

Jan Bertus "Bert" Timmer

JUNE 3, 2017

TIMMER, Jan Bertus "Bert"

Jan Bertus Timmer passed away peacefully at 57 years of age on Saturday, June 3, 2017 at the ICU in the Foothills Hospital, Calgary. Our beloved 'Bert' bravely fought a 6-month battle with brain cancer.



Bert was born on November 15, 1959 in Hellevoetsluis, Holland (The Netherlands) to loving parents, Hermanus Hendrik Timmer of Putten and Greta (Koster) Timmer of Deventer.

Growing up in the Netherlands alongside his younger brother, Hans, Bert's passion of 'all things with motors' began to develop early on. They both loved cars and motorcycles and Bert discovered his strong ability to 'work with his hands' through fixing and modifying them. Aside from motors, he also loved swimming, speedskating, sailing, and windsurfing.

At 13, a traumatic and pivotal event changed his life forever. He lost his Dad to cancer which affected him deeply. He mourned and carried that loss the rest of his life. However, in getting to know his father better through the journals he left his family, a sense of adventure and a desire to travel was ignited within him. And so, on May 5, 1981, he left Holland and arrived in Canada at the young age of 21 ready for what he called 'the big question mark'. He would have many opportunities to embrace that philosophy over the next few decades.

In Canada, Bert was sponsored and welcomed by distant cousins of his mother, Dave and Ruth Piper. 'Uncle Dave and Aunt Ruth' helped him immensely in immersing himself into Canadian culture. He spent time almost every night the first year with his Aunt Ruth going through each and every word in the English dictionary, an early example of Bert's focus, dedication and persistence.

Throughout his life, those that were acquainted with Bert personally and professionally knew that he didn't need accreditations or titles. He was a man of high principles and standards. Right was right and wrong was wrong and, for him, there was nothing in between. Everything he did in life, he did only one way - with passion and extreme focus, concentration and full out 150% effort. To Bert, if you were going to put your energy into something, there was no other way to do it. He gained a reputation as a fair, straight-up and talented man in his profession. For many, Bert was not an easy person to work or live with because he demanded that you 'do it right' and be the best you can be. However, if you spent any amount of time with him, you were the one that benefitted the most.

In the spring of 1983, Bert met the love of his life, Barbara (Barb) Coker who became his best friend and partner in life. They were married in Calgary on June 23, 1984 and began their adventure together. They had two wonderful children. Erik was born in April 1988 and Alex in May of 1990.

Bert began his journey in 1985 as an entrepreneur and eventually acquired Humidifier Sales & Service in 1990 and a few years later, Alberta Furnace & Heating. With these 2 companies, he could combine his expertise in mechanical design with hands-on work, a perfect combination. The company became known for excellent work and unique mechanical solutions in the residential field.

After 23 years, however, Bert and Barb were tired and looking for a change. They sold the company and began working toward their dream of retiring to Central America. He went back full time into mechanical design working for a few years

with Reinbold Engineering Group as a Senior Mechanical Designer and then finally as an Associate Principal in the Mechanical Design Department of Integral Group Calgary.

Although, he didn't quite realize his dream of retiring south, he always said that his bucket list was empty, that he loved his life and that he had no regrets.

Bert lived life large and was considered by those close to him, a unique personality like no other. Goofy, passionate, and driven, he held strong morals. He was an academic, a man who liked to work with his hands, a chef, a self-taught IT specialist, a Renaissance man, a jack-of-all trades, a motorcycle enthusiast, a house designer and builder, an entrepreneur. And, most of all, a dedicated family man, fiercely proud of his two boys and his wife, concerned about them right to the very end.

He will not be forgotten. Rest well Bert! "IT'S ALL GOOD!!!"

Bert is lovingly remembered by his wife, Barb; his two sons, Erik and Alex; and his only sibling, his brother, Hans Timmer.

A Celebration of Bert's Life will be held at the Eaglequest Golf Club - Douglasdale, 7 Douglas Woods Drive SE, Calgary, AB on Sunday on Sunday, June 11, 2017 at 1:00 pm. Appetizers and coffee/tea will be available as well as a cash bar. The family will be speaking at 1:30 and would like to invite anyone wishing to share a personal story about Bert to join them.

The family wishes to thank all the doctors and nurses who cared for Bert at the Foothills Hospital, the Tom Baker Cancer Centre and finally at the ICU at Foothills. Special thanks to Dr. John Kelly, his neurosurgeon and Joan and Heather, the ICU nurses caring for Bert in his last 24 hours. Your compassion, words and thoughtfulness will not be forgotten!

