



Mr. Francis William Gardner

May 9, 1942 - June 26, 2016

GARDNER, Francis William

May 9, 1942 – June 26, 2016

On Sunday, June 26, 2016, Mr. Francis Gardner of Chain Lakes, Alberta passed away suddenly, but peacefully at the age of 74 years.

Francis will be missed by his wife Bonnie and their children: Ian, Marshall (Jennifer), and Sarah (Harley). He was blessed with grandchildren: Emmett, Jacob and Liam, as well as numerous other relatives and many friends.

A Celebration of his Life was held on Thursday, July 7th, 2016 at 2:00 pm in the Highwood Memorial Centre [128-5th Avenue SW in High River].

If friends so desire, in honor of Francis, donations may be made to the Bomber Command Museum [P.O. Box 1051 Nanton, Alberta T0L 1R0 - 403.646.2270], or the Southern Alberta Land Trust Society [P.O. Box 45016 High River, Alberta T1V 1R7 - 403.652.9998 - www.salts-landtrust.org].

Tribute Wall



“ Lyle Reeves Funerals created a Webcast in memory of Mr. Francis William Gardner



Lyle Reeves Funerals - July 09, 2016 at 11:31 AM

SW

This was so beautiful and touching, I felt as if I was there in attendance. Thank you all so much for sharing these wonderful memories of your husband, father and grandfather. Love and hugs from Suzy Wasmuth

SUZY WASMUTH - July 10, 2016 at 07:35 PM

Janet Bauman

“ Many fond memories of picking Saskatoon on the ranch with Irvan Fisher and great conversation around the glorious ranch hands table with the giant lazy Susan in the middle! Deepest sympathy.



Janet Bauman - June 19, 2017 at 09:35 PM

GM

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you, Bonnie and family. He has been so helpful and generous to allow us to hunt on your precious ranch, he will be missed. Gino Mangone

Gino Mangone - July 24, 2016 at 12:10 AM

CO

“ Dear Bonnie and Family,
Alberta Wilderness Association sends sincere condolences in your loss. 74 seems so young for Francis, he was such a fine gentleman and helped so many with his quiet passion for healthy landscapes. We appreciate all the help he gave us, the field days and more. We hope your many fine memories will warm your hearts in these days of sorrow and sadness.
Sincerely, Christyann Olson for AWA.

Christyann Olson - July 15, 2016 at 03:30 PM

AW

“ Dear Bonnie and family. We just read of Francis death in this weeks High River times and the wonderful write up of his service. We did not know about Francis untimely passing, so we missed the service. Over the years Bud and I met Francis at various places always enjoyed a great conversation and time well spent. He was so forward looking on many issues. He was a great friend and mentor to many. We are proud to have known him and call him friend. People like him leave little patterns of memories on your heart. He will not be forgotten by many and his love of nature and the land will be a lasting gift to us all. OUR sincere sympathy Alice and Bud Wyatt

alice wyatt - July 14, 2016 at 01:12 PM

CP

“ Loved hearing all Francis's stories at the memorial. I will miss him.
Connie

Connie Pike - July 08, 2016 at 11:47 AM

AM

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Arthur De Main - July 08, 2016 at 05:23 AM

MB

We enjoyed him as a neighbour and thought the family and friends did a great job honoring his memory. It would have made Francis very proud!

Terry and Marilyn Baker

marilyn Baker - July 09, 2016 at 05:15 PM

LM

“ *Recall Francis assisting a nearly blind Lawrence Stapley to his seat as lights dimmed for a play. Francis was a very kind man.*

Larry mackillop

larry mackillop - July 07, 2016 at 12:39 PM

PN

“ *Bonnie and family*

So sorry to hear this sad news of Frances! I had hoped to get up to the celebration of his life but won't be making it now! It for sure will be a celebration for a man that had a great life-There will be lots of good memories brought out today!! My thoughts will be with you!

Pat Ness (nee-Fisher)

Patty Ness - July 07, 2016 at 11:27 AM

PD

“ Dear Bonnie and Sarah and the family,
I am so sorry to hear about Francis. I have many fond memories of his help and Sarah's during my research into rough fescue grasslands - as he called rough fescue the queen of grasses. My heartfelt sympathy.
Peggy Desserud

Peggy Desserud - July 06, 2016 at 01:48 PM

GS

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Gary Sargent - July 05, 2016 at 05:52 PM

GS

Bonnie & Family: Francis was a University of Alberta Agriculture classmate & he played in the annual Bar None Band. He was always a leader - creating one of the early range plans in the new range management class, became the first Albert Cattle Commission (now Alberta Beef Producers) Environmental Stewardship Award winner and was active in launching Alberta ranch land conservation initiatives. Always thoughtful & progressive, he will be missed by all.

