



## Matthew Millar

April 22, 2019

(February 2, 1942 – April 22, 2019)

It is with sadness that the family of Matthew Kernohan Millar announce his passing on April 22, 2019. Matt will be lovingly remembered by his wife Jill, his children Stephen (Jennifer), Chris (Cassie), and Kathryn (Adrian), and his grandchildren Liam, Maeve, Declan, Emma, Ocean, Jillian, Leyton and Isla, his brother Ken (Marianne), his sister Debbie (Charles), and his many nieces, nephews and friends. Matt is predeceased by his parents Harry and Georgina, his brother Ray, and his beloved dog Katie. Matt was born in Ballymena, Northern Ireland and served as a pilot in the Royal Air Force in United Arab Emirates, Germany, Kuwait, and in different bases throughout England and the world. Prior to his retirement from the RAF, Matt became a display pilot performing at air shows throughout England and then emigrated with his wife and children to Canada. Matt continued his career in aviation working for Ranger Helicopters in Sault Ste Marie and then transferred to Transport Canada where he was the Regional Superintendent, Helicopters. In retirement, Matt enjoyed taking his dog Katie to agility training, spending time with his grandchildren and cheering them on at their hockey games. The family wish to thank Cory Spencer and Ashleigh Staples of Saint Elizabeth Nurses and Laurie Fisher of CHLINS for their compassion and support in the community, as well as Dr. Norman Kalyniuk, Dr. Allan Hess, Dr. Alan Lossing, and the ICD clinic for their many years of care. Also Dr. Tse, Dr. Lebner, and all the nurses of the 6th floor and palliative care at SRHC. Respecting Matt's

wishes, there will be no funeral or celebration, and a cremation has taken place. Memorial donations in memory of Matt may be made to Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation.

# Tribute Wall

BH

“ We are sad to learn of Matt's passing and extend our sincere condolences to Jill and family. Matt was a great friend and neighbour who helped us many times over the years both personally and at the farm. We will miss Matt, our many conversations, sense of humour and his dog Katie visiting and playing with our Zoey and at times odd and funny discoveries they would make (ie a mysterious giant pig in our cattle paddock). Matt was indeed a true friend and we will sadly miss him.

*Bob & Heather Hodgson*

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**Bob & Heather Hodgson** - April 28, 2019 at 05:09 PM

DE

“ One of the best memories of my brother was up in Sault St Marie when he was at Ranger Helicopters. I was working for Air Canada and took a few days off to see them a flew up thee to see them. Mom and Dad were up there already having a good long visit. Matt said he would pick me up at the airport. Little did I know the mode of transportation was going to be a helicopter. I felt like royalty walking out in the tarmac and getting into that helicopter. That weekend was a blast! We had so much food (always amazing food cooked by Jill!) fun and laughs. And more than a few drinks. Gary Ertle came over one night and the laughs, and drinking, continued. They shared so many funny stories, we laughed until we cried. When the weekend was over (but not the hangover), and it was time to go home Matt gave me the royal treatment again. Dropping me off at the airport in the helicopter. I will never forget this. Every occasion we were together was filled with laughs and lots of stories. This is a great photo of us at your place for a night of fun, food , drinks and laughs. Forever in our hearts. Rest in Paradise.

*Love, your sister*



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**Debbie** - April 25, 2019 at 05:00 PM

DH

“ *Jill & Family.....so sorry to hear of Matt's passing. Enjoyed many, many road trips to arena's all over Ontario. If we were late the team was in trouble as we had both goalies with us. Lots of stories, lots of laughs and even the odd discussion about hockey. We worked in the penalty box together as scorer and time keeper.....that way we had to limit our unfavourable comments to the referees.. Many fond memories !!  
Deepest condolences .....Mary & Doug Hutcheon*

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**Doug Hutcheon** - April 24, 2019 at 08:40 PM

NS

“ *Jill & Family please accept our deepest condolences on Matt's passing....he was a guy who always shot straight from the hip no BS,,,,!!...We had our discussions (pro & con) at the "Famous Timothy's Bar" on Younge St (& there were some beauties)....but neither one of us held any animosity toward each other and would meet the next day and start all over laughing about our discussion the day prior.. He certainly made this world a better place for all of us to follow.....R.I.P. Matt....you were a unique individual to all who enjoyed your company....  
Nick and Pat Swirla*

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**Nick Swirla** - April 24, 2019 at 10:51 AM

RP

“ I'm Richard Pearce, and I'm very proud of the fact that I worked with Matty, for over thirty years. In that time I was his boss and he was mine, and we worked it very well.

