



## Mr. R.R. Bruce Laing

June 24, 1941 - January 7, 2019

Bruce Laing was sometimes referred to as "The Dour Scot" by his family because, despite being born on a small farm near Wapella, Saskatchewan, and having never actually visited Scotland, he had all of the celebrated and sometimes frustrating aspects of his Scots ancestors. He was stubborn. He never admitted defeat. He appreciated frugality, both of economy and emotion. He could be downright cantankerous. And his clan was everything to him.

Bruce worked as a real estate broker in High River, Alberta, for more than 40 years, which gave him ample opportunity to develop both properties and Very Strong Opinions about local land use, which he was happy to share with the Mayor. But while Bruce was a renowned grumbler, he was also quick to chuckle. He had a sense of mischief and would share stories of adventures and misadventures and laugh until he cried. He had a strong, if secret, sentimental side and would tell stories of growing up on the family farm, and of his parents, Joe (d. 1962) and Christie (d. 1989).

The Dour Scot loved his family. He was close with all of his brothers and sisters, Bill (d. 1988), Beth Dillabaugh, Tom (d. 2017) and Peg Fyke (d. 2018) and their children throughout his life. He loved his wife Jocelyn, daughter Tanya Laing Gahr (Rusty) and son Scott deeply, even if he showed it by voicing disapproval for some of their choices. On the other hand, if he

bestowed a rare “Good for you”, it was clear that he was terribly impressed and proud. He adored his grandchildren, Alexa Laing-Moore, Theo Moore and Ethan Moore beyond measure. The world stopped and started with them. He would have walked across fire for them (or sent the money equivalent of fire-walking because he also believed in paying experts for their skills).

Bruce was a man of business, and insisted on getting things done. Friends and family would lean on him to handle matters in trying times because he could put aside emotions to deal with the business at hand—not because he prioritized business but because he prioritized family. Above all else, he wanted his family, and the families of the people he cared about, to be safe.

True to type, Bruce didn't want a service. He didn't want the fuss and he definitely didn't want the expense. His family have decided to listen to him JUST THIS ONCE and honour his wishes. A wake to celebrate this cranky, loveable Dour Scot will take place at the Highwood Golf & Country Club on Saturday, March 9th, 2019 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

To send condolences and view Bruce's Tribute Page please visit [www.lylereeves.com](http://www.lylereeves.com) . Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals of High River (Craig Snodgrass) 403.652.4242.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Reception

MAR 9. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (MT)

Highwood Golf & Country Club  
400 7th Street NW  
High River, AB (CA)  
<http://www.highwoodgolf.com>

# Tribute Wall

MG

“*Jocelyn I'm so sorry, your in my thoughts and prayers!*”



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**Marijke Gough** - March 07, 2019 at 12:08 PM

RT

“*Bruce was a huge influence to a lot of young men in High River and will be missed immensely. Between hockey and real estate I was fortunate to spend lots of time with Bruce. Along with Jocelyn they were always there to lend a hand. As Blair mentioned there are so many great memories and I look forward to sharing them the Jocelyn and the kids in March. Rest in Peace Bruce.*”

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**Roy Tupkal** - February 11, 2019 at 05:23 PM



Tanya  
Laing

*Roy, thank you. My dad adored you and all of the guys from his days coaching hockey. I am so looking forward to hearing some of the stories. Hearing that he was known as “Bango” is a side of my dad that I didn’t know—and I LOVE it! Can’t wait to hear more.*

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**Tanya Laing Gahr** - February 12, 2019 at 10:31 PM

GH

“ Jocelyn, Scott & Tanya & families;  
I'm one of many cousins that Bruce had in Moosomin. His mom & my mom we're sisters.  
I'm sorry to say that I haven't seen or kept in touch with him, although I have kept in touch through his sister Beth.  
I'm sorry to hear of his passing & send our love & deepest sympathies. I've looked through some pictures you have posted & loved seeing them. He really hadn't changed since I last seen him. Love the obituary, he would've loved your humour & that you are honouring his wishes this one time !  
I'm sorry to say I can't attend the service.  
We live at Candle Lake ask.

