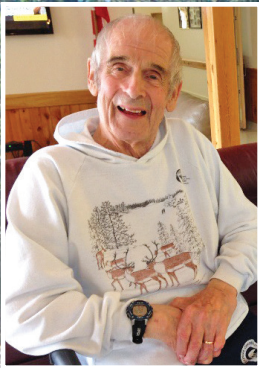


# Jacques van Pelt



Jacques passed away peacefully on Wednesday Nov. 7, 2018 surrounded by loving family at Northern Lights Special Care Home in Fort Smith, NWT. Jacques was born in Helmond, Netherlands emigrating to Canada in 1954. He attended McGill University,

where he met and married Mary. In 1969, he went to Michigan State University where he met his wife Ruth.

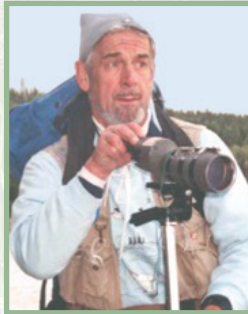
Jacques made many trips to communities all along the Mackenzie River in the Western Arctic in the 1960s. He also established a niche ecotourism business in Fort Smith called Subarctic Wilderness Adventures, connecting tourists from all over the world with local people across the North; as well as monitoring the northernmost nesting colony of white pelicans for over 40 years – Jacques van “Pelican” Pelt.

To celebrate his life, Jacques leaves behind his wife Ruth; children Lil, Lisa (Dave), Lora (Craig) and Karla (Todd); grandchildren Ashley (Chris), Amy

(Evan), Carrie (Johnny), Michael (Jennifer), Ryan (Kim), Chelsea, Sarah and Ben; great-grandchildren Latham, Kale, Brody, Kennedy (Jordan), Freya, Finn, Zoey, Aurora and Jack; great-great-grandchild Revan. Jacques' family wishes to extend our sincere appreciation to the staff of Northern Lights for their excellent loving care. Also to all of the residents of Fort Smith who visited Dad.

He found great strength in the Franciscan tradition of nature and spirituality of our Creator's Home. *“I will return to nature from which I was born, highly favoured. I will be part of the water, trees, the plants, the fish, the birds. That's my reincarnation capable of returning, in love. I have had a rich life and full life in our Creator, and our Creator in me, and I have no regrets. I will live on in your memories of me and through my grandchildren, great and great-great-grandchildren.”*

Jacques - lover of River, champion of environment, sharing the wonders of the outdoors/Fort Smith area. For a great overview of his life in the North go to [www.cbc.ca](http://www.cbc.ca) and search Jacques van Pelt.



Everyone is welcome to attend the funeral service (officiated by Father Magnus) at St Joseph's Cathedral, Fort Smith, NWT on Saturday July 13, 2019 at 1:00pm, the graveside service at Riverside Cemetery, where Jacques will be interred “under the Pine tree beside his daughter Amy Ruth, overlooking the Slave River rapids”, and the reception at the Roaring Rapids Hall. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Fort Smith Disabled Society.