

Robert Frederick Korlak

It is with profound sadness that we share the news of the passing of our much-loved husband and father, Bob Korlak. Bob left us peacefully after a hard-fought battle with a rare neurological condition, which he faced with incredible strength and dignity.

Bob was born in Elbow, Saskatchewan to Fred and Nellie Korlak. He was one of seven children, along with siblings Alma, Jean, Lillian, Frances, David, and Stella.

Bob grew up among wheat fields and railroads, hot prairie summers, and huge winter snowdrifts. As a boy, he loved skating, hockey, art, and music. As a young man, he played clarinet in a Dixieland band, and was a self-taught accordion player. Bob became a journeyman carpenter, and an amazing one at that—a true artist—specializing in finishing carpentry. Later, in Regina, Bob would enter real estate, and then a move to Victoria, BC in 1970 would take him into a career in insurance and investments.

Along the way in 1958, Bobby's world changed at a dance hall in Swift Current, Saskatchewan. A friend pointed out a young lady on the other side of the room that Bobby should dance with. He crossed the floor, and, being quite myopic, asked the wrong girl. He married that girl, Sheila, in 1961, and they lovingly shared the next 54 years together, each being each other's rock and soulmate.

Five and seven years later, the other loves of Bob's life came into the world: his two daughters, Lisa and Nicole. Funny, wise, patient, and loving, what better Dad could you ever hope for.

Bob created a truly beautiful relationship with his daughters. "I love you" was countered with "I love you more", and back and forth the argument went, always ending in an impasse...

Bob was so protective, so strong. His family was the centre of his universe, and we all knew it, every day. We miss him dearly.

Bob loved to entertain and was a generous, witty, and gracious host. He was a vibrant man who loved to laugh and make others laugh.

An accomplished musician, music continued to play an important role throughout Bob's life. In the 1970s, he formed bands called The Jokers and The Jets, and played transicord while singing harmonies at venues throughout Victoria with many fine musicians. In more recent years, Bobby joyfully sang his heart out with friends at Harmony Plus singing club.

Always generous of spirit and time, a fast friend, and always there for someone in need, Bob was quick with a joke or a big hug, whichever you were in need of. Advice and a helping hand were always freely given.

Deeply insightful, with a sharp, curious, and analytic mind, Bob had a wisdom about him. A thoughtful friend and loyal confidante to many, Bob loved to ponder the deeper things of life, and gave the very best of himself to everyone.

Bob is predeceased by his parents, and sisters Alma and Stella.

Loving and keeping the memories of this great man dear are his darling wife and caregiver, "She She" Sheila, who looked after him with unconditional love; proud and grateful daughters Lisa Weed (Paul) and Nicole Conrad (Andy); precious sisters Frances McMillan (Donald) and Jean Dell'Oro (Walter), loyal brother David Korlak (Marlean); sweet sister-in-law Diana Turner (Brent Meunier); nieces and nephews, including bright spark Tam Dell'Oro (David); lifelong friend George Moskal, and many other very dear friends. Thank you to all who had a share in his life.

We are deeply grateful to family and friends for extending their love, support, and kindness, as well as to Drs. Dereck Smith and Michael Putland, and Wendy, Dr. Alexandre Henri-Bhargava, Efren Sirot, BC Ambulance Paramedics, Saanich Fire Department, and RJH ER and VGH ER and 6C North staff and physicians who participated in Bob's care.

No service by request, but please lift a glass in Bobby's memory. A private family gathering will occur at a future date.

Bob's spirit will live on in his greatest achievement, his family. And now we must carry on, our paths well-lit by his love.

But first, the last word: we love you more.

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

McCall Bros. Funeral Home

www.mccallbros.com

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