



Dr. Roland Skrastins

May 21, 2024

1954 - 2024

Peacefully, after a prolonged illness, our beloved Roland passed away on May 21st, 2024 at Hennick Bridgepoint Hospital, surrounded by his family.

Roland's greatest joy in life was his family. He was an amazing and loving husband, best friend and soulmate to Frances, his wife of almost 40 years. Roland was a completely devoted father from the start, soothing colicky infants while watching west coast Blue Jays games in the middle of the night, chaperoning kindergarten field trips, telling the best bedtime stories, chauffeuring last-minute drives to school, logging many steps walking the dog, and playing endless games of one-on-one basketball or hockey. As his children grew up, he was immensely proud of their accomplishments and successes in life. Family vacations, in particular visiting his sister- and brother-in-law and their family in Australia, were treasured memories. The recent arrivals of his grandchildren Georgia in 2021 and Noah in 2023 were especially magical for Roland, who loved them beyond measure.

Born to immigrant Latvian parents and raised in the East End of Toronto, Roland spoke Latvian first, eventually learning English "in the gutter," as he described it. He enjoyed a carefree childhood of bike-riding, ball hockey and cheering on the Maple Leafs. He attended Riverdale Collegiate Institute in

Toronto, and obtained his BSc from the University of Toronto. In 1979 Roland completed medical school at Queen's University in Kingston, followed by post-graduate training in Internal Medicine in Kingston and Respiriology in Toronto. Along his life's journey, Roland acquired many friends, several of whom also became close family friends.

Roland joined the medical staff at Toronto East General Hospital (now Michael Garron Hospital) as a General Internist and Respiriologist in 1985. Roland was very happy to return to East Toronto to practice medicine, giving back to the community where he was raised. A well-loved and gifted physician, he was known for his kind, caring and gentle nature, able to quickly put his patients at ease. During his 35 years of practice at TEGH/MGH, Roland was a key contributor to the development of a comprehensive in-patient and out-patient Respiriology service, including the Progressive Weaning Centre (now the Prolonged-Ventilation Weaning Centre). With his sense of humour and quick wit, Roland never missed an opportunity to provide his colleagues, friends or family with groan-worthy but clever puns and "dad jokes."

Roland will be greatly missed by his wife Dr. Frances Jamieson, and their children Peter (Daniela Agnoletto and their daughter Georgia), Emily (Daniel Cappell and their son Noah) and Olivia (Max Moffat). Predeceased by his father Harold Skrastins, and survived by his mother Rita Skrastins, his sister-in-law Patricia Fabok (Ivor) of Thirroul, Australia, his nieces Michelle and Nicola Fabok, and his faithful canine companion, Hudson. The family is grateful for the wonderful care Roland received throughout his illness.

If desired, donations in Roland's memory may be made to the Michael Garron Hospital Foundation or the Hennick Bridgepoint Foundation.

Tribute Wall



“ You often know best those you spent your formative years with. I spent 5 years of high school with many of the same classes as Roland. Sorry we had no lasting reason to stay in touch, now I mourn his passing. Too soon. Rest in Peace Roland. love Tim O'Hara

Timothy O'Hara - June 10, 2024 at 02:45 PM

OK

“ My deepest condolences to your family . Dr Skrastins was so respected , I was so proud to call him a friend . Working in respiratory , Tuesday market days, baked goods made by his mom & lots of shared memories of our kids and furbabies . May all your memories bring you peace at this very sad time. Rest in peace Dr Skrastins

Olga

Olga Korica - June 09, 2024 at 01:32 PM

SW

“ Dear Fran.. How saddened we are to hear of Roland's passing. We remember our time together as neighbours on Chester Hill and Peter and Owen playing together. Now grown up men with children of their own. Roland was always a quiet and thoughtful presence and a brilliant and compassionate physician. He will be missed by many , especially by you, his children and grandchildren and mother. With many fond memories , we send you and your family our deepest sympathies.
Sue and Peter Williams

Sue Williams - June 09, 2024 at 10:47 AM

GC

“ My husband was a patient of Dr. Skrastins for a number of years. We will never forget his kind and efficient care. In particular, I remember one night the phone ringing after hours. It was Dr. Skrastins calling to discuss a matter which, after reviewing some tests, required immediate attention. Who does that any more? His kindness will never be forgotten. May he rest in peace. Gerry Carlino.

Gerry Carlino - June 09, 2024 at 10:05 AM

MF

“ Please accept my deepest condolences to Roland's family. I have known Roland since childhood when our parents were friends within our small Latvian group. Roland and I were classmates in our unique class for grades 7 and 8 at Early Grey Senior P.S. and his wit and humour was evident throughout; making learning fun. During high school and beyond, our Riverdale C.I. alumni was very proud and honoured to be among Roland's friends and classmates. His loving parents have always been proud of Roland and his integrity. Sending thoughts to his mother, who may remember me. Margaret Sams Fler

Margaret Fler - June 09, 2024 at 08:41 AM

BO

“ When I think of the term 'gentleman' I think of Roland. Kind, polite, respectful, interesting, and courteous are but a few of the attributes we experienced in his presence. There are very few men who earn this title and Roland was one. It was our pleasure to have known him for so many years via the ongoing friendship of our daughters. He will be missed.

Bobbie - June 09, 2024 at 08:27 AM



“ *Condolences to The family of Dr Roland Skrastins. I worked with him for many years at MGH and he was a physician of the highest caliber as well as a wonderful person.*

Dr George Rewa

Yurij Peba - June 09, 2024 at 05:39 AM

ER

“ *I wish to pass my condolences to Fran and family. I got to know Roland thru my friend Brent when we were at UofT and enjoyed many games of ball hockey and volleyball and then later in tennis with Norm , Brent , Roland and myself , with the losing doubles buying the first round after at a local pub on Danforth! Spending many a New Years eve with Roland & Fran brings back many great memories! May you rest in peace my good friend!*

Endel Raun - June 06, 2024 at 12:38 PM