



Lawrence "Larry" John Bidlake

October 9, 1940 - June 28, 2019

BIDLAKE: Lawrence John Bidlake passed away at his home on Friday, June 28, 2019 at the age of 78 years. Larry is survived by his wife Patricia, children Jennifer (Jeff) Schroeder of Calgary, AB, son Geoffrey (Sher) Bidlake of Cochrane, AB, sister Diane King of Penticton, BC and grandchildren Sierra, Neela, Nathan, Kayden, Cali and Avayah, and Bidlake cousins in England. He was predeceased by his parents Geoffrey and Mary (Speer) Bidlake. His family, his friends, and the Province of Manitoba have lost a strong, principled, loving, caring husband, father and grandfather, a friend of many as well as a fighter and advocate for wildlife and wildlife habitat. Larry was born in Mayo, Yukon in October 1940 and grew up in Whitehorse. Larry got his Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management from the University of Alaska in 1964. While at Fairbanks, he met his wife Pat (from Pennsylvania). He worked in the Yukon for about a year, on gold mining operations and diamond drilling. Pat and Larry were married in 1967 and moved to Winnipeg, MB, then to Brandon in 1971. Larry started working as a wildlife biologist for the SE Region of the Department of Natural Resources in the late 1960's and then after 1971, spent the rest of his career in Brandon, retiring in 2000. Larry loved his job – driving all over Southwestern Manitoba, looking over the varying countryside, talking with farmers and hunters and anyone else who was interested in wildlife. He also fought to set aside many tracts of land which were valuable wildlife habitat, and succeeded significantly. He was a passionate hunter – grouse, geese, waterfowl, deer, moose and elk. He always had 1 or 2 Labrador Retrievers, who went everywhere he went; and became a competent horseman, taking his horse to the Kananaskis with friends to ride in the mountains. He enjoyed fishing in the Pas region with his friends and he had an old caboosie parked in the Turtle Mountains, which he and friend, Herb Goulden, used as a hunting cabin, and quiet family getaways. Larry was a charter member of the MB Chapter of the Wildlife Society and started the local chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. He was passionately involved (including a role as President) with the Central Mountains and Plains section of the Wildlife Society, volunteered with several Boards including the Delta Waterfowl program, Citizens Advisory Committee for City of Brandon, and the Brandon Riverbank and the Shilo Army base Environmental Committee. He was involved with the Canada Games in 1979, organizing and setting up the cross-country ski courses in the Brandon

Hills WMA. Larry also mentored youth hunters. He was proud to help young people of all ages appreciate the environment and wildlife. Larry and Pat had many fascinating travels. In 1969, they spent a month in Kenya and Tanzania, camping in grasslands and craters with every kind of wildlife. They made several trips to England, from Land's End to Inverness, visiting Larry's relatives and Pat's, and later spent 2 weeks in Northern Ireland. They had winter getaways to Barbados, St. Lucia, Cancun, and the Virgin Islands. The family took long trips in the summers; visiting Pat's mother in Pennsylvania, Larry's mother in Vancouver, his sister in Penticton, and his uncle and aunt in Washington. These trips included travels to parts of the Western US for Wildlife Society Annual meetings in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah. Pat, Larry and Geoff drove to Alaska and the Yukon in 1991, and Larry went to a university hockey reunion in Fairbanks. They visited their children in Alberta at least once a year. They wanted to go to many other places but time ran out. Services will be held at the Clarion Hotel, 3130 Victoria Avenue on Sunday, July 7th at 2:00 pm. Flowers are gratefully declined. If people wish, donations can be made in Larry's name to the charity of their choice, the Brandon Family YMCA, 231 8th St., Brandon, MB, R7A 3X2, or the Manitoba Wildlife Federation, 406-1200 Sherwin Rd., Winnipeg, MB, R3H 0K4.

Events

JUL Memorial Service 02:00PM

7

Clarion Hotel

3130 Victoria Ave., Brandon, MB, CA, R7B 0N2

Comments



“ Pat, Jennifer, and Geoff

So sorry to hear of Larry's passing. It's sad to lose a good neighbor, even after 30 years.

Murray Swan

Murray Swan - July 11, 2019 at 10:05 PM



“ Dear Mrs. B, Jen and Geoff,
We were sorry to hear of Mr.B's passing. He was like a second Dad to us growing up on Linden Blvd. We used to love coming over to play with all the baby critters he brought home, and the odd goose or duck that we got talked into plucking. You are in our thoughts and prayers during this time.

