



# Roderick Allen Hardy

June 10, 1938- April 17, 2008

Following a sudden and unexpected death from heart failure, Rod was buried in his family's section of the Old Anglican Cemetery in Tulita, Northwest Territories on April 25, 2008. He now rests with his parents, grandparents and other beloved relatives beside the Mackenzie River.

Rod's funeral service was held at Saint Theresa of Avila Roman Catholic Church and was attended by many family members and innumerable friends. A feast in celebration of his life followed his burial. Rod was predeceased by his brother Walter Hardy and his sister Dianne Gordon. He is survived by two brothers, Richard and Leo and many nephews and nieces. Rod was a bachelor.

Rod was born at a time when the North was quite different from what it is today. He was raised on the trap line, in fishing and spring hunt camps on the land and in the rivers, and from the time he was a child, his father Jack Hardy taught him to work with purpose. In his lifetime, Rod was able to use the skills his father taught him to build, establish and run many successful businesses. All of these enterprises contributed to positive and healthy commercial growth in his part of the world. He lived his whole life on his family's land in view of beautiful Bear Rock mountain on the banks of the great Mackenzie River.

In the 1960s and '70s Rod was intensely active in the development of self-government in his home community of Fort Norman (now called "Tulita"), as well as in the movement for the recognition of rights for the Metis People in the Northwest Territories in the 1970's, '80's and 90's. Rod was intensely proud to sign as a witness to the *Sahtu Dene and Metis Land Claim Agreement* in Tulita on September 6, 1993.

Rod was unceasingly public-spirited and served on numerous boards and agencies such as the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board, the NWT Metis-Dene Development Fund and many others. Rod supported the development of oil and gas and other resources in the Sahtu but he was also deeply concerned about preservation of renewable resources and the integrity of the wild land, so he also supported the *Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative* and actively opposed the damming of the Bear River.

Rod is greatly missed by his family and his community of Tulita. However, Rod has left a loving legacy to them. **The Roderick A. Hardy Trust** which will be administered by his brother Richard, will provide bursaries for Metis and Dene students from Tulita and Norman Wells who go on to colleges and universities.

*"I gave you much love, you can only guess  
How much you gave me in happiness  
I thank you for the love you each have shown  
But now it's time I travelled on alone."*