



## Andrew Halbert Kerr

August 12, 2023

It is with deep sadness that we announce that Andrew Halbert Kerr died suddenly in his Toronto neighbourhood on August 12th at the age of 71. He is survived by his beloved wife, Cynthia Hawkins, his sister Liz in Tasmania and his stepmother in Montreal.

Andrew was born in Montreal to Halbert Kerr and Heather Grant. After his parent's divorce when Andrew was a young boy, he became very close to his father, with whom he lived in Montreal, Scotland, Toronto, and Vancouver, before resettling in Montreal. Andrew lived for a time in Boleskine House, on the side of Loch Ness in the Scottish Highlands, which his father had bought with the intention of turning it into a guest house. Boleskine House had been lived in by the black magician Alastair Crowley in the early 1900s. After four years, in 1971, Andrew's father sold Boleskine to the lead guitarist of the rock group Led Zeppelin. Who knew!

Andrew worked alongside his father in the '80s and '90s as an insurance adjuster, and had his own turn as a guest house owner when he purchased Holmleigh in Sidmouth, England in the mid 90s. He always said that Basil Fawlty from the British TV comedy Fawlty Towers was his role model.

Andrew returned to Canada in 2000 and re-established a relationship with Cynthia Hawkins, the love of his life, whom he had first known in Montreal in

the 1980s. Cynthia had moved to Toronto in 2000 and the two soon rekindled their love, finally marrying in 2008.

Andrew was smart, childlike, erudite, quirky with a unique sense of humour. His passion was classical music, particularly the works of Beethoven, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Strauss, Bruckner and Mahler. He loved to discuss current events and to engage in lively debate. He brought so much joy and laughter to his friends and family. In 2011 he and Cynthia purchased a retirement property close to the beach in Fort Lauderdale, and it was there as a snowbird that he found true contentment.

# Tribute Wall

KL

“ *karen Sister in lit a candle in memory of Andrew Kerr*



karen Watkins Sister in law - September 05, 2023 at 09:11 PM

KL

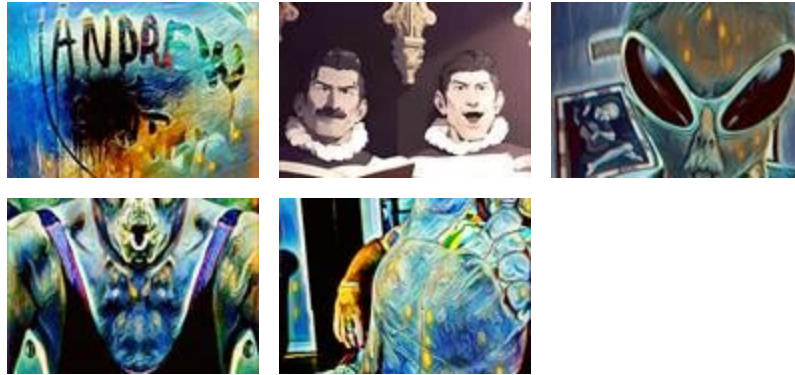
“ *I am still in shock that my Brother In law Andrew was taken so suddenly. Andrew was a quirky kind of guy but I loved him for that. He would send me these distorted pictures on messenger which I didn't like, but once I told him he stopped. He loved my Sister and my Sister loved him. I was fortunate enough to be able to spend my Birthday at their Condo in Ft Lauderdale in 2018 where Andrew and I would have great chats over a Bloody Caesar or 2 or 3. Lol. He always made me laugh. I remember him talking about his childhood dog Buffy which his next dog was named Buffy too. They were yellow labs just like the one in the picture below which is Andrew and one of my yellow labs Bailey whom he really enjoyed. Andrew I hope you are in heaven looking down at us all having chats with your Dad and my Mom & Dad and all the people whom you have lost in your life. Till we meet again. Cheers. ❤️*



karen Watkins Sister in law - September 05, 2023 at 09:09 PM

CK

“ John mentioned Andrew's artwork that made my Messenger ding almost every day. I thought I'd share a few. I miss him, indeed, every time I hear that ding.



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Christine Kerr - August 27, 2023 at 07:46 PM

GP

“ The tab reads ‘Share a Memory’ - is there room for a thousand memories? Andy was my cousin...my FIRST COUSIN. He defined ‘cousin-ship’. If I have other cousins, they pale in comparison - Andy was unique, larger-than-life, capitalized.

