



## Mr. Victor Lee Van Enk

November 29, 1950 - June 3, 2025

Mr. Victor Lee Van Enk was born on November 29, 1950, in Valley City, North Dakota and passed at the age of 74 on June 3rd, 2025, in Calgary, Alberta. Most knew Victor simply as 'Vic' or 'Mr. V'. Victor was a rare and special man who left an indelible impression on everyone he met. He was gifted with a gregarious personality that drew people to him, especially children. Vic was a dedicated public-school teacher who taught most of his career (37 years) at I.F. Cox Elementary School in Redcliff, Alberta. Prior to moving to Redcliff with his wife, Barbara, Vic and Barb were teachers in North Dakota. Vic was raised on a farm near Marion, N.D. where he learned the value of hard work which formed the foundation of his personality and career. Vic graduated from college in Valley City, N.D. with a double major in Elementary Education & Music and was a talented musician who played the trombone and sang in a band. Vic was drafted into the U.S. Army (National Guard) during the Vietnam War and served his country prior to moving to Canada in 1975. Vic & Barb cofounded Gainsboro Photography Studio in Medicine Hat with Barb's sister, Jan Bunney, in 1979 which they co-owned until 2007. Vic lived by the creed, 'any job worth doing, is worth doing well' and worked tirelessly at everything from teaching to framing at the Studio, to numerous renovation projects and rental properties. Vic was the first call for many friends' and neighbors' home improvement projects. He was always the hardest worker in the room and possessed an uncommon ability to solve problems and fix everything. Upon retiring to High River, Vic couldn't sit still and took on the job of shuttle driver

at High River Toyota where he impressed everyone with his dedication and work ethic. He also started his own small business, repairing and selling bicycles out of his garage in High River where he had a positive impact on his community by donating bikes to kids in need. Victor Van Enk was a deeply loved son, brother (in-law), husband, uncle, father, grandfather, and teacher who has left an enduring legacy and will be profoundly missed.

Vic fought a long battle with pancreatic cancer with the grace and courage of a truly great man. His strength provided his family with three precious years of wonderful memories and lessons which we will forever be grateful for. His additional time on earth allowed him to meet his youngest grandchild, Fletcher, and allowed us all to benefit from his knowledge and love. His family would like to thank all the medical professionals who assisted in his fight with cancer at the High River & Foothills hospitals as well as Vic's numerous family, friends and neighbours who have provided tremendous support and comfort over the years.

Vic is survived by his wife Barb Van Enk; daughter & son-in-law Jennie & Sean Milne & their two sons Bryer & Fletcher; son & daughter-in-law Eric & Christina Van Enk & their three daughters Gabriella, Madison & Savannah; sister Carolyn Limesand; brother & sister-in-law Jerry & Eva Van Enk; brother & sister-in-law Glenn & Pat Van Enk; sister & brother-in-law Linda & Keith Grier; brother & sister-in-law Kent & Valie Van Enk; sister-in-law & brother-in-law Jan Bunney & Earl Hofer, as well as 16 nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Alvin & Jennie Van Enk and brother-in-law, Leonard Limesand.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Vic's memory to the Canadian Cancer Society.

A Celebration of life for Victor Van Enk will be held at the Beverage Building

downtown Medicine Hat from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 26th. Entrance to the building faces the parking lot located between 1st & 2nd street. Overflow parking located behind the National Bank Financial office - 505 1st St. SE (1 block west of the Beverage Building parking). Parking is also available along 2nd & 3rd street.

