



Mr. Leonard Kane Haney

August 26, 1915 - January 31, 2014

Beloved father and pillar of his community, Leonard Kane Haney passed away quietly at the age of 98 years in High River, Alberta. He was born near Iron Springs to a pioneer family in 1915. His father and both grandfathers homesteaded in the area and Leonard followed their example by taking up farming, after studying agriculture at Olds College in 1937. Haney Farms in Picture Butte, under Leonard's steady leadership, became one of the largest seed farms of its kind in Canada. Leonard was a national leader in pedigreed seed development.

He and Velva Noble, a teacher, married in 1946 forming a formidable team as they raised their family of four children. They spent many evenings together with their kids, playing old time music- mother at the piano and father on the fiddle. Leonard ordered his first violin from the Eaton's catalogue in 1934, and over the years built a substantial collection of instruments, often lending fiddles to local children to "get them started."

Leonard was active in community life in both Picture Butte and Lethbridge throughout his lifetime. He was a member of the Picture Butte United Church, and past president of both the Picture Butte Lion's Club and the Kiwanis Club of Lethbridge. He served as a trustee of the Lethbridge School Division for several years and was a member of the Lethbridge County Council. He served on the boards of the Oldman River Regional Planning Commission

and Lethbridge Junior College. He was instrumental in the College's transition to the University of Lethbridge and served on both its Senate and Board of Governors.

Leonard also served as a member of the Alberta Commission on Educational Planning (Worth Commission) representing public school trustees; the Provincial Post-Secondary Board of Education; the Provincial Agricultural Education and the Rural Extension Advisory Committee. He was a member of the Advisory Board on Weather Modification for Alberta and a member of the Farm Debt Review Board for Alberta.

In 1974, Leonard was elected to the board of the Canadian Seed Growers Association and in 1981 became its national president. He also served as president of the SeCan Organization dedicated to seed distribution and promotion and played a critical role in the improvement and development of pedigreed grain seed nationally.

Leonard also earned many accolades throughout his life time: The Robertson Associate Award of the Canadian Seed Growers Association (1969); life time membership of the Alberta School Trustees Association (1970); the distinguished service award of the Council on School Administration of the Alberta Teachers Association (1971); inducted into the Olds College Hall of Fame (1974) and the Harry Kane & J. F. Murray Award for community service to Picture Butte (1986). He especially valued this award because it was presented by his friends and neighbours in his community; the people who knew him best. In 1986 he was awarded the Order of Excellence by the Province of Alberta for his contribution to the betterment of Education in Alberta and his outstanding service to the pedigreed seed industry in Canada. In 1993 he was named a member of the Order of Canada and in 2005 he was granted an honorary doctorate of laws by the University of Lethbridge.

Leonard was predeceased by his wife Velva; sisters Vera, Ruth, Francis and Alice, and is survived by his brother Howard (Georgia); sister Kathleen Peta; sons Harry (Maureen); Tom (Marsha Erb); Dick (Joyce) and daughter Barbara (Randy Jones). He is also survived by ten grandchildren; Shannon Haney (John Lanaris); Patrick (Sandy) Haney; Ryan (Victoria) Haney; David (Lisa) Haney; Lauren Haney (Squire Ball); Shaun (Tricia) Haney; Kevin Haney; Kerri Lynn (Brad) Vanderberg, Tasha Zboya (Johnathan Keith) and Jordan Zboya; and two step-grandchildren; Ben (Katrina) Jones and Levi (Erin) Jones; ten great grandchildren and five step great-grandchildren.

The Haney family wishes to acknowledge the many kindnesses and excellent care provided to Leonard on the 2nd Floor of the High River Hospital Long Term Care Unit over the past two years. A memorial service is planned for Saturday, February 8th at 11:00 a.m. at McKillop United Church in Lethbridge. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the High River Hospital Foundation, 560 9th Avenue S.W., High River, Alberta. T1V1B3

Cemetery Details

Mountain View Cemetery Lethbridge

1210 Scenic Drive South
Lethbridge, AB (CA)

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

FEB 8. 11:00 AM (MT)

McKillop United Church
2329 15th Ave. South
Lethbridge, AB T1K 0X5 (CA)

Tribute Wall

JC

“ Dear Barb, Tom, Dick and Harry and the whole Haney clan,

I was very sad to miss Len's funeral. He and Velva were so loved by our family and we are grateful for such amazing friendship over the years. People like Leonard (and Velva) are rare and precious gifts. We are thankful for Leonard's presence in our lives and the pure delight of our visits to the Haney Farms.

