



Gone fishing

I've finished life's chores assigned to me,
So put me on a boat headed out to sea.

Please send along my fishing pole
For I've been invited to the fishin' hole.

Where every day is a day to fish,
to fill your heart with every wish,

Don't worry, or feel sad for me,
I'm fishin' with the Master of the sea.

We will miss each other for awhile,
But you will come and bring your smile.

That won't be long you will see,
Till we're together you and me,

To all of those that think of me,
Be happy as I go out to sea.

If others wonder, why I'm missin'
Just tell 'em I've gone fishin'.



When I go

When I go
don't learn to live without me
just learn to live with my love
in a different way.

And if you need to see me
close your eyes
or look in your shadow
when the sun shines
I'm there.

Sit with me in the quiet
and you will know
that I did not leave.

There is no leaving
when one soul is blended
with another.

When I go
don't learn to live without me
just learn to look for me
in the moments.

I will be there.



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

John Makar

MAY 12, 1948 –
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

Funeral Service

Friday, September 19, 2025

Wanless Community Hall, Wanless, Manitoba

2:00 pm

ORDER of SERVICE

WELCOME

OFFICIANT – Neil Hemauer

EULOGY – Alison Gilroy

SONG

‘Go Rest High On That Mountain’ – Vince Gill

Allyson’s TRIBUTE TO JOHN

SONG

‘Look At Us’ – Vince Gill

TRIBUTE SLIDE SHOW

FAMILY REFLECTIONS

LUNCH TO FOLLOW

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

**Tony Veloso, Brendan Gilroy, Ray Jacobson,
Addison Perry, Sid McKay, Travis Gren**

The family would like to thank everyone for attending the service today, as well as special thanks to Neil Hemauer and staff for the guidance and support, and all those individuals working behind the scenes.

Donations may be made in John’s memory to a charity of one’s choice.

OBITUARY

John Makar

MAY 12, 1948 –
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of John Makar of Wanless, Manitoba, who left us peacefully on September 8, 2025, at the age of 77, after courageously facing health challenges for the past three years.

John was born on May 12, 1948, in Chenois, France, to parents Thomas and Madeleine Makar. He was the eldest of eight children. In 1952, John immigrated to Canada aboard the Queen Mary with his parents and younger brother, settling first in Winnipegosis, Manitoba. In 1961, the family moved to the farm in the Horyn District. He attended school in Winnipegosis and Rorketon, Manitoba.

From his early years on the farm, John carried with him the values of hard work, resilience, and dedication. He applied these throughout his career, working with Midwest Drilling, REPAP, and Tolko, before establishing himself as a respected businessman. Retirement in 2006 allowed him and Allyson more time to focus on Manitoba Shiners and Big Bear Paw Outfitters, both successful businesses that earned him a strong reputation in the community. John was especially proud of his minnow camp, which was a dream fulfilled.

An avid outdoorsman, John enjoyed hunting, fishing, and trapping. Hunting alongside his grandson Brendan, was especially meaningful to him and created memories he held close to his heart. John spent hours in his yard and was proud of his garden and the bounty it would produce. He enjoyed visits with friends and family over a coffee and a hoot, or a good game of triominos or cards. John also treasured his trips to the Yukon, where time spent with his brother Wladimir often ended with a good story.

John was also blessed in love, sharing his life with three special women. He married young, and with Gail Poynting, he welcomed the joy of daughters Alison (1970) and Heather (1973). Though their paths parted, their bond as friends endured. John later married Alice Fortney, who brought with her sons Glen and Roger and a large extended family, whom John embraced. Many happy years were shared together before they went their separate ways. Finally, John found his forever love in Allyson Highfield. Together, they were like two peas in a pod, building not only two successful businesses but a full and joyful life. Their devotion to one another was unwavering, and Allyson’s loyalty was especially evident in the last three years as she lovingly cared for John throughout his health journey. They would have celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary this coming October 6.



John is survived by his beloved wife Allyson; daughters Alison (Brian) Gilroy, and Heather (Mike) Makar; stepchildren Patrick, Mike (Dana), Kim, and Crystal; grandchildren Kaili, Brendan, Sydney, Autumn, Samson, McKaila, Luca, Kevin, McKenzie, Brooke, Keanna, Cole, and Tyrone’s daughters, Cambria and Kera; siblings Dominique (Sherry) Makar, Lac du Bonnet, MB; Billy (Susie) Makar of Australia, Helen (John) Makar, Calgary, AB; Mary Anne (David) Dirks, Winnipeg, MB; Wladimir (Janice) Makar of Yukon Territory; Liz (Tony) Veloso, Wanless, MB; and Natalie Hrechka, Brandon, MB; brothers-in-law Clifford Sturby-Highfield, and Ted (Margaret) Highfield, sister-in-law Penny (Neil) Summers; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, Thomas and Madeleine Makar; father and mother in-law, Ronald and Hazel Highfield; brother-in-law Gordon Hrechka and chosen adopted son, Tyrone Nabess.

John was especially proud of his family, celebrating accomplishments or life events and often travelling to attend his children and grandchildren’s birthdays, graduations or sporting events, and he loved introducing them to friends with a smile on his face.

For John, family was not defined by blood alone, and because of this there are many special people who considered John a father, grandfather, or uncle figure. He met countless people in his lifetime, and no matter the circumstance, he was always willing to lend a hand or share in a good conversation.

John’s big heart extended also to his love of animals. He had a best friend and partner in Buster, Chopper, Snoopy, Patches and Nina . . . his face would light up when he saw them. As an onlooker you could feel the special kind of love between them. Buster was the best companion and proved his worth while hunting. Patches would look at John with his beautiful eyes and howl when he heard the song “The Joker” by Steve Miller Band. Finally, Nina brought joy to John during the last years, coming in and out when she felt the need. They shared some special times. He loved that girl.

John held strong beliefs, and if he chose to share them, you were in for a long and passionate one-sided conversation. He was also a man who lived life with passion, he had an intensity about him and a wicked temper that we all tried to sidestep and he was never one to back down from a fight. Countless stories tell of him stirring up chaos — whether in a school classroom, at a dance or party, or later in adulthood. He stood his ground and defended his pride, even with brute force when necessary. Stubborn, loud, and at times overbearing, he would not hesitate to give a verbal lashing to a government official if he felt they needed it. He also wasn’t a fan of law and order.

Yet, for all his fire and intensity, to those closest to him he was also a big teddy bear — fiercely loving and protective in his own way and deeply kind and generous. He never hesitated to offer a helping hand — even to complete strangers — simply because it was the right thing to do.

At a later date, John’s ashes will be interred by his family in a private ceremony at his beloved Minnow Camp.

*John will be lovingly remembered
and deeply missed.*