

HAYWARD SIMMS

JULY 11, 1941 - APRIL 25, 2023

After a brief battle with cancer, we are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Hayward Simms on April 25th, 2023, in Gimli, Manitoba, at the Johnson Memorial Hospital.

Hayward was born in Buchans, Newfoundland on July 11, 1941, to Eileen and Hayward Sr. He grew up in Buchans and later began working for his father's construction company. It was during this time that he met the love of his life and best friend, Josephine Hawco. They would marry in 1966.

Hayward and Josephine welcomed daughter, Hayley, in 1968, followed by sons, Robert, in 1974, and Matthew, in 1975. Hayward had a great sense of adventure and the allure of the high arctic brought the Simms family to the Northwest Territories in the late 1970s. He would go on to hold numerous positions during his career with the territorial government, including Economic Development Officer, Regional Municipal Affairs Officer, Regional Superintendent of Municipal Affairs, and most notably, Internal Auditor. As an auditor, Hayward enjoyed the challenge of auditing government programs and management systems and had a talent for investigative work. It was his calling. However, as much as Hayward enjoyed his work, he enjoyed being a husband and father more. He loved his family deeply, which was apparent to all who knew him. He liked to spend his time watching his sons play hockey and baseball, going fishing with his daughter, and planning the next great adventure to take his family on. In later years, as his family had children of their own, Hayward shared his immense humour and sense of fun with his four grandchildren, Leora, Quade, Damon, and Lanny, to make enough memories to carry them through the rest of their lives. They will miss him terribly.

Hayward was a passionate fan of the Toronto Blue Jays, oftentimes expressing his thoughts about the latest play in the most creative and colourful way that was sometimes more entertaining than the game itself. Hayward also loved a toast of scotch, copious amounts of chocolate, a good book, going for dinner and a movie with his wife, Josephine, watching Blue Jays games with his sons, Robert and Matthew, and fishing with his son-in-law, Vern.

Hayward will be deeply missed by his wife, Josephine, of 57 years; children, Hayley (Vern Sabeski), Robert (Kerri), and Matthew (Meghan); grandchildren, Leora, Damon, Quade, and Lanny; sisters, Elizabeth (Don Slater) and Lorraine (Doug Parry). Hayward was predeceased by his parents, Hayward Sr. and Eileen; sisters, Joan and Helen; brothers, Tom, Robert and Griffen; and grandchildren, Layne and Khale.

Shortly before Hayward passed, he said that he wanted to see his brother Tom again. No doubt, the two are now reunited, likely doing a little fly fishing in God's glorious garden.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, July 21, 2023, at 2:00 PM at the Buchans United Church, 12 Church Street, Buchans, Newfoundland. Interment of ashes will follow at the Buchans Community Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Canadian Cancer Society or to the Buchans United Church, P.O. Box 58, Buchans, Newfoundland A0H 1G0.

The family would like to thank Dr. Joseph Ludwig and the excellent staff at the Johnson Memorial Hospital in Gimli for their kind, compassionate care in Hayward's final days.

"The years are piling on now and still a boy lives inside me. It is useless to deny him for he comes fishing with me. He is present at every cast as are my brothers Griffen, Hayward and Bud."

~ Tom Simms, In The Stillness of Red Indian Lake

NEIL BARDAL FUNERAL CENTRE

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