



## Mr. Roderick Neil Blake

June 14, 1955 - March 29, 2020

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Rod Blake on March 29, 2020 at the age of 64. Rod was the youngest of 3 children born to John R. and Doris (Atkinson) Blake and spent the whole of his life in the Nanton area, living on the family farm/ranch west of Nanton.

Rod is survived by his wife, Norma, and his children Riley (Karen), Curtis (Erica) and Andrea (Dave) as well as his 5 grandchildren, Dallyn & Warren Blake, Bellamy Blake, and Brooke & Charlie Landry. He is also survived by his brother John (Pat), his sister Reta (George), his brothers-in-law, Dennis Brown (Sharon), Roy Brown and Brian Brown (Lori), and his mother-in-law, Julia Brown. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles, cousins, and numerous friends.

Rod developed a love of the land, ranching and animals at a young age and ranching became his passion. He spent a lot of quality time at the family ranch in the Foothills SW of Chain Lakes while he was growing up where he enjoyed riding, family picnics, and learning about ranching. Needless to say, Rod chose ranching as his career and took over the family ranch in his early 20's and has enjoyed helping his oldest son take over the reins in recent years.

In 1995 Rod was injured on the ranch and his life was drastically changed, and he lived the last 25 years of his life as a quadriplegic. After spending a

year in hospital and rehabilitation, Rod returned to his home and picked up where he left off, managing the ranch. When the weather was nice, he spent a lot of time outside and was not afraid to get his wheelchair in the manure! He loved watching everything that was going on and never quit working to improve and expand the ranch. He also took great pride in the yard and garden and loved to oversee the mowing of the grass and the weeding of the garden!

In 1997 a friend offered Rod a part time job as a grain and feed broker at Hub Commodities in Nanton and reluctantly, Rod decided to give it a whirl. As it turned out, he found he enjoyed this new venture and he eventually ended up purchasing the business and operated Hub Commodities until he passed. He also applied for the Supervisor position for the Parkland Stavely Feeder Association and was successful in obtaining that position. He didn't let any grass grow under his wheels!

Rod had an unconditional love for his family and was extremely proud of his children and grandchildren. He was able to attend their hockey games, dance recitals, and school activities and especially loved family gatherings. The grandchildren were the loves of his life and they loved him too – they will miss their “papa”!

Rod had a larger than life personality, he gathered many wonderful friends over the course of his life, and he will be dearly missed by everyone who knew him.

The family would like to recognize the amazing caregivers Rod had over the last 25 years - a huge thank you goes out to each and every one of them for greatly improving his quality of life. We would also like to extend our thanks to the Doctors and Staff at the Nanton Medical Clinic, the High River Hospital, the Foothills Medical Centre and the Peter Lougheed Centre for the wonderful

care he received in recent months.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Rod's memory to the Nanton Emergency Fund Society, Box 1182, Nanton, AB T0L 1R0 or to STARS, 1441 Aviation Park NE, Calgary, AB T2E 8M7.

Due to the current circumstances a Celebration of Rod's Life will be held at a later date.

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lyle Reeves Funerals created a Webcast in memory of Mr. Roderick Neil Blake*



**Lyle Reeves Funerals** - June 15, 2020 at 09:31 AM

DC

*Thanks for sharing this. A very touching tribute. We have so many memories of Rod and our times spent together throughout the years. What a beautiful place for reflection!*  
*Dianne Comstock*

**Dianne Comstock** - June 15, 2020 at 02:39 PM

KG

*This was an amazing ceremony of Rod's life. Thankyou so very much for sharing. I'll always remember his laughter and stories just like Andrea shared so perfectly. Light and love to you all 🙏*  
*Kerstin Gilstorf*

**Kerstin Gilstorf** - June 15, 2020 at 03:36 PM

SE

*That was a beautiful memorial. Thank you so much for sharing this with us! Les & Shelley Eddy*

**Shelley Eddy** - June 16, 2020 at 12:13 AM

LC

*What a beautiful memorial. Thank you for sharing with us. He will be dearly missed but his memory will last forever.*

**Lorna and Steve Carpenter** - June 16, 2020 at 09:24 AM

JO

*Thank you for sharing, he was a wonderful person, my friend and partner in business. He was always helping everyone he could, his heart was never ending. The stories I heard at the office were funny.*

**Janni Osterdal-McCoy** - June 16, 2020 at 03:46 PM

RR

*A lovely tribute...*

**Rachel Ramos** - June 20, 2020 at 01:33 PM

WS

*Thanks for sharing, I am so thankful for all the laughs and adventures Rod and I had growing up, and even though we weren't in close contact as adults, it was always fun to catch up with what was happening in each other's families. I always considered Rod to be one of my closest friend and he will be surely missed.*