*We shared childhoods, holidays, dogs, parents (he only had one at a time), a cantankerous granny (he got the worst of it) and boarding school misery.*

*The adult Andy would pop in and out of my life - sometimes he was OK and I was not - sometimes the reverse: although he understood “lonely” better than I did. He was exasperating, he was funny, he could be exhausting, he had a heart bigger than Texas and I loved him. I hope he knew that, I don’t think I ever told him.*

*Things changed when Cindy reappeared in his life. Andy courted, wooed, stalked and won...finding the happiness that I think, thus far, had eluded him. As a couple they were a joy to be with - I am thinking dog walks, discussions, laughter, Bloody Caesars, martinis and smoked salmon. They included me - the - not-so-merry-widow - in both their Toronto and Florida worlds. Cindy, I hate it that you have joined this club to which no one wants to belong!*

*Lastly, to dearest Andy - wherever you are - it is where the good guys go. I am sure my Ron has found you by now - let him take care of you for a wee bit.*

*Gerry Pierce*

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**Gerry Pierce** - August 22, 2023 at 09:35 AM

LH

“ I miss you. Even though we lived far apart, you still managed to be in touch most days. You were so full of life and did not deserve the way it ended for you.

There have been and will be tears from me.

Rest in Peace brother mine, our heavenly father and his band of angels are in for a fun time after you arrive at the pearly gates.

I love and miss you ,bro, Liz xxx



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Liz hardy - August 21, 2023 at 10:51 PM

DS

“ C'est avec beaucoup de tristesse que j'ai appris le décès de mon beau-fils bien-aimé Andrew. Les mots ne peuvent pas décrire la douleur ressentie.

Andrew savait communiquer sa bonne humeur et sa joie de vivre à tous ceux qui l'entouraient ..

He was for me a friend, a son.

My thoughts and my prayers are for Cindy.

I shall always be there for you.

Denise Blain from Montreal Québec

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Denise Blain Stepmother - August 20, 2023 at 10:24 AM

CO

“ I only met Andrew a couple of times, several years ago. Since then, I've read with a chuckle some of his humorous posts or responses to mine on social media! He had a quick, clever wit. I remember the early days of your renewed relationship with him when you were still in Montreal, Cynthia, and how happy you were. You've had a wonderful life together and it's tragic that it has been cut short. My deepest condolences to you and your family.

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Caroline O'Connor - August 19, 2023 at 05:09 PM

JG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**John Gladwell** - August 19, 2023 at 02:25 PM

JG

“ I first met Andrew when I joined the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir as a fellow tenor. During the 15 years of our friendship we met countless times over a meal and pint at the Granite Brewery, and in more recent years Carol and I enjoyed our visits with Andrew and Cynthia at each of our homes. A devilishly well read conversationalist who delighted in playing devil's advocate no matter how sensitive the topic, Andrew could also be quite sensitive and serious when the situation required it.

There was a dramatic and humorous flair in everything Andrew did whether through his seemingly endless supply of outlandish fashion accessories, those creepily altered images of himself which regularly appeared in my in-box, his close to indecipherable phoneticising of language in his emails while fastidiously correcting any grammatical errors in my own messages, or verbal pranks delivered with the most deadpan seriousness. In a nutshell, Andrew had a very serious way of expressing silly things and a very silly way of expressing serious things. He was truly one of a kind and I will dearly miss him.

Andrew simply adored you, Cynthia. Carol and I are thinking of you in your immeasurable loss, and we send you our love and support.

*John Gladwell*

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**John Gladwell** - August 19, 2023 at 02:24 PM

CK

*I wondered if I was the only one to receive Andrew's one-of-a-kind works of art! Thank you for this Andrew-in-a-nutshell, John. It encapsulates him, and our love for him, very well.*

Christine Kerr - August 27, 2023 at 07:27 PM

LG

“ *I will always remember Andrew’s sense of humour and unique style. Pictured at a past TMC Alumni Luncheon in one of his favourite sweaters (I teased about it and he couldn’t believe everyone wouldn’t find it as attractive!). Also, I think back on an afternoon spent walking on the Fort Lauderdale beach, with him sharing his opinions about the planet and all those who call it home. Jack and I send our heartfelt condolences to Cynthia and his family. He was one of a kind... and will be greatly missed!*



Laura Wood & Jack Goad - August 18, 2023 at 10:34 PM

CK

*Thank you for sharing this photo and memory, Laura. I'd come to think of this sweater as the Kerr tartan, Andrew wore it so.*

Christine Kerr - August 27, 2023 at 07:03 PM

DO

“ *Jim and I will miss Andrew tremendously. Our interactions with him were always fascinating. He was thoughtful, kind, smart as heck, and a joy to spend time with both here in Toronto and in Fort Lauderdale. Our hearts go out to Cynthia, we look forward to giving you a hug soon!*

Don Oravec - August 18, 2023 at 04:10 PM

CH

“ 6 files added to the album Cynthia's photos of Andrew



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**Cynthia Hawkins** - August 18, 2023 at 10:34 AM