Misty (Mcfaddin) & Pam (Boyko) aka the Edwards girls.

Misty McFaddin - July 09, 2019 at 09:43 PM



“ Pat, Jennifer and Geoff;
We are very sad to hear of Larry's passing. We have many fond memories of visiting with him over the years. He was a very strong advocate for maintaining our natural habitat in Manitoba. Our sincere sympathies to all of you.
Sincerely
Albert and Diane Krahn

Albert and Diane Krahn - July 08, 2019 at 10:24 AM



“ Happy hunting grounds Larry. The conservation community and wildlife of Manitoba and Canada has lost a passionate advocate. Your large legacy of habitat conservation lives on. Thank you for inspiring this biologist, Larry, and your many kind words. We all will miss you.

Brown Eyed Susan, Oakburn MB, 2019-07-07





“ So very sorry to hear about Larry. I have many memories of him from my years as a District Clerk with Natural Resources/Conservation. I'm so glad I stopped to say hello to you and Larry outside your home a couple weeks ago. Thinking of you Pat, and your family.
Linda Pogue

Linda Pogue - July 07, 2019 at 02:13 PM



“ My thoughts are with you at this time. Larry was a good role model to me and I appreciated the times I worked with him. May he rest in peace.

Sherry Punak-Murphy - July 07, 2019 at 12:19 PM



“ Larry was a true advocate for wildlife and natural resources and a true mentor for us young bucks who came behind him, in my case to the Southern Region of MB DNR. He was always cheerful and passed along his experience and insight easily and generously. In a sense, Lynne and I are following the LB "post-work" passions and thus we missed the Memorial, finishing a stint in Chain Lakes Prov. Park near Bidlake haunts at Kananaskis AB. Larry was always respectful of young and old and this includes some "interesting" bosses. I am sure there will be some greenery just beyond the pearly gates where Larry will hear a well-deserved, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

Ross and Lynne Thompson

Ross Thompson - July 05, 2019 at 08:47 PM



“ My condolence goes out to Mrs. Bidlake and family. Larry and I graduated from Whitehorse High School together in 1958. Even then he was a role model for his peers. He made significant contributions to wildlife in Canada.

Ian Parsons - July 05, 2019 at 07:20 PM



“ Dear Pat,
We were so sorry to hear about Larry. We treasure the memory of our friendship - of all the suppers, barbecues and good times we had with you and Larry.
Gerald will keep in his heart the memories of the hunting adventures he shared with

Larry. Larry's goal was always to get "the big Canadas", and he usually did! The years of knowledge and expertise that Larry provided for the conservation community will be valued forever. We are thinking of you and wishing you comfort and strength in the difficult days ahead.

Love,
Donna and Gerald Forsyth

Donna and Gerald Forsyth - July 04, 2019 at 06:25 PM



“ Pat and family - So sorry to hear of Larry's passing. Thinking of you.

Bernice Nerbas - July 04, 2019 at 06:22 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Dimock, PA Oct 2018



Debbie Nagle - July 04, 2019 at 04:06 PM



“ Very sorry to hear of Larry's (Mr. Bidlake's) passing. Condolences to Pat, Jennifer and Geoff.

Brent Darling - July 04, 2019 at 12:37 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Larry's passing. He was always an interesting and knowledgeable person to chat with. He has lived a life full of his passion for wildlife and his family and will truly be missed. My thoughts are with you at this sad time Pat. Kim Hatch (nee Chorley)

kim hatch - July 04, 2019 at 10:07 AM



“ I am so sorry to learn of Larry's passing. I always enjoyed talking to him in the store, such an interesting man with endless knowledge of all things wildlife, learned a lot from him. I will miss these conversations. May God ease your grief and replace it with the many beautiful memories you have of Larry. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Valarie Ferguson - July 02, 2019 at 11:22 PM



“ Very sorry for your loss. Larry remains in "our neighborhood" and in our hearts. Hugs. Bergners

irene bergner - July 02, 2019 at 05:29 PM



“ I am very sorry to hear about Larry. Over the last nine years I have enjoyed hearing about his travels, your property down south, the dogs, kids and stories from his career and hunting buddies. His work with the Souris river bend wildlife management area or involvement with the Brandon Environment Committee will be not be forgotten.

My thoughts are with you and your family at this time,
Lindsay Hargreaves

Lindsay - July 02, 2019 at 03:43 PM