Messages of Condolence

I really enjoyed my time working with Bert on the Telus Sky project. Bert will be missed in our industry.

My condolences go out to Berts wife and family for their loss

— **Lyle Huculak**

When we learned about your loss we were all deeply saddened. A person that departs from this earth never truly leaves, they are still alive in our hearts and minds, through us, they continue to live on. May fond memories of Bert bring you comfort during this time. Look back on all the good memories you were able to have and smile at the fact that you were able to share these before he passed. Our hearts and prayers go out to you Barb, Eric and Alex. Although there are many miles between us we are here for all of you.

All our Love, Mom, your sister Julie, your niece Sam, and your nephew Michael.

— **Julie Sharp**

Dear Barb , Erik and Alex .

We are truly saddened by the loss of our dear friend and neighbour, Bert !

Barb , we will cherish and remember all the wonderful memories , particularly when our kids were growing up . Bert was incredibly handy , he was always fixing things. But he always made time for friendships and neighbours . Many times I found him sharing stories and laughter with my father, while the two of them were sipping on Ouzo.

Bert had the ability to say things honestly and purely. He was an honourable man but far more importantly , he was an exemplary family man and a loving husband. May God keep him in his loving arms and give you all peace and comfort that he Loved you more than anything. We love you all too !☐

– John and Angie

Dear Barbara, Eric and Alex:

Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for the loss of Bert.

Bert was a blessing for us, a good friend and a talented teacher. He had great character and a big heart.

May Bert rest in peace!

Irina and Alex

– Irina and Alex Socolov

Dear Barb.

I am so so sorry to hear about your loss. I know it is such a difficult journey. You have given so much love to many and now you can open your heart to receive. You are loved by many. I am so sorry Barb. Love to you. Jodi bobenic

– Jodi bobenic

We were happy (Dave and Ruth) to sponsor you to come to Canada

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Barb Alex and Eric

Dave introduced Bert and Hans to many camping trips for fishing
And they enjoyed eating fresh fish

We visited each other on several occasions
We are not able to attend Bert's Memorial Day as we are both
Recovering from hip and knee surgery but our thoughts are
With you all

Dave and Gail Piper

Our home is welcome to you all
If you feel the need to get away
Winnipeg is not far away
Lol

— **Dave and Gail Piper**

Oh my dear Barb my heart is with you. All my condolences to you and your family. I
think of you and your tremendously. Hugs and Hugs!!!

— **Guyline Denis**

Dear Barb

My heart goes out to you and your sons in this sad and most difficult time. My thoughts and heart are with you in your time of sorrow. Please know I will be there for you whenever you need it. May Bert rest in peace.

Lis

— **Lis Kunzi**

Short encounter but very meaningful time together. May Bert's soul rest in peace and may God give you and your sons strength through these challenging times.

— **Ginette Laurin**

I am so sorry to hear this very sad news Barb, and will be praying for you and your family during this time which I know will not be easy. Lots of love, Susan

— **Susan Rusch**

I am so sorry, Barb, to hear that you had such a small amount of time since I last saw you with Bert. Allow this time to receive the love of others as you and your sons move through life differently. Much love, light and hope to you, your family and friends.

— **Kim Little**

I am shocked.

It was due to a random conversation with a co-worker about little three cylinder cars and some nostalgic recollections of my experiences in 1987/1988 that caused me to Google Bert's name. What an unpleasant surprise to stumble upon this information.

Bert really had the best intentions and for that I admire him. He had a vision and I'm happy to have been part of that vision albeit for a short period. I still have fond memories of those days.

Like Bert, I too, immigrated to Canada. Leaving Trinidad and coming to Canada was an overwhelming experience. However, one of my main goals was to obtain my driver's license so that I could explore my surroundings. Thanks to Bert's vision, I was able to see places I probably wouldn't have visited normally.

Barb, I don't know if you nor your brother, Ken, will ever remember who I am but I wish to extend my deepest condolences to you and your children for your loss.

Sincerely

Tony Wellington

— **Tony Wellington**

Barb, I was shocked to see of Bert's passing! Even though it has been a few years I wish you and the boys lots of love and prays. Janet xoxo

— **Janet Pierson**



<https://www.myalternatives.ca/obituaries/timmer-jan-bertus-bert>

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