Gary Sargent - Calgary

Gary Sargent - July 05, 2016 at 06:07 PM

GS

From the left: Francis Gardner, Dale Greig, Ken Pfanmuller, Garry Bresee & Brian Colgan

Gary Sargent - July 05, 2016 at 06:12 PM

DG

Bonnie & Family: So sorry to hear about Francis passing. Sorry I won't be at the service but still remember our times in the Barr None Band and so happy to see the picture Gary Sargent posted. It brings back so many good memories. I had followed some of the work that Francis was doing in conservation and range management. We have lost a great mentor. God Bless

Dale and Maureen Greig

Dale Greig - July 07, 2016 at 11:55 AM

AM

Bonnie & Family; My most sincere condolences on this saddest of days, my thoughts and prays are with you all today. My visits to your part of the world were always punctuated with a day or two out with Francis, I enjoyed all of our outings together, whether we were doing the round of the auctions in the rain trying to buy a golf cart for Sarah when she was expecting, the fly in's where Francis would always arrange a ride in an aircraft for me, the numerous jaunts to Nanton to check on the progress of the Lancaster, trips to the Calgary Airport to visit the museum and the local aircraft manufactures. We would always end up on the way home at some pub that had live music, have a couple of beers and many great conversations. I enjoyed his company and friendship immensely, he will be sorely missed by the many people who's life he effected, mine included.

*Arthur De Main
AUSTRALIA*

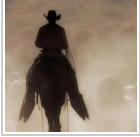
Arthur De Main - July 08, 2016 at 04:55 AM

GN

“ *Bonnie;
My heartfelt sympathy for you and your family on the passing of Francis. I had the greatest respect for him.*

*Gordon Neu - "Just call me the mechanic"
Calgary*

G. Neu - July 05, 2016 at 11:11 AM



“ *Cynthia Leader lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis William Gardner*



Cynthia Leader - July 05, 2016 at 10:38 AM

HH

“ *Francis was always willing to put on a pot of coffee or share a meal with an old friend or a new one in the making. He was proud of his family and his family ranch. The ranch hospitality was always paramount. He enjoyed people who shared his passion of the ranch environment.*

Francis treated his employees with respect and generosity. During the six years I worked for him, it was a pleasure. He was always fair and willing to share his philosophies, stories and experiences.

When cattle prices were low, and he could not afford giving a raise (even though I didn't ask for one) he would let me keep a few extra horses of my own or gave me two bred heifers as a bonus. He was never greedy or selfish.

Once you earned his trust, he would give you all the freedom you could ask as an employee, but still made you feel like part of the family.

Francis was never lured by high production and profit-only mind set. He would never jeopardize his ranch environment. The ranch would have reserve when drought hit and it rewarded the rancher when it mattered most.

Francis. May you rest in a place where tall grass grows and water runs cool and clean, just like your legacy. Hats off to Francis Gardner.

*Heinz Hess,
Apple Hill, Ontario.*

Heinz Hess - July 04, 2016 at 08:33 PM

AS

“ So sad to hear of Francis passing, our condolences go out to the Gardner family.
Hazel McKinnon & Family.

Angela Syversen - July 04, 2016 at 05:59 PM

BM

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Bomber Command Museum - July 04, 2016 at 12:44 PM

HD

“ *Saddened to hear of the passing of Francis! I first met Francis and Bonnie and at that time their two very young sons back in 1977 when I was a young Forest Ranger at the Turner Valley Ranger station. Just being new to the area was intimidating enough and meeting one of the local legends at that time really set my stomach churning. However all that changed very quickly as I was welcomed into their beautiful ranch house nestled in the shadow of Mt. Sentinel. Francis quickly put me at ease and started my foothills cattle grazing education! His Dad had been putting cattle into the Forest Reserve since before I was born and Francis was continuing the cycle. The highlights of my working time in the area were days spent counting cattle in at springtime and out of the forest reserve in the fall. In summer I spent many days riding the back country with Francis and his hired hand at the time. When I was transferred to High Level in 1980, I deeply regretted leaving the area and my friendship with Francis. In 1982, we did return to the area and I did return to Mt Sentinel and renew my friendship with the Gardeners. The next few years created more great memories as Francis allowed my son Craig and I the privilege to hunt with bow and arrow on his land. Always helping out Francis let us use the bunkhouse during snowy falls and helped in recovering game. Craig and I will never forget our special times at the Mt Sentinel Ranch nor will we forget Francis Gardner - a true gentleman and outstanding human being! Rest in peace!*

Herb DeMars Playa Hermosa, Costa Rica

Herb DeMars - July 02, 2016 at 03:25 PM

JV

“ Jack And Merry Vandervalk lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis William Gardner



Jack and Merry Vandervalk - July 02, 2016 at 01:00 PM

JV

We are shocked that Francis went so fast. We did enjoy all the visits we had and are sorry we did not visit more. Francis had a lot of rangeland common goal that we share. Bonnie we would love to help if we can.

