

Giles Robinson

January 26, 2021

December 31, 1955 – January 26, 2021

We are devastated to announce the death of Giles Robinson suddenly at home on January 26th, 2021. He was one of the kindest, most generous men anyone could meet, even though he was not renowned for his sartorial elegance – attire was not his strong point. He loved his friends as much as he shunned high fashion.

Giles worked at MDA/SPAR for 30 years where his skills and talents as an engineer and mentor were highly respected and valued. Since his retirement he had taken great pleasure in his collection of cars, travel, the family cottage and friends. He was deeply loved by his many friends and his family in both Canada and the UK.

Giles is survived by his beloved wife and soulmate Caron, his son Josh (Katie) and grandkids Lilly and Silas, by his siblings Judith, Ian (Jen) and Carol Anne (Steve), and by his many nephews and nieces who gave him such joy: Sarah; Tim (Laura) Sadie, Kate, Ben; Steve (Kaelin) Mackenzie, Taylor; Alex (Erica) Caleb, Annabella; Dean (Sara) Ella, Everett; Tanya and Loulou. Predeceased by his parents, Bill and Monica (Sey) Robinson.

A celebration of life will be held at a future date when Covid allows. Rather than send flowers, please consider a donation to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, CNIB or your local food bank. Online condolences and memories may be left at <http://www.steckleygooderham.com>

Comments



“ Giles was one of the kindest, smartest, funniest and most decent and delightful men I ever had the joy of knowing. He was so full of the love of life and he radiated it. My sad condolences to Caron and to all of the family, especially my old friend, Carol and to Ian and Jenn.

Gail Spencer - February 08 at 12:38 PM



“ I did not have the pleasure of meeting Giles. However his sister Carol Anne is a friend and I would like to send her my sincere condolences. Carol Anne, I know your memories of him are happy and many and I know they will be with you for a very long time. Treasure them and remember him often.
My sympathy to you and your family. Shirley

Shirley Prittie - February 06 at 04:41 PM



“ Giles was a very dear friend of mine for all of our lives. Our families were close friends living in the same road and both fathers spent their careers working at the company, ICI. So from birth Giles and I played together, although he always liked to remind me that he was younger than me – by 3 months. We both went to the same school at the age of 4 and then we went to the same high school at 13. We had so much fun together sometimes getting into mischief but often just sharing experiences. Giles was always very generous and kind to me. At the age of four at primary school I did so badly at sports day that I won no medals. Giles won lots and kindly gave me some of his! Before Giles moved permanently to Canada, I had memorable holidays as a teenager at the cottage on Lake Muskoka. Although I haven't seen much of Giles since he left England and neither of us was very good at corresponding, he always made an effort to visit when he came to England. And of course I am eternally grateful to him for being my best man nearly 40years ago!

We all miss him.

Bob (Merrill)

Bob Merrill - February 06 at 07:49 AM



“ From the wee lad with the moppish hair and the British accent looking much like Davy Jones of the Monkees. That’s how I remember Giles as a kid. He was enchanting for this young cottager.
Now I read that he was an employee of Spar where my Uncle Bill (Turner) worked for many years. I imagine they knew one another. Perhaps they are up there designing something revolutionary now.
My sincere condolences to all the family especially my golf pal Carol Anne. Gone far too soon.

Pam McDivitt - February 05 at 02:26 PM



“ This sad news arrives far too soon, but it reminds me of the pleasure of knowing Giles. Colleagues at Spar/MDA for many years, we conversed and bantered often, not least over our university years (a UMIST man!) – though at different times – in Manchester. We are all better for enjoying his amiability and are touched by his conviviality and zest for life. My profound sympathies to Ian and Carol Anne and (although we have not met) Caron and Giles’s family.

Sam Higson

Sam Higson - February 03 at 12:06 PM



“ Giles was a true honest gentleman with a heart of gold. He found ways to make you laugh even on those gloomy days. His smile always lit up the room. I will miss him. My heart goes out to you Caron.

Diane Fordham



Diane Fordham - February 02 at 04:22 PM



“ In reading these delightful obituaries, I feel I have met Giles and am rather fond of him, as I am of his sister, Carol Anne. May you all share in the delightful memories of Giles.
My sincere condolences, especially to you, Carol Anne.
Fondly, Martha Davis

Martha Davis - February 08 at 03:08 PM



“ Giles was such a bright personality in the office and left his encouraging mark on many of the younger engineers that he worked with. I will miss hearing his booming voice discussing his many SPAR/MDA adventures and the merits of barn conversion in the Dordogne. Thank-you to Caron and his family for lending him to us at MDA during the work week, my deepest condolences. He will be missed by many.

