



Harley Roderick (Rory) Nott

October 25, 2025

On October 25, 2025, with the ones he loved, Harley Roderick (Rory) Nott, left this world for the next. He is with God, with Love. Born on the first day of summer in June 1962, he was 63 years old.

Missing him terribly, are his beloved family, spouse, Margaret and children Evan and Margaret.

He was predeceased by his mother, Joan (2021), parents-in-law, Margaret (1974) and Geerlof (2008) Kralt.

He leaves his brothers, Richard (Amy) and Chris (Shelley), and in-laws, Janice, John (Martha), Peter (Kathy), Linda (Stan), Dick, Gordon (d. 2017) (Caroline) and many nieces and nephews.

Harley grew up a bit wild on Vancouver Island. He was a rebellious teenager, expelled from school at age 16, in 1978. He worked in construction, forestry and logging, until May 1980, when he suffered a spinal cord injury diving into a river. In an instant, he became a quadriplegic logger with a grade 9 education. Deciding to play the hand he had been dealt (i.e. live + live well), after a year of physical rehab, he headed back to school. Embracing college, university, and law school, he married Margaret, moved to Toronto, worked for the Department of Justice, and became the proud father of Evan and

Margaret. He retired from the Department in 2002. Over the years, he went on vacations, traveled, volunteered on non-profit boards and after retirement, was the stay-home parent. By 2025, the pain and deterioration of his body was enough, he was so very tired and sore. He died at home, by MAiD.

Harley was an extra-ordinary man, who lived his life in ordinary ways, as a husband and father. He loved his family, his friends, his dogs. He basked in the sun. He savoured good food. He told bad jokes. He cherished words, spoken, heard, written, sung. He wrote beautiful prayers. He was curious, interested in others, and what they were doing. He was stoic, living his life of quadriplegia, with all its indignity, pain, medical complications and limitations, uncomplaining and as best as he was able. He was grateful for all the good things he received in life. He was a man of faith, believing that God is less interested in altering our personal physical universes to make the world more pleasant for us, than he is in us developing the resiliency, faith and capacity for love of our inner beings.

Deep thanks are given to Pace Independent Living and its PSW outreach program. We are so grateful to the personal support workers who came to our house over many years, allowing Harley to live independently at home with his family.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Spinal Cord Injury – Ontario: <https://sciontario.org/giveonce/>

Condolences may be left at www.aftercare.org

A service will be held on Saturday, November 8, 2025, at the First Christian Reformed Church, 67 Taunton Road, Toronto, at 2 pm. Refreshments will be offered after the service.

Romans 5: 3-5: ... we[c] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Rev. 21:4: He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

Tribute Wall

PL

“ Dearest Margaret and family, was thinking of Rory today so I looked him up online only to read of his passing. I have such fond memories of being your neighbour and knowing Rory. Countless hours of chats on your front and back decks, the many Scrabble games we shared, going with Rory to hear writers speak, movies and even Christmas shopping together. He was a joy to hang out with and always lent an ear to confide in. Thank you all for making our time in the neighbourhood so wonderful. With fond memories, Paul and William

Paul Langley - March 30 at 04:23 PM

NI

“ Harley's story was a remarkable one. I had the honor of meeting him during our theatre production, Borne and the entire cast grew close, sharing our deepest hopes, fears, frustrations, vulnerabilities. It was truly a special and memorable time. We shared so much laughter backstage - Harley's humor was dry but hilarious. Even more importantly, we held each other's hearts while letting audiences into our lives, night after night. Harley was also a huge advocate in the disability community. The SCIO community will miss him tremendously. I extend my deepest condolences to Harley's family and friends.

Harley, when I look at the moon, I will think of you often, and I'll see you on the other side.

- Nikoletta



Nikoletta - November 15, 2025 at 08:30 PM

GS

“ Margaret, Evan and Margaret, we are sad to learn of Rory's passing. You were all wonderful neighbours and we were inspired by the way Rory lived his life with dignity and strength, and your support which you all managed quietly and effectively. Even though we have seldom been back to our street in more than a decade since we moved, we have continued to think of you and enjoy pleasant memories of conversations on the deck. It comes as no surprise that when the time came, Rory left as he lived. We know you will miss him every day and his example will support you through this difficult time. We are so grateful that you all were part of our lives for many years.

Gail and George

Gail and George Shields - November 13, 2025 at 10:59 PM

RW

“ I met Harley in 2013 when a bunch of us began creating a play together. It was always a pleasure sharing space with him. His humor was wry and clever. I regret not keeping in touch the last bunch of years. I wrongly assumed our paths would cross more organically. Condolences to his family. He was a lovely human.

Russell Winkelaar.

Russell Winkelaar - November 08, 2025 at 06:00 PM

DP

“ I met Harley many years ago when I was part of the Immigration and Refugee Section. Apart from his sense of humour, what struck me the most about Harley were his grace and integrity. Unfortunately I am not able to attend the service. I believe Harley is now at peace and wish the same for Margaret and children.