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**Gaylene (Lindsay ) Hamerston** - January 19, 2019 at 12:28 PM

KW

“ Jocelyn,  
I too will miss Bruce's New Years calls.  
I will remember our time in high school and the year I boarded at his Mom & Dad's.  
He was a great friend.  
Ken & Darlene

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**Ken Wilson** - January 16, 2019 at 03:49 PM

JL

*Thanks Ken. Christie told me a few stories from that year!*

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**Jocelyn Laing** - January 22, 2019 at 05:02 PM

DL

“ Our condolences to Jocelyn and family. Bruce was a dear friend who kept in touch every year. He was always interested in what was happening in our life. My friendship with Bruce goes back to our school years as we were together in every class. His love of music and his guitar was enough to interest four others in creating the Sattelites singing group and throughout our high school years we were great performers {at least in our own minds}. He will certainly be missed.



*Donna and Doug*

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**Douglas Lynd** - January 15, 2019 at 08:40 PM

JL

*Thank you, Doug. Staying in touch with you and the gang was very important to Bruce. The shiny, sparkly shirt from back in the day is still in the family archives, and gets oohs and aahs!*

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**Jocelyn Laing** - January 15, 2019 at 09:37 PM

LM

“ *Lorna McLean lit a candle in memory of Mr. R.R. Bruce Laing*



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**Lorna McLean** - January 14, 2019 at 01:16 PM

RD

“ *Rosemary Derbecker lit a candle in memory of Mr. R.R. Bruce Laing*



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**Rosemary Derbecker** - January 13, 2019 at 01:08 PM

JD

“ *John And Sharon Dale lit a candle in memory of Mr. R.R. Bruce Laing*



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**john and sharon dale** - January 11, 2019 at 03:31 PM

BG

“ ALBERTA WINTER GAMES 1976 JUVENILE IMPERIALS

*Memories of our friend Bruce go back many years, meeting Bruce and Jocelyn with Dad when moving here from Moosomin Saskatchewan to work at the High River Times. The Tanners', celebrating birthdays with Bob Donkin, having a small " touch " in the back room at Gordons' Solo, many hockey trips with the Juveniles and Flyers, selling land to Jack Dickson with Bob Lyons, merge with Melton Real Estate and Ted Zaharko, hiring Blair Gordon to sell real estate in 1977, Harry and Judy James move here from South Africa, road trips with Gene Fox, Burkhart Sales Training , Development of the Rio Vista Golf Course with Eric Nissen, singing the Russian National Anthem with Bill Holmes on the piano, the Beef and Brew! , Tiffany and Tanya, Scott and his friends heading downtown, a taste of RULUPULSA at Christmas. TO BE CONTINUED.....*

*WATCH FOR A MEETING OF THE MINDS IN MEMORY OF Bango in March!! Going to miss you Bruce..*

*Bev and Blair Gordon*



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**Blair & Bev Gordon** - January 10, 2019 at 11:46 AM

TG

*Bev and Blair, this was wonderful! There were enough references in there that even I got! Thank you so much for your years of friendship and for helping us to toast the old man in March.*

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**Tanya Laing Gahr** - January 10, 2019 at 12:18 PM



*We found the powder blue jacket!*

**Jocelyn Laing** - January 11, 2019 at 04:55 PM



*I have never been able to stomach vodka & orange juice since we had a few "Laing Tangs" in the Pioneer Lounge for our A.E. LePage Melton sales meetings.*

