (Luna and Nova), known as 'Dad's grandpuppies.'

Ron's family will continue to love him and miss him deeply. He was a loving and kind man with strong work ethics and a keen concern for the activities and hobbies of everyone in the family, helping and supporting each one as much as he could. Everyone considered Ron not just a father, brother, uncle or grandfather but as a dear friend as well.

Ron was born to John EARL Shanks and Jean (Tomik) Shanks in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The family moved several times in the early years, finally settling at the farm in Aldergrove. Ron's 'Go Fund Me Page' as a kid was

picking millions of strawberries and chucking thousands of bales of hay.

As a young adult Ron worked as a bona fide cowboy, herding cattle on the Prairies. Upon return to BC he became a line supervisor at Royal City Foods in New Westminster around the time Angel was born.

Subsequently he worked for a glazier, supervising on-site installations, as a painter for an upscale interior decorator and then at the lumber mill at the foot of Fraser Street in Vancouver.

Still not afraid to try new things, he moved to Edmonton to partner in a fiberglass boat building business. Later he was shop manager at a chemical production factory. An interest in harness racing brought him to become 50% owner of a race horse. Moving back to BC a few years later, he tried his hand at several other enterprises before settling into plumbing with Slesse Plumbing in 1981, which was owned by his brother Wayne. When Wayne retired in 2005, Ron started his own plumbing business, Slesse Mechanical.

Ron met Nola McDonald in 1971 and they married in December, 1977. After moving from Edmonton to Surrey, Nicholas and Holly were born into the family, now numbering 3 children. 1991 saw the big move to Abbotsford, where all the family still lives.

Ron enjoyed camping with family; golfing; TV: Football, Formula 1 and other sports, News, Judges Judy & Miliano; jigsaw puzzles; travelling, especially to Wayne's lakefront property at Westbank on Okanagan Lake to enjoy water sports, boating and socializing with relatives. He really liked Las Vegas where he would walk up and down the Strip every day. His favourite haunts there were Freemont Street, Luxor and MGM casinos, and above all, the Dueling Pianos at New York New York Hotel. Once

introduced to Hawaii, another passion was born: watching turtles from a lanai as they cavort in the waves, exploring jungles and as always socializing with family. We're so happy that he made it to his most recent family vacation in Maui and had the opportunity to snorkel one more time.

Year 2011 brought the cancer diagnosis with a very short prognosis, causing great pain to the family. There began the ever present medical appointments, labwork, surgery, radiation, chemo, shots and pills. Our heartfelt thanks go to Dr. George Vrabec and his associates for getting Ron into the drug trial, which clearly extended his life for many years more than expected.

We are so extremely thankful to all the family and friends who prayed, helped at the hospital and that were by Ron's side day and night, bringing him much comfort and support. None of us ever felt alone in this journey. We feel so blessed to belong to such a wonderful, caring community as our relatives and friends. Thank you so much, one and all.

We are sincerely grateful for the compassionate support provided by a whole village of skilled medical people who contributed extra ordinary amounts of energy, and resources, especially Dr.Arthur Harder who was with Ron through this journey from the beginning.

Per Ron's wishes, no formal ceremony is planned. He will be cremated and the ashes will later be taken to his favorite spot at Okanagan Lake.

You are invited to leave a personal message of condolence for the family.

Messages of Condolence

I love you all so much. My heart breaks for the pain you are enduring. Thinking of you often. Xo

— **Sam**

I had a very special time with Ron Shanks and many more family members in April in Maui. I went to high school with Holly Rons daughter and it was such a great tie reconnecting with her and meeting the family. The Shanks made me feel like part of the family! My thoughts and prayers are with all Rons family and friends during this time.

Much love and aloha -jenny

— **jenny anderson**

Once again - we are so sorry for your loss. Ron left a beautiful legacy though through most of his family. I know he loved you all dearly!

— **Fred & Adrienne Sturm**

Forever imprinted in our family. Ron leaves quite a legacy behind. He was the best son brother friend husband dad grandpa great grandpa uncle and to us the best brother in law ever. You will be in all our memories forever.

The last few years of Tuesday's with momma were wonderful with all of us getting even closer as we were ALL together. Mom loves you too Ron.

Always remembered with love cause that how you treated everyone. With love. For all of those he leaves behind you are surrounded by so much love. We hope that all your memories of Ron will bring you some comfort when you are facing the hardest of days ahead.

I love you all so much and so did Ron.

Xoxo

— **Terry Christine and Terry John Dichuk**

Ron was a very special husband, father and brother and friend whose loving presence, joy and inspiration will continue to live in all his family members. May your own happy memories be a source of comfort to you now. As we all grieve in our own way and time just know that I am your long time and best friend whose thinking of you. So let me know when and how I can help. With love and blessings
Gale

— **Gale Norman**

My sincere condolences to you Nola, and to all of Ron's family. I got to know Ron a year or so before his retirement, and always enjoyed the twinkle in his eye when his delightful but dry sense of humour was present. His love for his family was always evident. He will continue to be missed. Rest in Peace Ron. Bev Atchison - Aldergrove, BC

— **Bev Atchison**

“Uncle” Ron, I will miss you dearly. You were the classic goofy and fun loving family member I looked forward to seeing anytime our families got together. Your 70s vibes and big laugh I will remember the most. Much love to your family. Xo

— **Margaret MacDonald**

So sorry for the loss of Ron in our family, he will be missed and fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Love to all, Joan & Daniel McDonald & Cecil Braithwaite

— **Joan McDonald**



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<https://www.myalternatives.ca/obituaries/shanks-ronald-earl>

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