



Merritt Taylor

May 30, 1952 - August 19, 2024

TAYLOR, Merritt Ford - Otter Clan, Curve Lake First Nation. Anishinaabe Nini peacefully began his journey to the spirit world on August 19th, 2024 in his 73rd year. Best friend, partner and husband of 42 years to Mary Lynch-Taylor. Beloved father of Emma Taylor (Lionel Girard) and Dylan Taylor (Emily Joyce). Cherished and devoted Papa to Damien, Jordan, Lilah, and Sadie. He will also be missed by his sister-in-law Margaret Williams, many nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, cousins, friends, and former students.

Merritt was predeceased by his parents Henry and Olive (McCue), brothers Leo McCue (Eleanor), Billy (Joan), Bucky, Winston (Wilma), and sisters Agnes Rattew (Fred), Barbara Knott (Norman, Leon), and Liza Shilling (Johnny).

Merritt was a retired teacher who taught Anishinaabemowin (the Ojibwe language) for many years at Ridpath Elementary, Lakefield District Intermediate School, and Lakefield District Secondary School. He was generous in sharing his cultural knowledge as a fluent speaker, Elder, sweat lodge keeper, pipe carrier and conveyor of Anishinaabe-izhinikaazowinan. Merritt was also an avid golfer who was a 7 time league and club champion at Katchiwano Golf Course. He loved fishing, going to pow wows, visiting with friends and family, watching the Toronto Maple Leafs, and a good cup of tea.

The family is grateful for the caring dedication of Curve Lake health staff

Michelle, Hayley, Wes, Jen and Nicole, Dr. Mallory, the PRHC Dialysis team, the Hospice Peterborough team, and CBI nurses.

Humble in life, Merritt wanted simplicity at the end. A sacred fire has been lit at 1040 Mississauga St in Curve Lake. Relatives and friends are welcome to stop in and spend some time at the fire to honour his spirit until noon on Friday August 23rd, 2024 when it will be extinguished. Baamaa pii Anishinaabe Nini. Gdi zaagin.

Online condolences may be made at CommunityAlternative.ca

Tribute Wall

LM

“ *The community has lost a very special person. I learned so much from him and always enjoyed our chats, whether about golf or the state of our world. When speaking on the stage in the Lakefield gym, I will always remember how Merritt's presence and quiet speaking voice commanded the attention and respect of students, parents and teachers. With heartfelt condolences, Linda Murney*

Linda Murney - August 25, 2024 at 11:42 AM

MO

“ *Again my sincere condolences to Merritt's family and friends. I had hoped to be able to get out to the sacred fire before Friday but unfortunately I am unable to. Please know I'll sit with my pipe and add my prayers for Merritt. Asemaa down, pipe up. Baamaapii Merritt.*

Mike Ormsby - August 21, 2024 at 10:04 PM

MO

“ *My sincere condolences to the family and all friends. I was very saddened to hear of Merritt's passing. He will be missed by the entire community of Curve Lake. Chi Miigwech Merritt for all that you shared. It was always an honour to attend one of your sweats....to sit with you in a circle or pipe ceremony....to hear you share the culture and traditions....to hear you speak so eloquently in the language....your humbleness and powerful & positive example were just part of what made you a role model for so many. You will be missed. Baamaapii*

Mike Ormsby - August 21, 2024 at 10:00 PM

LV

“ It was with great sadness that I learned of Merritt's passing. My sincere condolences to Mary, his family and the Curve Lake Community. I taught with Merritt at Lakefield District Secondary School. In the late 1990s, we worked together to organize first nation's socials and raise awareness of the Residential School legacy. Working with Merritt was a privilege and a pleasure and I learned a lot from him. He will be deeply missed. Sincerely, Linda Vardy

Linda Vardy - August 21, 2024 at 01:55 PM

HA

“ Chi miigwetch Merritt. You will be so missed by the entire community. I will always be grateful for your kindness and openness. To Mary and the whole family, I'm so sorry for this immense loss to your family and the whole community. We are all better off for having known Merritt. As one of his many former students, I was treated with such kindness and generosity. Merritt did so much to support his culture and build stronger treaty relationships in the region. Many positive changes have come from all he shared. He will be so greatly missed. I will always hold him in my heart.

Hanah - August 21, 2024 at 11:43 AM

GE

“ So sorry for your loss Mary. Kind regards, George Rankin (Edna's son)

George - August 20, 2024 at 10:46 PM

TH

“ I send my deepest condolences to Mary and Family. I loved working at LDISS with Merritt. I am forever grateful for his wisdom, his teachings and his kindness. Miigwech Merritt for helping me learn. Sincerely, Tanys Howell

Tanys Howell - August 20, 2024 at 08:32 PM

BS

“ My condolences to you Mary & family. I have nothing but good memories of Merritt. All the positive & healing vibes to you all. An\u00fashiik, Brent Stonefish

Brent Stonefish - August 19, 2024 at 05:45 PM