



## Richard William Lewis

November 26, 2020

Quietly and peacefully, on November 26, 2020, Richard William Lewis, aged 65, slipped from this Earth.

Predeceased by his parents, William and Frances Lewis, he will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by his wife and soulmate, Karin Nakamura; his sister, Helen (Chris) Roberts; his daughter, Tara (Dan) Furze; and the light of his life, his granddaughter, little Lana-Grace.

Also left with many cherished memories are daughters Sacha Lewis (Reuven Stott) and Jessica Lewis; grandchildren Penelope and Saul Stott; the mothers of his daughters, Rebecca Steinberg-Lewis and Lori Lewis; nephew Tom Roberts; step-children Jessica Nakamura (Anthony Stirpe) and Devin Nakamura; and many, many dear friends. Richard was delighted to connect in recent years with his birth families, the Crann/Kirby clans of Cape Breton (originally from Burin, Newfoundland) and his Lumsden half-siblings in England, in particular Gillian Carter and Mark Gay.

Richard had a great appreciation for fine masterpieces such as the works of Keith Jarrett, Rodin, and Shostakovich; thick theological texts; spicy falafels; excellent cigars; fresh pastries, especially those involving strawberries or whipped cream (and preferably both!); and sitting by the sea.

After leaving a successful career as a visionary and systems consultant specializing in abnormal situation management, Richard retrained as a funeral director, offering his authenticity, presence, and integrity in times of greatest hurt and vulnerability. In his latter years he was a strong advocate for those

living with mental health issues. He was a complex, delightful, many-layered man, and those who loved him knew him as a poet, a mentor, a true gentleman, a compassionate gentle soul, and a dearly loved friend. He will be well-remembered and deeply missed.

As per his wishes, Richard has been cremated and his ashes will be scattered at a later date near Baxter's Harbour Falls on the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia. A virtual service of remembrance was held on Sunday, December 6, 2020 at 12:00 noon, from St. John's United Church in Oakville, Ontario; it was live streamed via their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsunit-edchurchoakville>). A recording of the service has now been uploaded to YouTube and can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/RPNde4Ovs6M>.

For those who wish, donations of remembrance can be made to The Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre in support of their excellent patient care programs and outstanding leading-edge research.  
<https://www.theroyal.ca/get-involved/ways-to-donate/donate-in-honour-or-celebration>

# Tribute Wall



“ *St. John's United Church in Oakville is beautiful. It was an honor to attend Richard's memorial ceremony through a virtual platform. The celebration of his life will be remembered forever. Thank you.*

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**Julie Lee** - December 06, 2020 at 01:31 PM



“ *So sorry to hear this news, our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends.*

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**Christian Dallaire** - December 06, 2020 at 11:52 AM



“ *A life well lived. Richard's memory rests is so many. Blessings to all.*

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**Craig Howell** - December 06, 2020 at 11:25 AM



“ *We were so sad to hear the news that Richard is no longer with us on this earth. We trust that he is safe in the arms of his saviour. Richard was such a joy to know and in particular we treasured our time worshiping and studying together at St. Paul's. His thoughtful comments, and beautiful warm smile was such a blessing. We appreciated his gift of writing- and his sense of humour. We will hold you in our prayers Karin. Sincerely, Bob and Vicki Bassett*

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**Vicki Bassett** - December 03, 2020 at 06:44 PM

RL

“ *Ron and Julie Lee purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Richard William Lewis.*



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**Ron and Julie Lee** - December 02, 2020 at 10:24 PM

SG

“ *We met when Tara was born and I remember him with only good feelings.  
May he Rest in in peace and may his memory be a blessing. Susan Gould and family*

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**Susan B Gould** - December 02, 2020 at 06:19 PM

GL

“ *We remember the times spent with Richard in the eastern provinces. His sense of adventure and his generosity, his gentle way of making you feel like family. His sense of humour, his appreciation of a good beer. These are the things I remember. I am sorry lose Richard as my friend/ I know he will be dearly missed by many.  
R.I.P the Leary family*

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**garry leary** - December 02, 2020 at 06:13 PM