Debra Prupas - November 08, 2025 at 07:25 AM

AE

“ My sincerest condolences to Margaret, Evan, Margaret and the rest of the Nott family, on Harley’s passing. I pray God gives you the strength and comfort you need at this time. 🙏

Annette Evans - November 05, 2025 at 12:30 PM

PS

“ I was very sorry to get this news. Harley’s courage and strength of character were a constant source of inspiration, so well captured in this beautifully written obituary. I am so glad to have known him and so humbled by his example. What a loss for Margaret, his children and family and all who knew him.

Peter Southey - November 02, 2025 at 08:50 AM

AR

“ I’m sad to hear of Harley’s passing. I recall working with him many years at DOJ. My first time ever seeing a black standard poodle who was his loyal service dog. 🐕☐ Harley had a quick wit to him always seeing things in a positive way. May he be remembered fondly for all the great things he accomplished. Sending my condolences to you Margaret, and the whole family. - Angie Rehal

Angie Rehal - November 01, 2025 at 06:14 PM

LH

“ My heartfelt condolences to Margaret, Evan and Margaret on the passing of your husband and father. I met Harley when I joined the Immigration group of the Department of Justice as it then was. He was always upbeat, fun, and kind. As someone who was not always comfortable with change, I was often amazed at Harley’s curiosity, zest for learning, and confidence as he explored the various areas of law and practices in the different divisions at Justice. May he continue to rest in eternal peace and may his dear family find comfort now and always. Lori Hendriks

Lori Hendriks - October 31, 2025 at 10:34 PM



“ I was heartbroken to hear about Harley's passing. My thoughts are with you and your family. I hope you find comfort in your memories together and in the care of those who love you. The spirit lives on in the breath of the wind,
the whisper of the trees, and the dance of the northern lights.
Joanne Gentile

Joanne Gentile - October 31, 2025 at 08:51 PM

JK

“ My deepest emphasis sympathies Margaret for the loss of Rory. I hope and pray God continues to shelter you in his abiding love in this difficult time.

Jack Kralt - October 31, 2025 at 06:48 PM

CW

“ I send my love and sympathy to Margaret, Evan and Mey on the loss of your beloved husband and dad, Rory. The world has lost a great spark - such an intelligent, kind, charming and poetic man. Although I did not see him often or know him well, he made a huge impression on me and I am grateful to have been part of his wide circle of friends. Catherine Waters

Catherine Waters - October 31, 2025 at 04:12 PM

TJ

“ I am so sorry about Harley's passing. I spoke to him often when he and I were on the elevator going to the office. He was quite a guy. His resilience, grace, and faith in the face of such challenges were truly extraordinary. What an inspiring legacy of strength and love. He will be missed. Tom James

Tom James - October 31, 2025 at 01:42 PM

UK

“ I remember Harley, as I knew him, when I hired him at the Canada Department of Justice office in Toronto, many years ago. He joined the Immigration and Refugee Group that I managed. We were all so impressed by his extreme intelligence and courage. Except for the fact that I am immobilized by Huntington Disease, I would never miss Harley's funeral, his friends and our mutual friends at the Department of Justice. I extend my deepest sympathies to Harley's family and friends on theirs and our loss. Urszula Kaczmarczyk, Port Hope.

Urszula Kaczmarczyk - October 31, 2025 at 11:14 AM

RR

“ We will miss you Rory! A kind, intelligent, funny and brave guy who never let any physical constraints get in the way of living life, during all our law school days and as recently as when I was fortunate to him this summer.

The image of Rory I maintain to this day is of him playing euchre in UVic, cards in one hand, a cigarette in a cigarette holder in the other and a grin on his face, looking for all the world like a young Franklin Roosevelt.



Richard Ritson - October 29, 2025 at 06:56 PM

CH

“ I am so saddened to hear that Harley is gone. Our first time meeting was when I had to fingerprint him prior to him joining the Dept. of Justice, followed by many chats over the years.

Carol Hingston

Carol Hingston - October 29, 2025 at 10:55 AM

RN

“ Roderick Harley Nott.

My first friend, my oldest friend and my best friend.

This past Saturday morning Chris and I said goodbye to our brother Rory.

Surrounded by family the man exited this world with dignity, grace and on his own terms, just as he had lived his extraordinary life.

To Chris and myself our brother has always been our true life hero and mentor. The man that overcame the cruellest of life's

challenges through his sheer stubbornness and force of will, the man that always took things one step further and excelled at everything he turned his mind to. Whenever I have felt hopeless and unable to cope with the curve balls life does throw at us I have always looked to Rory and found a way.

A Brother, Father, Uncle and a brilliant spark to all who knew him, he has made this world a better place simply by being in it.

No men know and understand each other as brothers do and as grateful as I am that he has now found peace , the void he left behind can never be filled.

Nor should it be.

Richard Nott

Nanaimo BC

Richard Nott - October 28, 2025 at 05:09 PM

RB

“ *There was one empty chair in a lecture hall at U-Vic Law School on my first day of class. I was 2 days late. It was beside a handsome young man in a wheelchair. So that's where I sat. My beloved friend for 40 years.*

My deepest sympathies to you Margaret, Evan and Mey.

Ron Beram

Gabriola BC.

Ron Beram - October 27, 2025 at 06:57 PM