**Warren Smith** - June 20, 2020 at 04:27 PM

JG

“ *My Deepest Condolences to all Family of the Blake's I am so very sorry I meet him once at the Reception of Curtis and Erica Curtis my heart ❤️ goes out to you*

**Jennie Jean Grimes** - May 01, 2020 at 11:23 PM

BA

“ *Brenda {Thompson} Avery lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roderick Neil Blake*



**Brenda {Thompson} Avery** - April 25, 2020 at 06:53 PM

AC

“ Sending our deepest sympathies to all Rod's family. Hold your memories close, he will be so missed. Sincerely Clay & Avril.

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**Avril Chattaway** - April 19, 2020 at 12:42 PM

TM

“ My deepest condolences to the Blake family in this difficult time. I hope you are all able to share your memories of this good man. Rod and I go way back to when us city Morrisons would help out on the Blake farm and ranch as part of family gatherings. I especially enjoyed wrestling calves together for branding when we were young teenagers. Those memories are priceless.

Sincerely,

Cousin Toe Morrison

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**Tom Morrison** - April 14, 2020 at 03:03 PM

RR

“ Our deepest sympathy to you Norma and Blake families, he was a great past neighbor, even when waking us up with the spot light when checking the cows, that was Rob and so much more, may the memories give all of you strength in the days to come.

Sincerely

Renne and Trevor Reidy

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**Renne Reidy** - April 10, 2020 at 01:51 PM

MO

“ Dear Norma & family. God has taken his soul, cherish your memories forever and time will heal all. Margaret Olson

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**Margaret Olson** - April 09, 2020 at 07:35 PM

SM

“ Dear Norma and family:  
Our condolences on the passing of your husband, father and grandfather. May you find some comfort in your memories as you move through this difficult time.  
Fred and Shelley(Young) Maloff and Peggy deRoaldes.

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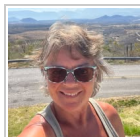
**Shelley Maloff** - April 07, 2020 at 03:54 PM

BS

“ *Bridget Shea*  
My deepest condolences to the Blake family. I met Mr Blake when I was working at CIBC Nanton and I truly enjoyed discussing the world of commodities with Rod. He will be missed.  
My thoughts and prayers to the Blake family.  
Bridget Shea

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**Bridget Shea** - April 06, 2020 at 10:03 PM



“ We are so sorry to hear of Rod's passing. Sending our deepest sympathies to the Blake family. May your memories of Rod comfort you always. From Becky Young, Pam & Tim Boyko, Ken Young, and Helen Young.

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**Becky Young** - April 06, 2020 at 11:14 AM

DS

“ Our deepest sympathies to the Blake family. Our thoughts are with you at this difficult time.

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**Dan & Jackie Sawley** - April 06, 2020 at 09:58 AM

DA

“ To the Blake family we are so sorry to hear of Rods passing. He was a great friend to Dale and I. I (Trudy) can still remember him discreetly helping me at one of the first brandings I roped at. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Dale and Trudy Andrews.

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**Dale and Trudy Andrews** - April 05, 2020 at 09:25 AM

RT

“ *Norma, Riley, Curtis, Andrea & Families*  
We were so very sorry to hear of Rod's passing. We're thinking of all of you with deepest sympathy as you mourn his loss.  
*Ralph & Beth Tjostheim* ❤️

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**Ralph & Beth Tjostheim** - April 04, 2020 at 09:36 PM

JM

“ *Rod was a great inspiration to others like himself became wheelchair bound. Through his example was able to show others that although your life has changed you have much to offer your Family and the community . Jane McCallion*

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**Jane McCallion** - April 04, 2020 at 09:11 PM

BR

“ *My thoughts are with the Blake Family. Sorry to hear. Take Care.*  
  
*From Brenda Ingram (Morrison) and family.*

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**Brenda** - April 04, 2020 at 09:05 PM

PW

“ *Deepest Sympathy in this time of Loss* 🙏 *Fred and Pat White*

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**pat White** - April 04, 2020 at 06:59 PM

Y(

“ I’m very sorry for your loss Norma and family. You are in my thoughts.

Yvonne De Caire (Adamson) - April 04, 2020 at 11:50 AM

EL

“ Eldon And Barb Lyall lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roderick Neil Blake



Eldon and Barb Lyall - April 04, 2020 at 09:29 AM

LC

“ I’m so sorry for your loss. Rod was great person and a have very beautiful memories of him. May he Rest In Peace.



