



## Mr. Lambertus "Bert" Ruitenschild

August 24, 1933 - July 5, 2024

Born August 24, 1933, in Den Haag, Netherlands, Bert Ruitenschild passed away on July 5, 2024, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He is survived by his two daughters Joanne (Frank Tosto) and Marjan (Steve Morris); son Roland (Stacy Keith); and four grandchildren Ava, Carver, Adam and Sydney. Bert was predeceased by his parents Kitty Gouwentak and Joost Ruitenschild; and his wife Janneke (Lievaart).

He was very proud of his age - almost reaching 91. During his lifetime he saw many events and had experiences both challenging and rewarding. Born in 1933, he had a childhood that sadly ended up being defined by the atrocities of WWII. He left Den Helder, Netherlands and immigrated to Canada, educated in construction technology, became a Canadian citizen in 1960, married, became a farmer and raised three children of whom he was very proud. He was a son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, uncle, friend and farmer. He had a full life and lived on his farm until almost the very end.

He married our mom Janneke, who sadly passed away too soon ten years prior to his death. Together they raised a family and instilled into their children a discipline of education and an appreciation for the highs and lows of farm life. Every year the crop was seeded and every year the crop was harvested, a sense of achievement for Bert. Janneke's garden was always full of the colours and flowers that Bert loved, particularly tulips, dahlias, begonias and

zinnias. It was never lost on any of us as to how fragile things were, particularly hearing Bert's stories of what he saw in WWII and experienced in its aftermath. Despite the cruelty of his mind diminishing in the end, it was that deterioration that ultimately relieved him from those memories. In the end it gave him peace for which we were all thankful.

Bert became an Opa in the mid 2000s and his curiosity into each grandchild's life brought happiness and delight. He loved showing each child his penmanship of a larger-than-life signature, and how he could take any piece of old equipment and make it useful for farming. A visit to the farm to see Opa was always an adventure.

Bert loved the mountains and downhill skiing. He instilled the love of skiing into each of his children volunteering many hours on the hill to support this sport. He was a volunteer for ski racing in the 1988 Winter Olympics held in Calgary that he described as pandemonium and exhilarating all at the same time. He cherished every moment of it.

Bert enjoyed music and would often sit at the piano unprompted particularly during birthdays playing Happy Birthday. He enjoyed laughter with his friends and family. Always one to enjoy a good story or joke, he loved celebrations. He read newspapers daily cover to cover and was known to be a listener to those individuals who may have been going through a hard time. He listened and always offered his insight as to what he thought someone should hear.

Bert had a special spot in his heart for animals and was a proud lifetime member of the Calgary Zoo. He particularly loved dogs. In the last few years of his life, he found great joy and companionship with his dogs Charlie and Axel. He often described his dogs as incredible and rewarded them handsomely with treats. Until the very end, he was visited on a regular basis by his fur friends, which always brought him joy.

Bert was a proud Canadian and simultaneously very loyal to his heritage. He had a monthly subscription to a Dutch magazine that he read, spoke Dutch, travelled to the Netherlands, loved strong coffee, and ate as much Dutch chocolate that you can imagine. Christmas time was particularly special for Bert with all the Dutch treats. He proudly wore his speed skates when ice skating. In fact, during his last week of life, he pedalled a bicycle while watching the Netherlands national football team play a game. And yet, when asked, he was Canadian. He lived fully and completely, having a very good life in Canada.

It was Bert's expressed wish that a funeral be not held in his honour. The family will be having a private graveside interment on Monday July 15, 2024, where he will be laid to rest alongside his wife, Janneke. An open memorial reception will be held after the burial from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at Lyle Reeves Funerals in High River, Alberta.

The family requests those who wish to express sympathy to consider making a donation to the Calgary Humane Society (<https://www.calgaryhumane.ca/?form=donate>), Parachutes for Pets (<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/49510?v2=true>), or the Calgary Zoo (<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/m/604?v2=true>) in Bert's name.

May he rest in peace and be surrounded by all his dog companions he had throughout his entire life.

# Cemetery Details

## Highwood Cemetery

High River, AB (CA)

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Reception

JUL 15. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (MT)

Lyle Reeves Funerals Inc.  
140 6th Ave. SW  
High River, AB T1V 1A1 (CA)  
(403) 652-4242  
info@lylereeves.com  
<https://www.lylereeves.com>

# Tribute Wall

JK

“ *My sincere condolences. Unfortunately I am too late to contact Mr. Bert Ruitenschild as I was hoping to speak to him about his father Joost who died during the war. I "adopted" the wargrave of his father and wanted to let him and the other familymembers know that I will take good care of the grave of his father.*

*Kind regards,  
John Kramer  
The Netherlands*



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**John Kramer** - November 05, 2024 at 06:33 AM

GC

“ *Bert was a client, whom I had the utmost respect for. He was a very kind man with an amazing love of his farm and especially his family.*



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**Gerry and Glenda Cutforth** - August 13, 2024 at 12:37 PM



“ *Louise Harrison lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lambertus "Bert" Ruitenschild*



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**Louise Harrison** - July 29, 2024 at 12:57 PM

