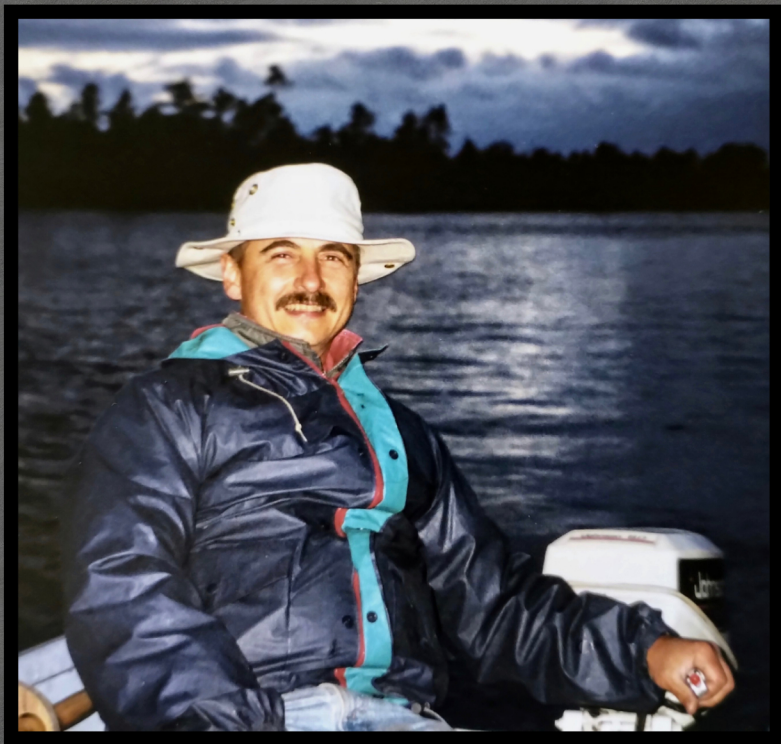


# CELEBRATION OF LIFE



WILLIAM (BILL) SZKOTNICKI

*Beloved husband, father and friend*

SUNDAY | OCTOBER 27, 2019 | 1:00PM - 4:00PM

THE BULLRING, UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

# BILL'S LIFE JOURNEY

As in life, Bill Szkotnicki died with dignity and grace on September 18th, 2019. Diagnosed with an aggressive, incurable form of cancer in mid-July he chose to have medical assistance in dying.

Bill's life journey began in Britt, Ontario, a small village half way between Parry Sound and Sudbury. His northern roots were deep and growing up he anticipated living in Britt and working for the railroad like his father Peter. This changed though when his high school mathematics teacher identified him as a student who should go to university. His teacher helped him complete his University of Waterloo application form and he was accepted into the computing and mathematics program.

Taking the train from Britt to Waterloo, Bill began University and a whole new world of experiences opened up to him. Britt continued to hold him though. After a year at University he decided to stay in Britt and work as the dispatcher at the railroad station. But while Bill loved Britt, he had a calling to go back to school and expand the new interests he had been exposed to through his university studies and friends.

In 1974, upon graduation from the University of Waterloo, Bill started work in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science at the University of Guelph. To say he liked work is understated. He valued the fact that he could make a contribution to livestock and poultry production's important role in providing high quality food. It has been said that nearly everyone in the Department was helped by Bill with their computing and statistical problems. Shortly before his death, Bill received over 100 emails from past members of the Department from all over the world. Work colleagues will remember Bill's United Way contributions to the chili cook off and other functions, as well as the giant zucchinis that he shared from his garden.

Bill met his wife Jean (nee Surgeoner) while at work and they were married in 1978. The birth of their son Peter in 1988 was met with love and devotion followed by immense grief when he died in 2011. Through it all, Bill and Jean's love for each other survived life's highs and its challenges. In 2017, they adopted their son Andrew who Bill gave love and much focus to help grow his interests and future directions. He is now enrolled at Conestoga College in Kitchener Waterloo.

Bill and Jean's small farm outside of Guelph was a labour of love that Bill took great pride in. He developed the property with passion taking pride in his garden, the pond stocked with fish, and by supporting his wife's equine interests with never a complaint.

Bill was a renaissance man. His interests spanned a love for his northern roots and the fish camp near Britt, a talent for mathematical and statistical applications to food animal production, an intense ability to competitively play squash, snooker and golf with friends, an appreciation for classical music (in particular opera), along with deep dedication and devotion to his family and friends. He will be missed by many. It was a privilege to be a part of his life for all that knew him.