Leidy Carrillo - April 02, 2020 at 06:39 PM

XA

“ I had the enormous fortune of meeting a man with a really kind heart, willing to listen and help. My very dear amigo Rod, you will be truly missed. Blake family, you are in my thoughts and prayers.  
Xiomy

Xiomara Arcila - April 02, 2020 at 03:06 PM

RL

“ You are in our thoughts, so sorry for your loss .... Ron and Myrna Lafreniere

ron and Myrna Lafreniere - April 02, 2020 at 01:42 PM

LS

“ We were so very sorry to hear of Rod's passing. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you Norma and all of your family! May you find comfort in all the good memories you all have of Rod!! He was always great to visit with whenever we saw him - usually at the rink.

Lorna & Jack Schmaltz - April 02, 2020 at 11:29 AM

NM

“ Nancy Morrison lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roderick Neil Blake



Nancy Morrison - April 02, 2020 at 10:40 AM

DB

“ Norma and family, We are so sorry for your loss, our thoughts are with all of you.  
Doug, Sharleen and family

Doug & Sharleen Bushell - April 02, 2020 at 10:21 AM

C(

“ Norma, I'm so very sorry for your loss. I didn't know Rod but it sounds like he was a wonderful amazing man. I hope you can find comfort in your memories and the strength and love of your family and friends.

Colleen Whitehead (Bonnar) - April 02, 2020 at 09:50 AM

LM

“ *Lloyd & Nancy MacKillop lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roderick Neil Blake*



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**Lloyd & Nancy MacKillop** - April 02, 2020 at 09:34 AM

GF

“ *I didn't know Rod before his accident but got to know him through Hub Commodities. He was a shining example of "You don't choose the hand you're dealt, it's how you play the cards". In later years we met up often at the arena where as others have said we solved many world problems while watching the kids play hockey. He played his hand well. Rest in peace.*

*Gary Flitton*

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**Gary Flitton** - April 02, 2020 at 07:28 AM

MP

“ *I am so sorry for your family to suffer the loss of Rod, so very sorry.*

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**Monica Paslawski** - April 02, 2020 at 05:46 AM

RH

“ *Norma and family, we were so saddened to hear of Rods passing! He was such an inspiration to all of us. We will miss seeing him at the rink or branding when we come that way .*

*Ray and Joan Herbert*

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**Ray and Joan Herbert** - April 01, 2020 at 11:58 PM

KM

“ So saddened to hear of Rods passing. Prayers and sincere condolences to Norma & Family. Kathie Mclean & Gladys Monkman

Kathie Mclean - April 01, 2020 at 11:34 PM

KP

“ To the Blake family,  
Aisleigh and I send our sincerest condolences, Rod was such a wonderful person and I'm truly grateful for my time caring for him and in turn I had the pleasure of getting to know your family. I was always amazed as to how proficient Rod was at running the farm, ranch and still working on top of it all. There never seemed to be much that would slow him down. He will be missed. May God Bless you and comfort you at this time, sending you loads of love .  
Karen and Aisleigh Pennifold

Karen Pennifold - April 01, 2020 at 11:17 PM

DM

“ Dear Norma, Riley, Curtis, Andrea, John J, Reta and Families,  
It is with sincerest sympathy that we come to terms with Rod's passing. No matter that Rod's challenges were great, the pain of loss is not diminished. 1995 changed Rod's life, and life for all of you, however you all faced those challenges with strength, love and determination. Know that others admired all of you. May your grieving soon be replaced with memories of times you spent together, and may those memories be warm and comforting. May you find peace in your memories.  
Sincerely,  
Doug, Anita and the McCully Family



Doug and Anita McCully - April 01, 2020 at 09:40 PM

AW

“ Norma, Riley, Curtis, Andrea and families. So sad to hear of Rod's passing. I loved our visits when he called out to Ballco, he was my connection to the latest in the community and mutually harassed each other consistently. For the past year he was always able to twist my arm in taking an 'unexpected' load of barley usually by telling me how good I looked that day even though he was on the phone 📞 We solved some world problems and had lots of laughs and I will miss that so much. Thinking of you all.  
Ashli & Mark



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**Ashli Wright** - April 01, 2020 at 08:58 PM

DT

“ Dana Thomas lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roderick Neil Blake



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**Dana Thomas** - April 01, 2020 at 08:00 PM

LA

“ Dear Norma, Andrea, Curtis and Riley, We are so very sorry for your loss. Sending hugs and prayers for such a warm and good hearted man. Louise, Bruce, Rob and Dave  
Adie



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**Louise Adie** - April 01, 2020 at 07:40 PM

LM

“ *Our sincere condolences.*

*Rod & Lesley McLeish*

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**Lesley McLeish** - April 01, 2020 at 07:15 PM

