

Life stories

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and people well loved
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Collector, friend saw world through different light

BY AMANDA PERSICO
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For Pete Rylott, life was about how you saw the light.

He was always surrounded by light – sunlight, black lights and Christmas lights.

“He always lit the way with a path and some flowers,” said Rylott’s long-time friend Kimberly Tower, who was with him when he died.

“He showed you a direction. Where you ended up going was your choice.”

Rylott, a former industrial painter, died earlier this year from liver disease. He was 60.

Rylott was very close with his mother, Kay.

When she died, Rylott started drinking and was eventually diagnosed with hepatitis C. Eventually the drink took him in.

While he experimented with drugs in his teens, alcohol was never his vice, Tower said.

“I’m still so mad about it,” she said. “It’s like he wanted to join her. There was no changing his mind.”

That was part of his extreme personality, she added.

As an avid collector of anything Coca-Cola, his kitchen was adorned with vintage memorabilia from floor to ceiling.

There are more than 10,000 tulips planted around his property.

‘HIPPIY TO THE FULLEST’

“Everything was to the extreme,” said Tower, looking around the old barn house where the two friends spent countless hours reminiscing.

“He liked Coca-Cola. So, there’s Coca-Cola on every wall,” she said. “There is not a window here where you don’t see a garden he planted.”

Over the years, Rylott planted thousands upon thousands of tulips around the property.

He made Mount Albert his home in the late 1980s when he purchased an old farmhouse and renovated it to showcase the building’s unique wood structure.

Rylott made it a point to get everything he needed locally, from food to prescriptions, car

parts to hockey cards.

He had a love of speed and lived life in the fast lane, Tower said.

“He was always buying brakes,” she said. “He got his license late in life. Maybe he was catching up.”

One of the few things kept from his childhood was his collection of black light psychedelic posters, which glow under ultraviolet light emitted from black lights.

Many know him as a hippy-type, Tower said.

“He was a hippy to the fullest,” Tower said.

“No hesitation. He was always peace and love.”

Most in town knew Rylott’s house by the black light glow at night or by his trail of Christmas lights wrapped around every tree during the wintertime.

Black lights weren’t the only lights he was fascinated by.

Every night, he watched the sunset over his eight-acre property. He even trimmed the trees on the far north side of his lot so he could have a good view of the sunset in the end.

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FORGIE, John Gordon (Gord)

Passed away after a brief illness at Uxbridge Cottage Hospital on January 29, 2016 at the age of 91. Beloved husband of the late Betty (nee Brown). Loving father of Beverley (Tom), Pat (Ralph) and Murray (Lisa). Proud grandfather of Gord (deceased), Scott (Sarah), Jeff (Jamieson), Sarah (Ryan), Jordan (Angela), Amanda (John), Martin (Jannelle) and great-grandfather of Chase, Ella, Everett, Trent, Ewan and Olivia.

Gord was an Air Force Veteran of WWII. He joined the Markham Lions club in 1959 and was active in the community through his association.

Friends and family will be received at the **DIXON-GARLAND FUNERAL HOME**, 166 Main Street N. (Markham Road), Markham on Friday, February 5, 2016 from 11 a.m. until time of Funeral Service in the Chapel at 1 p.m. Interment Elmwood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of your choice.

HOOVER, Maurice Edwin

Passed away peacefully, with family by his side, at Parkview Home, Stouffville on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 in his 94th year.

Loving husband of Lois Fretz for over 67 years. Dear father of Vern (Katherine), Miriam (Jim France), Ed, Betty (Ed Lehming). Much loved grandfather of Jennifer, Karen, Donald, Michael, Sarah, David, Clara, Anndee, Laura, Gregory, Andrea and great grandfather of Andrew, Megan, Katlyn, Lily, Asher and Georgia. Survived by sister Mary Shank and brother Willis (Joan). Predeceased by brother Ernest, twin brother Leonard and sisters Etta, Eva and Ada.

For further information visit
www.dixongarland.com
or call 905-294-2030.

BRECKON, Marie

Passed away peacefully at Markham Stouffville Hospital on Monday, February 1, 2016 in her 74th year.

Dear sister of Valma Mae Cuttiford and Lawrence. She will be missed by her nephews Keith (Melinda), Philip, niece Elaine Cuttiford and cousins Bill and Gary Breckon.

Friends will be received at the **Dixon Garland Funeral Home**, 166 Main Street North (Markham Rd.) Markham on Friday 3-5 & 7-9 p.m. Service in the chapel on Saturday at 11 a.m. Interment St. Philips Anglican Church Cemetery, Unionville.

If desired donations to Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated.

SCHMIDT, STANLEY

Peacefully passed away with his family by his side on January 31, 2016 at the Markham Stouffville Hospital in his 89th year.

Beloved and devoted husband of Helen for 65 years. Loving father of John and Pamela. Cherished grandpa of Jennifer, Derek, Melissa and great grandpa of Alyssa, Jenna and Makenzie.

A private family service has taken place.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the **O’Neill Funeral Home** (905)642-2855.

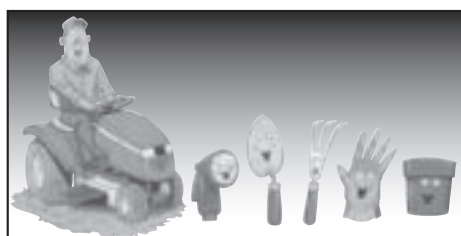
GILBERT, Shirley June



Passed away peacefully at Markham Stouffville Hospital on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 in her 88th year.

Beloved wife of the late Delbert. Dear mother of Bruce (Mary Lyn), Eric (Lisa), Diane (Brian) and the late Marie. Loving grandmother of Christopher (Chasity), Clarissa and great-grandmother of Brooklyn.

Friends were received at Dickson Garland Funeral on Sunday, January 31st and Interment was at Dickson Hill Cemetery on Monday, February 1st.



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