

Les “Laszlo” Safranyik

Les “Laszlo” Safranyik drifted away peacefully in his sleep on November 11th, 2025. His journey began on February 13th, 1938, near the town of Szolnok, Hungary. Les was a devoted husband, a cherished father, grandfather, and uncle. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Elizabeth, his daughter Elizabeth (Justin), son Laszlo (Gina), and grandchildren, Max, Grace, Alex, Julien, Jack, and Natalie. His memory is cherished by extended family, colleagues, and many friends.

From an early age, Les demonstrated an enthusiasm for learning. His pursuit of knowledge saw him travel from rural Hungary to become a proud member of the Sopron Group at the University of British Columbia. Les’s passion for scientific inquiry led him to find his true calling as an entomologist for the federal government at the Pacific Forestry Research Centre, earning global recognition as an expert on the mountain pine beetle.

His office was a testament to his love for mathematics and science – his many blackboards were lined with meticulously written equations. Les’s dedication to his research was evident to all who entered his unique workspace.

Les’s patience and kindness were boundless. He was always happy to listen, help, and offer heartfelt advice to those around him. He took great pride in his beloved farm, dedicating endless hours to renovations. During one memorable summer, he mixed 800 square feet of concrete by hand, using only his trusty wheelbarrow and shovel. Fittingly, on the day he finished, he purchased a cement mixer. Les was meticulous in maintaining his tractors and every piece of farming equipment, but above all, his favourite tool was his shovel.

Like the trees and stars he marvelled over, his influence and spirit extended ever skyward, through the people he met, the

knowledge he shared, and his presence alone. Of all his achievements, Les was most proud of his family. As we gather to say goodbye, we are ever grateful to have called him husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend. His absence leaves a void that will never be filled, yet we find comfort and joy in knowing we had the privilege of being his family.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to The Canadian Red Cross Society.

A Celebration of Life will be held at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, 753 Burnside Road West, Victoria, BC, on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 1:00pm.

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

McCall Gardens

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