WM

“ *We are so sorry for your loss , condolences to the family.*



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**Wendy Morrison** - April 01, 2020 at 06:59 PM

KD

“ *Norma, Riley Curtis, Andrea & Families.*

*Our thoughts and prayers go out to you during this sad and difficult time. We have so many fond memories of Rod. We hope you can find comfort in your memories and the strength and love of your family and friends.*



*Jack & Kathy Duce*

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**Kathy Duce** - April 01, 2020 at 06:44 PM

LM

“ *Norma, Riley, Curtis and Andrea, J.R and Rita,*

*Words cannot express how heartbroken I am for all of you. Rod (and Norma) had such a great impact on my life growing up. So many great memories. Your place was almost like a second home. Rod will be deeply missed but never forgotten. Sending you much love and I hope you can find strength in each other to help carry you through this grief. If there is anything I can do for you, please reach out. Love Lynnette (Fries)*



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**Lynnette Mercer** - April 01, 2020 at 06:12 PM

DC

“ *Denise Comfort lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roderick Neil Blake*



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**Denise Comfort** - April 01, 2020 at 05:15 PM



“ *My heart goes out to you Norma & family. Take solace in a great life lived with much love. Peace be with you all. Jim, Jackie & Family*



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**Jim Morgan** - April 01, 2020 at 05:04 PM

GH

“ *Glen And Annette Halbert lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roderick Neil Blake*



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**Glen and Annette Halbert** - April 01, 2020 at 04:55 PM

RM

“ *Please accept our condolences. It's not easy to love a loved one but we know you'll get through this with grace. Ron, Deb, and family*

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**Ron Magnuson** - April 01, 2020 at 04:51 PM

BW

“ *Norma, Riley, Curtis, Andrea and your families. Our heartfelt sympathies on the loss of Rod, in time, you will find joy in your wonderful memories.*  
*Darcy and Brenda Welsh and family*

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**Brenda Welsh** - April 01, 2020 at 04:19 PM

DJ

“ *Dear Norma and family we are so sorry to hear of Rod's passing May God's guardian angels hold you all to help in the healing process. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this sad time*  
*Bless you all Steve and Darla Johnstone 🙏*

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**Darla Johnstone** - April 01, 2020 at 04:12 PM

VF

“ *Val Robinson And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roderick Neil Blake*



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**Val Robinson and Family** - April 01, 2020 at 03:58 PM

BM

“ *Our condolences to the family, may your strength prevail in these tough times.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

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**Bob and Peggy Monkman** - April 01, 2020 at 03:43 PM

DL

“ *Debbie And Terry Lindemann lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roderick Neil Blake*



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**Debbie and Terry Lindemann** - April 01, 2020 at 03:13 PM

CW

“ *So very sad to hear of Rod's passing. He was a bright light despite the many challenges he endured. He and the family undoubtedly faced so many uphill battles that we will never know but through it all he always managed to be a soft souled gentleman, except when he met you at centre ice! You were and always will be, an inspiration.  
Chris & Karie Wilson*

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**Chris Wilson** - April 01, 2020 at 12:47 PM

RS

“ Robin And Kyle Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roderick Neil Blake



Robin and Kyle Smith - April 01, 2020 at 11:30 AM

BM

“ Want to let all of you know I am so sorry for your loss, Rod filled me with so many memories as I am sure he did you it would take days to write all of them, all good ones, not a bad one, many very funny, Rod you will be missed big time, this one is hard to take.



Bob McDougall - April 01, 2020 at 11:13 AM

JG

“ Jodie George lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roderick Neil Blake



Jodie George - April 01, 2020 at 10:54 AM

BH

“ Our sincere condolences to all of Rod's family and friends. Boyd had many laughs and good times with Rod. Boyd and Holly Hunter



Boyd and Holly Hunter - April 01, 2020 at 06:43 AM

DN

“ *Denise Ney lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roderick Neil Blake*



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**Denise Ney** - April 01, 2020 at 02:26 AM

SC

“ *Norma, Riley, Curtis, Andrea and families, sincere condolences to each of you at this very difficult time. In time may tears be replaced with fond and cherished memories .*  
*Les & Shannon Cowling*

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**Shannon Cowling** - March 31, 2020 at 11:20 PM

GL

“ *We are thinking of all of you at this sad time. The many memories that we have will keep Rod in our conversations and thoughts forever. We hope your happy memories help to heal your hearts.*

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**Glen and Leona** - March 31, 2020 at 08:53 PM

