



Ralph Pearson

September 9, 2025

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Ralph Pearson, who left us peacefully on September 9, 2025, at the age of 93. Born on August 25, 1932, in Ayrshire, Scotland, Ralph built a full and vibrant life in Brooklin, Ontario, where he and his beloved wife, the late Patricia Pearson (predeceased 2017), raised a beautiful family.

Ralph will be lovingly remembered by his daughters Diane, Lori (Leonard), Lynn (Paul), and Darlene, his grandchildren Patricia (John), Aaron, Sean, Nicole (Justin), Gregory (Erin), and Jeffery (Meighen), and his great-grandchildren Ethan, Sullivan, Easton, Autumn, Mason, Elsie, Cruz, and Darcy. He cherished every moment with his family, and his pride in them was immeasurable.

A man of great spirit, Ralph lived life entirely on his own terms, always doing things his way with the unmistakable wit and charm only he could bring. He enjoyed nothing more than a good Rye & Coke, and if you were fortunate enough to call Ralph your Dad, Papa, Uncle, or friend, you were blessed in a way words can hardly capture.

Beyond his love for family and friends, Ralph leaves an extraordinary legacy in the world of Quarter Horse racing in Ontario. From his early days bringing pari-mutuel racing to Picov Downs (now Ajax Downs) and the Markham Fair,

to his leadership as President of the Quarter Racing Owners of Ontario (QROOI), Ralph was a pioneer who shaped the sport in Canada. He was instrumental in developing Stakes and Futurity race programs, spearheaded the Quarterama Committee, and championed initiatives such as the Canadian Sired Stakes and the introduction of drug-testing standards. His proudest racing moment came in 1973, when his mare Gina Gay won the very first Quarter Horse race at Woodbine Racetrack, a milestone in Canadian racing history.

In recognition of his contributions, Ralph was honoured with the AQHA Register of Merit in 1989, cementing his place as one of the sport's true builders and visionaries.

Ralph's life was defined by love, loyalty, and a passion for the things he held dear. His family, his friends, and the racing community will carry his memory forward with deep gratitude and admiration.

Memorial service details will be shared at a later date.

Tribute Wall

DR

“ *My sincere condolences to all the Pearson Family. Ralph was such a great Man always helping everyone and look at that smile you could not help but smile back at him, always making me laugh and was such a delight to be around. RIP Ralph!*

Donna Reid - September 18, 2025 at 11:52 AM

JM

“ *Our sincerest sympathies for your loss. He was a man that loved his family & filled the room with energy. He always made us feel welcome. We will miss him at the race track & I will miss our annual dance at the Horseman's Award Banquet. Please know he will be remembered fondly.*
Jen & Steve Moses

Jen Moses - September 18, 2025 at 09:51 AM

JR

“ *So sorry to hear of Ralph's passing. He was one of the good guys that our world needs more of. We worked together on OQHA projects, and he was a tremendous help and support when I was President. I shall treasure his memory, and you will too.*
Condolences to you all.

John Roney - September 14, 2025 at 09:38 PM

BI

“ To the Pearson Family. Heart felt condolences to you all. Your Dad was such a wonderful Man and leader in our Industry and thank you for sharing him with all of us. Ralph had an enormous positive influence on the Quarter Horse industry here in Canada and I thank you for that. Fondest memories were working with Ralph on the OQHA Board and of course Quarterama. Always called me "Brucie" LOL. Thank you Ralph, tip of the hat to you sir.

Bruce lonson - September 14, 2025 at 09:51 AM