



Mr. William "Bill" Robertson

January 24, 1954 - July 7, 2021

William Bernard Robertson of Okotoks, Alberta passed away on July 7, 2021 at the Foothills Country Hospice at the age of 67 years old. Bill is survived by his wife Elaine; sons Michael (Calli), Jeffrey (Nicole), and Bradley (Nicola); grandchildren Mason, Jace, Brady and Rylen; sisters Elizabeth, Kathleen, Pamela and Gail; brother Robbie; and numerous nieces and nephews. Bill was predeceased by his mother, Margaret and father, Bernard.

Bill was born in Calgary, Alberta on January 24th, 1954. Bill was the third oldest in a family of six, and spent his childhood in the Glamorgan area of Calgary. Upon his graduation from High School, he attended the University of Calgary where he graduated with Degrees in Geography and Education.

Bill met his wife, Elaine, while they both worked at the Calgary General Hospital in 1976. Bill would come to the hospital kitchen and ask Elaine for a cup of water, but clearly hoped for something more. This marked the beginning of a relationship that would span 45 years, three children, and four grandchildren. Although Bill wore many hats over the course of his life, above all else, his family came first. He loved being a father and loved being a grandpa. As a parent and a grandparent, Bill constantly looked for any opportunity to instill or teach values, morals or wisdom to his family. His sons and grandsons could attest that there was always a lesson to be learned from any life experience, small or large. His boys will forever be grateful for this.

Bill had a passion for public education, and his career led him and Elaine to the town they would call home for the rest of their lives: Okotoks. Bill would go on to teach for 33 years, with the majority of that time spent at Percy Pegler Elementary School. Commonly referred to as "Mr. R," Bill cherished his role as a public educator and serving his community. Bill spent his career as a teacher teaching grade 6 and physical education. As a phys. ed. teacher, Bill was often quoted as saying that "he got paid to play games." He especially enjoyed floor hockey, setting up the "mission impossible" obstacle course, being the coordinator for Percy Pegler's annual outdoor "Sports Day", and last but not least,

coordinating the annual “Outdoor Ed” three-day camping trips for Grade 6 students.

Bill further immersed himself in the community when he was successfully elected as a councillor to Okotoks Town Council in 1995, a role that held until he was elected Mayor in 2010. Totalling 26 years on Okotoks town council, Bill was a proud and enthusiastic advocate of the Town of Okotoks and took every opportunity he could to boast about the town he called home, while doing his best to serve the citizens of Okotoks to the best of his ability.

Bill’s contributions to his community were not limited to his duties on council, as he also worked as an Adopt-a-park volunteer, spent 10 years as a volunteer Auxiliary Constable with the Okotoks RCMP, and gave his time to numerous charitable causes and committees. Bill also supported and joined community organizations such as the Okotoks Kiwanis club, the Okotoks Masons, and the Okotoks Legion. He also enjoyed being associated with several recreational groups and was especially a proud member of the Okotoks Spoilers softball and hockey teams. He also organized and participated in the Okotoks men’s floor hockey for over 25 years.

Bill wasn’t just an enthusiastic team player in community sports, as he also enjoyed sitting on the sidelines and cheering on local sports teams. He was a dedicated Calgary Stampeders and Okotoks Dawgs fan and season ticket holder in more recent years. He loved cheering on the Okotoks Oilers, Calgary Flames and Toronto Blue Jays as well.

He had a passion for exploring and adventures, which began in university and continued throughout his life. Travelling both solo and with his family, Bill visited six out of seven continents, continuously seeking out historical sights, experiences and viewpoints from across the globe.

Bill’s lust for travel was not limited to planes however, and from a young age, Bill was a dirt bike and motorcycle enthusiast, spending much of his free time riding with his friends and doing weekend road trips. When not riding on two wheels, Bill also developed a love for a Swedish automobile brand that he would go on to drive almost exclusively over his adult life: Volvo. Bill took great pride in the various Volvo models he drove over the years. With his three sons present in the car, he was known to occasionally put the pedal to the floor in his ’86 Volvo 740 Turbo (much to the delight of his boys).