Lyndsey Poynter - February 02 at 04:11 PM



“ My condolences on behalf of myself, David, Kathleen, Ryan and Alex. Giles was always lovely to chat with. I will always remember him as cheerful, funny and a pleasure to speak with from the BBC days.

Kyra - February 02 at 10:02 AM

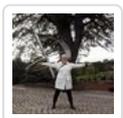


“ Giles was a kind and gentle man who had that quality of always making you feel good in his presence. A creative engineer with great practical skills, he helped make the world a better place. I was fortunate enough to first meet him and the Robinson family in the UK during the late 60's, and have so many fond memories. His appreciation of "great" music will always bring him to life for me when I hear certain songs and wonder: "Could I stump Giles with this one?" Probably not.

My deepest condolences to Caron and the family, especially Carol, Ian and Judith.

Gary

Gary Field - February 02 at 12:52 AM



“ Giles was a wonderful cottage neighbour. Kind, warm, and always with a smile. I loved the sound of his voice. Will always remember him visiting the Spence dock on a summer afternoon in Muskoka. We will all miss him. Thinking of all of the Robinson family.

Marian Spence

Marian Spence - January 31 at 04:54 PM



“ An office is a building where people come together to perform specific tasks to complete a project and deliver a product to a waiting customer. Fortunately the workplace environment at SPAR/MDA has never been one of those offices. We have always been "family" and with Giles's passing we mourn the loss of a family member and a patriarch. An individual who led by example and made the job "fun". I could depend on Giles stopping by my desk at least once a day to exchange pleasantries, a barb or two, but always and inevitably to strategize about how we could improve things within the family. I will miss him, his sense of humor and his joie de vivre. I'd like to extend my sympathies to Caron and to Giles's sister Carol-ann who I also had the pleasure of working with

Aldo

Aldo Campitelli - January 31 at 12:31 PM



“ My deepest condolences to Caron and all Giles's family. While I did not work closely with him at MDA, he was a treasured member of our BOFO (British Old Farts Outing) group. We would all meet up occasionally on a Friday lunchtime for a pint and the obligatory bacon burger at a local pub in Brampton. We would share reminiscences of bygone days in the UK and our retirement plans. Giles always had the most interesting stories. One of the last time the BOFOs met, Giles insisted on paying the whole tab because he had just completed the sale of his Barrie properties and could begin to put his plans into action. Sadly, he was not able to live out those retirement dreams.

Rob Ward - January 31 at 11:47 AM



“ What a beautiful soul, what a wonderful neighbour.
Giles, you will be missed.
My deepest sympathy goes to Caron and family
Cathy

Catharine Wilson - January 31 at 09:49 AM



“ I arranged to meet Giles in Chester during October half term in 1972. We clicked immediately and our lifelong friendship began. There followed Mapletops parties and motorcade safaris around the rural pubs of Cheshire and then those balmy summers beneath the Muskoka sun under the watchful eyes of his wonderfully kind, generous and, has to said, very tolerant and understanding parents. Together we managed to delay the onset of maturity and avoid responsibility until we eventually came of age. We never fell out or argued despite ribbing each other mercilessly. So pleased that Christine and I were included in what proved to be his Final Grand Tour of the UK and to have kept in regular contact since. I feel that a huge chunk of my life has fallen away but I shall use the scar that remains to remind me always of those special times with a very special friend.

‘Bach’

Nigel - January 31 at 09:18 AM



“ So well said!

bob - January 31 at 10:44 AM



“ No words can describe the amazing qualities Giles possessed -- if you met him for even 5 minutes you would instantly like him. He was a true gentleman in every sense of the word, one of the most thoughtful and kind individuals you could know. He was interested and interesting and had respect for everyone he met; the world is at a loss without him.

He was of course an extremely talented aerospace engineer, working on such high tech projects as the Canadarm. Yet, being the frugal person he was, he would never replace nor give up on anything if there was even a remote possibility of resurrecting it. Be it an old Chev truck, an antique pump organ or dilapidated lawn tractor, he would find a way to mend it. Whether sharing these endeavours (occasionally with beer in hand), boating, touring, or simply philosophizing over things in general, it was always fun and entertaining to be in Gi's company. Our adventures with Gi and Caron -- the many trips or those simple chats at the end of the driveway -- have been some of the best times ever.

