



George Robert Willson

December 29, 2019

George Robert Willson. Retired broadcaster with the CBC. On Sunday Dec. 29 Bob passed away, after having just spent Christmas with his family. He was a loving and devoted husband to Maureen(predeceased). Together they raised their three daughters, Linda Upshall, Jacqueline Webster(Gary)and Jennifer Carberry (John). He adored all nine of his grandchildren and always enjoyed time with them. He was also blessed with eleven great grandchildren; Bob anticipated the arrival of two more next month. He will be missed by Margaret Leaker.

In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church- Scarborough, Holland Bloorview Children's Hospital and Heart and Stroke Foundation would be welcomed.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 11 am at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, St Andrew's Rd. Scarborough.

Previous Events

Funeral

JAN 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
115 St Andrews Road
Toronto, ON M1P 4N2 (CA)

Tribute Wall

EW

“ *My oldest cousin, a great loss. I recall how we as a family would listen, every Sunday I think, when Bob would do the childrens program on CKUA in Edmonton (mid/late 40s). I believe that was his start in broadcasting. He was always supportive of building our Family Tree and contributed often. We were looking forward to him attending our Family reunion planned this summer in Edmonton, the 150th anniversary of the Willson family in Canada. I recall how proud he was of his reading stories to school classes and how he thought I should do the same.*

A special person. His integrity is great loss to our society!

Bob, your family must feel proud of your contributions to Canada

Ed (Ted) Willson

Edwin Willson - January 08, 2020 at 12:02 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of George Robert Willson.*



January 07, 2020 at 03:16 PM

BR

“ I have fond memories of working with Bob when he sat in on the World at Six. I have less acute memories of time we spent together with ARTEC and CUPE but recall that we shared values about fairness and the obligation we both assumed to serve a good cause. Bob was always a gentleman and brought good humour to every situation. He was a fine broadcaster with high standards. Like so many others I am deeply saddened and offer my condolences to his family and friends.

-Bruce Rogers

Bruce Rogers - January 06, 2020 at 05:08 PM

DW

“ I remember Bob from my teen years when I was a member of the Good Deed Radio Choir. We girls all drooled over handsome Bob. I remember one time we were doing a spelling contest (not on air). Bob asked me to spell "gorilla." At least that's the word I thought he wanted me to spell. "Not the animal," said Bob, "the soldier." That wasn't a word in my 13-year-old lexicon.

Doreen Williams
Edmonton

Doreen Williams - January 06, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LR

I've always been very fond of Bob. He and I first met in 1956 in Winnipeg when he was the very popular host of the evening magazine show Spotlight. He made me, and later wife Nancy as well, feel welcomed in his helpful & always gracious manner. We were both learning about this new technology called TV and it was a great ride for both of us as we eventually ended up in Toronto and continued our times together. He was a true friend and a warm and wonderful human being. We are saddened by his passing and express sincere condolences to all.

Lloyd Robertson

Lloyd Robertson - January 07, 2020 at 01:37 PM

KM

I worked with Bob for several years, writing and assembling newscasts for him to read at the old CBC building on Jarvis Street in Toronto. Bob went from the regular announcers' pool into radio sports, and I particularly remember his stellar performance in Munich in 1972 during the ill-fated Olympics. Bob did regular roundups of the happenings as a band of Palestinian fanatics assassinated members of the Israeli squad at the games. He held the fort until the news department could send in a team to take over the coverage. After retirement Bob came back to work from time to time as a fill-in newscaster and we would share quiet moments with observations about the crazy goings-on in the world. He was always a gentleman and one of the finest broadcasters I have had the privilege of working with.

Keeble McFarlane - January 12, 2020 at 04:45 PM