BG

“ Dear Karin and family:  
While I did not know Richard as well as many others did, it was such an honour and a joy to cross paths with him in various contexts over the years, particularly on those occasions when we were involved together in community education events. It was always a delight to spend time with him. When I think of Richard, what comes to mind is his warmth, his humour, his spirit and passion, his deep humanity, his compassion, his honesty and openness, and his generosity in sharing his wisdom and experience with others. (Not to mention our shared love of Stan Rogers' music!) I rarely saw him without a twinkle in his eye, and can't think of him without a smile. I know he touched many lives, and I am sorry I didn't have more opportunities to spend time with him. My deepest sympathy for your loss. May he rest in peace.  
Sincerely,  
Beverly Goodwin

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**Beverly Goodwin** - December 01, 2020 at 09:28 PM

MA

“ So sorry for the loss of Richard. My sincere condolences to Karin and family. Though my contact with Richard was only this year , he was a genuine and thoughtful guy who had fun and I'll miss him. I'll have a Weetabix as a farewell. Mark

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**mark** - December 01, 2020 at 05:21 PM

KO

“ Dear Karin and family,  
Karin you asked me the other day what was one word comes to mind when I think of Richard, giving was what came to mind. He was giving of his knowledge, always willing to have a conversation and share. He was giving of ideas, some that were though provoking, some that were in opposition to mine, and some that changed the way I looked at the world.

*I am so glad that I got to know him, and am so very sorry that he is gone from all our lives.*

*My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

*Love*

*Kathleen O'Donoghue*

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**Kathleen O'Donoghue** - December 01, 2020 at 04:01 PM

MO

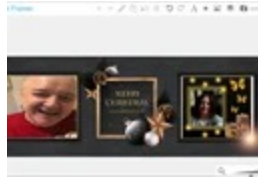
“ monica charlene thiessen on behalf THANK U FOR ALL SEE AGAIN IN HEAVEN JESUS NAME AMEN U ARE ALWAYS MISSED BY ME EVER SINCE WE MENT U ALWAYS PART OF ME BECUASE U TOOK KARIN AND JESSICA AND EIVIN BECAUSE U TOOK MONICA IN AND ACCPT WHO I WAS IN LIFE YOUR EYES WHO I WAS TOOKE ME HOW GOD TOOK MONICA U TOOK ME HOW GOD TOOK U BECAUSE OF ALL THAT THANKS FOR BEING ON MY SIDE THANK FOR ALL PRAYER SUPORT U SAY WE DO GREAT MISSIONS AMEN MC. DECEMBER 1FIRST/2020

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**monica** - December 01, 2020 at 01:40 PM

MO

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**monica** - December 01, 2020 at 01:36 PM

EB

“ Hi Karen. Just saw this email. Dr Birnie and I remember your family so well and want to send our love and condolences. Very very hard for you all and we are thinking of you at this difficult time.

*Elizabeth and Dr Stuart Birnie*

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**Elizabeth and Stuart Birnie** - December 01, 2020 at 12:34 PM

DM

“ Dear Karen and Family  
I had the sincere pleasure and honor of being friends with Richard over the years. His gifts of being compassionate, inspirational, caring and sharing great wisdom will always be remembered. My sincere thoughts are with you during this very sad time of his loss. I will always cherish the book of poetry you both shared with me.  
*Diana McDonnell*

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**Diana McDonnell** - December 01, 2020 at 12:30 PM

AN

“ *My deepest sympathies on your loss. I knew Richard through Peer Support Work. He was an inspiration. He gave to others hope and understanding. These are rare gifts that have had wide reaching positive effects. I enjoyed Richard's company, his wisdom and quick wit. Nary a time there wasn't a belly roar or tears. May he rest in Peace. Andrea - Peer Supporter OPDI Classmate*

**Andrea** - December 01, 2020 at 10:05 AM

 Mark Young

“ *Hi Karin and Family,*

*Very sorry to hear about the loss of your husband Richard. Please accept my sincere condolences. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*

**Mark Young** - December 01, 2020 at 08:52 AM

GI

“ *Highchair eating Weetabix..*



**gill** - December 01, 2020 at 04:05 AM

GI

“ *Gill lit a candle in memory of Richard William Lewis*



**gill** - December 01, 2020 at 04:00 AM

AS

“ Dear Karin,

*My most sincere condolences on the passing of Richard. My thoughts are with you and your family during this sad time. He was a lovely person and will be greatly missed by his family, friends and all of us who knew him.*

