George William Steckler

MARCH 12, 2021



STECKLER, George William

George William Steckler, beloved husband of Margery Steckler, passed away on Friday, March 12, 2021 in Olds, Alberta following a long battle with cancer. George the youngest child of Zaccheus and Eva Steckler, was born on May 18, 1937 in Davidson, Saskatchewan and grew up on a farm near Craik, Saskatchewan.

After graduating from Campion College in Regina and Notre Dame at Wilcox, Saskatchewan, he worked at several jobs which included the Bank of Montreal, Calgary Power, as well as working on a survey crew prior to the construction of the Brasseau Power Dam. He then attended S.A.I.T. where he earned his Journeyman ticket as a welder which involved travel throughout Alberta and British Columbia. Some of these jobs included work on the Calgary Tower, several buildings at Olds College, the Abraham Lake dam, and numerous gas plants around the province as well as construction of the mine for Fording Coal at Sparwood, British Columbia.

All the while farming was his dream and he soon found himself back at Craik, Saskatchewan where he helped his father on the farm, eventually purchasing the farm from his father. His summers were spent farming and during the winter months he returned to Calgary to work. While visiting a friend in High River in November 1967, he met Margery Fraser who would become his wife a year later.

After much discussion it was decided to rent the land in Saskatchewan and move to Alberta. This resulted in the purchase of a half section of land 5 miles west of Didsbury, Alberta in October 1972. George became active with the Didsbury Lions Club, the Elks Lodge, the Melvin Community Group as well as helping out with the Annual Didsbury Parade. He enjoyed spending time with friends hunting, rafting the Red Deer River, ice fishing and riding around on his quad. His joy of gardening helped stock the freezer and feed many friends. He was always trying to beat his record for the tallest sunflower with the biggest bloom.

Increasing health issues resulted in him retiring in 2003 and renting the farm. However, his interest in farming never stopped and he enjoyed going out to the field and inspecting the crop with great regularity. Then came a 5th wheel trailer which provided George and Marge an opportunity to take several trips throughout Canada and the United States. Other interesting trips included China, Cuba, Panama Cruise, and New York City.

George is lovingly remembered by wife of 53 years, Margery; his brother, Carl and sister-in-law, Marina Steckler of Moose Jaw; brother-in-law, Gordon Fraser (Edra) of High River; sister-in-law, Connie Fraser; and numerous nieces and nephews and their families and many cousins and friends.

He was predeceased by his father, Zaccheus; mother, Eva; brother, Walter; and sisters, Hilda Makellky, Cathren Steckler, Freda Ward, Marie Woods and Rose Greene.

Having no children of their own, George and Marge laid claim to the children and grandchildren of special friends, Birgit Due and her family - Maryann and Kevin Kurtz, Nick Kurtz, Kirsten and Dylon Boyer and great-grandchildren, Korben and McKinley; Ruth and Doug Pearce and their family; Natasha and Mike Bell, Kailyn and Mitchell and Christopher and Colette Pearce and Joshua and Carter.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the Rosebud Health Foundation to be directed to Didsbury Home Care, PO Box 962, Didsbury, AB, TOM 0W0.

Messages of Condolence

Dear Margery and loved ones.
We are so sorry for your loss.
George was such a kind, caring and interesting man to visit with.
He will be missed!
Love and prayers,
Glenda and Bob

— Glenda and Bob Forest

George was the most wonderful people I ever met in my life. The sparkle in his eyes made anyone feel special and the joy he spread was contagious. I will miss him so much and my heart goes out to you Margery.

— Patricia Wiedmaier

George will be missed by all of our family. He and my niece Margery entertained us many times over the years. Always a fun time!!! Love and Hugs, Aunt Babe

— Helen Anderson

Sincere sympathy Marge on your loss of George.

— Lee Clay

So sorry for your loss Margery.

— Linda Ayrhart

Marge,

Olds College sends our deepest condolences for your loss. George was a good friend of the College and your family’s generosity and thoughtfulness is having a profound impact on the lives of generations of students who are building exciting careers and shaping the ag sector.

I always greatly enjoyed our visits with you and George over the past few years; sitting around the dining room table, sharing stories about farming and hearing about George’s journey from his roots in Saskatchewan to building up your beautiful farm west of Didsbury.

It goes without saying that the Olds College family will dearly miss George and we are truly grateful for the time that we had with him and for the legacy that is impacting Olds College and our students.

— Patrick Machacek

Dear Margery, we are so sorry for your loss. However you were blessed with many wonderful years with George by your side. Keep those memories close to your heart - they are precious.
Our chapter shares your loss, many of us understand.
Take care of yourself.
Fraternally, Bob and Flory

— Bob and Flory Wilkins and the members and officers of Innisfail Chapter #37

So very sorry for your loss Marge.

— Gail Browning

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