Janet Campbell and Richard Watson

Janet Campbell - February 11, 2014 at 10:31 PM

WN

“ Our sincere condolences to the family of Leonard and Velva in the passing of your father, grandfather and great-grandfather. We grew up a mile across the field to the west, children of Bernard and Mary Nieboer. We grew up with great respect for the Haney family as pillars in the Iron Springs-Picture Butte community. I.(Willard) now live in the States, but have returned " home" to S Alberta nearly every year since leaving for college in 1956. I especially enjoyed conversations with Leonard at the Iron Springs and Picture Butte school reunions. He was a true gentleman, always remembered me, and was interested in what I was doing, etc. Coming from a man who was so involved in so many things, I was thoroughly impressed that he remembered me, the neighbor's boy.
Leonard was truly an icon not only in the community, but he left his imprint, his influence and his legacy on a provincial and national scale. There are only a few people of whom that can be said, He was a man of vision and foresight, with the quiet determination to see a project through to the end. Considering the accomplishments to his credit, his "curriculum vitae", he was truly a Giant among giants, but still a gentle giant, a man of humility and class.
The world is a better place for his having been here.....and we are the better for having known him!

Willard Nieboer - Grand Rapids, Michigan

Joyce Doumeng - St Thomas, US Virgin Islands

Elvina Van Roon - Lethbridge, AB

Willard Nieboer - February 11, 2014 at 04:22 PM

MG

“ Dear Barb,
We have only met briefly, but our fathers shared a unique bond. As one daughter to another, I express my sincere sympathy for your loss. The kindness your father & family extended so many years ago, will be remembered. My thoughts are with your family at this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Mari-Jane (MJ) Getkate
High River, AB

MJ Getkate - February 10, 2014 at 05:14 PM

DG

“ It is with heartfelt sorrow that we express our condolences to the Haney,s in the loss of your father Leonard. Being the first immigrants to come to Southern Alberta we are gratefull and proud to have been sponsored by the Haney,s and cherish that relationship in over six decades. We know the values your folks entrusted you with will enrich your lives as you carry on in that tradition. Wishing you God,s strength,

sincerely, Dick&Jane Getkate

Derk Getkate - February 09, 2014 at 04:24 PM

DO

“ *Harry, Tom, Dick, Barb and families*

Please know that our hearts and thoughts are with you at this difficult time. Your Dad was such a good friend to my Dad and Mom, Wilfred and Adele, and they really enjoyed the times spent together, even after they moved out to Vernon. I remember him as being so kind and friendly, always making time to visit, on every occasion I would see him, even though he was such a busy man with many irons in the fire. Unfortunately, we are away and were not able to attend his service today.

*Sincerely,
Doreen (Alexander) and Charles Oseen*

Doreen (Alexander) Oseen - February 08, 2014 at 02:24 PM

J(

“ *To the Haney family,
My thoughts and prayers are with you as you say good bye to Leonard.
Julie Swanson (Nolan)*

Julie Swanson (Nolan) - February 08, 2014 at 01:01 PM

RP

“ *Harry, Tom, Dick, Barb and their families,*

We regret that we will not be able to attend the service for your Dad today. He was a very special person who was committed to his family and community service. One nice memory for us was a bridge game in 2003 with your Dad and Babe. Larry remembers your Dad commenting at that time that he had never been to a doctor.

Our thoughts are with you and your families. May you treasure your memories.

Larry and Rita Pizzey

Rita Pizzey - February 08, 2014 at 09:35 AM

BA

“ *Dear Barb and family, my deepest condolences on the loss of your father and grandfather.*

Becky Ament

becky ament - February 07, 2014 at 10:29 PM

DM

“ *" Barb, Dick, Tom and Harry*

Please accept our heartfelt sympathies at the passing of your father. I was so pleased to have had the chance to visit with him at the Iron Springs (Huntsville) Reunion. He leaves many great memories for his family and friends which sprang from his strong sense of community service, a dedication to excellence in farming and a terrific sense of humour.

