



Murray Linn Tonkin

February 15, 2026

Just prior to sunrise on February 15, 2025, Murray Linn Tonkin entered eternal rest. He was born August 7, 1946, in the village of Kaslo, located on the shores of Kootenay Lake in British Columbia, to the late William Henry and Joan Linn Tonkin. He grew up in Lethbridge, Alberta and for the past 40 years he resided in the Upper Beaches neighbourhood of Toronto, Ontario. He leaves to cherish his memory his wife Christine Jones Tonkin, sister Tola Nelson (James) and stepson Gerard Quarles (Maribel).

Murray graduated in 1969 from ArtCenter College of Design in California earning his Bachelor of Science degree with honours in Industrial Design. A career began specializing in car design for Ford and continued with the design of snowmobiles for Bombardier in Quebec.

He took a giant entrepreneurial step that resulted in years of vehicle designing, commercial illustration and writing. One venture had him creating vehicle inspired posters for the original DoodleArt company in Vancouver, BC. One titled "Progress?" is still a fan favourite. His creation and design of a board game was highlighted by CNN during their on-air broadcast when it launched at the 2002 New York Toy Fair.

Murray found it relaxing to invite friends to enjoy the results of recipes and spices he tried out in his kitchen. His experimenting with artisan breads

provided a later opportunity to work with renowned chefs in Toronto, most recently at IconInk restaurants Patria and Byblos.

His passions were many including anything to do with cars, collecting/reading books, compiling an enormous collection of music, playing guitar, playing in a softball league and all things baseball, especially when it involved the Boston Red Sox.

Gratitude is expressed to the neuro-oncology team at Sunnybrook Hospital's Odette Cancer Centre who utilized state of the art technology and treatments for glioblastoma brain cancer. And to the Hennick Bridgepoint Hospital staff who provided compassionate palliative care in the final weeks of his life.

Per his wishes Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN) in Ontario received Murray's organ/tissue donation. Cremation has taken place and a celebration of his life will be at a later date.

Tribute Wall

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“ I have very fond memories of Murray, Bob and I sharing freshly cooked lobsters in our kitchen in Deux Montagnes, Quebec. The lobsters went into the pot reluctantly. Needless to say, they weren't behaving themselves and much hilarity ensued. We were probably all still in our 20's. Life was one big adventure. Murray was such a talented, intelligent guy that I was privileged to know. RIP Murray.

Bonnie Hamilton - March 30 at 04:58 PM