

Wake Services

January 13 & January 14, 2025
OCN Veterans Hall, Opaskwayak, MB

Funeral Service

Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 1:00p.m.
Church of the Redeemer, Opaskwayak, MB
Presider: Rev. Charlie Lathlin
Music Ministry: Russell Cook Memorial Singers

Interment

January 15, 2025
St. Michael and All Angels Cemetery,
Opaskwayak MB

PALLBEARERS

Allan Connelly, Chris "Chibber" Young, Darrell Cook,
Eddie Dick, Bill Hengemuehl, Bruce Whitehead,
Christian Sinclair, George Flett, Jack McLean, Jon Lathlin,
Malcolm Lathlin, Sonny Lathlin (Halcrow), William "Mac"
McGillivray, Byron Moore, and Rocky Chaboyer.

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Blair Young, Lazarus "Shrimpy" Asmus, JP Wilson,
Ruffy Moore, Perry Sinclair, Steve Merasty, all members of the
O.I.D Committee and all the King Trappers.



Hemauer Funeral Home, The Pas, Manitoba

www.hemauerfuneralhome.com

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In Loving Memory Of



Kirby James Sinclair

September 8, 1972 - December 24, 2024

Kirby James Sinclair of Opaskwayak Cree Nation passed away suddenly on Tuesday, December 24, 2024, at his residence on Opaskwayak Cree Nation at the age of 52. Kirby was born September 8, 1972, to Helen and James Sinclair at St. Anthony's Hospital in The Pas, MB.

Kirby attended Mary Duncan Elementary and Scott Bateman in his early years and then went on to Margaret Barbour Collegiate, graduating in 1993. During his school years, Kirby was a force of talent and humor, leaving his mark in the classroom, at the cafeteria, on the field, and even in the band room. He played the tuba with enthusiasm—until he noticed his cheeks growing, prompting a quick change from brass to sports. Kirby was a dedicated athlete, he played hockey as a youth, however soccer, was his true passion. As a proud member of the MBCI team, Kirby's crowning achievement came in 1989 when he helped secure the High School Provincial Championship. His school years were a blend of dedication, humor, and a love for sport, leaving a legacy of inspiration.

Kirby carried this love for soccer into his community, coaching the youth of OCN and inspiring them to greatness. Under his guidance, his team clinched a gold medal at the North American Indigenous Games in Minneapolis, Minnesota—a moment of pride for Kirby and the players.

Kirby held various jobs throughout his life, however the most rewarding was working at Joe A. Ross School as night watchman, where he was the babysitter to over 70 youth. He turned the school into a second home for countless kids, creating a safe space, full of laughter, according to many of OCN youth. Under his watchful (and often mischievous) eye, the youth became masters of "deadly cards" like Guts, honing their poker faces to legendary status. He also coached them in the "closest to the wall," where coins flew. It was known as Kirby's Casino, he made sure every kid felt they belonged.

As an avid trapper, Kirby participated in traditional events and demonstrated his skills during the Northern Manitoba Trapper Festival, in the Junior King Trapper and then in the King Trapper events. Kirby, along with his cousin Christian, also participated in the Trapper's Festival circuit, travelling to Prince Albert, Cormorant, Moose Lake, Cross Lake, and LaRonge, often meeting up with his friends Scott Wishart, Gerald McKenzie, David Ross, Franklin Carriere, and cousins Glen Scott and Jimmock Scott, just to name a few. Kirby honed his skills in everything from leg wrestling and axe throwing, to sawing and canoe packing. He could boil tea faster than you could say, "go" and his bannock was the tastiest. Kirby had a moose call so convincing it turned heads (and antlers). Goose calling, though, was where his theatrics really shone, often leaving audiences in stitches. These events weren't just about competition for Kirby—they were a celebration of friendship and fun. With his King Trapper brothers, he shared laughter and endless lighthearted teasing.

Kirby had a deep connection to the land and water, finding peace and purpose in the great outdoors. An avid fisherman, he loved nothing more than casting a line and sharing his passion with others, especially teaching his niece Blossom how to handle an outboard motor like a pro. Kirby took pride in passing on his traditional knowledge, often taking his brother Jeremy and other kids out on the land to hunt and trap. Kirby's greatest labor of love was helping build his dad's cabin, creating our family retreat. This cabin stands as a testament to his hard work and love for his family, and we will forever treasure the photos and memories of those special moments spent together.

Kirby was a former Chairperson of Opaskwayak Indian Days, devoting countless hours to planning the community's weeklong celebration of traditional events and

introducing new activities. He brought unforgettable moments to life, including the iconic Charlie Major concert, the most spectacular fireworks OCN has ever seen, and lively socials like the Saturday Social and the crowd-favorite Rez Fest. Kirby had a way of encouraging volunteerism during OICD, rallying the community with his enthusiasm, he certainly made sure everyone showed up. Kirby made volunteering feel like being part of something special.

Kirby was the go-to handyman. With a knack for solving problems, Kirby could get things running like new—or at least "good enough," as he'd say with a grin. With skills learned, he took immense pride in his work with Tepinak Construction, where his craftsmanship reflected his dedication and humor.

Kirby had so much love to share with his family and extended family. However, his most pride and joy were his sons, Isaiah and Josiah. He was forever grateful to Carleen for giving him two children that he would be able to share his love with. Kirby was a great dad to Isaiah and Josiah, often doing as much as he could with them from fishing to taking them on trips. Everyone would often hear Kirby tell his boys, that he loved them. Kirby proudest moments was when his children graduated from high school.

Kirby is survived by his children: Isaiah Sinclair and Josiah Sinclair; parents: James and Helen Sinclair; siblings: Shelley (Tucker), Tricia (Derek), Natasha and Jeremy; sisters: Laurie Chaboyer, Paywahpun Martin and Diana Delaronde; brothers: Christian Sinclair and George Flett; sister-in-law: Whitney Constant; brother-in-law Rod Spence nieces and nephews: Randi Blair, Raine, Reegan, Melodine, Harold, Ethan, Blossom, Charmaine and Braesyn and his baby Jeremiah; grandchildren: Rayden, Rylan, Rayce, Maisy and Vivian; Godchildren: Darian Young, Maria Flett, Sonny Chaboyer, Ivy Fitzner and Jonah Wishart, granny Louisa Buck and special friend: Julianna Cook and daughter Kaitlyn. Kirby is also survived by the families from Opaskwayak Cree Nation and The Pas: Sinclair, Whitehead, Halcrow, Lathlin, Dick, Young, Constant, Brown, Delaronde, Chaboyer, Beady, Kadachuk, Nelson, Ballantyne, Martin, Cook, Jackson, Stoltz, McGillivray; and Nechvatal (Auntie Bea); Moose Lake: Nasecapow, Sinclair, Ballantyne, Campbell, Lambert and McNabb; Cross Lake: Scott and McKay; Easterville: Lachose; Cranberry Portage: Carriere; Cormorant: Wishart; Cumberland House: Budd, Chaboyer, Flett, Buck, McKenzie and Lambert. Other family members too numerous to mention.

Kirby was predeceased by his grandparents: John and Jessie Whitehead, Eva Sinclair, Louisa and Ben Sinclair, Roger and Olive Carriere, aunts: Christina Halcrow, Margaret Whitehead, Kathy Whitehead, Joslin Jackson, uncle: Melvin "Chip" Whitehead; and cousins, Junior Halcrow, Elaine Cook, Francesca Whitehead, and Ayrton Kadachuk and his beloved pet, Duke. If we forgot any names, it was not intentional.