*Dennis and Carol Maier
Sherwood Park, AB"*

Dennis Maier - February 07, 2014 at 08:21 PM

EE

“ *Barb, Tom Harry and Dick:*

*We would like to express our deepest condolences on the passing of your Dad.
You are in our thoughts at this time.*

*Deanie and Evan Evans
Vernon, BC*

Evan Evans - February 07, 2014 at 05:35 PM

DE

“ Harry, Tom, Dick and Barb,

Please accept our condolences. I always enjoyed your Dad's company, especially over coffee at the Nolan house. Uncle Bub and your Dad always seemed to enjoy each other. Our generation has reached another milestone with the passing of our parents, but we are better for having them in our lives. Regretfully we will not be at the funeral, but encourage you to celebrate the great life your Dad enjoyed.

*Don And Marjorie Erno
Chase, BC*

DON ERNO - February 07, 2014 at 02:35 PM

ES

“ *Our condolences to the Haney families in Leonard's passing. We have many fond memories of time spent with Leonard and Velva and family over the years.*

*Our thoughts and prayers go out to you.
Wes & Elaine Sorgard*

Elaine Sorgard - February 06, 2014 at 11:38 PM

LC

“ Part 2... continued...

I remember Barb and Mom helping Velva prep meals in the kitchen. The fresh, still piping hot, bread rolls. The large hams that Velva loved, always served with mustard and horseradish. Brussel sprouts. Coleslaw - perhaps one of Len's favorites (and Dad's). Purple cabbage. Chocolate cake. Dinners by the tv. Dinners in the garden room. Dinners at the dining table. All of us pitching in to prep the tables, bring the food to the table, set the napkins - always folded on the angle as requested by Velva. Dining with great conversations, much laughter and full, full bellies by the end. Then the dark drive home across the prairies to Lethbridge. I would always fall asleep full bellied and full of fresh memories – the stuff dreams are made of!

I have long strived to have a friendship in my own life as Dear to me as I feel Len & Velva were to Mom and Dad. It must be so so hard to experience the passing of such Dear, life long friends. For me, they will always be in my thoughts as they were so important to my own childhood and personal development. I loved them very much.

My prayers, thoughts and love are with Len, Velva and the rest of the family now and always...

Love, Lachlan Campbell

Lachlan Campbell - February 06, 2014 at 08:12 PM

“ Part 1

Dear Haney Family

I am so very sorry to learn of Len's passing.

We (the Gordon Campbell family children) sure loved going to the Haney's as kids. The anticipation during the drive from Lethbridge and the time spent on the farm are some of the fondest of our childhood. Len & Velva were such loving, gracious, kind hosts. We were so loved and well received by them always.

I suppose what hits me most at 47 years of age is how incredibly close my Mom & Dad were to Len & Velva. How often we visited or just showed up unannounced. Their friendship has always struck me as something extraordinary. The depth of conversation, the ease of family movement, the comfort we had in their home. Our parents' careers while so different didn't matter at all - they were quite simply damn fine friends and enjoyed each other's company so very much. That love and care spread to us as kids. We knew going to the Haney's would be filled with love, great fun, great food, open arms and plenty of adventures for us "city kids".

I remember fondly "Monty" their lovable Saint Bernard. What a huge dog for us to play with and enjoy. I remember the many "farm cats" and how we enjoyed seeking them out.

We played hard on the farm. I recall Easter egg hunts, treasure hunts, hide & seek, riding dirt bikes, climbing the hay bales, snooping through the grain silos, riding the bikes of the children on the farm (usually without permission), playing with Monty of course, sitting in the chuck wagon outside the front of the house playing "cowboys and Indians", looking for mice anywhere and everywhere, observing the cows, listening to Len's stories on occasion, listening to Dad play the organ and everyone singing, watching ice hockey on the tv while lying on the sunken living room floor or other shows

such as Sunday night Disney and the Beachcombers while the grown-ups talked.

