



Peter James Gunning

April 26, 2022

Peter James Gunning passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 26th, 2022, at Scarborough General Hospital, at the age of 89. Survived by his wife of 53 years, Anne-Mary (nee MacLellan). Peter will be missed by his son Christopher James and daughter-in-law, Laura (nee von Haeseler), his grandchildren Liam James, Moira Elizabeth and Neilan Peter; his brothers and sister and other surviving family in the United Kingdom as well as many nieces and nephews from Nova Scotia.

Peter was born in London, England in 1932. He often talked about moving around the English countryside during World War II to avoid the bombing raids. His memories of living through trying times and congregating in the bomb shelters with his family and neighbors stayed with him throughout his life.

Peter immigrated to Canada in 1956, landing in Toronto and resided in various locations in the downtown area before settling in Scarborough in 1978. Peter was an avid gardener and received accolades from his neighbors and the Scarborough Horticultural society. He also enjoyed being outside with nature and loved caravanning. During his summer travels, he would frequent the many provincial parks in Southern Ontario, but most holidays were spent travelling to Anne's hometown of Inverness, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.

A celebration of life and burial will be held at a later date in Inverness.

In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to Canadian Cancer Society

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Tribute Wall

DG

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Denise Graham - May 11, 2022 at 05:23 PM

DG

“ Thinking of our Canadian family at this difficult time.

I have fond and clear memories of what seemed such a huge adventure on my first trip to Canada as an 8 year old, travelling to see people on the other side of the world that I had only heard stories about, one of whom looked so familiar, he could only be a Gunning!

So much to remember of that and a subsequent trip but my main memories are of being made to feel so welcome, of seeing the moon through a telescope for the first time and being taught about tectonic plates by a patient and knowledgeable Uncle Peter.

I am so pleased that we were able to meet Uncle Peter again in more recent years and that Justin was able to make that trip with Mum and I. A long discussion over a beer in the garden in Scarborough about the correct length that grass should be cut to (or not!) still makes me chuckle now.

Thank you Uncle Peter

Denise and Justin

Denise Graham - May 11, 2022 at 05:18 PM

PG

“ Peter James Gunning

Peter, although I barely knew you, you always were, and always will be - “my big brother “

As a young boy in the 1950's, i remember Christmas times when the air-mail package would arrive at our house bearing sweets and gum from the other side of the ocean. Then, when we opened the letter, a 1 u.s. dollar note for Gill and myself,I thought I was very rich- Thankyou.

Perhaps the most poignant time was 1986 when yourself, Anne and Chris came over to visit, a great event in my life. Although it was tinged with sadness when our mother died, it was lovely to think that you were with her in her last weeks.

As I have said before, the resemblance between yourself and our dad was uncanny and it makes me proud to have had, not one, but two wonderful role- models in my life.

To Anne and Chris- Thankyou both for loving and looking after my brother for the many years you were both with him.

Paul and Angela Gunning

Paul Gunning - May 09, 2022 at 01:44 PM

GG

“ Peter Gunning RIP

As mentioned by Christopher, Peter left the UK in 1956, so it has always been a long distance relationship with his UK family, with contact by letter, Christmas and birthday cards and the occasional telephone call. There were a few trips by Peter and family to the UK and vice versa - these were always big events in the Gunning calendar.

But in fact, Peter had left the family before this, as he left school at the age of 14 to go to work on a farm when Richard was 11, Gillian 3 and Paul just born. Richard also shares the memories of the bombing raids in Kent, including taking cover under a lorry on their way home from school !! It was when Gillian was born that our parents decided to move from Kent to a safer home in Bournemouth.

Peter's love of gardening is certainly a family trait, started by our Mother and carried on by all the family and many of the next generation.

Despite the distance between us, Peter passing has come as a shock to us all as it just seemed he would go on forever and we were looking forward to celebrating his 90th birthday, but it was not to be.

May you rest in peace and be reunited with Mum and Dad.

Richard, Gillian, and your UK family

Gillian Graham - May 08, 2022 at 06:26 AM

NA

“ Anne and Chris

Words seem inadequate to express the sorrow felt by the loss of Uncle Peter. My heart condolences is with you.

There's a song by Laura Smith, My Bonny is perfect for Uncle Peter.



Neil & Sherry MacLellan, Calgary AB - May 02, 2022 at 08:11 AM

AG

“ I've known Peter for over 50 years from when I first landed in Toronto. I shared a rooming house with my Aunt Ann and Peter would come visit every night. He took us on a lot of outings and showed me the big city. He was very interesting to talk to and update on all news around the world. He was very proud of his beautiful garden in Scarborough. I will miss my visits back there but will have a lot of enjoyable memories.

Ag



agnes - May 01, 2022 at 10:43 PM

JR

“ Uncle Peter and Ann and Chris used to make the long trip from T.O. to St. Catharines every holiday to see our family and God Bless his family and his spirit. I will remember his enthusiasm for family, love and progress and look forward to meeting him again in the next life.

John Rows - May 01, 2022 at 06:13 PM

CH

“ 15 files added to the album Memories Album



Chris - April 29, 2022 at 02:56 PM