BK

“ *What a courageous brilliant gentleman. Was always a positive person, and was a true inspiration to others. Will miss him and his kind nature. RIP Rod. Our Condolences Brady and Debi.*

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**Brady Kidd** - March 31, 2020 at 06:53 PM

KM

“ Keith And Lee Mueller lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roderick Neil Blake



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**Keith and Lee Mueller** - March 31, 2020 at 06:20 PM

KM

*Condolences to all Rod's family and circle of friends. RIP.*

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**Keith and Lee Mueller** - March 31, 2020 at 06:21 PM

VK

“ John,Rita and families,  
I know it's never easy to say goodbye to your youngest sibling. I know his life has not been easy. May he rest in peace. You are in our thoughts .  
Violet and Jerry Kautz

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**Violet and Jerry Kautz** - March 31, 2020 at 06:03 PM

TO

“ Our sincere condolences . Rod was so very kind and we will remember what a character he was. I will never forget the phone call he made to me after our accident- so real, so honest and just what I needed. We will remember him with great fondness.

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**Tracey and Dale Ohler** - March 31, 2020 at 04:33 PM

VK

“ *Norma, Riley, Curtis and Andrea and your families.  
So sorry for your loss. May the memories you hold dear bring you  
comfort at this time. May he Rest In Peace. Our thoughts are with  
you  
Violet and Jerry Kautz*

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**Violet & Jerry Kautz** - March 31, 2020 at 04:18 PM

BB

“ *Norma and family - sending our sincere condolences on the passing  
of Rod. Cherish all the good memories you have - we know they will  
ease the ache in your hearts. Keeping you in our thoughts and  
prayers in the hard days ahead. Betty & Bruce Bridgett*

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**Betty Bridgett** - March 31, 2020 at 04:11 PM



“ *Norma, Riley, Curtis, Andrea and families. We are thinking of all of  
you at this time. Rod said to me at Mike's grandfather's funeral "it  
doesn't matter how old or how sick the person was, it is still hard" I  
have never forgotten that. Kind regards,*

*Jo and Mike Sears*

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**Jo Sears** - March 31, 2020 at 02:55 PM

RH

“ *Norma and Family, Please accept our Sincere Sympathy on the loss  
of Rod. We really enjoyed the visits during Hockey Season. Hugs to  
you all.*

*Ross & Roberta*

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**Ross & Roberta Hazen** - March 31, 2020 at 02:49 PM

GO

“ Norma and the Blake and Brown Families. Theresa & I send Love and condolences to You All. Rod had lots of strengths and wisdom for us that we'll remember & cherish. Gord & Theresa Orchard.

Gord & Theresa Orchard - March 31, 2020 at 12:55 PM

CL

“ Cheryl & Sten Lundberg lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roderick Neil Blake



Cheryl & Sten Lundberg - March 31, 2020 at 12:42 PM

BB

“ Dear Norma, Riley, Curtis, & Andrea & family.. With our heartfelt sympathy in your loss and ours of a great man and a good friend. rod loved all his family so much and you all have wonderful memories of him. We also have good memories which we will cherish forever. We feel proud to have been a friend. You are all in our thoughts at this tough time. Hugs Bruce&Bonnie

Bruce & Bonnie - March 31, 2020 at 11:34 AM

LH

“ Dear Norma and family We are so sorry to hear of Rods death  
  
Harvey has many great memories of visiting with Rod and talking about barley prices  
  
Sincere sympathy at this sad time  
  
Lynda Howie and Harvey Jackson

Lynda Howie - March 31, 2020 at 10:44 AM

SM

“ *Sheila Macklin lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roderick Neil Blake*



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**Sheila Macklin** - March 31, 2020 at 10:21 AM

CM

“ *Siincere sympathy on the passing of a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and friend.  
Rod will be missed by all who knew him.  
Our thoughts are with all of you at this difficult time.  
Doug & Cindy McDonald*

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**Cindy McDonald** - March 31, 2020 at 08:58 AM

TA

“ Dear Norma, Riley, Cutis, Andrea and Families,

We were shocked and saddened to hear of Rod's passing. Although life has had many challenges for Rod, and thus for all of you the past several years, facing the finality of a loved one's life is always heartbreaking. Be proud of the love and support you have given Rod. Cherish the memories of the happy times you shared. May they provide the strength you need now and in the days to come. The current COVID-19 situation will make it difficult to grieve surrounded by the support your many friends and family want to offer you. It is our hope that messages such as this ease your pain of loss, and help you heal soon. May knowing that others care for you give you strength to support each other, and find closure to the suffering you now feel.

Sincerely,

Uncle Terry "Unc", and Patty



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Terry and Patty Atkinson - March 30, 2020 at 08:17 PM