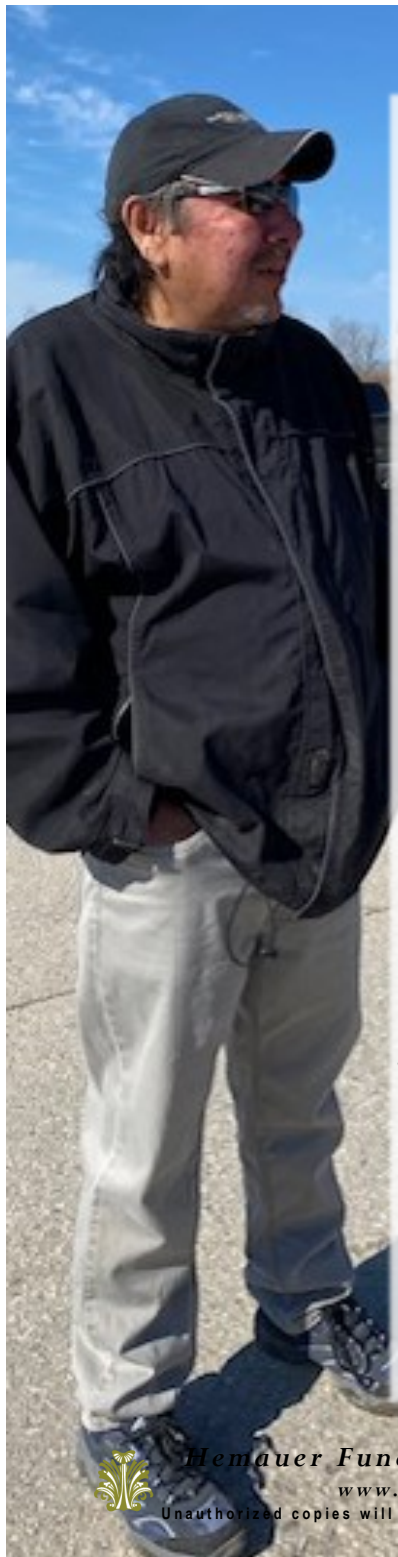




WAKE SERVICES
Thursday, January 18, 2024 at Chip's residence
25 Bignell Crescent, Opaskwayak, MB and
Friday, January 19, 2024 6:00 pm at the
Church of Messiah,
165 Riverside Drive, Opaskwayak, MB.

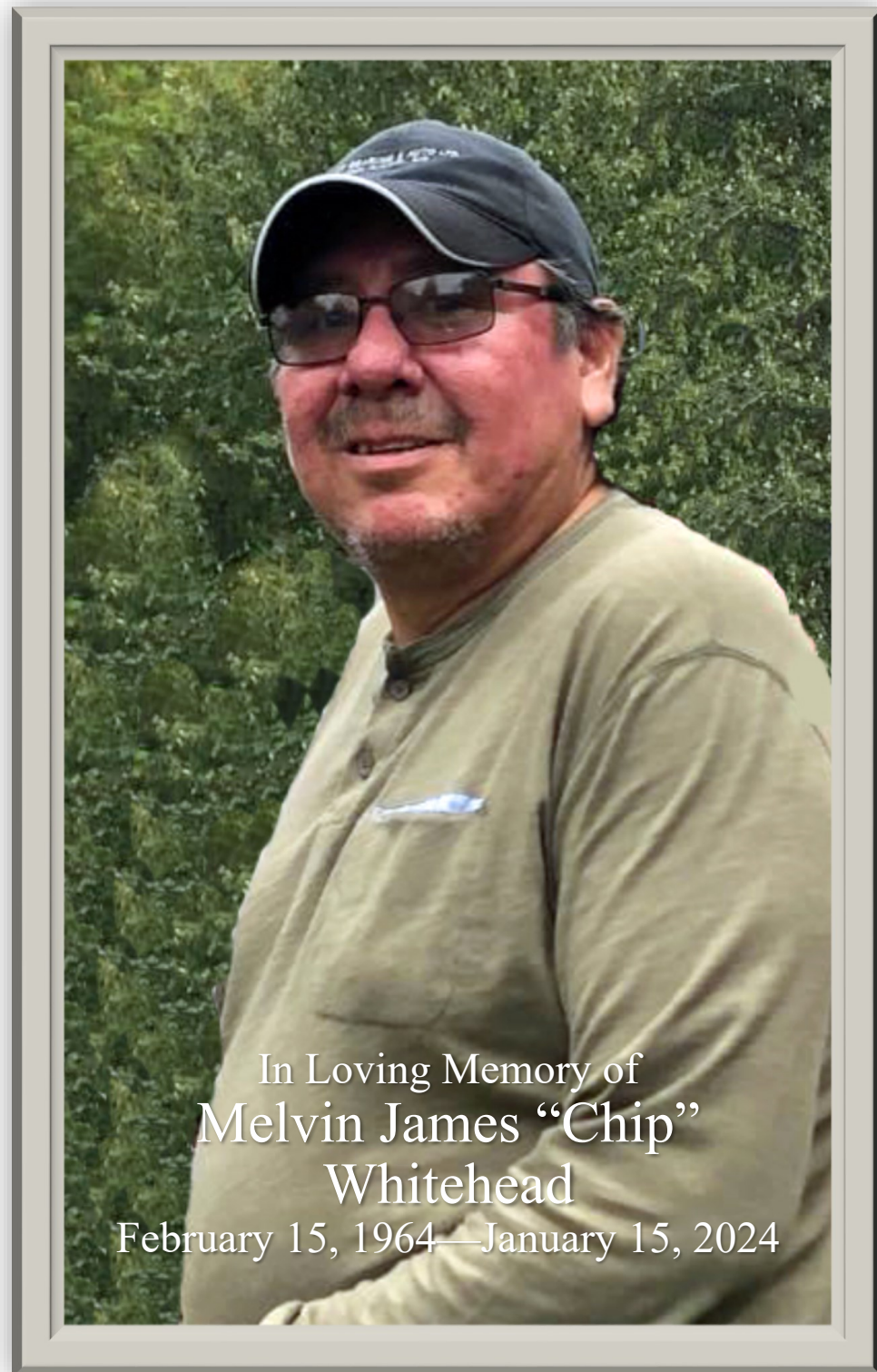
FUNERAL SERVICES
Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 1:00 pm
Church of the Messiah, Opaskwayak, MB
Presider: Ven. Rev. Lydia Constant and Gertie Young
Music Ministry: Russell Cook Memorial Singers

