



## Mr. Robert Suter

December 5, 2019

Bob was born in Lambton Mills (Toronto) Ontario on April 6, 1929. He was the 3rd son of Henry and Ethel Suter. They raised their tightknit family of 10 children (Harry, Stan, Betty, Joyce, Robert, Gladys, Doug, Bill, Barb and Jim) in Langstaff Ontario. That is where Bob met his wife Joan Eulalie (Nee Hicks) and they raised their family of 4 children (Sharon, David, Ken and Neil) in a little house they built at 88 Westwood Lane in Thornhill Ontario. Bob loved children and all the children he encountered remember the love and attention he showered on them. Bob is survived by his grandchildren: Jessica, Cassandra, Justin, Ryan, Austin, B.J., Steven, Cole, Erin, Ashleigh and Ashley and his great granddaughter, Surreal. As well, he is loved and remembered by his many nieces and nephews.

Bob and Joan's large and loving family all spent some of each summer at the cottage he and Joan built on Otter Lake near Parry Sound Ontario. The cottage started as a boat-in camping spot but they built it into their dream home and retired there on the lake in the middle of the woods.

Bob's trade was building and repairing surveying instruments. He learned his trade at Pocklington's and eventually started his own company, Suter Instruments Limited, a partnership that sold and repaired survey instruments.

Besides building 2 homes, vehicle maintenance and repair, fishing, boating, making maple syrup and a brief stint as an airplane pilot, Bob's hobbies included: woodworking, gardening and wine-making. He practiced his woodworking in fully outfitted wood working shops in his various garages and barns and he made and refinished many beautiful pieces. He loved nothing better than to share what he created and many of his friends and family have been the recipient of the fruits of his labor - something he built with his own hands like a treasured piece of furniture, a handful of tomatoes or a bottle of his home made wine.

Later in retirement, Bob and Joan moved to a home on Wellington Street in Barrie and then, when they were well into their retirement, they moved to the Victoria Village life leases where Bob was one of the resident gardeners, taught wine-making classes and acquired dart throwing skills.

Over the years, from Langstaff to Parry Sound, to Barrie, Bob and Joan enjoyed many close friendships that they treasured. Their Friday Night Pizza parties (with pizza pies

homemade by Bob) are warmly remembered by their friends and family.

In his 90th year Bob became ill, had to have surgery and spent 5 weeks in the hospital before he died there on December 5, 2019. As it always was in life, Bob's beloved wife Joan was by his side when he took his last breath.

# Comments

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“ Dear Aunt Joan, Sharon, David, Ken and Neil. I'm sorry for your loss; our loss. Thinking back over the years I remember spending a lot of time with your family, on Westwood Lane and at cottages, as well as various Suter family gatherings. I'm so close in age to Ken, with similar interests and having lived so close in the old neighbourhood we were best friends. One particular summer we worked on the roof of the main cottage on Otter Lake. I bunked in the cabin and Ken and I were up late every night listening to old time Rock. We were also up early each day to work in the hot sun up on the roof, with Uncle Bob guiding us and keeping us in line and working hard. At the end of each day when he decided we had accomplished a reasonable amount of work he'd say, "okay, let's go waterskiing." What an enjoyable time and great memory, two long haired kids in the seventies being pulled around behind the boat at the end of each day. It clearly gave Uncle Bob great pleasure, too. I'm sure we all miss those days gone by but not as much as we will miss your Husband, Father and our Uncle. He was a wonderful man. Neil, your tribute is so eloquent and obviously written from the heart. It's all true. Uncle Bob holds an irreplaceable part in my heart. My deepest sympathies. Kindest Regards, Scott (and Catherine) Suter.

**Scott Suter** - December 15, 2019 at 05:21 PM

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“ For many years the Suter Family Christmas party was held at Uncle Bob & Aunt Joan's, usually on December 26th. Many fantastic memories there. At a certain time in the evening, the kids would head for home with some of the parents and many of the adults carried on into the evening. I remember sometimes being allowed to stay for the adult party, since my birthday was the next day. Some of the antics and gift exchanged that went on are engrained in my memory! Uncle Bob and Aunt Joan were troopers and fantastic and loving hosts! Love to Aunt Joan & family - Uncle Bob definitely left his mark!

**Ellen Suter** - December 12, 2019 at 03:02 AM

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“ Dad

Thanks for life and teaching me how to live it:

For giving me encouragement to challenge all that life has to offer.

When I made bad decisions, thanks for teaching me how to be supportive and non-judgemental.

For teaching me about unconditional love. The kind of love that transcends social norms and generations.

Sharing. What is the point, without someone to share it with?

And acceptance. Acceptance, you taught, of all people.

For learning limits. Some battles are just not worth it, but some are swamps to cross.

And teaching me Patience. You were such a patient man.

Forgiveness. What is the point in harbouring hurt?

Happiness. For demonstrating that it is always better to smile and look on the Otter Lake side of things.

Reason and logical thought processes. For giving me the instruments that help me to find my way in this life.

Privilege. I was privileged enough explain to Dad that it was my privilege to be able to spend time with him when he needed it most. My way of saying thankyou for all that he had taught me.

And just lately, you taught me about pain. Pain that life can give and then the pain of loosing someone you love.

All of these qualities, in me to some degree, gifted by you, not through talk, but by doing. Either, me watching you, or you watching me. Every lesson, a story to be told, but that is a story being told by so many.

Dad always afforded me the opportunity to explore the wonderment of life, now from even further than ever before, but always right here in my heart, forever with me every step of the way.

Life lessons, taught by the most conscientious man, that I am proud to say, was my Dad.

**Neil Suter** - December 11, 2019 at 06:04 AM



“ Such a beautiful tribute! He was a true blessing! You are also blessed to have had him close for so many years and from afar forever

**Annette Watson** - December 11, 2019 at 09:29 AM



“ That made me cry, Neil. You were so very lucky to have him as your dad. He was a great man.

**robyn hamilton** - December 11, 2019 at 09:51 PM

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“ Bob lived a a very full life well with Joan. He cared about his close and extended family and keeping in touch with us all. I will miss him so much. Love to his close family, Joan. Sharon, David, Ken and Neil and my other brothers sisters, nieces and nephews at this sad time. Barb Tomkins

**Barbara Tomkins** - December 10, 2019 at 10:41 PM

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“ Bob spent his 25th birthday at our parents home on Essex Ave in Langstaff. George and I have many wonderful memories of Bob and my dear sister Joan. He truly was a wonderful father and friend to us all. We love you Bob

**Frances and George Mahan** - December 11, 2019 at 09:18 AM

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“ Uncle Bob gave me my first microscope, drafting set, antique survey transit and a newer one. Still have all of them and treasure them. He was so generous to my Mom and Dad , letting them build a cottage next to his, on his land. They enjoyed going up to Parry Sound so much. Words can never thank him and Aunt Joan for the joy they brought into our lives. May he rest in peace with his brothers and sister who went on before him.



**Jim Kirby** - December 10, 2019 at 08:13 PM

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“ Very sorry to hear this. Please accept our condolences. Ed & Deb

**Ed Tierney** - December 08, 2019 at 04:54 PM

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“ You were a bright light since my earliest memories. Our house, your house, Nana's house, your cottage, the many, many, many family parties. I am so sorry that you are gone. To his family, I'm so very sorry for your loss.

**Janine Suter-Millman** - December 06, 2019 at 10:03 PM