In 1984, Bill and his wife Elaine, along with Bill’s mother Margaret, brother Robbie and his wife Mary, co-purchased land and built a cabin at Shuswap Lake, BC. This cabin would go on to become a staple of Robertson family gatherings and a frequent destination for Thanksgiving, Easter, and summer vacations. If Bill wasn’t spending time at the family cabin at Shuswap Lake, BC, or hanging out at the condo in Elkford, BC, he could be found

exploring Saskatchewan, Alberta or BC campgrounds with his wife, children and grandsons, or making annual trips to the west coast to visit relatives.

Lastly, no story of Bill's life would be complete without mentioning his time working at 'Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth,' The Calgary Stampede. For over two plus decades, The Calgary Stampede marked the beginning of Bill's summer, where he worked as a Gate Foreman. Bill loved his role of being one of the first people to greet an arriving guest, and took pride in trying to make their Stampede Experience a great one. His family noted that that Bill wore many hats throughout his career, but the 'cowboy hat' was his favorite.

Bill was known for his upbeat and positive attitude and was the eternal optimist. Bill constantly stated that "your attitude will determine your altitude," and exemplified this by taking a glass half full approach to everyday he lived. Whether you knew Bill for 25 years or had just met him, he greeted you like a friend and took the time to say hello and ask how you were. He also believed in teamwork, inclusivity and working collaboratively. These were values that he demonstrated constantly as a husband, father, grandfather, brother, friend, neighbor, teacher and politician.

As Bill's family and the community adjust to life without him, it is easy to refer back to some of Bill's favorite sayings and mantras for comfort. He was often known to share a poignant line or phrase when the situation called for it. Amongst these lines and phrases, his favorite expression was "Carpe Diem," which in Latin means "Seize the Day". As we celebrate Bill's life, it is apparent that "Carpe Diem" is the epitome of how Bill lived every day, and how he selflessly strived to make the world a better place for everyone around him. We will miss you dearly, Bill. We love you.

Memorial Donations can be made to the Okotoks Food Bank, www.okotoksfoodbank.ca, 220 Stockton Ave #120, Okotoks, AB T1S 2C3 or the Foothills Country Hospice, www.countryprehospice.org, P.O. Box 274, Okotoks, AB T1S 1A5.

A public Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, July 17, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at the Foothills Centennial Centre. The Service will also be live-streamed and can be viewed on the Town of Okotoks website, www.okotoks.ca.

Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals of High River (Craig Snodgrass) 403.652.4242.

Events

JUL **Celebration of Life Service** 01:00PM

17

Okotoks Centennial Centre

204 Community Way, Okotoks, AB, CA

Comments



“ Dear Elaine,
I am so sad to have heard of Bill's passing. My paths have crossed numerous times during Bill's teaching career. Each time we met up, he would have a wonderful story (or 2) to share about his students. It was so uplifting to share his positive vibes. He was so dedicated to the students and his community.
My sincere condolences to you and your family.

Myrna Pauls - August 03, 2021 at 02:21 PM



“ Our sincerest condolences to Elaine and the family. May you hold strong to the memories and find comfort in them.
With love, Jack and Caleen Bil.

Jack and Carleen Bil - July 17, 2021 at 09:22 PM



“ Dear Elaine,
The wonderful memorial today online brought back many fond memories of my time teaching with Bill at Percy Pegler and living nearby to you both in Glorond Place, never mind all the good times and hijinks we got up to with the Spoilers, back in those early days of our careers.

I am terribly saddened, but take comfort in the knowledge that I was blessed to have had such a faithful friend for over forty years. I'll especially miss his completely unexpected phone calls every once in a blue moon just to "keep in touch and reminisce". What a great guy!

My heartfelt condolences to you and the family,
Paul Seay
Brooks, AB

P.S. He'll be up in Heaven right now giving Willick a 'purple nurple'!

Paul Seay - July 17, 2021 at 07:25 PM



“ Our condolences to Elaine and family. Bill will be greatly missed by all in Okotoks. May he rest in the Love and Light of the Creator.