I remember the plush living room carpet. The wooden cabinets of the kitchen. The soft pink faux-fur on the toilet seat that made having a pee a challenge as the fur would not allow the toilet seat to stay "up" and I had to learn to carefully lift the lids and aim with one hand holding the lids up and the other holding my business. The rest of the bathroom decked out in similar matching pink or fur from the shower curtain to floor rug, tissue box covers and the like. I remember Len's office near the front door stacked with papers and full of cabinets but with a great open view of the "yard" where he could observe the comings and goings to the main house and main farm office. The large Rocky Mountain mural in the garden room that Velva loved so much! How bright their home was with windows a plenty letting the days light stream in to light the spirits and the home. I recall the steep stairs to the basement and all of the wooden storage cupboards full of nick-knacks, loose change (that we often asked to keep – look what I "found"), and great spots for hide and seek. I recall rolling down the 2 stairs in the living room from the grown-ups area into the tv area where we were allowed (told) to play.

The grand entrance to the farm lined with Poplar trees and the "Haney Farms" sign always greeted us and our excitement grew as we knew there were adventures waiting on the other side.

I don't recall a single tear or fuss at the Haney's, there were too many fun times anything less was hugged away or quickly forgotten.

continued...

Lachlan Campbell - February 06, 2014 at 08:10 PM

CB

“ So sorry for your loss, as a family, and for the community that he shared his life with for so long. Thoughts and prayers are with you as you celebrate his memory. ~ Chaplain Virginia

Chaplain Virginia Battiste - February 06, 2014 at 01:05 PM

M(

“ It is with sincere sympathy, I send this message to you. Harry, Tom, Dick and Barbara, your spouses, children, and grandchildren on the passing of your father, grandfather and great grandfather, Leonard. I remember spending time out on the farm visiting with your mother and father. He was a very great man that was interested in so many fields. He followed these dreams that left Southern Alberta much richer because of it.



Margaret Jean (Baldwin) - February 06, 2014 at 11:51 AM

BG

“ We remember Leonard very well. Roy dealt with the Haney business for seed cleaning and was pleased with the result. As a member of the Barons Memorial United Church, it was always a special time when Leonard and Velva played the violin and piano for us.
Blessings, Roy and Barbara Gullickson.

Barbara Gullickson - February 06, 2014 at 10:35 AM

LS

“ *Linda Swanston lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leonard Kane Haney*



Linda Swanston - February 06, 2014 at 08:18 AM

CD

“ *Our condolences and love to the Haney family, especially Tom and Marsha. We know how important Leonard was to you and our thoughts are with you. Love from the Descôteaux family in Quebec.*

Cynthia and Daniel - February 05, 2014 at 06:28 PM

LF

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you in your sorrow. He was such a wonderful man and good friend. His contribution was significant, to agriculture in particular. It has been said that the mark of a truly successful person is not in wealth or recognition, but in the great qualities he instilled in those left behind. He was truly successful. Our deepest sympathy.*

LeRoy & Deanne Fjordbotten

LEROY FJORBOTTEN - February 05, 2014 at 06:04 PM

AB

“ *Thinking of Mr. Haney and particularly his son, Tom, and daughter-in-law, my aunt Marsha Erb, at this difficult time. Mr. Haney was a sweet, utterly charming, and very kindly gentleman. On behalf of my family on the East Coast - who greatly enjoyed meeting Mr. Haney when he visited - please accept our heartfelt and loving condolences. Love, angela, ron, nick, and zack*

Angela Boudreau - February 05, 2014 at 05:59 PM

DW

“ Hello to all the Haney family. I know it is never a nice time when you lose a father or mother. When one has such a father as Leonard, it is with great pride that you can speak of the difference he made in so many lives. As a past Alberta Agriculture employee and friend of Leonard, thanks is not enough to express the appreciation for his support over the years.
Don Wentz

Don Wentz - February 05, 2014 at 04:25 PM



“ Cup of Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Leonard Kane Haney.



February 05, 2014 at 03:31 PM

LI

“ My heart goes out to the Haney family. You have lost a great man who made a big difference in so many people's lives. My condolences to you all.

Sincerely, Lise H.

Lise - February 05, 2014 at 03:01 PM

KB

“ Dear Barb and Family - I read this morning of your father's passing, Barb and wanted to send my condolences to you. Although it has been a while since we've seen one another, I remember your Dad as such a lovely man with many accomplishments and a huge sense of commitment to his community. Mostly, I remember how important he was to you. Take care of yourself - my thoughts are with you.