**Roy Tupkal** - February 11, 2019 at 05:17 PM



*Laing Tangs! HAHHAHAHAHA!*

**Tanya Laing Gahr** - February 12, 2019 at 10:33 PM



“ *Al & Dorine Moore lit a candle in memory of Mr. R.R. Bruce Laing*



**Al & Dorine Moore** - January 09, 2019 at 09:31 PM



“ *Eric And Lea Sorkilmo lit a candle in memory of Mr. R.R. Bruce Laing*



**Eric and Lea Sorkilmo** - January 09, 2019 at 07:39 PM

CH

“ Chuck & Linda Hurl lit a candle in memory of Mr. R.R. Bruce Laing



Chuck & Linda Hurl - January 09, 2019 at 06:35 PM

Tanya Laing Gahr

“ 2 files added to the album Bruce Laing



Tanya Laing Gahr - January 09, 2019 at 05:53 PM

TG

“ 3 files added to the album Bruce Laing



Tanya Laing Gahr - January 09, 2019 at 05:00 PM

MR

“ Jocelyn and family, I was very sad to see this post today. Another person from my childhood memories that I always thought was such a good guy. Thoughts and kind wishes to you all, Merridell Richardson

Merridell Richardson - January 09, 2019 at 04:23 PM

AH

“ *Tanya, Scott and Jocelyn my thoughts and prayers are with you all. Peace be with you.*

Ann Holmes - January 09, 2019 at 04:15 PM



Tanya Laing

*Thank you, Ann. Love to you and your family.*

Tanya Laing Gahr - January 09, 2019 at 04:56 PM



“ *Sharon Doll lit a candle in memory of Mr. R.R. Bruce Laing*



Sharon Doll - January 09, 2019 at 01:10 PM

BY

“ *Bill Young lit a candle in memory of Mr. R.R. Bruce Laing*



Bill Young - January 09, 2019 at 11:37 AM

HD

“ *Jocelyn, Tanya, and Scott: We are so sorry to hear of Bruce's passing and wish to convey our sincere condolences to you. Keep the fond memories close to you.*  
*Bill & Dorothy Holmes*

Holmes, Bill & Dorothy - January 09, 2019 at 09:42 AM

CE

*Jocelyn and Family. Sorry to hear of the passing of Bruce,our condolences. Cameron & Lois Eger. Moosomin, Sask.*

**Cameron & Lois Eger** - January 09, 2019 at 10:00 AM

DI

*Jocelyn & family. So very sorry to hear of Bruce's passing. Know that our thoughts are with you. Daphne & Laurie Isralson*

**Daphne Isralson** - January 09, 2019 at 02:24 PM

EM

*Bruce was a wonderful neighbour. He watched out, to make sure I and my home were safe. He lined up tradespeople when needed. For many years he mowed my lawn and shovelled my front walk, and when he was unable to do that, he contacted a company to do that for both of us. We visited over the fence When one of us cooked up something good we would often share the bounty. I will miss him*

**Elaine Mason** - January 09, 2019 at 02:45 PM

BF

*Thinking of Bruce and the wonderful obituary you've done for him. My first memory would have been of the office supply store in the old barbershop at the St. George right through to the last deal I did with him not that long ago. One's of the town's originals.*

**Bill Fowler** - January 09, 2019 at 03:37 PM

Liz Moore

*Bruce may have had a crusty exterior but it covered ( protected ? ) a warm and loving human being . You just had to see the twinkle in his eyes to know that .  
He will be missed .  
My thoughts and prayers go out to all who loved him .  
Liz Moore*

**Liz Moore** - January 09, 2019 at 05:36 PM

KF

*Jocelyn and family: I was shocked and saddened by the news of Bruce's passing. We shared many memories and fun times going as far back as 1956, when we were students in Moosomin High school. We have stayed in touch over the years through Bruce's New Year's Eve calls to his many friends across Canada. I considered Bruce the "custodian of memories" as he knew what we were all doing, how we were doing and the latest 'gossip' from his old Moosomin 'buds'. He would freely give us 'hell' if we were not home to receive his call. He was a great friend, a trusted friend, and I will miss his annual calls very much. RIP my friend. With our condolences to Jocelyn and family.*

*Ken and Dawn Fyke, VICTORIA, BC*

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**ken fyke** - January 10, 2019 at 04:15 PM

S(

*So sorry for your loss. My memories were formed when he and my brother Grant Fisher would talk about their escapades. He will be missed by all who knew him.*

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**Sharron Esch (Fisher)** - January 16, 2019 at 01:41 PM