*Matt became the Operations Manager at Ranger Helicopters in the late 70's, and between Matty and Chief Pilot Rick Kirkwood, and Chief Flying Instructor Dave Blackburn, they set up an operational style that no-one who worked there will ever forget or regret!*

*Matt ensured that having fun was just as important a part of the day as flying or fixing, and a Friday evening at McGinty's rounded off a busy week. Everyone was welcomed, from the newest student, the first year apprentice, pilots and engineers to the Transport Canada Inspector and the two bosses Jason and Richard. “Witch” Hazel (Blackie) and others kept everyone supplied, and the occasions were memorable. Kerny enjoyed himself!*

*To my regret at the time and later pleasure, Matt was offered a place as an Inspector at Transport Canada. Later, so were our good friends Gary Ertel and Dave Blackburn. After my time as a helicopter owner, hotelier, etc, Matt helped me also join Transport Canada, where we worked together for another ten years with another old friend, Jim Carnegie. Having fun remained an important part of Matt's curriculum, and our semi-annual trips to Dallas combined some excellent simulator training with stays at the Hawthorne, and visits to the Fox, and playing “The Game”. Matt and I used to take the Jetranger on inspection tours, from Toronto to Fort Frances and back in a week, and that was a very busy week. Matt preferred height and I preferred about 1,000', and I remember that we would yo-yo across the province depending on who had control!*

*I learned from Matt how not to be “governmental”, and how to supply a service from a government department that was so good it shocked people. We even gave out our home phone numbers, unheard of in that day, or even today, come to think, and it was*

*seldom abused.*

*Matt felt that we should use our experience and yes, even wisdom, to actually help operators run their company, and to try and avoid hindering them; this definitely wasn't "standard government".*

*Superintendent Matt taught Oskar, Rick, Del, Wayne, Jamie and me how to cleverly combine golf and public service with a panache that just had to be seen to be appreciated.*

*When Matt retired, he bequeathed a standard of service in the Helicopter Department of Ontario Transport Canada that carried on for nearly the next ten years, until new and interesting standards of service were introduced, to less than universal acclaim.*

*My wife Susan had the brilliant idea, as it turned out, to give Matty a puppy on his retirement, and thus Katie came in to Matt's life, and it gives us no end of pleasure that Jill describes them as inseparable right up until Katie's death.*

*Well, now Matty,s gone too, and though I didn't see a lot of him after I took up farming, he had a large part in shaping my life, and his death has something of the end of an era about it for me.*

*Godspeed Matty.*

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**Richard Pearce** - April 24, 2019 at 07:44 AM

PN

“ *Our good Pal Matt is now at peaceful, painless rest. He was a truly "stand up guy", who would share his frank, honest, personal opinion on any subject, while also listening to other people's opinions on the subject as well.*

*Enjoyed his beers with many of us guys and gals at Timothy's basement bar in Newmarket on a very regular basis for at least the 20 years we attended that place ourselves.*

*He is also the only guy we know who could apparently fly a helicopter from his favourite corner bar stool at Timothy's as his Transport Canada vehicle spent many hours in the Timothy's parking lot !!*

*May God watch over, bless and comfort Matt, wife Jill and the entire Millar family. Rest well good friend !! Paul & Janis Nelson, Beaverton, Ontario*



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**Paul Nelson** - April 23, 2019 at 08:43 PM

PN

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Paul Nelson** - April 23, 2019 at 07:26 PM

PN

*Photo includes several of Matt's Timothy's Pals, Warren and Cathy Raymer, Paul and Janis Nelson, Marty and Rosie Doyle, Jolly Matt the Birthday Guy, King Township Rob, Penny, and Heather Hodgson. All having fun celebrating Matt's 65th at Matt and Jill's family home in Newmarket. Great Day !!*

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**Paul Nelson** - April 28, 2019 at 11:55 AM

WR

*Jill & Family: Cathy and I are very sorry for your loss of a wonderful husband, father, and friend. We are so sorry we did not have the opportunity to visit Matt in hospital while we were away. Many thanks to Paul & Janis for keeping us up to date while Matt was in hospital. WE REALLY MISS HIS EMAILS. Many enjoyable hours spent at Timothy's. Rest well our friend.*

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**Warren & Cathy Raymer** - May 08, 2019 at 10:07 AM