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

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Reception

JUL **26**. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (MT)

The Beveridge  
620 2 Street SE  
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 0C9 (CA)

# Tribute Wall

LS

“ *Deepest condolences on Vic's passing. So many fond memories of Vic's bright smile and charismatic laugh when at the house as friends with Jennie in our teens. He was the most fun dad to be around. Sending much love to you and your family Jennie.*

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**Lisa (Didow) Scott** - July 24, 2025 at 06:43 PM

SE

“ *We were deeply saddened to hear of Victor's passing. He always brightened our days with his cheerful greetings and warm smile as he walked past our home. His kindness and generosity-especially in helping us with our bicycles-will never be forgotten. Please accept our heartfelt condolences. He will be missed. Sherry & Craig Ellice*

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**Sherry Ellice** - July 19, 2025 at 10:53 PM

HL

“ *To all of Vic's family. We were so sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts are with you now and in the days ahead. Sending sympathy and prayers. Harold and Val Leitch*

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**harold and Val Leitch** - June 15, 2025 at 05:07 PM

GM

“ Vic and Barb were wonderful neighbours in Phoenix, Arizona. We spent many years together visiting at the pool. Always with a smile on his face, Vic was the first to greet newcomers and make them feel welcome. Vic and Barb hosted some memorable parties. No one made a margarita like Vic. Vic was always on the lookout for items he could refurbish and pass along. He found me the bike of my dreams. We will treasure the like new, very fancy, telescopic snow brush he found and gave us. Who would have one and throw it out in Arizona we wondered? Well, we made use of it on the way home and will think of Vic every time we use it. Vic, we were were blessed to know you. Sending all of our love Barb, Jenni, Eric and families.

*Jim and Gail Maher*

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**Gail and James Maher** - June 15, 2025 at 04:51 PM

JO

“ Mr Van Enk was my teacher many many years ago. I was a little girl coming from a life filled with so much trauma. He became so much more than my teacher, he became my safe space and showed me how special and worthy I was all those years ago. I have thought of him so many times and am deeply saddened to hear of his passing. He was a very special person. I will remember him fondly as always.



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**Joey** - June 14, 2025 at 11:47 PM

MH

“ *Dear Barb and Family,  
We are saddened to learn of Victor’s passing and extend our sincerest condolences. Although Vic was never a member of the Medicine Hat And District Retired Teachers’ Association (MHADRTA), many of his colleagues and friends from I.F.Cox, the rest of Prairie Rose, and the the two Medicine Hat districts, are and share your sorrow. Treasure all the wonderful memories you have made over the years. May the love and support of family and friends give you strength and comfort during this difficult time. We extend our deepest sympathies from everyone at our branch.*

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**MHADRTA** - June 14, 2025 at 12:09 PM

GG

“ *Barb and Family:  
I was shocked and saddened to learn of Vic's passing. I remember Vic as an outstanding and remarkable human being.*

*As a teacher, Vic always saw the best in people, made the widest allowance for human failing, and was always ready to believe in the possibility of change and improvement.*

*I am thinking of you during this difficult time. Please accept my sincere sympathies.*

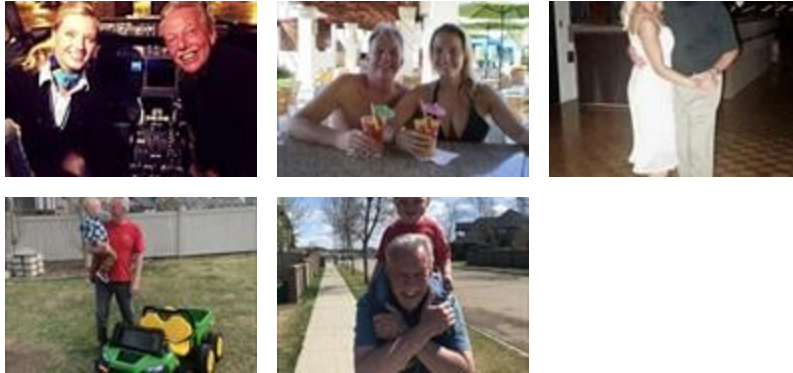
*Glen Giduk*

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**Glen Giduk** - June 14, 2025 at 09:30 AM

JE

“ 13 files added to the tribute wall



Jennie - June 12, 2025 at 09:31 PM

SE

“ Our deepest heartfelt condolences to you Barb along with all your loved ones. My heart is so saddened for your loss. I was very fortunate to have worked with Vic, he was the kindest, professional and respectful man. I so enjoyed his laughter and how he knew and cared for all the children and staff. Especially mine. They're hearts are broken and trying to ease their sadness with wonderful memories.