Jack and Merry Vandervalk - July 02, 2016 at 01:06 PM



Bonnie....we are so sorry to hear about Francis. "A NEW STAR IN THE SKIES SHINING DOWN ON HIS FAMILY"...Hugs to your family.
Dennis & Rose Olson

Rose Olson - July 02, 2016 at 08:42 PM

KE

“ KEN lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis William Gardner



KEN - July 01, 2016 at 11:42 PM

KW

“ *Dear Bonnie and family,*

We were so shocked and sad when we heard the news of your husband, father and grandfather. He was such a wonderful man and had so many great stories.



Ken always really enjoyed visiting with him whether in person or talking on the phone discussing agriculture and life in general.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this very sad time in your lives.

Sincere condolences from Ken and Suzy Wasmuth

KEN & SUZY WASMUTH - July 01, 2016 at 11:41 PM

LC

“ *My Dear Bonnie and children and grand babies. I just received word today day that Francis has passed over. Please accept my sincere condolences to you all-and the precious memories that I have of the years myself and my children had the privilege of living at Mt. Sentinel near to you and Francis.*

My utmost respect and gratitude.

Laura Craig



Laura Craig - July 01, 2016 at 09:54 PM

JL

“ Dear Bonnie,

We were so shocked to hear from Janet that Francis is gone. We saw him, of course, with you at Larry's funeral, invited him down, promised to drop by his place, never thinking we would never see him again. A cautionary tale for all of us. A good death, we suppose, but far too soon.

He was one of the first out of the box thinkers about these beautiful Eastern Slopes. We shared his commitment to protecting the land, and we enjoyed his company. We are so sorry he is gone.

What a shock it must be for you and your family, Bonnie. You were still who he called when he needed help; you had such deep and intertwined roots.

We will be with you in High River on Thursday.

Best regards,

*Jillian Lynn Lawson &
John Lawson*

Jillian Lynn Lawson - July 01, 2016 at 05:34 PM

RG

“ *It was an honour to have known Francis,*

*Ray Glasrud
Pole Trail Ranch
Shaunavon, Sk.*

Ray Glasrud - July 01, 2016 at 07:27 AM

CS

“ See you on the other side of the river to continue our fun as when we where kids France's . My deepest sympathy to the family you are in my thoughts. Minnie Park Heal

Cindy Smith - June 30, 2016 at 07:02 PM

RR

“ Bonnie, Ian, Marshall, Sarah and your entire family - We are thinking of you at this very difficult and sad moment in your lives. It is a profound and unexpected loss and we are truly sorry. We appreciate Francis' contributions to our community and especially the connection to the Lancaster and Bomber Command Museum which I know my grandfather, Joseph English, would be so grateful for. I always enjoyed seeing him at the Memorial Fly-in. We send you our love and hope that you find great strength in being together.

Rachel Ramos - June 30, 2016 at 05:26 PM

LL

“ Lois Laird lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis William Gardner



Lois Laird - June 30, 2016 at 05:09 PM

LL

My thoughts are with you and your family Bonnie, please let me know if I can help with anything.

Lois Laird - June 30, 2016 at 05:11 PM

RH

“ Dear Bonnie and family
condolences to you all Our on the loss of a truly good man who will
be missed by all. God bless and help you through this time. Ray and
Bob Hildebrand

ray hildebrand - June 30, 2016 at 02:57 PM

JB

“ To Bonnie, Ian, Sarah, Marshall & Family,
We are so sorry to hear of Frances' passing.
Our thoughts and prayers are with you &
family during this time of sorrow.



