



Steven Keith Walkom

February 23, 2020

Steven Keith Walkom

March 28, 1955- February 23, 2020

It is with heavy hearts that his family announces that Steven died peacefully in his home on Sunday February 23, 2020 at the age of 64.

Steven worked as a Senior Launch Captain at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club piloting and maintaining the Motor Vessels Hiawatha and Kwasind. In 2012 he went on Long Term Disability due to a series of health issues brought on by a motorcycle accident occurring many years before. He was also recognized as a talented photographer and loved taking on the role of chef for his friends and family.

He was a loving father to Dezora (Alex), Brenden and Fiona, husband and friend to Natalie.

Steve will be sorely missed by his three sisters Sue, Jayne and Sara and their partners, and dear friend Michael. Steve will also be fondly remembered by his many nieces and nephews as well as his Aunts Peggy and Joyce, in-laws, extended family and friends. Cremation has taken place as per his wishes and the family will honour and celebrate Steve's life at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Steven may be made to SickKids Foundation.

We will miss him very much and take comfort knowing that he is finally at peace.

Comments



“ I was at a conference today, and one of the presenters looked like an old friend - Steve. I went to look him up on the Internet to see what he was up to, and sadly I found out he died. So many memories have surfaced. I met Steve doing a co-op placement at Queen Street Hospital. His laugh was lovely. Steve taught me so much. He introduced me to experiences I'd never had before. We had great talks. His influence was life-changing. He gave me my first copy of "Illusions" by Richard Bach and I've given it as a present to many more people over the years. I asked once for a photo from him and he went to one of those booths, where you get a strip of photos and then he gave them to me. Attached is one of the pictures I made into a drawing... not the best but when I look at it I see the Steve I knew. I'm so glad he went on and married and had kids. My condolences to all of you. Rest in Peace, Steve and thanks for the memories.



Gillian - May 12 at 12:24 PM



“ From high school years at Tecumseh High School:
Steve lived at our house the summer of 1974 as his parents moved back east. He stayed in Chatham to work at Motor Wheel factory where I also worked that summer. My dad was full-time there and probably helped both of us get those high paying jobs at that time. My parents never wanted me to get a motorcycle but Steve showed up with his. To my surprise I was downtown Chatham on a Friday night and who do I see riding with Steve but my dad. He was wearing nothing but a pair of Bermuda shorts and a helmet looking thrilled. It was one of the funniest memories I have of my dad and Steve. I also remember the two of them watching the 'Midnight Special' on TV late at night both eating big bowls of ice cream. Steve seemed to bring out the teenager in my dad. A very cool guy and good friend to many. Dave Brown

Dave Brown - March 13, 2020 at 11:22 AM



“ Thanks Dave for sharing this memory and sending the lovely card to the house.

Natalie Walkom - March 28, 2020 at 02:42 PM



“ Steven was an incredibly brave fellow and a bright and funny man. He adored and was so very proud of his family. He will be missed.

Dr. Elise Spring

Dr. Elise Spring - April 16, 2020 at 11:38 PM



“ PS. - It is because of Steve that I have a passion for photography and why I bought my first camera. I am beyond grateful for that...
June Condruk

June Condruk - March 08, 2020 at 01:51 PM



“ Beautiful words June, and yes the pictures did come through; such treasures! Thanks so much for sharing these memories

Natalie Walkom - March 10, 2020 at 04:54 AM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Susan Eagleson - March 08, 2020 at 01:15 PM



“ Thanks for posting.

June Condruk - March 08, 2020 at 04:19 PM



“ My heart broke when I heard the news. While Steve and I have not been in touch as frequently as I would have liked - we never missed each other's birthdays. We met way back in the late 70's when he was living in Chatham on – I think it was Kendall Street, on the top floor of a house. I used to work part-time at a Mac's Milk and Steve used to come to the laundromat next door so would come into the store for smokes and sundry. As happens when you see someone on a recurring basis – conversations started which became longer and longer and then we struck up a friendship – which has lasted all these years. Steve also gave me something which I could never repay him for – sanctuary when I was in need and for that he will always have a very special place in my heart.

