



Kelly Pykerman

December 2, 2021

Kelly Pykerman

September 12, 1946 to December 2, 2021

Unbelievably, Kelly Pykerman passed away, at Bridgepoint Hospital in Toronto. Gone is the endlessly kind gentleman with wry, self-deprecating humour and deep loyalty to friends and family. Gone is the staunch leftist intellectual who lived his beliefs in fairness and egalitarianism. Gone is the lover of fine meals, hearty red wines and hilarious conversations. Gone is Kelly's 40-year poker game, which he hosted with such pleasure—although we have promised to try to keep it going. Gone is the guy who was at the centre of so many lives, dating from his childhood in Kenora and formative early adulthood in Thunder Bay.

Kelly was the loving son of Jean Kelly Pykerman, and faithful brother to Jamie, Jeff and Eve, all of whom predeceased him. He will be forever missed by his devoted companion Esther Bogyo, her children Jeremy and Rebecca Greenberg, his sister-in-law Anna-Marie Read, his brother-in-law Jack Dowson and nephew Jamie Dowson, his cousin Kit Ljungberg, and Drew and Rebecca Berenbaum. Kelly's many friends, including those from his career at City TV, are bereft, none more than Michael Farewell and Fred Berenbaum, who were tireless in their support of Kelly during his illness. Special thanks to the incredible staff on 10 E at TGH.

We will host a gathering in his honour in the late spring. In the meantime, let's all raise a glass to our dear Kelly.

You might also donate to AURA (Anglican United Refugee Alliance) in his name and support refugee sponsorship, as Kelly did. Visit www.auraforrefugees.org

Tribute Wall

JW

“ Kelly & I first met when we both worked on a grant for . . . LUST! [aka Lakehead University Student Television]. He & Jeff were both there and what a pair of fun, classy, interesting & progressive guys. It was an honor to party with them and later to try & get the best of them at the Friday night poker table. Cheers guys.

Joe Wood - February 08, 2022 at 03:20 PM

FB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Fred Berenbaum - December 21, 2021 at 07:28 PM

TW

“ I remember when Kelly took me on a tour of CityTV in TO when I was 9 years old. I might as well have been in Mecca. Later in life I enjoyed the few opportunities I had to spend time with him. He always had lots of stories to tell and had an outlook on life that was a lesson in itself. He was a lifelong friend to my dad. The world would be a bit more boring today in his absence were it not for his example on how to live.

-Tom

Tom Wallace - December 13, 2021 at 05:28 PM

PC

Kelly brought our kids on a CITY Tour and our son even had a CITY birthday party and got to meet some of the V Jays etc. coolest party Drew ever had, thanks to Kelly.

patricia Chartier - December 14, 2021 at 01:03 PM

DC

Kelly was truly a remarkable man who enriched the lives of many people. I was lucky to have met him in Thunder Bay in the early 1970s. After we moved to Manitoba in 1981 we seldom saw him until the last few years when I saw him sporadically in Toronto. His wit and enthusiasm for life and the arts was contagious. I treasure the last time I saw him in September at Pickering and our discussion about classic films. His knowledge of films was extensive. A couple of weeks later he sent me a link to a history of the Mercury Theatre Group of Orson Welles. He is missed.

David Chadwick - January 27, 2022 at 12:19 PM

SC

“*It's hard to express what Kelly meant to me, and so many others. A friend, a mentor, not just work and career wise, but personally. I was so fortunate to have Kelly come into my life as I was starting out. He provided a special example of how to live, what was fair, and how to respect people. I'll never forget the night we spent together walking around Canada's Wonderland, waiting to get power so we could start work. He was a truly unique and good person, and we will never forget him.*

Sandy Carroll

sandy carroll - December 13, 2021 at 02:23 PM

PC

“ I will miss Kelly in so many ways, but none more than cooking for him. He loved a good meal and was the best dinner guest one could hope for, always arriving with expensive wine and appetizers, always keeping the conversation going and savouring the food and the company. “Patricia,” he would say, raising his eyebrows and patting his stomach, “I believe you have outdone yourself this time.” I will treasure these memories, and the memory of him and Fred (my husband) one New Year’s Eve, singing along with the radio, and to each other, the Turtles’ song “Happy Together.”

patricia Chartier - December 12, 2021 at 07:22 PM



“ What a gentle man!

Lots of memories including Kelly raiding our liquor supplies. (He always replaced more than he borrowed!) I will miss our weekly visit to Loblaws and sharing laughs. Kelly had more friends than we could count and he was always loyal.

Cathy and Colleen

Cathy Lloyd - December 11, 2021 at 11:54 AM



“ I worked with Kelly at CityTV Queen Street East, where we all had the time of our lives! Kelly was always a gentleman and very kind to everyone with whom he worked. I will always respect Kelly as because of his journey at CityTV, I was able to begin mine. Thank you my friend. Until we meet again. You will always be fondly revered and remembered. Christine Akrey, CityTV Queen Street East, everywhere!



Christine Akrey - December 10, 2021 at 08:53 PM

JB

“ Many Thunder Bay memories. It was an honour to know him, such a fine person. Laughs, jokes, great conversations and some memorable parties. Hard to say good-bye. Joan Baril

Joan Baril - December 10, 2021 at 12:51 AM