

### Garth HALL (cont.)

It was during this time Garth took on the role of Santa. His vast beard and round middle often had customers wondering. He played the part well, even acting as the Dawson Creek Mall's first ever Santa, dropped off by helicopter no less. After Zero News closed, Garth spent many years working for Shell. Friends of the Hall children fondly recall Garth teasing them about how their candy purchases would hurt their teeth. Many young customers of the Shell continued to believe they had met the real Santa.

During the Shell years, Garth joined Lois to work at the news office, delivering the newspapers around the Peace region. This occupied much of their work life in the last several decades. As the social being he was, Garth often took a full day's work to accomplish (as Lois put it) 2-3 hours of work. He loved to visit and tease the staff at each store he delivered to. He continued to represent Santa as one of his carrier's had a little brother who sat by the window screaming 'Santa' every week as he dropped bundles. Garth and Lois made sure to leave candy canes under the straps for the awestruck youngster.

It was during these news office years the first of the many grandchildren came into Garth's life. He enjoyed being 'Papa' and 'Santa Claus' to each of his precious grandchildren Johnathon, Kaylene, Quinn, Ashlyn, and Mason. All of the grandchildren were fortunate to spend much quality time getting to know and experience all that was Garth and his charming personality. No matter their age, Garth always had a way of bringing a smile to their faces.

In the last 10 years or so, Garth's battles with his physical wellness began to take their toll. He had struggles that did not allow him to continue working with the newspaper. As he spent more time at home and on bed rest, he took to Facebook, social forums, poker sites and continued to engage any and all who were willing, in heated dialogue and socializing. Garth was never one to shy away from telling it like it is and allowing others to do the same. Through his family and presence in the Dawson Creek community for many years, Garth was known to many for his golden heart, his willingness to help those in need, and always one to make others smile or laugh. Garth took great joy in saying those uncomfortable things that many others would shy away from. He beat to his own drum and would expect nothing less from anyone else. For those who are part of his family or lucky to call him a friend, they saw past some of these shenanigans and saw the Garth as a man who cared more for others than himself, a man who loved his family unconditionally, and a man who lived life on his own terms.

Garth passed away in Prince George, British Columbia, surrounded by his loved ones, at the age of 66. In our hearts and minds, he will always be with us.

Garth is survived by his loving wife of 41 years Lois Hall (nee LeMaitre); sons Oran (Erin) Hall, Tyler Hall, daughter Jennifer (Trent) Read; grandchildren Johnathon Farrell, Kaylene Farrell, Quinn Hall, Ashlyn Farrell, Mason Read; brothers Doug Hall and Don Hall; sisters Debbie (Dave) Naylor, Val Hall, and Kim (Greg Moore) Hall; as well as many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, Lee and Winifred Hall (nee Flavelle).