We shared a lot of great times and the memories will stay forever: the conversations, the debates, the philosophical deep dives, the letters (of which I still have them all); coming to Stratford and meeting his kind and generous Mom and 3 beautiful sisters; meeting his friends in Chatham some of whom are still my friends (Wyatt Clark & Ken Millson); meeting Natalie and getting to know her when she stayed with me in Vancouver... the list goes on and on. I am sorry that I never had the opportunity to meet Steve and Nat's kids as my travels though Toronto lessened as the years progressed.

To Sue, Jayne, Sara, Nat and Dezora, Brenden and Fiona and the rest of Steve's family – my deepest sympathies. Your brother, husband, father was loved deeply by many even if you didn't know we were there.

To Steve – let me know if the Messiah thing worked out and may the single malt be all that you remembered it to be. Xoxoxoxo June Condruk

(PS I did try to upload 2 photos from way back.. 1979 and 1980 but I don't know if they actually did upload.)



June Condruk - March 07, 2020 at 07:41 PM



“ Thank you June, that is so beautiful!

Sara walkom - March 08, 2020 at 08:27 PM



“ Thank you June for your thoughts and memories, hugs.

Jayne Walkom - March 10, 2020 at 02:06 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



June Condruk - March 07, 2020 at 06:41 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



June Condruk - March 07, 2020 at 06:40 PM



“ To the whole Walkom clan, I am so sorry for your loss. Steve was a giant, sadly banged up to young but he kept his sense of humour. The last time I visited he was still laughing sitting in his chair. I am sure his beautiful family had much to do with this. Taken to soon.
"Fair winds and following sea's Walkomsan"
Renchko

Mark Renchko - March 07, 2020 at 12:27 PM



“ Thank you Mark!

Sara walkom - March 08, 2020 at 08:28 PM



“ Hugs Mark, thank you.

Jayne Walkom - March 10, 2020 at 02:08 PM



“ The first Walkom I met was Steve Walkom. In 1983 I'd returned from a sailing ship delivery to Jamaica. Some crew mates from that trip hailed from Stratford. When we all met up again in Toronto, there was a new face, a guy I'd not met before. That guy was Steve. He was then working at 999 Queen, "keeping people in" as he would quip.

The waterfront was a great draw and many of us worked there. It was a fun seasonal place to work. Steve got quickly drawn into that world.

After acquiring the required sea time Steve got his captain's certificate and continued in that career.

Before that seriousness, one of my fondest memories involves Steve. I was a sailing instructor at the sailing school at harbourfront. Access to boats was a substantial benefit. One evening at the houseboat I was staying at, late enough to be dusk in summer, we risked running out of beer. Horrors. Steps needed to be taken. None of us had cars at the time. Steve was 28, I was 23 and Ian Robertson was 21. I don't remember who came up with the idea but we decided to go up the Don River in a small runabout boat. In those times there was a beer store on the corner of Queen and River Street diagonally across from the Humane Society.

Up the river we would fly, we would tie up under the Queen St bridge and walk the short distance to the store. Perfect.

We cleared obstacles aplenty as this was years before the dredging of the Don River mouth. A smell I'll never forget but wish I could. Flying up stream this wasn't, we had to poke through slowly. This I suppose was sufficiently odd that someone dropped the dime (how dated) and notified the authorities. We got our two four of Stock Ale alright but as we came back down stream faster now `cause we knew the route, there were flashing lights on two of the bridges we were zooming under. Atop the last one, the Cherry Street lift bridge there were people waving next to the red flashing lights. It was the cops. We entered the harbour and were greeted by the soothing blue flashers of the marine police. We felt it prudent to stop at that point.

"what are you guys doing?"

