

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

GARY JOHN ROBERTS

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Gary John Roberts of Nyanza in the early morning hours of Jan. 1, 2026. Gary was born on Nov. 16, 1946 in Weston, Ontario, but he found his true home when he & his partner purchased the property surrounding the intersection of Hwy 105 and the Cabot Trail in Nyanza, Victoria County in 1980. Gary loved Cape Breton. He loved to ski, dance, cook, garden, watch black & white movies, and take winter trips to Florida to watch the Blue Jays at their training camp.

He and his partner of 58 years, Earl, created & ran a group of businesses that included the Red Barn Gift Shop and Restaurant, the Silver Spruce Campground and Cottages, Baddeck Celtic Tartans and Gifts, the Silver Gull Gift Shop (Skir Dhu), The Admiral's House Gift Shop, and The Cabot Trail Trading Post (Margaree). While Earl had the business acumen, Gary provided the creative side for styling each venture, working out details and creating displays. In the early years, they made great friends among their neighbors and many good times were had. They employed multiple generations of families during their 45 years of business, through which they were able to educate and influence as well as create seasonal jobs. Quite often staff became like family to them, with relationships that lasted long after employment ended. Gary will be sincerely missed by present and past staff of "The Red Barn".

Gary was predeceased by his partner Earl Timmons, his parents John Gordon Roberts and Myrtle Irene Roberts; by siblings Noreen Cooke, Raymond Roberts, Bernice (Bird) Reid, Isobel Tilley; niece Betty Ann Lincoln, nephew David Reid. He is survived by his nieces Yvonne (Vonnice) Woodcox, Karen Ekman, Darlene Flynn and Shirley Reid. He is also survived by three further generations of nieces and nephews.

Gary has been cremated and a Celebration of Life will take place at a later date.