



Mr. Donald James Swanston

December 19, 1935 - April 23, 2025

Mr. Don Swanston of High River, Alberta passed away peacefully at the Chinook Age Care Facility in Calgary on April 23, 2025 at the age of 89 years.

Don was born on the family farm near Welwyn, SK, the third son of Basil and Jean (Street) Swanston on December 19, 1935.

He took his education at Cailmont Country School, leaving there when he was 16 years old. He moved west in the fall of 1953 to High River, AB to work for his mother's brother, his Uncle Jim.

Don married Mildred Jolayne Noble on August 24, 1960 and they took up residence on the Elves farm east of Cayley. They then purchased the farm from Uncle Jim and Aunt Gertrude in 1966. That same year they welcomed daughter, Donna Marie and in 1969 welcomed daughter, Linda Jean.

Farming and horses became the focal point of family life. Don purchased his first purebred Percheron mares in 1972, and summers were subsequently spent on the show circuit in and around Alberta. Don was active in the High River Ag Society, the Heavy Horse Committee with the Calgary Stampede, he served as Director, as well, as President of the Canadian Percheron Association. He was also a member of the Cayley Oddfellows and the High River Rotary Club.

Don is survived by his wife, Jolayne; daughter Donna (Trent) and their children Courtney (Scott, Berklee and Huntley), Kyle (Marcia, Hadley, Ryleigh, Everly), and Chase (Lanelle); daughter Linda (Mike) and their children, Nicole (Kaede) and Nathan; brother Bruce; sisters-in-law Ellen Swanston, Kay Silver brother-in-law, Rodney Lee, Dwayne (Gloria) Noble and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Don was predeceased by his parents Basil and Jean, brothers Bob (Grace), Ted, and Herb and sister Margaret and sister-in law Sharon.

If friends so desire, memorial tributes may be made to the Alzheimer Society or High River Hospital Foundation.

A Celebration of Don's life will be held on Saturday, May 3rd at 1:00 p.m. at the Heritage Inn in High River. Interment will take place prior at 11:00 a.m. for those who would like to join, at the Cayley Cemetery.

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

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAY 3. 11:00 AM (MT)

Cayley Cemetery
Cayley, AB T0L 0P0 (CA)

Celebration of Life Service

MAY 3. 1:00 PM (MT)

Heritage Inn, High River
1104 11 Ave. SE
High River, AB (CA)

Tribute Wall

MW

“ Murray And Kendra Wegener lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald James Swanston



Murray and Kendra Wegener - May 03, 2025 at 01:21 PM

BM

“ Barbara And John McInerney lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald James Swanston



Barbara and John McInerney - April 30, 2025 at 09:06 AM

CM

“ Jolayne and family,
My condolences and much sympathy for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.
Carole



Carole Malmberg - April 29, 2025 at 12:44 PM

BL

“ Barb Lyall lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald James Swanston



Barb Lyall - April 29, 2025 at 09:27 AM

MP

“ Jolayne, Donna, Linda and families. Sending hugs and strength during this difficult time. I will always cherish the memories that our families spent together. Whether it was touring Alberta during the Summer months to attend the next Fair or an overnight stay for a visit. “Mr. Swanston’s” little giggle will always be remembered. Hugs Ladies 🌸

Meg Phillips - April 28, 2025 at 01:42 PM

SP

“ Shari Porteous lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald James Swanston



Shari Porteous - April 28, 2025 at 01:42 PM

GC

“ Jolene, Donna, Linda and families. Don Swanson, was one fine gentleman. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.



Gerry and Glenda Cutforth - April 27, 2025 at 07:51 PM

HL

“ Very sorry for your family’s loss. Thoughts are with you all.
Harry & Donalda Storey
Tommy & Heather Storey
Holly & Derek Lackie

Holly Lackie - April 27, 2025 at 01:18 PM

GC

“ Jolayne and Family,
Our heartfelt condolences on Don's passing.
Rotarians remember Don as a member who supported the club in
it's many different projects; a kind and gentle soul with a great
smile. He was a special member of our club.
Keep the fond memories of time with Don and friends close to your
heart as you grieve his passing.
Rest in Peace Don.
Love from your fellow Rotarians

Gerry Coakwell - April 27, 2025 at 11:24 AM

CF

“ Callahan Family lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Donald James Swanston



Callahan Family - April 26, 2025 at 10:45 PM

RB

“ Heart felt sympathy & many hugs to you
Jolayne



Ralph & Brenda Bedson - April 26, 2025 at 08:47 PM

CJ

“ Jolene, Donna, Linda and all family members. My sincere thoughts go out to you all at this time.

Please know that you are gently held in my heart and prayers at this time.

Connie L. Jewell - April 26, 2025 at 07:45 PM

CN

“ Cyril And Bev Norrie lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald James Swanston



Cyril and Bev Norrie - April 26, 2025 at 03:37 PM

DN

“ Heart felt sympathy & love to you Donna & Linda May your Dad now rest in peace.



Dianne Neish - April 26, 2025 at 08:55 AM

AZ

“ Heart felt sympathy and love to you Linda, Donna, Jolayne and families. We are so sorry for your loss. Peace be with you.



Ann Holmes Zirk - April 26, 2025 at 01:05 AM

PZ

“ Jolayne, Donna & Trent, Linda & Mike and families our deepest condolences to you all. We have so many great memories of times spent camping and when our families got together for meals or just getting together. Hold your memories close to your heart, they will help you get through the tough days ahead.
Sincerely Len and Zebedee



Pat Zebedee - April 25, 2025 at 08:36 PM

VB

“ Jolayne, Donna & Trent and family; Linda & Mike; and to all the families. You are all in my thought & prayers. Don - thank you for the cheers & tears & all the wonderful memories...especially giving the toast to the bride at my wedding. RIP Don. You have deservedly earned your "Angel Wings".



Val Miner Buttimer - April 25, 2025 at 12:01 PM

BF

Condolences to you Jolene, Donna, Linda.....I always loved coming to the Calgary Stampede but especially to see Donald in action in the big ring plus having a visit. Rest in peace Donald

Bev Ferrier - April 28, 2025 at 10:42 PM

FJ

My thoughts and prayers are with you Jolayne,
Frances Jamison

Frances (Shier) Jamison - May 16, 2025 at 06:29 PM