INTERMENT
Emmanuel Cemetery, Opaskwayak, MB

PALLBEARERS
Alvin Whitehead and all of Chip's nephews: Jarrod Whitehead, Duane Whitehead, Jeremy Sinclair, Bruce Whitehead, Harley Whitehead, Kyle Jackson, Darren Jackson, Cody Brown, John-Paul Martin, Quinton Martin, Marcus Constant, Rocky Jo Chaboyer, Chance Chaboyer, Kirby Sinclair, Charles Whitehead, Josh Brown, Scott Sinclair and Derek Dick.

HONORARY PALLBEARERS
Ken Crane, Joe Bear Constant, Spock, Doug Spence, Dennis Flett, Murphy, Lumoo, Wayne "Tubby Young", Ivan Lathlin, Darlene McKay, Norman "Stormy" Nelson, Ken Delaronde, Don Brown, James Sinclair, Moses Beardy, Barry Ranville, Stella Lathlin, Vern Campbell, Sonny Ballantyne, Ken A. Lathlin (Quiv), Marty Cowley, Dino Head, Eric Bignell, John "Blue Man" Sinclair, Glenn "Beatoes" Ranville, Barry Ranville, Cecilia Ross, Mike Ross, Lana Ross, Kenny Young, Adam Buck, Anders Young, Emile "Mo Mo" McGillivray, Barry Kadachuk, Leonard Paul Whitehead, Howard "Chick" Constant, John "Nasik" Nasekcapow, Peter George, Amelia "Chap" Dumas, Henry Ross, Don Melnyk, Wes "Banger" Cook, Mike McGillivray, Michael O'Rourke, and Russell Constant, and the rest of the coffee gang at the food court.

 **Hemaue Funeral Home, The Pas, Manitoba**
www.hemauefuneralhome.com
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Melvin James Whitehead also known as “Chip” of Opaskwayak Cree Nation passed away peacefully with his brother Alvin by his side on Monday, January 15, 2024, at the age of 59 years. Melvin was born on February 15, 1964 to John and Jessie Whitehead at St. Anthony’s Hospital in The Pas, Manitoba.

Chip was raised in Opaskwayak Cree Nation on Riverside and later moved to Bignell Crescent (little D) where he spent the majority of his life. Chip was the middle child and had the opportunity to grow up with all his siblings, Frank, Helen, Kathy, Millie, Olive,

Joslin, Margaret, Maureen, Elaine, Brenda and niece Bobbi-Faye. He became an uncle at the young age of seven, when his niece Shelley was born. He was proud owning the title of “Uncle” and took his role seriously and with great honor. His responsibility as uncle would carry on throughout his life.

In his younger years, Chip was athletic. He played soccer in the Mosquito Soccer League with the Mallards, his siblings shared memories of him playing at the old field where the McGillivray Care Home is now situated. He also played hardball with The Pas Braves being coached by the late Vernon Jebb. Chip loved playing sports; he was always seen playing with a big smile on his face.

