



Robert John Hamlyn

February 22, 2026

The family of Robert John Hamlyn is truly heartbroken to say goodbye to Bob, who passed away suddenly on February 22, 2026.

A man who loved and was loved by many, Bob (or Buzz to his friends) lived life with passion for every part of it. Bob taught English for 30+ years, toured with bands across North America, played hockey practically every week, and cared deeply for his family and friends along the way. He was someone who could quote Shakespeare one moment, play you a Jimi Hendrix song the next, and find time for a quick 9 at the golf course in between.

Bob is survived by his wife, Jayne, and their daughters, Taylor (Sal), and Rachel (Ryan), and their grandchildren; his sister, Vicky (Farhad), his brother, Mark (Maureen), his nephews, Alexander and Tyler, his niece, Jennifer; and his former partner, Carol. They all miss Bob dearly and really hope that anyone who knew him will remember him well, and take inspiration from the wit, verve, and vitality with which he lived every single day.

The first son of John and Stella, Bob was born in England then travelled with them across the ocean to Canada. A music lover from an early age, he took up the guitar as a teenager, showed a natural ability to excel in it, and played all his life, performing countless shows over five decades as a gifted musician. Eventually, he found a path balancing artistic pursuits and a career as a

secondary school teacher—where he became a favourite of many students. When his siblings started their families, Bob became a devoted and very loving uncle to his niece and nephews.

For over 25 years, Bob and Mark enjoyed every minute at their beloved Haliburton cottage. It was a great escape for Bob to get up to nature to relax and enjoy the seasons, the lake, the boat, and bonfires—sharing it all with family and friends.

Later in life, Bob found a new role as a loving husband to Jayne, and father to her daughters, Taylor and Rachel. They formed a close bond with him over the last quarter century and Bob was thrilled to become a grandfather. His last years were spent showering them with care and affection, playing his guitar for the kids while he watched them grow.

"He was a man, take him for all in all, I shall not look upon his like again."
- Hamlet, William Shakespeare

Tribute Wall

PM

“ I was lucky enough to be in his classroom while at Cardinal Newman. He was so enjoyable to be around genuine, caring and fun.

I ran into him on occasion through the years and always enjoyed it so much. More recently I have enjoyed him through social media.

I feel lucky to have known him and I am sad for your loss.

Paul Mackrell - April 12 at 06:54 PM

LB

“ We first met Bob when we were kids and he was 'Mr. Bob', dad's 'cool' friend and colleague. He would come to visit wearing his leather jacket and shades however he was always humble, friendly, funny and warm...which made him even 'cooler'. We have so many fond memories, all of which involve laughter. Dad would always come home and share hilarious stories of their pranks and antics...making each other laugh during meetings and at other perhaps 'inappropriate' times. Bob was truly one of loveliest people on earth and undoubtedly touched the lives of everyone he met with his warmth and humour. We are so grateful to have been able to see him and Jayne in January when they came to visit mom and shared memories of dad, who is surely having a laugh with him once again. Mom, Paula and I wish Jayne, their family and friends love and strength as they navigate this heartbreaking loss.

Letitia Brasovan - March 15 at 08:51 PM

“Dearest Jayne, family, friends, and bandmates, kindly accept my heartfelt condolences for the sudden loss of your loved one. Please know that my family and I have always held Bob in the highest regard and the highest esteem. The loss of such a wonderful person is painful. Yet I have many great memories of him. He was a genius of understatement. With his sharp wit, he could make you laugh even when he defined the notion of true love. His sayings and catch phrases, usually uttered in his many comic voices, could expose the absurdity of so-called serious moments. I remember the time when the school tried to find a slogan to describe its aspiration as a community. When Bob heard that the chosen phrase was “Making a Difference,” he responded by saying: “Making a Coffee.”

Every Friday when he said goodbye, Bob would offer us his famous advice: “Be kind to your bowels.” After meetings, he would often say: “Yes, but how does that help me on the 401?” Each time, his words would poke fun at the way we were taking ourselves too seriously. He was right. As we all know, he was a gifted musician and a remarkable teacher—methodical and precise. I especially recall his keen interest in the Romantic poets and Shakespeare. He imparted his knowledge of language and literature to his students with great skill, and no wonder then that they loved being in his classes. He was the epitome of grace and composure, effortlessly “cool” as he interacted with colleagues, students and bandmates.

I remember one evening after a concert, a student (in admiration of Bob’s playing) asked him how he, too, could become a talented guitarist. Bob quietly said: “Get yourself a guitar. Lock yourself in your room for 10 years. When you come out, play and keep playing until you become good at it.” This revealed his own dedication and commitment to music and the guitar, in particular. I have fond memories of working with Bob on many shows. It was also a great pleasure to introduce him and the band when they played at the school. He and Mark even arranged the music for “The Beggars Opera” for us. I had an inside look at how Bob and the Bel-Vistas worked together during the making of the music video for “Turn

Around.” It was an awesome experience.

With heavenly music playing, may the Lord keep Bob in His loving embrace. In the days to come, may you find a measure of solace in your personal recollections of such of a beautiful man. May your spirit continue to play on, Bob, my dear old friend.

*All good wishes,
Tony Labriola and Family*

Tony Labriola - March 07 at 01:29 PM

CO

“ *I first met Bob over 40 years ago when I walked into his classroom as a student at Newman. One thing I will never forget were his eyes. He had a way of looking at you that was so warm and genuine. You felt like he truly saw you.*

Over time, especially through music, I got to know Bob beyond the classroom. In the later part of high school, when I was in a band with George Brasovan and other Newman alumni, we began to connect more as friends. I also had the pleasure of seeing him perform, which was always special.

Over the years we stayed in touch, even if only sporadically. The last time we connected was about George’s passing. I never imagined that less than a year later I would be writing these words about Bob.

He was truly one of a kind. A wonderful man who left a lasting impression on so many of us. I feel grateful to have known him and saddened that he is no longer with us.

My deepest and heartfelt condolences to Jayne, their daughters, and of course all of Bob’s family.

Colette O’Neill - March 07 at 10:56 AM

MR

“ Bob was my closest and dearest English teaching colleague and a friend. His charisma, wit and kindness will stay in my heart forever. I cannot begin to comprehend the pain of losing this beautiful man, Jayne. I hope you are comforted by knowing how much he had cherished you and your family.

Monika Rasciauskas - March 06 at 09:37 AM

LN

“ I remember having coffee once with Bob and he talked with such passion about teaching English. There was an ease about him. His intelligence and creativity came through in conversation. Also enjoyed seeing him play with his band a few times with Vic. Always a pleasure to hear his music. Always happy to see him. He will be missed.

Lois Lorimer Nunn - March 05 at 11:22 PM