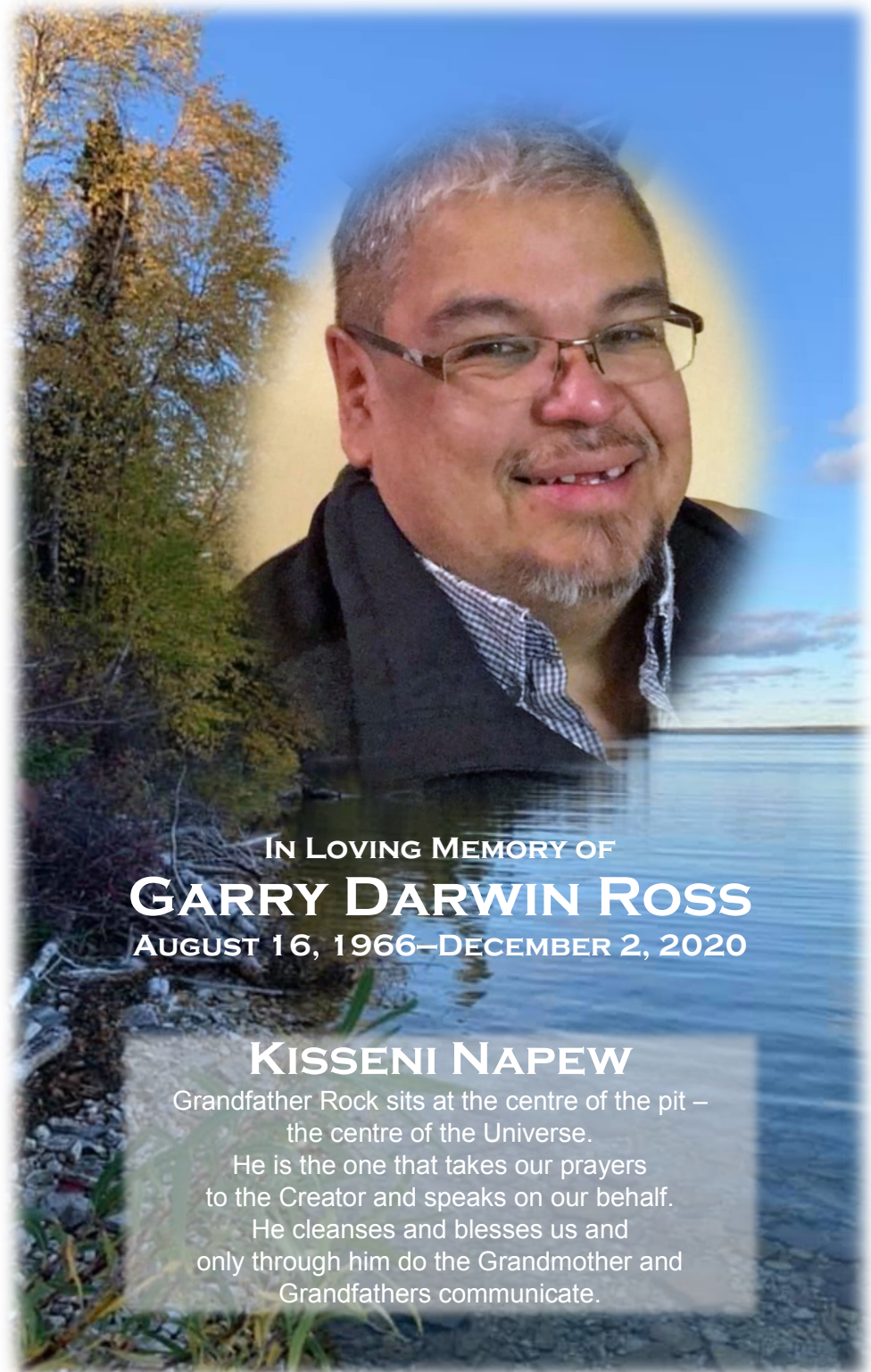




IN LOVING MEMORY OF
GARRY DARWIN ROSS
AUGUST 16, 1966–DECEMBER 2, 2020

KISSENI NAPEW

Grandfather Rock sits at the centre of the pit –
the centre of the Universe.

He is the one that takes our prayers
to the Creator and speaks on our behalf.

He cleanses and blesses us and
only through him do the Grandmother and
Grandfathers communicate.



Garry Darwin Ross was born in The Pas, Manitoba to Gertie and Peter Ross. He was raised in Moose Lake, Manitoba and the youngest of ten. Coming from a big family, he learned at a young age he wanted a family of his own.

Garry married the love of his life Rhonda, on July 22, 1988. He was blessed with three girls Tiar, Janna and Stefanie and three grandchildren Emily Blake, Eliza Brooke and Eric Bryce. He made it clear that he wanted to raise his family in a safe home and chose to do it in Opaskwayak (OCN). Because his family was the world to him, he made family travel around the world a priority. He often shared these travel stories with his students in hopes of inspiring them to see their life's potential.

Garry was a proud Cree man that was fluent in the language and had a great connection to the land. He was a knowledge carrier of Cree natural law and often shared the teachings with his family and those he loved. In his later years, Kissen Napew worked toward finding a connection to Creator, and became grounded in spirituality with strong beliefs in the power of prayer. He had a powerful name so he radiated that positive energy attracting people from all walks of life.

Garry had a big heart full of love and kindness and walked his talk with great humbleness. He did not like seeing people going without and so his generosity shone brightly. Whether someone needed a shoulder to lean on, some money for groceries or a ride around town, Garry would jump at the chance when people came to him. He especially loved making sure that the moose was always shared with many families in the community. This is just the kind of person Garry was for his entire family life.