Thinking of all of you at this very hard time. I will always remember him. He was a stellar man.

Will be very missed, our deepest sympathy from Sandra Ehret and my children Samantha and Blake.

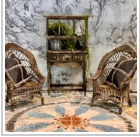
Sandra Ehret - June 12, 2025 at 07:57 PM

JU

“ Justine lit a candle in memory of Mr. Victor Lee Van Enk



Justine - June 12, 2025 at 04:24 PM



“ *Barb & families*

*Mike and I are really sad to hear Vic's passing. No one could light up a room like Vic, with his big grin and his laugh.*

*He's probably having an ice cold Margarita with Jimmy Buffett.*

*Vic loved you so much. He such a loving dad and oh my and his granddaughters-we're his world. We will miss him*

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**Baxter Dynneson** - June 11, 2025 at 03:22 PM

DC

“ *Barb and family*

*We were so sorry to hear about Vic's passing. We enjoyed getting to know Vic and it was always a lively discussion with lots of laughs, no matter what the topic. He enjoyed life and that rubbed off on everyone who was around him. Our thoughts and love to the family.  
Dee and Brent Cowan*

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**Dianne Cowan** - June 11, 2025 at 03:13 PM

CV

“ *4 files added to the tribute wall*



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**Christina VanEnk** - June 11, 2025 at 12:59 PM

CV

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Christina VanEnk - June 11, 2025 at 12:54 PM

BN

*Poppie Vic, Bryer and Momma Jennie, and "Blue Bunny"*

Barb Nannie - July 12, 2025 at 09:26 PM

CV

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Christina VanEnk - June 11, 2025 at 12:48 PM

CV

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Christina VanEnk - June 11, 2025 at 12:47 PM

CV

“ *Fishing with Poppie at Christina Lake*



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**Christina VanEnk** - June 11, 2025 at 12:39 PM



“ *Childhood was always an adventure with Uncle Vic* □



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**Samantha Richard** - June 10, 2025 at 10:44 PM

JE

“ *Nannie's birthday at Eric's*



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**Jennie** - June 10, 2025 at 02:35 PM

JE

“ *Family Reunion at the farm in ND July '23*



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**Jennie** - June 10, 2025 at 02:33 PM

JE

“ *Dad & I '82 ish*



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**Jennie** - June 10, 2025 at 02:32 PM

JE

“ *Nannie's birthday at Eric's house*



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**Jennie** - June 10, 2025 at 02:30 PM

JE

“ *Poppie with Eric's girls*



Jennie - June 10, 2025 at 02:23 PM

JE

“ *A nice tribute from Dad's former School Division*



Jennie - June 10, 2025 at 02:20 PM

GB

“ *Mr Van Enk was one of the best teachers I ever had. He was so nice to everyone. I am blessed to have been one of his students*

*To his family I'm so sorry for your loss. Take care Mr V.*

Greg Brown - June 10, 2025 at 12:55 PM

JE

“ *Dad coaching my soccer team '92 ish*



Jennie - June 09, 2025 at 10:07 PM

DG

“ Oh Vic. I will so miss our visits.  
Have fun up there.  
Until we meet again  
❤️Dee 🍷

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**Deanna Green** - June 09, 2025 at 04:47 PM

NA

“ Wonderful time on Vancouver Island with Vic, Brian and Steve.  
Always lots of laughter and love at our gatherings with Vic ❤️



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**Nancy Allen** - June 09, 2025 at 12:26 PM

JE

“ Dad & Bryer. Best buds



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**Jennie** - June 09, 2025 at 11:51 AM

JE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Jennie** - June 09, 2025 at 11:49 AM

JE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jennie - June 09, 2025 at 11:48 AM

NH

“ Growing up in redcliff had its benefits and one of them was getting taught by this great man, with care compassion he loved his job as a teacher and helped so many kids, and I was fortunate to be one of them.