Bob & Diana Bird - July 17, 2021 at 05:32 PM



“ Elaine and family, we are so saddened to learn of Bill's passing. Sending love and prayers to you and the boys, Paula and Tony Ford

Paula` - July 17, 2021 at 01:53 PM



“ Lorna McLean lit a candle in memory of Mr. William "Bill" Robertson



Lorna McLean - July 17, 2021 at 01:49 PM



“ We wish to send our heartfelt condolences to Elaine and the family. Bill was a great ambassador for all of Okotoks and a true friend to all.
Will miss Bill
Our regards Benno and Carol Klippenstein

Benno and Carol - July 17, 2021 at 01:34 PM



“ The "face" of Okotoks! Bill represented the town with such enthusiasm. I have had the pleasure of attending numerous meetings with Bill over the last number of years, and his professionalism was brought to the table everytime. He was extremely versed in Parliamentary procedure and would quote Roberts Rules as easy as a poet could quote verse. No matter the dress code, Bill would don the jersey of whatever local team was playing that day. Every town event was his shing glory. My condolences to the Robertson family. I sincerely hope all your good memories will outweigh the past few months.

"Motion to adjourn, Mr. Mayor"

Alan Alger
Foothills County

Alan Alger - July 16, 2021 at 01:52 PM



“ Our sincere condolences to to the Robertson family from Bill and Loretta Brown . We knew Bill as a young man , a neighbour next door when we moved in to Glamorgan . Such a nice, friendly young man. Rest in peace Bill.

The Brown - July 15, 2021 at 04:56 PM



“ Sincerest condolences to Elaine, Mike , Callie, Jeffrey and Bradley, Bill was “Mr Okotoks”. I have so many fun memories: from him reading to my 2/3 classroom at DMG, as a dad attending his kids' band concerts, taking my son on a special ride on Santa's Firetruck, Santa visits with Comp staff, visiting Elaine at work, always with a friendly smile and a hello! Bill's contributions to this town are many. Sending hugs to Elaine and the family.

Dorothy Paszkowski - July 15, 2021 at 04:28 PM



“ Deepest Sympathy Elaine and Family. Our thoughts and prayers are with u. Take care.
Sandy and Barb Bruce

barb - July 15, 2021 at 05:07 PM



“ Our deepest condolences Jeff, Nicole and family. Our thoughts are with you.
Ron & Chris Racz

Chris - July 16, 2021 at 10:36 PM



“ We will all miss Bill so much - his death is a great loss to Okotoks. My sincere condolences to Elaine and family. May your wonderful memories help provide some solace to you at this very sad time.

I enjoyed teaching with Bill at two of our local schools.... And what comes to my mind when I think of Bill is his acceptance and his easy way with people, his skills in negotiating, his desire to help others, his "always looking out for the other guy", his dedication to teaching and his community, and of course, his sense of humour. I'd say, Bill was a "prankster"! He definitely could make people laugh.

Bill successfully served Okotoks for so many years - I always bragged to everyone what a great Mayor we had! Shirley

Shirley MacKillop - July 15, 2021 at 01:14 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to the Robertson family, I don't know of anyone more passionate about his community and his role in the community. Service such as Bill's is as much a commitment from his family as it is his. Bill's legacy will live on for generations. May your memories put and smile on your face and warm your heart.
Cathy Couey

Cathy Couey - July 14, 2021 at 04:24 PM



“ Dear Elaine and sons Michael, Jeffery and Bradley,

I am deeply saddened to learn of Bill 's untimely passing. Pease accept my sincere condolences and sympathy to your family and to all his extended relatives and friends.

I appreciated the opportunity to teach with Bill for many seasons and count him as a most respected colleague. He brightened the hallways, staffroom, recess breaks and every place in-between with his affable and engaging personality, broad smile and hearty laugh; I would say he was the face of the school during those days. He exemplified dedication and enthusiasm in the classroom, maintained a positive and encouraging class and nurtured the importance of lifelong learning. His students were challenged and inspired and I'm sure that those who he taught would affirm that he was an all-time favourite teacher. I personally am indebted to Bill for the times he helped set up and strike the heavy stage platforms used for our annual Christmas concerts and assisting with preparing the gym for the year end awards assembly

With Bill's leadership, our annual outdoor education classes were well organized, fun and became the yearly grade six highlight. From our outdoor education Highwood Camp he led, encouraged and cajoled students to hike and climb to the top of a nearby summit. He unofficially named it Willick Peak in honour the death of long time PPE well-liked and admired gym teacher, George Willick.

