

BAKER, Roy

"I'm a man at peace, with a happy contented life and an amazing family." With these words, Roy Baker acknowledged his diagnosis of late stage liver cancer, and he and his blended family began a journey filled with love, gratitude and learning. Four weeks later on August 6, 2015 he passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, his favourite big band music, and the prayers of many. We are grateful for the time with him, and relieved he was pain-free and able to receive the love and respect from family, friends, neighbours that assured him he'd made a positive impact on so many lives. A proud Vic High grad, a machinist, a BC Ferries Engineer, then an active retiree, Roy was a hands-on guy. He could fix or make anything, from untangling the finest chain to machining parts for an airplane restoration or leading renovations at Victoria's heritage Church Of Our Lord. He loved his role in creating the Welcome to Victoria floral sign in the Inner Harbour, his ten years as Volunteer Driver for Oak Bay Volunteer Services, and always sought to make himself useful wherever he was. He was always up for a bit of adventure, from touring the back roads of the Saanich Peninsula or sharing his motor home with family, to exploring the jungles of Costa Rica and the cultures of the Far East. Planes were his passion from an early age, and he loved volunteering at the BC Aviation Museum, or just sitting with grandkids watching the planes take off at Pat Bay Airport. But ships and boats were in his blood, too, from the 14' wooden hull he transformed into a fun little ski boat, to the 45' ex rum runner he and his sons patiently maintained for fishing trips up the Inside Passage, to running engines and systems on various BC Ferries vessels. He was devoted to June, his wife of 37 years, and to his family, never missing the chance to brag about their accomplishments, or to attend his grandkids' baseball games or get down on the floor with the kids at family gatherings. He is survived by his wife June, daughter Linda (Wayne), son Keith (Cheryl), stepdaughters Karen (Richard) and Kathie (Daniel), sons Ian (Jodi) and Ken (Sara), and stepdaughter Shari; by his grandchildren Joshua, Jesika, David, Jesse, Juliana, Cameron, Meg, Marty, Sean, Cosmin, Riley, and Tegan; and by his great-grandchildren Joshua, Sophia, Dylan, Caden, Eleanor, Phoenix, Ava and Caleb. Sincere thanks to his GP Dr. Owen White, to the VIHA Community Care nurses (Dist. 45) and the Hospice Palliative Response Team Nurse Judy, to Maureen Fontaine of Intrinsic Principles Health & Wellness, to Victoria's Cannaclic and Emerald Care, and especially to his cousin Wendy Jones who was there for him and the family near the end. We still can't quite believe he's gone. We miss his smile, his hugs, his unconditional love, and his red Christmas sweater already. But so many things remind us of him - planes in the sky, rides on the ferries, Tilley hats, fresh caught salmon, dancing to Glenn Miller...we know he's with us always. Love you too, Roy - Dad - Grampa Roy - Poppa Roy. Join us at Roy's Celebration of Life, Saturday, September 26, 11:30 AM at Mary Winspear Center, Sidney. Reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, the family invites your donations to the BC Aviation Museum, www.bcam.net, in Roy's name.

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