We have lost a great friend but have made everlasting memories along the way.
We miss you Giles!
All our love, Brian and Deirdre



Brian & Deirdre Cullingford - January 30 at 10:25 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Steve Fisher - January 30 at 05:50 PM



“ My memory of a first date with Giles: He arrived in his inimitable sartorial elegance - long flapping shirt sleeves, great big long boots, which were always welded to his feet - whatever the temperature, and with his beloved black hearse waiting at the door. I was slightly nonplussed, but thought "what the heck!", looked into his kind eyes and off we went to the pub in grand Gig style!

Vanessa Doyle

Vanessa Doyle - January 30 at 12:38 PM



“ What a wonderful memory & so accurate!

Paul Fear - January 30 at 02:38 PM



“ A kind and soft spoken man. He didn't say too much, so when he did, you felt compelled to listen. He never hesitated to offer help, seemingly always at the right time. He offered gentle guidance in a way that didn't feel strong handed. He never judged, just listened. I feel deeply thankful to have had a meaningful conversation with him on Sunday night. I hope he knew how much he meant to all of us.

Uncle Gi, we will remember and miss you with fondest of thoughts.

Stephen Nuttall.

stephen nuttall - January 29 at 10:16 PM



“ On a hot day last summer, I was walking the dog when a car went past and honked. It was Giles driving his Jaguar convertible with the top down, Caron beside him. They both waved and smiled. That's the image of Giles I'm going to keep in my mind. He was a terrific neighbour and friend and we'll miss him greatly.

Jay - January 29 at 07:32 PM



“ Maybe a neighbour but really a friend. Giles, I will miss our conversations about bikes, cars and all things English. Our neighbourhood will not be the same. My deepest sympathy, Caron, for your huge loss. Chris

Chris - January 29 at 06:14 PM



“ As a ‘Space Engineer’, Giles understood about ‘black holes’ but they are nothing compared to the enormous void that he has left in all our lives, especially for Caron and all the family. Giles was simply the nicest, kindest, most genuine, modest yet highly capable gentleman (in the true sense of the word) you could ever wish to meet. We are honoured to have shared such a special friendship for 36 years and are broken hearted that our plans for retirement adventures together have been so cruelly dashed. At least we all have the wonderful memories of the laughter, love, parties, BBQs, 60s music and putting the world to rights with the occasional drink... Life will truly never be the same without him. With all our love, Paul, Jilly, Jamie, Dominic & Kirsty



Paul Fear - January 29 at 02:29 PM



“ So shocked and saddened to hear about Giles. He was one of the nicest guys you could ever meet. I worked with Giles for several years during the launch package preparations for the SPDM (“Dextre”). Giles was the technical expert on this project, and the team and I leaned on him heavily for his knowledge and advice. He was a great mentor, with the perfect mix of knowledge, wisdom, clarity of message, patience, and his great sense of humour. It’s so sad that Giles was taken far too soon, before he could fully enjoy his retirement. But he left us with lots of fond memories that will endure. My deepest condolences to Caron, Carol and his entire family.

Steve Adams



Steve Adams - January 29 at 11:59 AM



“ To Caron and Carol, our thoughts and prayers are with you today on the loss of a wonderful husband and very special brother. We will miss him in Muskoka, but know that a part of him passes overhead on the ISS every time we look to the stars on a beautiful Muskoka evening. Brad & Chris Burgess

Brad & Chris Burgess - January 29 at 10:18 AM



“ To Caron and family, My thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time. Giles was a big member of the MDA family - please know that Giles will be missed and remembered by many. Sending thoughts of comfort, strength and courage during this painful chapter of time to you and yours. Brenda

Brenda - January 28 at 06:37 PM



“ Giles had been my mentor since I joined MDA. Today most of what I know and learned, is mostly from Giles. This is a sad day and Giles you will be missed. I must say that he was camera shy as I have not been able to find many photos of him even though we worked together for years with us on SPDM. I found this particular photo of him interesting as he is staring at the SPDM Arm assembly with a curious look (kind of lost with words or a child admiring something). But the funny thing is he was the one who lead the build of this hardware. Please accept our deepest sympathy and condolences to his immediate and extended Family.
Mistry family



Ajay - January 28 at 05:29 PM



“ My deepest sympathies to Caron and the entire family. Giles will truly be missed by everyone who knew him. He was a true friend from the moment we met and I will always remember him with a smile. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. xoxo

Jo - January 28 at 05:00 PM



“ I am so very sorry.
He was a grand fellow and so very humble.
I thought he hats were stylish

Peggy - January 28 at 04:34 PM