

Ontario
AREINAS
Alumni
"Where friends meet"

In Memory of

Rob MacLaggan

Sarnia, ON

October 16th 2011

February 7th 1956 - Guelph, ON



MacLAGGAN: Surrounded by his loving family on Sunday, October 16, 2011, at St. Joseph's Hospice, Rob MacLaggan passed away peacefully at the age of 55. Beloved husband, soul mate, and best friend of Christa (Bilcke). Loving father of Kate and her husband Steve Lau. Dear brother of Dave (Diane) and uncle of Tristan (Leigh) and Ali (Brian). Brother-in-law of Eric (Cathie) Bilcke and uncle of Tanja (Darryl), Michael (Janna) and Sean. Predeceased by his mother Jean, father Rolfe, sister Anne, mother-in-law Denise and father-in-law Horace. Born and raised as a "rink rat" in Guelph, Ontario, Rob moved to Sarnia upon completion of college, first managing the Germain and Children's Arenas and eventually moving to City Hall where he worked as the Scheduling and Concessions Supervisor. Rob worked for the City of Sarnia for 32 years, and was looking forward to retirement this year. Rob will fondly be remembered by many for his patient wisdom, his calm demeanour, and his quick-witted humour. To those closest to him, he will always be remembered as "Doppler Rob," the gentle soul with a sweet tooth who enjoyed lazy days in the sun, or in his recliner with a football game and a cat on his lap. It brings us much solace to know he is truly at peace. The family

wishes to thank C.C.A.C. and the St. Joseph's Hospice staff and volunteers for their compassionate care; and Dr. Maddison, Dr. Cornila and Dr. Ramirez for being such strong advocates and supporting Rob with dignity and respect. A special thank you to all of our friends and family for surrounding us with your light and love during this hard time. Cremation has taken place. Family and friends were received on October 20, 2011, at the SMITH FUNERAL HOME, in Sarnia. A memorial service was held October

21, 201..Sympathy may be expressed through donations to Sarnia's St. Joseph's Hospice....

Shock waves went thro the Alumni, on hearing the news.. that Rob had passed away..the Alumni Family sends its heart felt condolences to both Rob & Christa's family..we all lost a "wonderful man"!!...Rob passed away from a battle with renal cancer. He had just entered hospice to try an experimental drug.. hopefully to combat the disease...unfortunately a miracle just couldn't seem to find its way..It was just a quickly consuming loss...The Brenner's attended the memorial service..and were honoured to convey condolences from the Alumni and ORFA...Sad news exclaimed John Milton....Tony & Susan Brenner had a very close attachment to both Rob and Christa.. going all the way back to the late 1970's, when Tony hired this very promising college grad..he lived with the Brenner's during his college field placement.. and they became very close over the years..."Life sometimes just doesn't seem to deal the fairest of hands for people".. claims Tony..

The Guelph native was a youngster.. when he developed a passion for hockey..that "he simply lived and breathed", while growing up in his home town....valued his "rink rat status" at that city's Memorial Gardens... so the story goes. ... Guelph's John F. Ross High School played a major role in his life..he met the love of his life, Belgium born Christa, while in grade ten. After completing John F. Ross ...Rob & Christa elected to continue their education at Kitchener's Conestoga College..Rob enrolled in "Recreation Leadership" .. Christa initially enrolled in Early Childhood Education, moved on to Ryerson to complete her degree... Found her first teaching job at Humber College at their Developmental Centre.

Prior to Rob completing his studies...Conestoga College arranged a job placement with Kitchener's Parks & Recreation.. in their facilities section... Rob & The Prez met for the very first time...MacLaggan also had a placement in his home town at Homewood Health Centre.. a leader in mental health and addiction treatment. At the completion of the Kitchener experience...The Prez urged Rob to complete one of his field placements in Sarnia..under Tony Brenner..Rob eventually

landed a job offer in Sarnia... after a year in the Ottawa area, and graduating from the Arena Management Program offered at Humber College .. the MacLaggan's became very good friends with Tony and Susan.

Rob pursued his first job as Assistant Manager, Glencairn Arena in the Township of Goulbourne (Kanata).... Arriving in Sarnia, Rob managed both the Children's and Germain Arenas. Elevated to manage the programs at the city's three arenas....January 1st 1991, Sarnia and neighbouring Town of Clearwater were amalgamated as the City of Sarnia-Clearwater. A year later, the city reverted to simply Sarnia. Amalgamation originally included the Village of Point Edward.The residents resisted, and eventually permitted to remain independent of the city. The merger brought about other changes...Rob's new duties... "supervising the scheduling of the city's Parks and Recreation facilities and overseeing concessions" ..At retirement June 11th 2011

Rob completed 32 years of service with the City. Rob & Christa were married in Guelph May 31st 1980. Their lone sibling Kate, was recently married to Steve Lau from Brights Grove.... When Christa arrived in Sarnia she quickly



found employment at Children's Services for the Association of Community Living. Agreed to a job offer in 1982 at St. Clair Catholic District School Board as a Special Education Teacher. She worked in Special Education for 14 years. Christa also spent several summers at Western University in London.. upgrading her educational portfolio, that led to a "primary school position" ..teaching Grade One. Entering her 16th and final year of teaching...ending 29 years with the Board. she had the opportunity to take on and upgrade her education.. to move into *Special Education Consultant and Literacy Coaching/Training Facilitator*..MacLaggan's recently settled into a new home on Cassandra Blvd in Sarnia