Thank you sir.  
Class of 97

Nathan Hauck - June 09, 2025 at 05:18 AM

DB

“ Darlene & Wally Beutler lit a candle in memory of Mr. Victor Lee Van Enk



Darlene & Wally Beutler - June 08, 2025 at 10:25 PM

DA

Our deepest Sympathies to Barb & Family.. Vic was a great Neighbour & Friend..

Darlene - June 08, 2025 at 10:27 PM

DK

“ So sorry to hear about Victor! I'm Donovan Kosse, a neighbor that lives just a few miles south of the Van Enk farm. Got to visit with him a few years ago at a reunion. Condolences to Barb and family! I know what your going through, just lost my wife to cancer in April. He was truly a great man!

Donovan Kosse - June 08, 2025 at 09:59 PM

LM

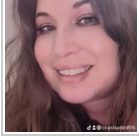
“ I grew up with Vic in Marion, ND. My memory of Vic was him as a teaser. I graduated with Vic and went on to Valley City State at the same time as Vic. I extend my sympathy to Barb and the family. I was very sad to hear the news.

Lora Martin - June 08, 2025 at 09:45 PM



“ He was one of the best teachers I've had at I F Cox for sure. By far the one with best heart. I remember in grade 3 I ended up in the hospital and he came and visited me to see how I was doing. His kind spirit and good heart will be most definitely missed for sure. ❤️

Tenille Gebhardt - June 08, 2025 at 02:38 PM



“ *Condolences to the family.  
Definitely the best gym teacher ever.  
So, many great childhood memories.  
My favorite memories of gym class were when he would take us  
outside with numerous tag games and fun activities outside.  
And bringing out the jungle gym was also a favorite time.  
I'm so beyond grateful to share so many great memories with him.  
Well deserved rest.  
Will deeply miss you  
Mr V. Rest Well 🙏  
Thank you for being part of my life*

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**Samantha White** - June 08, 2025 at 01:47 PM

DK

“ *I always enjoyed chatting with Vic, always friendly and a genuine  
great guy. I am very sad to hear this news. My sincere condolences  
to Barb and Family. Dean Klaiber*

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**Dean Klaiber** - June 08, 2025 at 01:44 PM

ED

“ *To Barb and family, our deepest condolences. Ed and Renata*

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**Ed** - June 08, 2025 at 01:10 PM

RP

“ *I had the privilege of knowing and associating with Vic for many  
years. He taught all my children and we all loved him. In addition to  
being an incredible teacher, Vic was kind, thoughtful, extremely  
funny and always positive. We discussed many things and I  
benefited from his life experience and wisdom. Vic, you are  
definitely missed.*

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**Randy Pickett** - June 08, 2025 at 09:33 AM

SL

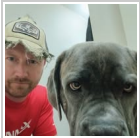
“ So many great memories Vic was a caring generous man and always stood as a role model sending warm messages to Barb at this tragic time. Shelly Carrier Lewis

Shelly Carrier Lewis - June 08, 2025 at 02:39 AM

SR

“ If you were a Redcliff kid, chances are you were taught by this incredible teacher! How lucky all his students were to have had someone like Mr. Van Enk in their lives. A lasting, profound impact without a doubt. Rest now.

Samantha Bachmeier ( Reppnack) - June 07, 2025 at 10:11 PM



“ Mr V was a positive influence on so many people. He had a way of connecting with students and has a special place in the hearts of many who were fortunate to know him. So many great memories of growing up in Redcliff with him as a teacher. Sincere condolences to the Van Enk family. He was one of the best.

