



John Alexander Struthers

July 1, 2021

Struthers, John Alexander died at his home, surrounded by family, in Toronto, Ontario July 1, 2021, from cancer, at the age of 67.

John was a native Torontonian born to Georgina Dell Struthers (nee Switzer) and James Alexander Struthers. He has one sister, Mary Richardson, who survives him.

The love of John's life, Beth Fanjoy, was his life anchor during the progression of his disease. They spent too few years together after finding each other in later life.

He was a devoted brother to Mary, uncle to Sarah, Michael and Emily and great uncle to Lucas, Nyla, Lily and Sofia.

John attended public and high school in North Toronto, earned a Master's in English at Queen's University and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Nebraska.

John's 33 year career was dedicated to education, first as a professor at Seneca College and laterally as Chair of several departments.

After retiring in 2014 John embraced his many interests including wood-working, playwriting, and travelling. He was an avid collector of vintage radios, enjoyed taking his 16 year old BMW out for a spin and cruising Jack Lake in his 1956 cedar outboard which he lovingly restored.

He was a ruling Elder of Beaches Presbyterian Church, volunteering much of his time including the reframing and installation of stained-glass windows and assisting in the settlement of new refugees.

John will be forever remembered and loved for his many acts of kindness, generosity, loyalty, good humour and quiet thoughtfulness.

Special thanks to the oncology team at Sunnybrook Hospital and the nurses at SE Health, in particular Hillary who provided loving care. In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to Sunnybrook Research, Lymphoma Society or give.senecacollege.ca/struthers.

Please find below the link to the church service held on July 9 to honour John's life.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LAIXRY8Wqlp2_bjkZVknNGIlpzI7L9ip/view

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL 9. 11:00 AM.

Online - See obituary for details

Tribute Wall

MI

“ I had a chance meeting with Mr. Struthers several years ago. He was such a nice man and he was always like that with me for the short amount of time I knew him. I wish I had spent more time working with him. But I will always remember his belief in me and he gave me a chance which I did not expect. I will always remember his kindness and the great memories. We lost a gentleman. May his memory forever be blessings to all who knew him.

Michelle

michelle - July 27, 2021 at 12:18 PM

MB

“ Dear Mary and family
I was so sorry to learn of John's passing from my brother Drew. I have so many fond memories of John and our families when we were neighbours for 10 years on Heather St.
My sincere condolences to you and all who loved John.
Mary (Belshaw) Brooks

Mary Brooks - July 16, 2021 at 12:06 PM

TK

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I had the pleasure of working with John at Seneca College. He was a lovely man.

Tania Killian - July 16, 2021 at 09:52 AM

VP

“ It was with profound sadness that was told that John had passed away. He was my chairman at King Campus for 13 years and each year, I appreciated him more. I will never forget how nervous I was when he came to evaluate my teaching in class. He stayed for most of the class and gave me the thumbs up when he left. Later he indicated that he appreciated my humour with the students. That made me very happy.



John's office door was always open and on several occasions, we chatted about issues and he always seemed to understand and offer his sage advice.

Dear John, you have "now left the village" as we say in the Roma culture, and I know that, although you suffered in the end, you lived your life with honour and kindness.

My condolences to his sweet Beth and the rest of his family.

Rest in peace and you will not be soon forgotten.

Valerie Packota

Valerie Packota - July 15, 2021 at 11:35 AM



“ Dear John, We may not have agreed on our educational approaches while you were my Chair at King. As a pure gentleman you were always so kind and understanding to everyone you met.



We shared many conversations about books and films; you always writing a title on a new post-it to add to the enormous collection all over your desk; computer; wall, etc.

I am very sorry for your loss to your friends and family. May you Rest in Peace.

Hugs, Georgina King.

Georgina King - July 15, 2021 at 09:52 AM

PM

“ I have fond memories of John and his desk looking like a checkerboard with post-it notes as he organized a Seneca Picnic. Okay, that weird white VW van was a curiosity. A gentleman for sure. I'm just seeing our common Queen's link. Cycling the Beaches not that long ago (sorry John, if you lived north of Eglinton it was "the Beaches") we met. Coincidentally, it was outside some church, go figure. The pieces now fit together. Rest easy.

Peter Miller - July 14, 2021 at 06:48 AM

JP

“ I am so fortunate to have had such a friend in my life -- a buddy of 39 years..

I think of John's kindness. He was a gentle, decent soul who always put the regards of others ahead of his own interest.

On a hedge in my backyard there are three pieces of green rope helping to support trees that had listed to one side and had to be staked. John helped me put those supports in at a time when he was beginning his ordeal with cancer.

He offered to help me because I had an injury in my shoulder that made such work difficult. A small example of his great generosity.

This saying goodbye is hard.

The many memories John helped build will help me through this time. And he will always be in my heart.

-- Jim Pollock

Jim Pollock - July 13, 2021 at 08:57 PM

SB

“ Sue Bond lit a candle in memory of John
Alexander Struthers



Sue Bond - July 13, 2021 at 02:22 PM

SB

“ I am heartbroken to hear of John's passing. The world has lost another wonderful human being. My experience with John was at Seneca: he was my Chair when I came on board, and unfailingly supported me, both personally and professionally. There are times when I have thought about John during an intense or particularly frustrating meeting or issue; I have tried to emulate his calm and rationale demeanor.

My heart-felt condolences to John's family, and to Beth. It appears he lived a thriving life after retirement, and made the most of the time he had.

My fondest regards to a great man,
Sue Bond

Sue Bond - July 13, 2021 at 02:21 PM

BF

“ 26 files added to the album Memories Album



beth fanjoy - July 12, 2021 at 04:04 PM

BF

“ 85 files added to the album Memories Album



beth fanjoy - July 12, 2021 at 03:51 PM

BF

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



beth fanjoy - July 12, 2021 at 03:30 PM

CG

“ John was a real mensch. He was my mentor, protector, advocate, and friend. I am so pleased he found Beth, the love of his life. I remember his first mention of you, Beth. My fondest memory was when he told us he had “given you a drawer”. Then we knew this was serious and he must be in love. My heart aches for you, Beth. Thank you for bringing a bright light into his life. I will miss him for always. Caroline

Caroline Grammer - July 09, 2021 at 12:26 PM

LG

“ Laurie Georgopoulos lit a candle in memory of John Alexander Struthers



Laurie Georgopoulos - July 09, 2021 at 12:21 PM

LG

“ I met John when he hired me as a part time professor in the Early Childhood Education department at Seneca College. He was a kind and encouraging man. There was a short turn around to begin teaching (hired during the Winter break to start teaching in January). After our interview, John offered much encouragement and I became a part time professor back in 2000. Thank you John for believing in me and giving me the this rewarding opportunity to work with so many educators with whom I share a passion for Early Childhood Education. My deepest sympathies to John's family and friends that will miss him forever more.

Laurie Georgopoulos - July 09, 2021 at 12:20 PM