Roland Milkert Sr.

Roland Milkert Sr., born in Finsterwalde, Germany, in 1935, immigrated to Canada in 1957, beginning a new chapter in his life. That chapter would be filled with adventure, generosity, curiosity, and, above all, love for his family. Shortly after arriving in Canada, he met Inge, the woman who would become his beloved wife and lifelong partner.

A devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Roland shared 68 wonderful years of marriage with Inge. Together, they travelled the world, building a lifetime of memories and sharing a love of adventure and discovery.

Roland was a man with a tremendous heart and an extraordinary spirit of generosity. A philanthropist who believed in giving back, he was always willing to help those around him and gave generously to the people and causes he cared about. His kindness, thoughtfulness, and genuine care for others touched many lives.

After immigrating to Canada with very little, Roland built an extraordinary life through hard work, determination, and ingenuity. He founded Old Country Metal Craft, growing it into a successful business and establishing a legacy through his craftsmanship and contributions to the community. His work helped shape the development of the South Island of Vancouver Island, with projects including the Victoria Conference Centre, Fairmont Empress addition, and Nanaimo General Hospital. From humble beginnings, Roland built something remarkable, leaving his mark not only through his work, but on the community he helped develop.

His curiosity about the world never faded. A lifelong reader and passionate learner, Roland spoke four languages and was endlessly interested in the world around him. He was, without question, one of the smartest men many of us will ever know.

He was equally creative and resourceful, always happiest with something to make, fix, or figure out. Whether working with metal, woodworking, or simply tinkering with something in his hands, he had a remarkable ability to turn an idea into something tangible. His curiosity and creativity seemed to know no bounds.

His adventurous spirit was equally remarkable. An avid cyclist and runner, Roland rode his bicycle across Canada, explored Europe by bike, and even cycled across Iowa alongside his daughter. He ran marathons and took on the challenge of hiking the Pacific Crest Trail. Whether travelling across continents or exploring closer to home, he embraced life with an enthusiasm and determination that never seemed to fade.

Above all, Roland cherished his family. He leaves behind his beloved wife, Inge; his children, Roland Jr., Ingrid, Mathias, Andreas, and Bettina; his daughters-in-law, Jill and Rebecca; his son-in-law, Glenn; his grandchildren, Madison, Julia, Karlina, and Ryan; and his great-grandson, Killian. His love and generosity will live on through the many lives he touched and the family he treasured so dearly.

One of Roland's favourite sayings was, "Variety is the spice of life." It was a fitting reflection of the way he lived: embracing new experiences, remaining curious, seeking adventure, creating with his hands, and finding joy in all that the world had to offer.

Roland passed away peacefully on November 14, 2026, surrounded by his family. He will be deeply missed, lovingly remembered, and forever celebrated.

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

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