After retiring, I was not surprised to learn that Bill was elected to the office of Mayor. In retrospect he seemed destined that was a direction he would follow. Social Studies was his classroom forte and he delighted in imparting the understanding of rolls and responsibilities of local governance and informed citizenry. His practical knowledge of civic politics plus the years experience gained as a councillor undoubtedly made him supremely qualified as a candidate for Okotoks' top job. Belated congratulations Bill on your success.

One final note. I am very grateful for his invitation to meet and share an afternoon together just before Covid struck. After a tour of Okotoks I was impressed at the community's growth...I could sense that he was very proud of his many achievements during his time in Office. Reminiscing during lunch in the pub of the renovated Wellington Hotel was a delightful way to end our brief but enjoyable overdue reunion.

So long to a wonderful friend, teacher, community leader, husband, father...and, one could go on.

Very sincerely,
Ron Langlo



“ So sad to hear of Bill’s passing . Sincere condolences to Mrs Robinson and family .
Prayers and hugs .
Sylvie and Mark Gazel

Sylvia Gazel - July 14, 2021 at 08:24 AM



“ Deepest condolences to Bill’s family for the loss of a man whose smile and caring attitude touched so many.

Judy Nielsen

Judy Nielsen - July 14, 2021 at 03:33 AM



“ Between school, hockey, politics Bill always was busy enjoying doing the things he loved. Also a laugh, chat and smile is how I will remember our friend

Brian Popowitch - July 13, 2021 at 03:53 PM



“ Elaine, you are in my thoughts and in my heart as I send sincere condolences to you and your family. Bill touched so many lives, including mine. He leaves a legacy of kindness and enthusiasm.

Lori Isberg - July 13, 2021 at 02:02 PM



“ So sad to hear of Bill’s passing. Bill made such a positive impact on his family, peers and community.....a true Robertson trait. My thoughts and prayers are with the Robertson family during this difficult time.

Dani Tarditi - July 13, 2021 at 11:20 AM



“ Sincere sympathy Elaine and family, their friends and the community. Okotoks is a town now in mourning the loss of our Mayor Bill. He was a very special man who gave so much optimism & energy to bettering every thing he was involved in & made our world a better place.

Elizabeth Pitura - July 13, 2021 at 10:23 AM



“ So sad to hear the news of Mr. Robertson's passing. My sincerest condolences to Mrs. Robertson and family. Prayers and hugs.

Sincerely,
Charlee Jerrett

Charlee Jerrett - July 12, 2021 at 08:01 PM



“ Deepest sympathy to Elaine and family in the lose of Bill ! We got to know Bill when serving as an MLA and knew he would always give a helping hand if needed. Okotoks has lost a great ambassador !
George and Judy

Judy Groeneveld - July 12, 2021 at 01:06 PM



“ Wow, what a shock! There aren't many people who got more out of 67 years than Bill! Definitely, he left the world a better place than he found it. As everyone says, you could count on Bill to be interesting, interested and full of energy and ideas. My condolences to his family, he will be missed by many.

Brian Erickson - July 12, 2021 at 12:09 PM



“ Our deepest condolences to Elaine and family, friends, and coworkers at the Town. Bill was a great ambassador for our town and was always positive, polite, and professional. He will be greatly missed.



Ryan Nix - July 12, 2021 at 11:32 AM



“ Sincere sympathy to the Robertson family. He was a great man who will be forever treasured by all who had the honour and privilege of meeting him.

Sharon Forbes (Pippus) - July 11, 2021 at 09:38 PM



“ We lost a teacher, a Councillor and a Mayor - but most of all we lost a Community Supporter and friend
Our condolences to Elaine and family. our prayers are with you

Udo and Wendy Adam



wendy adam - July 10, 2021 at 10:17 PM



“ Our deepest and heartfelt sympathy to Elaine and their families. I'm so glad to have met Bill and Elaine and their son. He was an awesome guy and we will miss him so much. R.I.P. you wonderful man.