During his high school years, he realized that he struggled with translating Cree to English and English to Cree. It frustrated him and he pulled away from school. However, Garry knew that education was key to providing a foundation for his family. When his daughters were old enough to not need him at home, he overcame his language barrier struggles and pushed himself to finish high school and that inspired him to start the BUNTEP program. In 2005 he graduated with his Bachelor of General Studies and Bachelor of Education.

In the fifteen years in his profession, he taught at the First Steps Aboriginal Head Start in Yorkton, Saskatchewan; Frontier Mosakahiken School in Moose Lake; and Joe. A Ross School in OCN. Mr. Ross spent his whole career with elementary and middle years and he influenced children from Kindergarten to Grade 6.

He took on many roles within the schools he worked at; open to switching grades and adapting to where he was needed including being a Cree teacher and even a gym teacher. Garry was honoured when the high

school boys asked him to be their coach. He always made time for coaching whether it was for volleyball, basketball, soccer and hockey.

The classroom isn't the only place Garry taught. He would teach new hunters the importance of protocols, hunter roles and sharing with others. He always had a different approach with the different individuals and groups he went with and packed his hunting bag to fit the occasion.

He loved to barbeque steak for his family and to watch his favourite sports teams on TV: no teams were better than the Pittsburgh Penguins and the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. He was so grateful that he went to watch both teams live in their home rink and stadium. This love for his teams fueled his innocent rivalry with Rueben and Maheg, 2 of his 3 sons-in-law, as they are Washington Capitals fans. It was always fun to watch them tease each other any chance they got.

When he wasn't watching hockey or football, he would be watching movies starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone. But his guilty pleasure was Maid in Manhattan with Jennifer Lopez. He loved seeing the "underdog" overcome their challenges and rise up in life.

Sadly, despite following all health protocols, in late October he contracted COVID-19 while doing what he loved to do; teaching. He and his wife battled the virus at home for the month of November. The last week of November, his family convinced him to go to The Pas hospital. Four days later he was flown to the Prairie Mountain Health Hospital in Brandon, Manitoba. During the early morning hours on December 2, 2020, Garry lost his battle.

He is survived by his wife Rhonda D. Ross; children: Stefanie Ross (Brandon Sinclair-Martin), Janna (Rueben) Personius, and Tiar (Stephen) Wheatle; grandchildren: Emily Blake, Eliza Brooke, Eric Bryce Personius; and Shanieka Wheatle, mother-in-law Irene Young; Godchildren; many close friends, many extended family in OCN too numerous to mention as well as his entire Moose Lake family that he was always there for when they needed him.

Garry was predeceased by: His parents, Peter and Gertie Ross; sister Christina Flett and nieces Theresa Flett and Dolores Flett; Clifford Lep Campbell (nephew); Don Dorion (father-in-law); Brian Dorion (brother-in-law); Charlie and Beatrice Wilson; and special friends Albert Junior Genaille and James "Horse" Ettawakapow.



We take comfort knowing that Garry is reunited with his Mom and Dad.

VIRTUAL FUNERAL SERVICE

Monday, December 14, 2020 1:00 pm

Chapel of Hemauer Funeral Home, The Pas, Manitoba

Presider: Rev. Gloria Lavallee

Eulogy: Jordan Audia

Music: Mike Jebb Jr., Herman Lathlin, Donald and Sandra Melnyk,
Norman Cook Sr., Garry Young

INTERMENT

Emmanuel Cemetery, Opaskwayak, Manitoba

USHERS: Gordie Bloomfield, James McLeod,
Edwin Jebb and William Shorty Lathlin

PALLBEARERS

Mike "Mikoots" Jebb Jr., Rueben Personius, Brandon Sinclair-Martin,
Morris Elderkin, Gordie Lathlin and David Kemmesies.

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

His students

Joe A Ross School teachers and co-workers

His BUNTEP friends

Russell Cook Memorial Singers

John McCallum

Jarvis Bloomfield

Taylor Bloomfield

Michael "Ricky" Cook

Christian Sinclair

Sonny Ballantyne

Doris Cook

Kevin Umpherville

Darcy Lathlin

Truman Campbell

John Paul Martin

Claude Friday

Norman "Murm" Ballantyne

Marcel Fontaine

Peter Swampy

Clifford "Biff" McDonnick

Michael "Mukoo" Constant

Bob Obey

David Dorion

Lorne Ross

All his hunting buddies



Hemauer Funeral Home, The Pas, Manitoba

www.hemauerfuneralhome.com

Order of Service

Virtual Funeral Service for Garry Darwin Ross

Monday, December 14, 2020 at 1:00 PM

Chapel of Hemauer Funeral Home - The Pas, Manitoba

Presider: Rev. Gloria Lavallee

Music: Russell Cook Memorial Singers

Opening Sentences – Page 589

Greeting

Hymn - English

The Collect

First Reading: Revelations 21: 1-7

Psalm 23

Hymn - Cree and English

Gospel Reading: John 14: 1-7

Sermon

Eulogy

Apostles' Creed – Page 592

Prayers of the People – Page 593

Lord's Prayer – Page 594

Commendation – Page 595

Blessing – Page 683

Hymn

Honour Tribute

Book of Alternative Services

Rev. Gloria Lavallee

Will the Circle Be Unbroken

Christian Sinclair

Mike Jebb Jr

Sweet By and By

Tiar Wheatle

Jordan Audia

Cree No. 7

Irene Young