



Richard Flensted-Holder

October 6, 2025

(1942-2025)

It is with heavy hearts that the family and friends of Richard Flensted-Holder announce his

passing in Toronto on October 6th after a short illness. He was predeceased by his older

brother Larry (1948) and survived by his younger brother Brian (Merry Lynn) and niece, Natalie,

and her three children, Emerson, Everett and Elliott.

Richard was born in Reid's Point, Kingston Peninsula, NB, in 1942 and spent much of his

childhood at the family homestead in Holderville along the St. John River.

Richard was a descendant of United Empire Loyalists who were granted Crown land in 1786, establishing Holderville. His mother's family were part of the Danish migration to Canada that occurred in the late 1920s. His mother and grandmother encouraged Richard's love of music and opera. He learned to play the violin and played in a symphony orchestra. To honour his Danish family heritage, he added Flensted to his surname.

After earning a BA at the University of New Brunswick and teacher qualifications, he moved to Toronto where he took up a position teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) at George Brown College. Richard enjoyed teaching and made many lifelong friends among the ESL faculty. In 1969, Richard purchased a home on Ward's Island. Despite having a

condominium in the city, and later an apartment in New York, the Island remained his spiritual home. One of Richard's passions was gardening, and he actively reared many species of flowers, including a secret patch of trilliums.

As well as having a deep love of music, Richard developed a keen interest in antique silver. In a very short time, he became a recognized expert in the field. Expanding from his base at the Harbourfront Antique Market, Richard became a regular at the premier shows in Toronto, Montreal and New York city. He travelled regularly to New York on business and to enjoy museums, the Metropolitan Opera, and classical concerts. He was generous in sharing his apartment with friends and family. Always an intrepid traveler, Richard was fortunate in later years to be able to take annual cruises with his brother, Brian.

Richard had many accomplishments. He was a founding member of the Silver Society of Canada and served as its first president. He was concurrently a member of The Silver Society, in England and the New York Silver Society.

Richard enjoyed a wide circle of friends to whom he was very devoted. He will be missed for the special role he had in their lives. His family and friends are grateful to

the staff of St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, for the excellent treatment he received. Their

medical care was second to none. A Celebration of Life for Richard will take place at 6:30 pm on Sunday, November 9, 2025 at A.H. Wilkens Auctions and Appraisals, at One William Morgan Drive, Toronto, Ontario M4H 1N6 with reception to follow. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Michael's Hospital, <https://stmichaelsfoundation.ca/RichardFlenstedHolder> or a charity of your choice.

For those unable to attend the event will be live streamed at <https://www.youtube.com/live/QS2eb1wqCGU?si=7MurQRbu93Zw-N9z>

Tribute Wall

DW

“ These are a couple of my pictures of Richard at 74 and one at 24 years of age. After 60 years of friendship, you will be missed.

David Weir



David Weir - November 14, 2025 at 11:58 AM

JB

“ I had no idea of the memorial for Richard- I was so disappointed to have missed it.

*I met Richard in the 1960s when we taught together and shared mutual friends, social lives, and adventures!
We have remained friends since that time, and I was pleased to have him come to visit me when I was living in the Virgin Islands for a time-*

*He was often motivated by kindness, and I could always count on him for support. He would be the first to offer to get groceries or pick up medication anytime that I was sick.
During the pandemic, he was always ready to come over and sit outside just to chat.*

After I moved to an apartment with limited space and balcony gardening - I was happy to pass on plants to him in the Fall. Many orchids, amaryllis, geraniums and such found nurturing and a second life in Richard's garden and living room "Hot House".

*In recent years, I was part of Richard's phone call list.
If the phone rang in the morning before I was out of bed- it was usually Richard.
He would recount what he had done so far that day - taking an early morning, walk, collected Lake water for his plants, collected firewood, cleaned the birdcage and more.....*

*He would then be off to the city and would often like to meet for breakfast.
This could involve a group of former colleagues who regularly dined together.
After brunch, Richard would consult his "daybook" and begin the activities for the remainder of his day.*

His energy and his interests knew no bounds and many things brought him joy:

*Friends, antiques, silver, history, flowers, plants, concerts, operas,
travel, food, and drink and more.....*

His days were full and he never wanted to miss a thing!

*I am grateful to have been his friend and to have shared part of life's
journey with him.*

My condolences to his family and friends and those who loved him.