"Going home to the houseboat at harbourfront right next to your police station"

"What were you doing in the river?"

"We were at the River Street beer store."

"Really?" We then displayed the uncharacteristically unopened beer case.

"Huh, I guess that's OK then. Do any of you have a harbour license?"

We did. We had all the correct safety gear as well and as such we were off on our way back to harbourfront. After that, memory fades. It's one of the unique waterfront experiences I treasure, all while messing about in boats with Steve. It was a fun time.

Happily Steve and Nat have given us 3 fabulous kids.

I honour his friendship and miss him.

The wind's on his quarter now. Sail on brother Steve. aka Walkomsan to a few.

Peace,

Bruce Hunter



“ Beautiful Bruce Thank you.

Sara walkom - March 05, 2020 at 07:07 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the Walkom family for the loss of Steve, a man well-loved. I hope you will find comfort in the many memories you share. I will remember Steve from the early sailing days, as someone with a quick wit, who laughed freely & frequently. And as a man enormously proud of his beautiful family. Rest In Peace, Steve, you will be missed.

Cindi Vanden Heuvel - March 03, 2020 at 07:19 AM



“ Thank you Cindi!

Sara walkom - March 08, 2020 at 08:29 PM



“ Hugs and love

Jayne Walkom - March 10, 2020 at 02:09 PM



“ My giant of a brother..oh how I'm breaking.
When you left, a piece of me went with you.
But you did leave a huge loving mark on my life and soul.
It is true..you left with me..
Your strength
Your kindness
Your compassion
Your ability to smile when needed
Your bountiful love
Your humor..these were your super powers!
You were my superhero as a child and still are.
You are at peace now and no more longer in that trap of pain.
I love you Steven Keith Walkom
Thank you for being my Big Brother

Sara walkom - March 02, 2020 at 09:31 PM



“ Natalie, Dezora, Brenden and Fiona,
I am so sorry to hear about Steve's passing. I am a cousin of Steve's. Keith and my mom, Mary, were brother and sister. Although Steve was older than me, I definitely remember his laugh, which I heard a lot. I hope you find comfort in knowing he was loved by many. Please know you are in my thoughts and I will remember you all in my prayers.

Joanne Campbell - March 02, 2020 at 11:17 AM



“ Thank you Jo

Sara walkom - March 05, 2020 at 07:08 PM



“ J. Mara lit a candle in memory of Steven Keith Walkom



J. Mara - March 02, 2020 at 08:52 AM



“ I will never forget our hitchhiking trip to Halifax from Chatham. Two crazy 15 year olds on the road. We had a few adventures and a ton of laughs. When I was going through a tough time in my teens, Steve's family always made room for me at the table and made me feel like I was part of the family. Oh, and those times we nipped a bit of his dad's Drambuie into a flask for a pre dance buzz - replaced with water into the bottle. Mr W never suspected. Right! Miss you. Warm thoughts to the whole family.

John Everingham

John Everingham - March 01, 2020 at 06:22 PM



“ Thank you John

Sara walkom - March 05, 2020 at 07:09 PM



“ A giant once walked this earth. Godspeed Captain Walkom, wherever you are.

George Garland - March 01, 2020 at 06:19 PM



“ Yes he was ! Thank you

Sara walkom - March 05, 2020 at 07:10 PM



“ You are loved and will be missed by many my friend. R.I.P. Captain.

Peter Drewry - March 01, 2020 at 03:28 PM



“ Although I didnt know Steve long, my thoughts are with his family. RIP Steve

Shelley - March 02, 2020 at 08:33 PM



“ Steve was always willing to do a favour to a friend of his or Nat's and I thank God I got to know him a little and remember him with much fondness for the many kindnesses and advise he gave me and my family. I prayer your family will be comforted by the Lord at this painful time. love Colleen Newell and family

Colleen Newell - March 03, 2020 at 05:20 PM



“ Thank you both.

Sara walkom - March 05, 2020 at 07:09 PM