*Anne Stern*

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**Anne Stern** - November 30, 2020 at 06:07 PM

SO

“ Richard

*Was an awesome guy for sure and always smiling and gentle to all who had the*

*Pro slave of knowing him ..*

*May He Rest In Peace ❤️*

*Susan & Bruce Osborne*

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**susan & bruce osborne** - November 30, 2020 at 06:07 PM

BG

“ Karin,

*Feeling very sad when I read of Richard's passing. I never knew much about Richard; from reading his obituary and other condolences, I can see that he was a great partner and friend. You must miss him so much. Please take care of yourself and also let your family do anything they can to care for you.*

*Bob Giles*

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**Bob Giles** - November 30, 2020 at 05:50 PM

KL

“ Dear Karin and family - condolences for your loss and many hugs for your heart. In this chaos of 2020 it is so devastating to lose another good soul.

*Karen Lomas-Wood & Tom Wood*

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**Karen Lomas-Wood** - November 30, 2020 at 05:41 PM

SC

“ Oh Richard how unique and multifaceted our friendship was. We began as cordial neighbours and ended up as lifelong friend!! We have shared so many wonderful and ridiculously funny evenings together over tea, hmmm I mean a whiskey, nope I mean a curry...no it was cream cakes, or was it fish and chips. Whatever and wherever we gathered it was a blast. Yet dear friend you were also able to meet us on a deeper level in times of sadness or struggle. You were generous hearted and compassionate. You were also creative and though provoking. How was it we could be joking around one minute and the next minute contemplating the universe. Thank you for bringing soooooo much to the table and sharing your vulnerabilities with us. Tim and I will truly feel your absence dear friend. And Karin bless you for being the angel you are!! You guys were something special ❤️

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**Sarah and Tim Crisp** - November 30, 2020 at 04:45 PM

HP

*Dear Karin and family, my deepest sympathy on your loss. Even though I didn't get to know Richard that well personally, I know that he was a great addition to the family and brought great joy and companionship for Karin. I remembered him playing with my grandchildren at one of the family functions. My grandchildren were so taken by his attention to them that they didn't want to leave. May his memories keep giving you joy and smiles through the tears. God Bless you all.*

*With love, Hildy*

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**Hildy Penner** - December 01, 2020 at 05:22 PM

JQ

*Our paths crossed ever so briefly on a wonderful cruise and I am grateful for having had the opportunity to meet Richard, and to share in a few memories with he & Karin. May beautiful memories sustain all of Richard's family through your sadness.*

*Rest in peace,  
Janet Quintal*

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**Janet Quintal** - December 02, 2020 at 09:24 PM

DP

*Dear Karin & Family. So sorry to hear about Richard's passing, my condolences to all. I know he will be truly missed.*

*Take care,  
Debbie Poulin*

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**Debbie Poulin** - December 03, 2020 at 10:37 AM

DR

*Dear Karin, had I not had the privilege of meeting Richard at a very expensive, long-winded week of BS presented by people who could neither talk the talk, nor walk the walk, i would never have met you! Richard's presence was always the highlight of each long, boring day and when he was kind enough to report back to us "graduates" his experience at a 2 day workshop at the Royal. Such an eloquent man he would in his own gracious way of conveying how superior the training was.*

*I remember him saying "The basic principles are; shut up, listen, don't judge and perhaps most importantly - Don't try to fix". He taught me more in a minute than I'd listening to two coordinators for a week! I have rarely, if ever met such a gracious, articulate, insightful and downright delightful human being.*

*I will miss him till I am dust.*

*I am so for your loss Karin and family*

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**David Rolling** - December 04, 2020 at 08:54 AM

CT

*Karin and Family, I am so sorry for your loss. Richard was a thoughtful, caring , giving person with a beautiful sense of humor and wonder. It was a joy to have worked with him. He was generous in the sharing of his lived experience and the wisdom he gained from it. He had a profound impact on those who knew him, even briefly. I miss him greatly and will always cherish the time I was privileged to have known him. R.I.P. Richard.*

*Cassandra Thompson*

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**Cassandra Thompson** - December 04, 2020 at 04:04 PM