Kerry Brown

Kerry Brown - February 05, 2014 at 10:41 AM

BH

“ We are sorry to learn of Leonard's passing. During his long life he has added to the growth and advancement of Alberta and Canada in so many ways. All members of is family and a host of those whose lives he touched should be very proud of his accomplishments. Well done thou good and faithful servant.

Betty & Jim Horsman

Betty & Jim Horsman - February 05, 2014 at 10:38 AM

QM

“ On behalf of the SeCan board, staff and membership, I extend our condolences to the Haney family. More importantly, we celebrate with you, Leonard's amazing list of accomplishments. We also thank you for accommodations made that allowed him to dedicate so much time to many great causes; in his community, provincially and nationally.

Quentin Martin

Chair

SeCan Association

Quentin Martin - February 05, 2014 at 08:25 AM

NP

“ I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. Big hug Barb.

Nikki Pahl - February 04, 2014 at 08:52 PM

MB

“ Margaret Baldwin purchased the Blue Blooms Bouquet for the family of Mr. Leonard Kane Haney.



Margaret Baldwin - February 04, 2014 at 08:50 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Leonard Kane Haney.



February 04, 2014 at 04:49 PM

BO

“ Dear Harry, Tom, Dick,. Pat and Ryan. Deepest sympathies on the passing of your father and grandfather. What a wonderful man he was. My thoughts will be with you and your family over the coming days. In ZAX, Brian O'Neill

Brian O'Neill - February 04, 2014 at 03:17 PM

JB

“ *Condolences to Leonard's family and friends.
Leonard was a kind thoughtful man who always tried to help anyone
he encountered.*

*Sincerely,
Aldo Bianchini and Jeanne Bianchini*

Jeanne Bianchini - February 04, 2014 at 02:03 PM

GB

“ *Our sympathy to the Haney family on the loss of Leonard.
Leonard was a mentor, and a friend to me. I always looked forward
to an opportunity
to visit with him when he would stop in for coffee or we would meet
at CSGA events.*

*He was indeed a real gentleman.
Gordon and Joanne Bussey*

Gordon Bussey - February 04, 2014 at 01:06 PM

JG

“ *Our deepest sympathy to you Harry ,Maureen
and family in the loss of your Dad and
Grampa. Our thoughts and prayers are with
you at this time.*

George and Judy



Judy Groeneveld - February 03, 2014 at 01:21 PM

BM

“ Dear Barb, Randy, Natasha and Jordan,

Sending our friendship and support to you and keeping you in our thoughts and prayers.

Brenda, Graham, Mallory, Leah and Paige McCredie

Brenda McCredie - February 02, 2014 at 08:43 PM

JG

“ Dear Barb and Randy, Tasha and Jordan, we are so sorry about Leonard's passing. We know this has been a difficult time for you. At Herb's today, I found four CDs beside his player. One was a Reader's Digest CD with relaxing sounds (still in the shrink wrap), another was Tommy Dorsey in a well-worn case, yet another was the Riverwind CD from 2002 and the fourth CD was the Dedication CD you made in 2005. What an honour to listen to you all playing. What a wonderful musical legacy your dad has left behind. Our love and prayers are with you all.

Jim and Darlene Goodwin - February 02, 2014 at 08:26 PM



“ Dear Barb, and family - it is with sadness that I read of Leonard's passing today. I will miss him on 2nd floor cruising the halls with his feet pushing him forward and his hand on the side rail. I'll miss the twinkle in his eye as we slipped him a candy to enjoy or some of mom's popcorn. I'll miss you coming to visit and our shared hello's , as you take part in activities or events. I'm lighting a pink candle for your father, as you are a very special daughter, whose love and commitment was paramount in your life. Bless you as you say your goodbyes. Karen Crawford and Dick Perks



Karen Crawford - February 01, 2014 at 02:30 PM

DH

Our deepest sympathy to Mr Haney's family. We met him when he was visiting on the East Coast with Tom and Marsha and what a fine gentleman. Our thoughts are with you.

Dave & Roberta Hayes

Dave & Roberta Hayes - February 05, 2014 at 08:37 PM

TE

My heartfelt condolences to the extended Haney family at this time of loss and sorrow. The last time I saw Mr. Haney he was playing the fiddle in Erb's Cove, NB. We were all impressed by his kindness and inner joy.

Terry Erb - February 06, 2014 at 10:27 AM