Brad Schaffer - June 07, 2025 at 09:21 PM

SK

I know that we couldn't get to the field fast enough at recess when Mr.V was "punting" footballs. We caught hundreds of those! Rest Easy Mr.V  
❤️

Shane Kelly - June 07, 2025 at 09:43 PM

DS

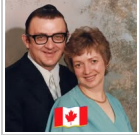
“ My condolences to you all. Vic always had time and stop and talk or just say Hi. Gone too soon.

Dale Schaffer - June 07, 2025 at 08:50 PM

ER

*Our condolences to the Van Ink family. We had the pleasure of knowing Vic ever since he moved to Redcliff. Great guy all around. Vic was teaching at IF Cox while I was working as a custodian there in 07-2011. We will miss him for sure  
May he rest in peace*

Ernie Reimer - June 07, 2025 at 11:52 PM



“ *Our deepest sympathies to the Van Enk family at this sad time. I remember him as a man with a warm friendly smile for everyone. Rest well, Vic. From Vi. Rieger and family.*

Vi Rieger - June 07, 2025 at 08:34 PM

CR

“ *Mr. V was greatest gym teacher ever at if cox I looked going to gym everyday and seeing him smile he gave me the best nickname ever and he was always helpful and very kind and respectful thx for the wonderful memories mr. V May u rest in peace .  
From crystal*

Crystal - June 07, 2025 at 07:48 PM

ST

“ *Condolences from the Steinkey family; our world has lost another very fine gentleman. 🥹*

Steinkey - June 07, 2025 at 07:32 PM

SE

“ If you were to ask who my favourite teacher was, Mr. V was him. I am so saddened to hear of his passing. He was one of those amazing teachers who cared to know you and made school fun. He gave me my 1st nickname, remembered me and it when he met my husband who was doing work on his house, I wasn't even there. I recall him having to bring one of his kids to school, he had a schedule all mapped out for the class to take turns babysitting, while he taught. It was 1984. I have nothing but respect for the man who fueled the same qualities in others that he emanated. Rest easy.

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**Sara Miller Eresman** - June 07, 2025 at 05:57 PM

SW

“ I had the pleasure of working with Vic at IFCox school- he was an incredible teacher. Vic shared a beautiful light with the world; sending so much love to his family. Love, Shauna Way

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**Shauna Way** - June 07, 2025 at 05:34 PM

CH

“ Awe this is so sad. My deepest and most sincere condolences on your loss of Victor. He was one of my favorite teachers. He used to stop in my office to say hi and to chat whenever he was at the Prairie Rose School Board office. He always had a smile on his face and always positive.

*Cathie Heidinger*

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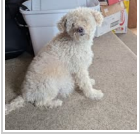
**Cathie Heidinger** - June 07, 2025 at 04:46 PM

KB

*I'm saddened to hear of Vic's passing. The students at I F Cox were lucky to have him as a teacher. He was always so happy and he loved life. My condolences go to Barb and the rest of his family. Karen Bongaards*

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**Karen Bongaards** - June 07, 2025 at 06:09 PM



“ *Mr. Van Enk taught me all throughout my elementary school years in Redcliff. I remember him teaching physical education class. My condolences to the family.*

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**Sharla Currie** - June 07, 2025 at 03:30 PM

DR

“ *Barb and family,*

*We are so blessed to have known Vic and been able to spend such wonderful times with you both. One of the most kind, caring, outgoing and friendly individual we have ever met. Our deepest sympathy and condolences to you Barb and your dear family. May he rest in peace 🙏*



*Brian and Debbie*

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**Deborah Roberts** - June 06, 2025 at 11:22 PM

MW

*My condolences to you Barb and your family love always Monica ❤️💕*

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**Monica Walsh** - June 07, 2025 at 02:55 AM

DK

“ *Ken and I are shocked to hear the news of Vic's passing. He was always such a positive, high energy guy who was never without a big smile on his face..a true people person!*

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**Dar and Ken** - June 06, 2025 at 09:17 PM



“ *He made our neighbourhood, and our town, a better place to live.  
His kindness will be remembered.*

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**Laura Wickstrom** - June 06, 2025 at 02:23 PM