Chip attended the Big Eddy Day School in his home community, and then Mary Duncan, Scott Bateman and Margaret Barbour Collegiate in the Town of The Pas. He then left the community to attend the University of Regina and later transferred to University of Lethbridge. Chip was known as a scholar. His friends and family best described him as smart. He was always watching the news, paying attention to the latest events happening throughout the world, then sharing this information with others. His smartness always impressed his nieces and nephews as he knew a lot of the answers in Jeopardy. Chip had a love for reading and researching, whether it was books, old documents, or newspapers. He would spend hours at The Pas Public Library. His siblings said he was just like dad. Chip always read the Winnipeg Free Press. One time he was seen hitchhiking with a water bottle in one hand and the Winnipeg Free Press in the other. He was good when he had his reading material.

Chip loved watching sports, especially hockey. His favorite team was the Montreal Canadiens at first but then the Winnipeg Jets grew on him. Recently he started taking a liking to the Edmonton Oilers, but we believe the nephews forced this upon him.

Uncle Chip had a special love for his nieces and nephews. He was very attentive, wanting to know updates of them and their children. He would share funny stories, or he would tease, this was his way of sharing his love and affection. Uncle Chip was concerned when it came to the children and grandchildren, he was protective and would ask for updates to make sure we were okay. Uncle Chip loved attending the annual Whitehead Family Volleyball Tournament at Sunset Beach, he knew how important it was for the family to gather and visit. Uncle Chip or “Ace” was famous for texting requests to his family knowing someone would jump for him.

Chip had many friends throughout his life. His friends described him as free-spirited and adventurous. In his younger years, he grew up with Glenn “Beatoes” Ranville on Riverside. They were inseparable, attending school and playing sports together. They remained best friends into their adulthood, Chip was even honored to be his best man at his wedding. Everyone wanted to be around

Chip as he was very social, making friends easily. When Chip and his friends were in their teens, they would be seen playing pool or driving around listening to old rock music. Chip became a close friend to his neighbor Brian “Moon” Spence spending time watching football and hockey and having cold ones. Sadly, Moon passed away in 2020. It must have been a great reunion between the two picking up where they left off. Chip was also compassionate always helping his friends and others. He would check on his neighbor Darlene McKay regularly to make sure she had food. He would also check in with elder Cecilia Ross to make sure she was okay. Chip will always be remembered as a generous and caring man.

Chip was never scared and was best known for always thinking ahead and having a plan. If things didn’t go as planned, then he had a plan B and so forth. Chip would call his siblings to give updates of his next move, or his change of plans. Chip would worry his sisters, but deep down they knew he would be okay.

Chip loved all his family. He would get updates of his cousins, the Budd’s, from Cumberland House, SK, the Carriere’s from Cranberry Portage and Winnipeg, and the Stonestand’s from Saskatchewan. He knew how important family was, this was instilled in him throughout his life by his parents.

Chip was best known for his famous signature saying “*Wa Wa Wa*”. Chip knew it was his time to leave the physical world, we were just not prepared losing him so soon. We have lost a great brother, uncle, grandpa, brother-in-law and friend, he will be sadly missed. We are now left with all his memories to cherish forever.

Chip is survived by his siblings, Frank Whitehead (Eleanor), Helen Sinclair (James), Millie Delaronde (Ken), Olive Beardy (Moses), Margaret Whitehead, Maureen Brown (Don), Elaine Kadachuk, Alvin Whitehead, Brenda Nelson, Bobbi-Faye Sinclair (Scott) and extended family Marcella McGillivray. Nieces and nephews: Bruce (Alicia), Charles (Amber), Charlotte and Harley; Shelley, Kirby, Tricia (Derek), Natasha and Jeremy; John Paul (Ginger), Paywahpun, Quinton (Tina) and Jessica (Brad); Sharon, Darren and Kyle; Dayna (Trent), Diana (Len), and Danielle (Darren); Laurie (Roger), Rocky, Chance and Maria; Josh (Stacey), Cody and Jenna (Jayden); Jarrod (Linnette), Duane (Brenna), Tiar (Justin); Alyssa (Zacc), Kaitlyn (Verg), Jaime; Giselle; grandchildren Destiny and Pawatum; granny Louisa Buck; and others too numerous to mention.

Chip was predeceased by his parents, John “Roger” and Jessie (Budd) Whitehead; his sisters, Kathleen Whitehead, Joslin Jackson, and Harriet Matilda; uncles, Peter and Bruce Whitehead; aunties, Olive Carriere, Lillian Spence, Jessie Sinclair; Myrtle Whitehead and Marie Budd; uncles, Robert and Frank Budd, Roger Carriere, Wilfred Spence, and Joe Sinclair; nephews, Ayrton Kadachuk, Ryder “Northwind” Armstrong, niece, Francesca Whitehead, cousins Jessie Budd, Raymond “Choom” Budd, and best friends Brian “Moon” Spence, Brian “Door Knob” Dorion and Greg Lathlin. If we forgot anyone it was not intentional.

