



## Dr. Alfred Francis McLean

March 21, 1936 - December 6, 2023

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved and devoted father Alfred (Alf) McLean on December 6, 2023, in Calgary, AB at the age of 87 years. He was a cherished husband, a devoted father, and an amazing individual whose presence illuminated the lives of all who knew him. Alf was born on March 21, 1936, in Winnipeg, MB to his parents Margaret and Frank McLean. He was an older brother to Frances (Fran). Alf was a caring and generous father to his four children: Kelly Roth (Shane), David, Erin Neary (Kenn), and Meghan King (Cory). He was loved by his eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren: Tyson (Carrie), Justin, and David Koivisto of Calgary, AB, Connor, Katie, and Kristian Roth of Calgary, AB; and Isabelle and Liam King of Calgary, AB and Isaiah, Maliki, Ezekiel, and Azrial of Vernon, BC and Kaylee of Edmonton, AB. He is pre-deceased by his parents, sister, son, a grandchild (Justin), and wife (Mary).

In 1961, Alf was lifeguarding at the Banff Springs pool when he met his future wife, Mary Isabelle O'Connor. Within a year they wed in Owen Sound, ON and moved to Exshaw, AB. After 3 years in Exshaw, Alf and Mary returned to Alf's hometown of Edmonton for a year to live with Alf's father Frank and mother Margaret. Followed by another 4 years in Exshaw where Alf was a principal of the town school. They welcomed Katharine (Kelly) their oldest daughter in 1967, and Erin, their next daughter, a year and a half later. They spent 1 1/2 years in Missoula, Montana while Alf completed his Doctorate in Education. In

1970 the family moved to Calgary, AB where David their son joined the family, and Alf was the Vice Principal at Bishop Carroll High School. Raising three children Alf and Mary lived in Calgary for eight memorable years where they formed many long-term friendships. In 1977, they moved to Salmon Arm, BC where Meghan their youngest daughter was born, and Alf accepted the job as Assistant Superintendent within the Shuswap District. Four years later the family moved to Kelowna, BC where Alf spent the next 18 years as a high school principal. Alf and Mary continued to raise their family, spend time with friends and enjoy another 35 golden years together.

Professionally, Alf excelled in his career, demonstrating perseverance, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. His hard work and determination served as an inspiration to his colleagues, peers, and family.

Alf and Mary spent 54 wonderful and fun filled years together, travelling around the world, enjoying the company of terrific friends, and creating wonderful memories with family. Alf particularly loved spending time at the cabin in Seymour Arm, travelling around the world, and relaxing in Maui beside the ocean. Alf always embraced life with enthusiasm and ensured he was living it to the fullest.

In 2017, Alf met his second wife, Hilda. Hilda had recently lost her spouse as well and together they found comfort. Dad and Hilda spent close to 6 years together. During this time Alfred discovered a source of solace and happiness, turning a new chapter in his life that blended the warmth of companionship with the adventures of travel.

A special thank you to the hospital staff at Southwood Care Centre, Calgary AB for their dedicated care and thoughtfulness toward Alf in his final days. A funeral mass will be held for Alf on December 20th at 11:00 am at St. Bonaventure Church in Calgary AB. The mass will be celebrated by Father

Colin O'Rourke. Interment will take place at Rockyview Garden of Peace in Calgary, AB, where he will be buried beside Mary, in the spring of 2024.

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

# Previous Events

## Memorial Mass

DEC **20**. 11:00 AM (MT)

St. Bonaventure Roman Catholic Church  
1600 Acadia Drive SE  
Calgary, AB T2J 3B3 (CA)

# Tribute Wall

KJ

“ I would like to send my condolences to the family....I remember meeting quite a few of you at Alf's and Mary's home up in Lakeview Heights and having a "Jolly" good time....Alf loved those double Scotches...and so did lots of us.....I taught at George Pringle Secondary for many,many years.....Alf was a wonderful Principal and was always trying to get the best out of his staff and students....The staff had many a "pro-d" retreat trying out new theories in student learning....He was a leader in educational theory and even had classes down in Gonzaga University....boy those were the good times....He will be sorely missed.....Ken and Judy Johnson In Kelowna

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**Ken Johnson** - December 24, 2023 at 05:22 PM

SJ

“ We are sorry for your loss . I have such fond memories of Alf, his kindness, warmth and ability to always make us kids laugh !

*Stacey and Doran*

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**Stacey Jorgensen** - December 20, 2023 at 10:38 AM

DN

“ The members of the Central Okanagan Retired Teachers' Association (CORTA) would like to offer our sincere condolences to Alf's children: Kelly, Erin, Meghan and their families. We all remember him as a kind, empathetic, hard working and valued member of SD 23 as a principal. Upon retirement he was also a valuable member of CORTA until moving to Calgary. Sincerely, CORTA members

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**Dianne Neufeld** - December 16, 2023 at 08:27 PM

PK

“ Had Alf (we called him Mr. McLean) was teaching in Exshaw when I knew him as one of my teachers he put his all in to making us better people and of course we all loved his black ford mustang I know salute you Mr. McLean on a life well lived and thank you for all you did 🙏

Pat Kelly-Fyrk - December 15, 2023 at 11:26 AM

GO

With out a doubt he was the the best teacher i had in my younger years in Exshaw. He encourage us to play basketball and football. Weekend dances at the school gym with Burt Jefferies on the music.

gord - December 16, 2023 at 01:31 AM

JH

Alf was our neighbour on Abel Place for many years and we were sad when he moved from our cul-de-sac. He was a great friend to our son, David, and they became good friends after Mary passed away. He left a mark in many lives, as a teacher, principal, professor, and proud legion member. He was well respected and a great friend. We have missed him for many years, and were very sad to read about his passing. Thinking of your wonderful family at this time, the Harrison Family.

Joy Harrison - December 22, 2023 at 03:23 PM

DS

*I would like to share my deepest sympathies with Alf's large and loving family.*

*Alf's obituary has so much love written into it.. 'Alf, the family man'.*

*I worked with Alf for many years as a Principal in the Kelowna school district. He was such a kind and caring person. He was also a visionary leader. He was always willing to share theories with others..and to help when asked.*

*He will be remembered ...thanks for all you did for teachers and kids Alf.*

*Dennis Semeniuk*

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**Dennis Semeniuk** - December 24, 2023 at 08:11 PM

HG

*My apologies for being so late in adding these few words of remembrance - I was away at the time of Alf's passing and missed getting this very sad news.*

*Alf was a great mentor, colleague and most importantly, a wonderful friend of mine. Alf took me under his wing when I began working as a Vice Principal in Kelowna. We stayed connected for many years and he was a huge help to me while we opened a new middle school in West Kelowna. I always appreciated Alf's sage advice and guidance over the years.*

*I especially want to thank Alf for all the wonderful times we shared, including two very memorable trips to visit our sister-school in Japan. Alf's memory will always have a very special place in my heart and I offer my sincere condolences to his family.*

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**Hugh Gloster** - January 13, 2024 at 04:48 PM

SS

*It is with great sadness that I learned of Dr. McLean's passing. Upon his coming to the Central Okanagan School District, he was the Principal of Springvalley Secondary and I was the Student Council president. Dr. McLean was a student-centred educator whose door was always open. He encouraged us to have fun and make memories, yet also reminded us of the responsibilities we had as leaders within the school. Now, as an educator and Principal, I hope that I am instilling in my students the same curiosity and passion for learning and making memories. My condolences to his family.*

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**SCOTT SIEBEN** - January 15, 2024 at 01:43 PM