



Mr. Mel Martin

December 3, 2012

Better pass boldly into that other world, in the full glory of some passion, than fade and wither
dismally with age. James Joyce

On Monday Dec. 3rd 2012 we said our final goodbye to Mel in the ICU of the Toronto Western Hospital. We do not know what sickness took him but it was a stroke that felled this mighty man. In the last few hours of his life, we laughed, loved, and kissed Mel home. We raised our glass to celebrate this wellloved man with such a fine soul, drinking his own Irish Whiskey as he would have wanted it. Mel left this mortal coil surrounded by family and friends who deeply loved him and will miss him always. There was only peace for Mel at the end and we gave him a good, lively, and loving passing.

Mel was a traveller and this is his final journey. But not the journey he planned. Within months of retirement, Mel was preparing to fulfill a life long dream of sailing the world on his boat 'Sadhu'. A sadhu in Hinduism is a good man, a seeker, one who leaves behind material attachments on a journey of enlightenment. This was Mel.

There are two things to strive for - living a good life - and having a good death. Mel had both. He worked hard to find his good life. Mel brought into this world

four strong-hearted, creative and intelligent children who are his greatest pride and joy. This traveler bids goodbye to his children Thor, Brian, Kathleen and Marika and his sisters Fiona, Fionnuala and Neasa and brother-in-laws Dave and Steve. Aoife and his parents Fionnuala and Eamon no doubt met him at his last horizon. Mel knew the gentle kiss of love and the strong supportive hand of friendship. He was respected by his many colleagues at the University of Toronto and Centre for Addictions and Mental Health. Mel was loved and valued by his nephews, nieces, and cousins. There are many salty dogs on the docks of the Outer Harbour Marina who will miss him.

A private family gathering will be held on Dec. 19th 2012. A more public celebration of his life is being planned for the spring at the Outer Harbour Marina where there will be music, food, and drink. A flotilla of boats will take Mel's ashes out to 'sea' to be scattered along with a mariner's memorial service.

There are no words sufficient to thank TWH's incredible ICU staff. Their ongoing skill, kindness, compassion, and deep humanity made this terrible time bearable. It is because of them we were able to give Mel a good - goodbye. We thank all our friends and family for their support, ask that you hold Mel in your heart, and his family, and loved ones in your prayers.

Tribute Wall

AW

“ *Neasa you have disappeared. I found old emails from 2018. I know you distanced yourself from me. I still plan to visit and ring your doorbell.*
Andres.

ANDRES WATSON - April 17, 2025 at 05:29 PM

IA

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



ian alexander - June 06, 2016 at 02:43 PM

IA

“ *I have a photo of Mel and I in 1969 Neasa can you contact me so I can send it? Ian Alexander 6475191177*

Ian Alexander - June 06, 2016 at 01:14 PM

JC

“ I worked with Mel at OTRU from 1995 to 2010. We spent a lot of time in "trio" meetings together, including when I was pregnant. During my pregnancy, my husband lived in a different country. So, when my son was born, I was sure he would respond to Mel's voice as if Mel was his father, because he would have heard it so much in utero!

Mel enjoyed being the underdog, fighting Goliath, and was always adamant that his coworkers were treated to a very special holiday lunch each year!

I will always cherish my fond memories of Mel.

Joanna Cohen

Joanna Cohen - December 26, 2012 at 06:21 PM

JS

“ *Mel & I had one big thing in common. Our love for Alberg 30's*

In fact, I dreamed of buying one but when I 'awoke', instead I told Mel about this good ship in search of a new Captain. Mel got on it and happily went to work making her ship-shape. The fact that he chose SADHU as it's name is auspicious; an indication of his higher nature to live a simple life. Sadly for us but maybe happily for him, Mel has shaken off the chains of earthly bondage and set sail for brighter and higher realms.

Passion would aptly be used in any description of Mel and his 3 sisters; to live with less is not living, rather existing.

In Mels' next incarnation he'll have the boat and the trip of his dreams TBC. (to be continued)

Sail On, Sail On, Sailor (The Beach Boys)

*Love and fair Winds,
Joey Schooley*



Joey Schooley - December 14, 2012 at 12:38 PM

AW

I've been alone all my life. I only wish I had a family life like you did. I have been unable to make a "chosen family " My lawyer is now my best friend who uses a fund to get me winter boots and helps with bills. He is more concerned about my health than money. He's not done anything pro bono. He's done everything for free. He gets \$0.00 for helping me and has made two visits to the houses. I hate my mother for what she did. Fred has never been brought to justice. We have to sell 631 to someone who will keep the house in original condition. I'm looking for Heritage Toronto to consider listing both houses with the province and legally as Heritage properties each with a plaque which means any alterations anyone wants to do would take forever to go through the bureaucracy involved. I will NEVER sell my 633 house. It's a time capsule allowing me to live in the past with the first wiring, original windows and painted over wallpaper and everything is on an angle to fit the street corner as Davenport and Howland are angled .I've done extensive research and scouring neighborhoods but there's nothing original inside this HORRIBLE city. I only stay here for my house and plan to live here until I die. Then that's it for a totally wasted life. My birth was a mistake. I don't care if there is or isn't an afterlife. I just want to enjoy my house and when my time comes, as my lawyer wants me to make a will, I'm not leaving anything to anyone as everyone has disappointed me. I have a place to put my remains and hope to leave my house to charity or the Historical Board. I'll visit you in the warm weather. I'm coming on a very friendly basis. No anger.

ANDRES WATSON - April 17, 2025 at 05:43 PM

AW

Wish you well Neasa.

ANDRES WATSON - April 17, 2025 at 05:44 PM

WC

“ Dear Mel, wherever you are...our friendship has been long - from a time when I was already a young adult and you were one of those little devilish Martin kids. Our paths have crossed many times over the years in many very different ways - most recently when my house was your home for a couple of weeks, when we looked forward to your recovery and talked about that trip around the world over many cups of that strong tea that we both love. I'll miss you and will treasure my friendship with Neasa, Fiona and Ludu and look forward to meeting Gerda. With love,
Wendy.



wendy campbell - December 11, 2012 at 02:39 PM

JF

“ *My heart goes out to Mel's children, family and close friends. His beautiful obituary made me realize just how special he was and showed a side of Mel I wish I'd had the opportunity to see. May you all take comfort in knowing that you helped shape his lovely soul, which will remain in you forever.*

May I also express my sympathies to Mel's colleagues at OTRU. The tobacco control community has suffered a great loss. Although we didn't work closely together, Mel was pleasant to deal with and quick to respond to my requests for assistance, always with a touch of wit that I will miss. His will indeed be massive shoes to fill.

May Mel's next journey bring him the joy that he clearly brought to others in this one.

With deepest sympathy,

*Janice Forsythe
Ottawa*

Janice Forsythe - December 11, 2012 at 09:44 AM

CW

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Cynthia Warn - December 10, 2012 at 11:42 AM



“ *0 file added to the tribute wall*

Neasa Matin - December 08, 2012 at 09:04 PM