



Ronald Dagilis

December 31, 2019

Ronald Dagilis passed away December 31, 2019 at 83 years of age after a few months of struggle with colon cancer and, ultimately, MRSA bacteria.

Ron began his teaching career in Blind River followed by a long career as an English teacher and Guidance Counselor in Toronto (Harbord C.I., Lawrence Park C. I., and Brockton High School). Ron was active in supporting his students by organizing extra-curricular activities including theatre and coaching the ski team.

Ron always believed he had a fortunate life. After retiring from Brockton in 1995, Ron made the most of his time by continuing to pursue his varied interests.

As a Snow Host, both at Blue Mountain and at Big White, he shared with others his passion for skiing. Ron travelled extensively in parts of Asia, Latin America and Europe. He also joined tours to hike Mount Blanc and ski in Switzerland, Chile and Argentina. Recently, Ron had the opportunity to visit relatives in Lithuania. Throughout his adventures, he was an avid photographer and enjoyed sharing his travel stories and photos with others.

Ron had a lifelong passion for music. He was a member of numerous choirs, barbershop singing groups and bands over the years. Most recently, he was

an enthusiastic trombone player in several community music groups in Muskoka including the Gravenhurst Bifocal Concert Band (Ron was a previous president), Muskoka Dixie, and Brassworks.

Some might also remember him as a volunteer at the Dorset Heritage Museum.

Ron leaves behind his wife Marjorie, his sons Scott (Engelin) and Trevor (Anne), and his granddaughter Nikki.

A private family burial will be held in the spring. Those wishing to honour Ron's memory may consider donating to the Dorset Heritage Museum (www.dorsetheritagemuseum.ca/), or donating to a community music organization of their choice. Ron would have encouraged you to invite a friend to enjoy a local community concert in your area.

Tribute Wall

AT

“ Ron was a long-time and well-regarded member of the Toronto Heads of Guidance Association; in fact, he was probably the only one to have represented three different high schools as a Head of Guidance. If his colleagues wondered why he would willingly move to, say, a community of snobs, or into a working class area, he seemed to consider it his duty to explore as many facets of the guidance experience as possible, to share his talents, as it were. The Toronto Board of Education was lucky to have had a dedicated employee such as he.

He was always a pleasant and thoughtful colleague and low-key but interesting raconteur, and never contributed to the flap.

Ron was one of the good guys... Hail and farewell, faithful comrade!

Alex Toth

Alex Toth - January 18, 2020 at 09:59 PM

TL

“ I was saddened to read of the passing of Ron and offer my deep condolences to the family. I was a colleague at LPCI for 14 years and have fond memories of Ron as a real gentleman, a genuine educator who always had time for students and fellow staff. My last chat with Ron was at an LPCI reunion. We were comparing travel experiences and when I mentioned consulting in the Georgian Republic he instantly latched on to the thought of skiing in the Caucasus Mtns. I often wondered, when I skype my Georgian friends, if he ever got there. He will be missed in his community.

Tom Lyons

Tom Lyons - January 14, 2020 at 04:48 PM

GE

“ Our deepest condolences. I'll miss Ron and his traffic wary dog out walking on the road. We always appreciated Ron's photos from the Cottage Association events , he had a keen eye for catching people being themselves and enjoying the day. Although I wasn't aware that Ron was a teacher too I'm proud that he did so much for the arts during and even after his career.
Well miss him too!
The Ewarts.

Gary Ewart - January 12, 2020 at 12:41 PM

CW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cory Wilson - January 10, 2020 at 10:30 AM

EB

“ Ron and I were guidance counsellors with the Toronto Board and I remember seeing him at guidance meetings--a thoughtful and dedicated counsellor. Sorry to hear of his passing.
My sincere condolences to the family and friends.
Emil Boychuk

Emil Boychuk - January 09, 2020 at 09:47 PM

VR

“ I arrived at Harbord Collegiate for Grade 11, scarcely more than three months after my father had died, after my mother and siblings and I moved into my grandmother's house. I was sad, shy and the new girl. A vocation for acting was already working on me, and so I found my way to the Drama Club, and the role of Rebecca in the classic play, *Our Town*. Mr. Dagilis was the sensitive director of the great play, and so he definitely played a role in my becoming a professional actor. He was firm but always kind and respectful, and quite funny at times. I had the annoying habit of gumchewing at the time. One day, at the beginning of class, all of us seated he entered the room with a large paper bag. I was the first to be invited by him to his desk, to look at the contents of the bag, and there I saw nothing but gum and more gum, all varieties, shapes and flavours of gum individually wrapped or in packages, a big bag full of gum. Of course I took some gum back to my desk, and the class was very amused. Don't remember whether I was cured of the bad habit, but I'll never forget the droll humour he employed that day. There was at least one student whom he sometimes engaged as a babysitter, and I complained to him that I wanted to babysit, and a date was set. When Ron and Marjorie arrived home that evening, I was out cold, sound asleep on the sofa. That was the first and last time I babysat for them. I am so glad that I saw him at the October 2018 Harbord 68 class reunion, and that I got to give him a great big hug. Marjorie, Scott and Trevor and families, I offer my deepest condolences on your loss. What a memorable teacher, and what a very good human being he was. RIP, sir.

Virginia Roncetti

Virginia Roncetti - January 09, 2020 at 05:58 PM

DD

“ So sad to hear that Ron has left us. He was a mentor for me at Harbord Collegiate when I started my Guidance counselling career and was always considerate of other people. He was also a great skier and loved playing the trombone. His wife and children were fortunate in having shared a life with this wonderful man. we will miss him.

Dom Dente

Dom Dente - January 09, 2020 at 05:01 AM

AD

“ Ron and Marjorie. Photo provided by Joanne Kourtz.



Anne Desgagnes - January 08, 2020 at 08:45 PM

VR

“ Virginia Roncetti lit a candle in memory of Ronald Dagilis



Virginia Roncetti - January 07, 2020 at 10:42 PM

AS

“ *Mr. Dagilis was central to so many of my best memories of Harbord. The plays he directed that I had the honor to be in are fresh in my mind 50 years later. A wonderful teacher and mentor. He will be missed.*

*Anna Sandor
San Diego, CA*

Anna Sandor - January 07, 2020 at 09:26 PM

AD

“ *Ron caving in the Galapagos. Photo provided by Jim Christie.*



Anne Desgagnes - January 07, 2020 at 08:40 PM