With caring thoughts & Deepest Sympathy,

Jack & Mila

Jack & Mila Baird - June 30, 2016 at 01:34 PM

DC

“ Dear Bonnie and family I was so sad to hear that Francis had
gone to his maker. He was a dear fellow and we always enjoyed his
company. He had such a wonderful laugh.
Take care. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Diana
Caleb

Diana Caleb - June 30, 2016 at 11:10 AM

RD

“ Bonnie, Ian, Marshall & Sarah, so sorry to hear of your loss. He left us too soon.
For most of my life, Francis was a neighbor and a good friend. There are a lot of memories. A pack trip with Harvey with horses on what turned out to be a very rainy weekend, operating 'cats' together, road trips and business deals. It was always good to visit with Francis because he had so many interests and was so knowledgeable. Won't forget that quirky sense of humor and that great laugh.
Our thoughts and prayers are with you as a family in the days ahead.
Rex & Donna Davis

Rex Davis - June 30, 2016 at 10:09 AM

SW

“ Sharon & Bill Wegener lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis William Gardner



Sharon & Bill Wegener - June 30, 2016 at 09:45 AM

JT

“ Our deepest condolences. It was such a surprise to hear of his passing. He will be missed greatly.
Jill and Gilbert Taylor

Jill Taylor - June 29, 2016 at 11:59 PM

TM

“ *Our condolences and deepest sympathy, it was a pleasure knowing such a great man .*

Tony Mungo and family



Tony Mungo - June 29, 2016 at 09:44 PM

RC

“ *Dear Bonnie and family,
We are so sorry to hear of Francis' passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Robin & Cody Carnegie

Robin Carnegie - June 29, 2016 at 08:36 PM

 James
Van
Leeuwen

“ *Good man, great loss.*

Privilege to have known him.

We need a lot more Francis Gardners in the world.

James Van Leeuwen - June 29, 2016 at 07:26 PM

DB

“ *Bonnie, Ian, Marshall, Sarah and families- I am deeply sorry for your loss. I know from experience what you are feeling right now. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

Diane Barker

Diane Barker - June 29, 2016 at 05:41 PM

FB

“ Dear Bonnie, Ian, Marshall, Sarah and families. I am very shocked and saddened to hear of Francis' passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time. Francis was one of the first of Vernon's (my late husband) friends that I met when coming to live in the Nanton area. We had many good times and visits together. It is no surprise to me that Francis passed away on the same day as Vernon only 31 years later. They were friends before and still. We will miss Francis so much. Love to you all.
Florence Andrews-Brown

Florence Brown - June 29, 2016 at 05:10 PM

DN

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Doug Nelson - June 29, 2016 at 02:10 PM

DN

Francis, you always took the time to explain things and for your friends and family. We will miss you.

Doug Nelson - June 29, 2016 at 02:12 PM

RG

Dear Bonnie and family, sincere sympathy to you all. We always enjoyed our visits with you and Francis at the Sweet Queen. We will miss him. Thinking of you all at this sad time. John & Rita Green

Rita Green - July 08, 2016 at 03:16 PM

RH

“ *Frank, you left too soon, but I will cherish the memories. Flying with you over the land you loved and worked so hard to conserve, tours of the ranch house before and after the renovations, stories of your grandparents, the guitar picking and music, the Landcaster restorations and the old Cat in the shed, philosophizing over a beer at the Longview Bar... Tonight I will drink the last of the 10-year old Port that you gave me, "the Nectar of Kings" you said...so true. Bonnie and family, my condolences.*

Rodger Hughes

Rodger Hughes - June 29, 2016 at 12:15 PM

SE

“ *Dear Bonnie and Family.*

Our sincere condolences at the tragic loss of Francis. He was one of the most genuinely thoughtful, kind, and ethical people I've ever had the pleasure of knowing. Francis touched so many of us and are all better people for having known him. I will never forget him. He will be sorely missed but his tremendous legacy will live on.

*With love and deepest sympathy,
Sterling and Elizabeth Eddy*

sterling eddy - June 29, 2016 at 11:12 AM

DB

“ Dear Bonnie, Ian, Marshall, Sarah and family

We were deeply saddened when we heard the news of Francis' passing. We send our love and prayers to you.

Will & Donna Bilozir

Francis and I had many long convoluted, eclectic conversations that would last hours (over a glass of Lagavugin) during which we solved the world's problems, at least for the moment. A good man who will be greatly missed. Will.

Donna Bilozir - June 29, 2016 at 10:30 AM

VK

“ Dear Bonny, Ian, Marshall, Sarah and Families

Francis will live on in your memories and thoughts. Our deepest sympathy

Violet and Jerry Kautz

Violet Kautz - June 29, 2016 at 07:48 AM

AR

“ Dear Bonny and family,

Francis was a dear and much valued friend of Gordon. I was able to tell my students about his stewardship of the hills. Just knowing he was out there allowed me to think all was going to be looked after and the hills would be okay. Our country has suffered a great loss. Our deepest condolences.