CS

“ My sincere condolences to all of you, Joanne, Roland, Marian and your families. I have warm memories of your father from our days ski racing together. Tall of course, and a kind and wonderful character, always happy to help. Your parents were amazingly dedicated to bring you in from the farm all the way to the ski hill all the time, and your dad seemed to really love the mountains. I think my dad had the same vest as the photo you chose. My mom told me a funny story years ago that stayed with me: one time, your dad was irritated with someone, and he told my mom, "I was so mad at him I just wanted to grab him by both ears and bite his nose off!" He was such a kind man, that even his expression of irritation was a funny one. It makes me imagine I can hear his voice saying it. Even if the time is right, the loss of your father is always profound. He will be greatly missed by all of you, and stay with you in your hearts forever. RIP Bert, Mr. Rutenschild to us. Thinking of you all at this difficult time, Cheryl Sandercock and the Sandercock family

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**Cheryl Sandercock** - July 16, 2024 at 02:37 PM

JD

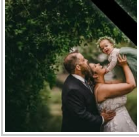
“ We have lots of memories of Bert and Janneke.,their participation in birthday parties and Sinter Klaas celebrations, dress up, skids, and reciting poems. In They will be missed.

*Our sincere condolences to the families  
Frank and Joanne van Donzel*



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**joanne van Donzel** - July 15, 2024 at 02:47 PM



“ So sorry for your loss Marian. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Mary Martineau



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Mary Martineau - July 15, 2024 at 12:30 AM



“ Many condolences Joanne. The passing of the baton is a daunting affair and one that is difficult to go through, both being sad about your loss and happy that he lived a full life well treated by his family. Now the baton is yours to cherish.

Don Moe

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Don Moe - July 14, 2024 at 10:10 AM



“ What a beautiful tribute to a much loved father. Mr. Ruitenschild was the one who taught me to ski when I was 10 years-old (and Mrs. Ruitenschild watched in horror when I lost control and tried to ski through a fence at the bottom of the bunny hill - a memory that still haunts me, but I'm sure Mr. Ruitenschild found funny - especially since I was probably only doing 1 km per hour). Mr. Ruitenschild also took me to my very first Calgary Stampede parade and bought me an O'Henry bar to enjoy while watching (both of which I fondly remember). I enjoyed entire weekend sleepovers with the Ruitenschild family, and always felt very welcome and at home. My thoughts and prayers are with all three kids at this time, and especially Joanne.

Karen (Lawrence) Stevenson

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Karen Stevenson - July 11, 2024 at 06:49 PM

SM

“ Dearest Joanne, My deepest heartfelt condolences to you and your family. I am very sorry for your loss.

*Sharon McInnis*

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**Sharon McInnis** - July 11, 2024 at 01:47 PM

CA

“ *Joanne and Family:*

*My heartfelt condolences on the loss of your dad. Dad's hold a special place in the hearts of their children, especially daughters. Your dad had such a full life. Thinking of you at this difficult time.*

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**Connie Anderson** - July 11, 2024 at 11:23 AM

SE

“ *On behalf of all of us, let me say how deeply sorry we are to hear of your Dads passing. Ewanishin Family*

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**sandy ewanishin** - July 10, 2024 at 01:52 PM

DP

“ *Diane Porter lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lambertus "Bert" Ruitenschild*



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**Diane Porter** - July 10, 2024 at 09:47 AM

M(

“ *Marcia Ayrey (Webster) lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lambertus "Bert" Ruitenschild*



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**Marcia Ayrey (Webster)** - July 10, 2024 at 12:46 AM

M(

“ *Please accept my sincere condolences on the loss of your dad and grandpa. It certainly sound like he lived a full life. Thinking of you Joanne and your entire families. Take care of each other and remember all your good memories.♥♥*

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**Marcia Ayrey (Webster)** - July 10, 2024 at 12:46 AM

ST

“ *Wow, what a great tribute and very brief summary of his life. He was such a unique character full of life stories that we really need to hear. To sit and just listen to him when he was relaxed and comfortable with his company was the best of times, so much to learn from his experiences. He was a very proud farmer and seemed to do things at full throttle. If it was in his mind to get done, it got done, right now. And then when a dog or horse showed up, you seen him slow down and time just stopped till the little or big friend recieved some love from him. He will be missed and his stories are cherished, a gentle giant larger than life.*  
*The Siewerts*

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**stan** - July 09, 2024 at 11:04 PM

CJ

“ To Bert and Janneke's family. My sincere sympathy on the passing of your Dad. I grew up with Janneke and spent many happy hours sitting beside her at many HRUC functions where we both attended, usually on our own. Bert definitely was a very proud man, a fact that I'm sure you are all very aware of. Blessings to each of you at this time.

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**Connie Lorraine Jewell** - July 09, 2024 at 07:28 PM

 LYLE REEVES  
FUNERALS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Lyle Reeves Funerals** - July 09, 2024 at 05:06 PM

DH

*Hello Marian, and siblings and families, thoughts at this time in the loss of your dad. May you all have special memories that will always be a part of you and who you are.*

*Donna Holoboff*

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**Donna Holoboff** - July 25, 2024 at 10:47 PM