



Fred Kielburger

May 17, 2025

In Loving Memory of Fred Kielburger

With hearts full of love and gratitude, we share the unexpected passing of Fred Kielburger on Saturday, May 17th, 2025, at the age of 84. Fred lived every day to its fullest—his was a life rich in laughter, learning, adventure, and song.

Fred was the devoted husband of Theresa, loving father to Marc and Craig, cherished father-in-law to Roxanne and Leysa, proud grandfather to Lily-Rose, Violette, Hilson, Arthur James, and Lachlan, beloved brother to Freeda and Charles, and treasured uncle to Jim, Christine, Theresa, Jim, and Lorraine.

If you ever found yourself at Ashbridge's Bay, you might have spotted Fred on his favourite park bench with Ginger the dog at his side, ready to strike up a conversation with anyone passing by. His warmth was magnetic, his curiosity boundless, and his kindness legendary.

A proud graduate of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto, Fred discovered a lifelong passion for languages. For over 30 years, he inspired thousands as a French teacher at Northview and AY Jackson Secondary Schools. His classrooms were always animated with music, laughter, and the occasional burst of caroling to help students master their French conjugations. He mentored dozens of student teachers, organized unforgettable ski trips to Quebec and school adventures to Paris, and left an indelible mark on generations.

Fred's love of culture and art was infectious—he delighted in wandering museums with his grandchildren, rewarding their creative insights with a dollar and a smile. He treasured the work of Michael French, whom he visited in Mexico, and found joy in annual river cruises and the family tradition of attending Handel's Messiah.

A true explorer at heart, some of Fred's favorite travels took him from Germany, Italy, and France to Kenya, India, Brazil, and Australia, with his sons and daughters-in-law by his side. Yet he was just as happy riding the Queen Street streetcar, discovering the magic of his own city.

The son of immigrants, Fred and Theresa, his wife of 50 years, worked tirelessly—buying, fixing, and selling 25 homes to create opportunities for their family. Fred was also a man of deep devotion, visiting his own mother daily for six months during her final days at St. Michael's Hospital, where he himself received exceptional care in his last days. The family extends heartfelt thanks to his long-time physician, Dr. Tim Cook.

Fred's life was a joyful song—he never missed a chance to sing “For He's a Jolly Good Fellow” or his signature “Bone Fête” with every birthday cake. Recently asked to look back on his life through a series of questions, when asked about regrets, he simply said: “No regrets.” His greatest gift? “My two sons.” As for advice to his grandchildren: “Enjoy life.”

Fred's legacy is one of love, laughter, and curiosity. He leaves us with memories as vibrant as his spirit and a reminder to greet each day with open arms and an open heart.

In lieu of flowers, please share a story, a song, or a simple act of kindness in his honour. Donations to St. Michael's hospital are also welcome in Fred's name.

We love you, Baba Fred. Thank you for a lifetime of joy, love and memories which will forever stay in our hearts.

Tribute Wall

MJ

“*Mr. Kielburger was my grade 10 French teacher. ("would/should, would/should ...le conditionnel," ...I can still hear him.) He was kind and fun and decent. He made everyone feel important and valued. What a gift. He was a very good man.*

Mary Heather Jang - February 24 at 09:48 AM

MB

“*Hi Fred, Just spoke to Mark and he shared the bad news that you decided to move on to the other side. I'll miss our walks on the Beach with our puppies while we discussed world economics and politics or the lack thereof. Enjoy yourself and hope to meet up with you in the future, but not too soon. YOur friend Marc at 1808.*

Marc Bouchard - July 16, 2025 at 07:53 PM

PP

“*Fred led a remarkable life, filled with immense love for his family and a warm, caring nature that extended to everyone he encountered. He had a wonderful sense of humour and he consistently demonstrated attention and kindness to those he loved. As a dedicated teacher, he instilled a passion for learning in his students. He and his family created numerous charitable initiatives to support those less fortunate, particularly in Kenya, where their efforts have made significant improvements in the most needy regions. He enjoyed life, especially watching his precious grandchildren grow.*

Patrick Pisani - May 30, 2025 at 11:55 AM

BL

I am so sorry hearing of his passing. He was my grade 12 French teacher who was a very kind and thoughtful individual. He was extremely well liked by all students in the class. Thinking fondly of my old school days. Northview had the very best teachers. A magical time. Dr. Brent Lewis.

Brent Lewis - June 01, 2025 at 11:53 AM

NC

“*Mr. Kielburger was such a kind and wonderful man. I remember that he used to say "an oeuf is an oeuf"....one of my favourite teachers....rest in peace*

Nancy Cameron - May 29, 2025 at 04:08 PM

GV

“ I was a student in Mr. Fred Kielburger’s Grade 10 French class at Northview, and I’ll always remember him as a kind and compassionate teacher who was ready to help anyone who needed it. He had a great sense of humor that made his classroom a welcoming and joyful place to learn.

One memory that still makes me smile is when he handed out the monthly calendar and accidentally left my birthday off the March page. From that point on, the joke among my classmates was that I no longer had a birthday—something that followed me through the rest of high school. He laughed with us and always took such things in stride.

Mr. Kielburger was deeply passionate about the French language, about life, and most of all, about his family. He often spoke with such pride and warmth about his two sons that we all felt like we knew them personally.

I was very sorry to hear of his passing. My heartfelt condolences go out to his family, friends, and all those whose lives he touched. Thank you, Mr. Kielburger, for the lessons, the laughter, and the memories. 💕

Greer Valentine - May 29, 2025 at 03:31 PM



“ Mr Kielburger was my french teacher in high-school. He was one of the kindest and most caring teachers. He saw something in my that others didn't and helped keep me on the right track. He had a great sense of humor and was very proud of his kids and their accomplishments. Rest in peace Mr. K... you were one of a kind.

Bener Aydin - May 25, 2025 at 09:12 AM

DN

“ I am sorry to hear of Mr. Kielburger's passing - I'm sure a devastating loss to his entire family.

Mr. Kielburger was my teacher at Northview Heights in the late 1970's. I remember him fondly as being so interesting and kind. By chance, I had the opportunity to meet him again and have a good catch up chat, while at a Me to We event lead by his extraordinary sons. He was still so vibrant.

Sincere Condolences.

Deb Van Natter

Deb Van Natter - May 24, 2025 at 11:48 AM



“ *Mr.Kielburger was my French teacher in grades 10 and 12 at Northview Heights Secondary School. His classes were always full of laughter. Whenever we didn't want to work , we would convince Mr.Kielburger to share his story of getting arrested for getting to close to the Berlin Wall. He was quite the story teller! I am very sorry to hear of his passing. Condolences to all of the family.*

Dorothea (Nelson) MacQueen

Dorothea MacQueen - May 23, 2025 at 10:40 PM