Al & Barb Rolfe

Allen Rolfe - June 28, 2016 at 11:43 PM

IK

“ Dear Bonnie and family,
We are sorry to hear of Francis's passing. We
send our sincere condolences to all of you.
Gary and Ingrid Kehler



Ingrid Joulin Kehler - June 28, 2016 at 10:55 PM

SC

“ My thoughts are with you, Bonnie and Family. He will be missed.

Sue Cross - June 28, 2016 at 04:24 PM

GG

“ Dear Bonnie and family
I am so very sorry to hear of Francis passing
He was always kind and generous in all my
dealings with him
He was a great steward of the land he loved
and I will always respect him for that
He will be missed by all



Gord Goddard - June 28, 2016 at 03:46 PM

BB

“ Our sincere sympathies to your and your family Bonnie. Praying that
God's peace and comfort will give you strength in the days ahead.
Francis was such a part of the community - he will be missed by all
of us as well. Betty & Bruce Bridgett

Betty Bridgett - June 28, 2016 at 03:41 PM

HT

“ *Helen Dougherty (nee Thompson) lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis William Gardner*



Helen Dougherty (nee Thompson) - June 28, 2016 at 02:57 PM

BM

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Bomber Command Museum - June 28, 2016 at 10:48 AM

TB

*We are truly sorry for you Bonnie and families. He was a great neighbor and we will miss him. Terry and Marilyn Baker
403-619-9928*

Terry and Marilyn Baker - June 28, 2016 at 11:28 AM

JN

“ *Dear Bonnie and Family
We are so saddened to hear of the passing of Francis. He has been an Eastern Slopes icon; his contributions to land stewardship are a legacy for all of Alberta. Our fondest memories are of his enthusiastic sharing of his wisdom with aspiring young ranchers in the 4H program. His laugh still echoes in our hearts.
Jacqueline and Ralph Nelson*

jacqueline nelson - June 28, 2016 at 10:17 AM

SM

“ Dear Bonnie and family: we are very sad to hear of Francis' passing. He is well respected by his family and community . He will very much be missed . Our sincere condolences.
Hugh and Susan

Susan McPherson - June 28, 2016 at 09:39 AM

JB

“ Jay Bradley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis William Gardner



Jay Bradley - June 28, 2016 at 09:12 AM

JR

“ Jane Russell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis William Gardner



Jane Russell - June 28, 2016 at 07:12 AM

DP

“ Dave And Colleen Payne lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis William Gardner



Dave and Colleen Payne - June 27, 2016 at 11:22 PM

SM

“ We will also miss Francis, his visits, his stories and his enjoyment of life. Know that he was regarded with a lot of respect by those in the many areas of his interests.

Sheila Macklin - June 27, 2016 at 10:30 PM

FS

“ Bonnie and family. Bruce, Colleen and I, Freddie Roy are so sad to hear of Francis' passing. He was always quick with a good tale to relate.

Freddie (Roy) Shupe - June 27, 2016 at 09:40 PM

LC

“ Bonnie and Family, we are so sad to hear of Francis' passing. A wonderful man that will be greatly missed.



Lorne & Mary Chadney - June 27, 2016 at 08:42 PM

FW

“ Bonnie & family. Rusty & I are so sorry to hear of the loss of Francis. He was always a gentleman, very much like his Mom & Dad with the same sense of humor. You, no doubt, have many wonderful memories that you will keep near to your heart.

Fran & Rusty Wong

Fran & Rusty Wong - June 27, 2016 at 05:44 PM

RR

“ *Renne And Trevor Reidy lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis William Gardner*



Renne and Trevor Reidy - June 27, 2016 at 04:06 PM

SL

“ *Sten & Cheryl Lundberg lit a candle in memory of Mr. Francis William Gardner*



Sten & Cheryl Lundberg - June 27, 2016 at 02:24 PM

TA

“ *Dear Bonnie, Ian, Marshall, Sarah and Families,
Our sincerest sympathies to you all at this time as you face the loss of Francis, far too soon. Terry and I will always remember meeting Francis, Bonnie and Sarah in California and spending the day at the Winchester Mansion, etc. Although, not one to be vocal about his family, Francis was very proud of his children and their accomplishments. You all enriched his life immeasurably. Your time together was short, but you added quality to his time on earth. Pride yourselves in that knowledge, and derive comfort from it now and in the dark days ahead. May you soon have only warm memories of happy times shared together to fill your minds and hearts. And, may knowing that others care help to ease your pain and sorrow.
Sincerely,
Terry and Patty Atkinson*



Terry and Patty Atkinson - June 27, 2016 at 02:21 PM