Colleen Jones - July 10, 2021 at 08:51 PM



“ Sharon Doll lit a candle in memory of Mr. William "Bill" Robertson



Sharon Doll - July 10, 2021 at 05:16 PM



“ I did not know Bill well, just met him through ATA involvement over the years. I was shocked to hear of his passing. Although I only met him a few times he impressed me as a very dedicated, principled, and considerate individual. I'm sure this loss is devastating to his family and close friends. May fond memories of happy times enjoyed together bring you comfort now and in the melancholy times ahead. My sincerest sympathies to all of you.

Sincerely,
Patty Atkinson



Patty Atkinson - July 10, 2021 at 03:19 PM



“ Bill and I would like to offer our sincere sympathy on the loss of Bill. A kinder man you be hard pressed to find. Always ready with a smile and a kind word and a tireless worker for our community and beyond. Thank you Bill for everything you did and everything you shared over the years. We will all miss you.

karen Mcfarlane - July 10, 2021 at 02:44 PM



“ We hope that all the fond memories of Bill-Husband, Dad, Papa will prevail to help guide you through a very difficult loss. We will remember him for many fun times while tailgating at the Stampeder games. Bill waving the Stamps flag to all the cars and buses full of fans. Whenever Charlie Powers or Anthony Parker came on the field, Bill would comment to the fan next to him - “He’s from Okotoks you know...”. Bill always had a supply of Okotoks pins, pens and pencils to pass out to anyone and everyone. Hugs to all the family and we miss him dearly.

Judy & Pat Barton - July 10, 2021 at 11:28 AM



“ What a Legacy Bill has left behind.
The lives he’s touched, the joy he brought to Everyone & everything he did, will always be remembered.
May the Love & support of all those around you, carry You, Elaine & Families thru the days ahead. Sincerest Condolences.
Brian & Lisa Couronne

lisa couronne - July 15, 2021 at 12:59 PM



“ We offer our condolences to the Robertson family. Bill was such an amazing man. He was successful at everything he put his hand to. He was an excellent teacher, and the Best Mayor Okotoks ever had. He cared about people, and he was always there for you. Bill, you will, ever be forgotten. Rest In Peace.
John and Donna Glawson.

Donna Glawson - July 09, 2021 at 11:46 PM



“ c is following this tribute.

c - July 09, 2021 at 08:41 PM



“ Went to elementary, junior and senior high, and university with Bill. Did not see much of him since but we kept in touch from time-to-time over social media.
So sorry to hear about his passing. Too many of our school bunch have gone too soon.
Condolences to the family.

Mike Spear

Mike Spear - July 09, 2021 at 10:19 AM



“ Condolences to the Robertson family on the passing of an amazing individual. Thank you for sharing him with the FSD school community and with the Town of Okotoks, both of which he loved dearly. I worked with Bill on the local ATA and as a young teacher, learned the value of “Robertson’s Rules” for an efficient meeting. He had a big smile and a great laugh and taught many children the benefits of healthy living through PE! Rest peacefully, Bill

Bill Holmes - July 09, 2021 at 09:53 AM



“ I will fondly remember my time with Bill at our inter-municipal meetings and him greeting me at the front gate at the Stampede. He always had a smile such a positive person. Ralph Nelson

Ralph Nelson - July 12, 2021 at 11:15 AM



“ Dear Elaine: I was stunned to hear of Bill's untimely passing. Please know that you are in my thoughts as you proceed on this sad journey. Bill has left an incredible legacy with your family and with the town of Okotoks. I pray that the good memories will help you heal and move forward as Bill would have wanted.

Fran Tanner - July 14, 2021 at 08:42 PM



“ My sincere condolences go out to Elaine and all the family. It was a pleasure to have known you, Mr. Robertson, both at Big Rock and Percy Pegler. I will always remember your big smile and your warm welcome that you shared with everyone at every occasion or event. If there ever was anyone who made a difference in a child's life, it certainly was YOU. The present void felt from your recent departure is fortunately very well balanced by the many fond memories instilled in those you left behind. May you rest in peace.

Carin Roesch - July 15, 2021 at 04:06 PM