Joan Bennett

Joan Bennett - November 13, 2025 at 06:06 PM

AH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Arlie Hawkes - November 13, 2025 at 04:36 PM

ER

“ Richard's colleagues & friends at George Brown are sad to have missed his memorial *But We Were Not Informed*.
I taught with Richard for over 40 years;he was a joy to be around,always so full of life & energy..
During Covid we would meet on park benches in the snow & have coffee together(brave Maritimers.)
After retirement we would attend concerts,operas or ballets together or with friends.I will always expect to see him now when I go.

There were 5 of us who had brunch every few weeks.Now I always look to see if there is peanut butter on the table as that was a must for him.

I very much appreciated his friendship over the years.

Gone but not forgotten.

Eleanor

Eleanor Robbins - November 12, 2025 at 03:29 PM

MB

“ Richard was a bright light in the lives of my family. My two children got to know him as well as did my late husband Dave Schimmelpenninck. For my son Sacha's birthday, age 19 or so Richard gave him a Canadian silver table spoon by William Stennett (1822-47) which he had carefully catalogued. He and I spoke the same language. I first met Richard when I worked at Christie's in New York, or shortly thereafter, probably at the Armory Show. We were united by our quest for beautiful and rare items. Sometimes we'd share a booth, and I always remember how polite Richard was, yet firm with his prices. Followed by that smile, which often meant "go away". I had the tremendous good fortune of enjoying his company in my house in St. Catharines the weekend before he died. In true Richard fashion, I had upon his insistence booked a flight for him to London this October and a room at the George Hotel. Ever the optimist always looking ahead. We will miss you my good friend. Much love

Marie Betteley - November 12, 2025 at 01:50 AM

SM

“ In the early days of our friendship with Richard, I remember how much Ross enjoyed talking 'silver' with Richard, often asking him for advice and sharing his latest finds. Richard became somewhat of a mentor to Ross and for that, I am truly grateful. I will never forget the look of pride and joy on Ross' face the first time Richard gave him a piece of silver to repair. It was a memory I will always cherish. As the years went on, that mentor/mentee relationship transformed into a much cherished, close friendship that included daily phone calls. Richard was a sweet, thoughtful, kind person and Ross and I are all the better for having known him.

Rest well, dear friend.

Sandy Morrow - November 09, 2025 at 07:44 PM

KM

“ Over 40 Years a neighbour.

Sharing Libations,, Lessons and Laughter over literally Thousands of meals - He was always an appreciative friend and guest. It's with sadness that I could not navigate myself to his celebration and with JOY that I will celebrate him tonight and in the future.

I was blessed to have a final brief visit at St. Mike's where we connected - Best gift one could hope for.

Farewell Dear, Dear Man.

Kenneth McAuliffe - November 09, 2025 at 06:39 PM

DP

“ *Of the many joyful memories, we'll forever remember our time together during the Holidays: whether on Ward's Island in the early years, at the apartment in Upper East Side (your pride and joy), at your dear friend Robert Gage's place, or in our home. Thank you for being the most wonderful friend.*

David and Pascal - November 09, 2025 at 01:11 PM

BK

“ *Richard was such a good, kind and cheerful soul, a great friend and neighbour – truly one of nature's gentlemen. We'll miss him greatly.*
Bill & Laura

Bill Kime - November 08, 2025 at 12:01 AM

EG

“ Although I did not know Richard well, he was always a delight to be around and I always enjoyed his stories. Brian, I know you will miss Richard immensely but may the many good memories provide you comfort in the days ahead. Richard will be missed. Hugs to all who knew him.

Eldena Gorman - November 05, 2025 at 02:35 PM

AK

“ Richard was a truly delightful friend for my mother Marjorie Knutson for many years. She spoke often of their shared interest in all things silver, and held him in high regard.

Over the years I got to know him through her, her help at the Centrepont Mall show, and especially during his stays at our family cottage where he stayed during the Bala antique show. Some of his Trillium originally came from the cottage, and we are delighted to know they continue on Toronto Island.

I was one of the many lucky people to be allowed to stay at Richard's New York Pad. Not once but twice! I remain so grateful for the experience to live like a New Yorker thanks to Richard's generosity.

I know my mother valued their friendship so very much.

Andrea Knutson - November 04, 2025 at 02:15 PM

WB

“ Richard..... thank You for being a good friend, our memories will always be with us. I will miss our bi-weekly lunches very much. Rest In Peace my friend, we will miss you, but will remember all the good times we had together, you will never be forgotten.
Wanda and Bjorn

Wanda and Bjorn - November 03, 2025 at 08:05 AM

JB

“ I first met Richard when he moved to Ward's Island in 1969, 56 years ago, and we became close friends. We shared many interests including Island history, gardening, theatre and music, and for many years we shared theatre and symphony subscriptions. We helped each other with many things around our Island homes and twice Richard assisted me getting to hospital when i had health concerns. He also helped looking after my cat(s) when I went away on vacation. With his involvement in antiques, he assisted me on many occasions in acquiring items of marine historical significance. As late as August this year, he helped in getting me and my equipment over to the Ward's Island pavilion for the Gala Weekend bingos.

Richard - rest gently, old friend. And know how much we loved you.

-Jay Bascom

Jay Bascom - November 02, 2025 at 07:48 PM

AT

“ Richard's kindness, enjoyment of life, lively sense of humour, and expertise in silver made Silver Society of Canada meetings great fun, as well as learning experiences. He will be hugely missed by us all. With sympathy to his family and friends, Anne Thackray

Anne Thackray - November 02, 2025 at 08:29 AM

CS

“ I thank Richard for being one of the first to encourage me to investigate the life and work of a 20th century Canadian silversmith - my father, Harold G. Stacey.

Callie Stacey

Callie Stacey - October 31, 2025 at 10:08 AM

AA

“ Richard had a larger than life personality. He walked into a room and everyone knew he had arrived. His voice boomed and was recognizable even if he wasn't in your site. It was an honour to know him and have his respect in life and in business. He was a truly passionate man who exuded a love of life and passion for the arts. He will be missed.

Andrea & Andrew - October 30, 2025 at 09:35 PM

BA

Richard was a true gentleman and a great neighbour. Always positive energy.

He was a big part of the island and he will be missed very much.

Much love to his family, brother and nephews.

Bruce and Annie - October 31, 2025 at 05:24 PM

PK

“ I will miss Richard very much. We became close friends over the last 30 years. Like many others, I phoned him every morning for a brief chat. That started the day off right. My favourite memory is an October evening in New York when Richard, Marie Betteley, John, and I were leaving the opening night of the Armories Antiques Show. (Because I could stay in Richard's flat, I vetted at that show from 2005 to 2017.) We walked to a nearby French restaurant for dinner. Marie took off her dress shoes for more comfortable flip-flops. She was wearing a beautiful diamond pendant. It was a magical late fall evening in New York, something better than you see in the movies!

Peter Kaellgren - October 30, 2025 at 02:14 PM

DB

“ Richard was a wonderful friend, generous with his time and great support when one needed it. Richard and I travelled often together and after one successful trip to NYC we founded the Silver Society of Canada.

Richard was its first president, the SSC is still going strong after some 30 years.

Richard loved music, loved his collection of silver and ceramics, loved his house on the Toronto Island, he was always polite, always helpful, always had a smile on his face and never made an enemy.
RIP



Dorothea Burstyn - October 30, 2025 at 11:57 AM

JA

“ Richard was the most upbeat and optimistic person I have known. He willingly shared his enthusiasm and depth of knowledge on many subjects that he was intrigued by. I will miss his kindness and sense of humour. It has been a pleasure to have you in my life. My condolences to Richard's family and circle of friends.

John Alexander - October 30, 2025 at 11:23 AM

SB

“ susan baldwin lit a candle in memory of Richard Flensted-Holder



susan baldwin - October 30, 2025 at 08:28 AM

SB

“ *Richard, what a pleasure it was knowing you. Thank you for your friendship with my Mum, Joan Baldwin, you made a lovely friend to share that space at Harbourfront and surely were a jolly pal to her. She thought the world of you as do I. I know you have made a speedy journey to the place of ever lasting health and joy and can look back at your life with happiness that you did so well with your time here among us. Love and light.*

susan baldwin - October 30, 2025 at 08:22 AM

RM

“ *Richard*
I have wonderful memories of all the fun and adventures we shared over the past forty years. Although you are gone, leaving a large gap in my life, I have the memories. You enriched my life and I will miss you. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Good bye old friend.
Ross Morrow

Ross Morrow - October 30, 2025 at 02:46 AM