

E-Share

Living Skies Regional Council of
The United Church of Canada
February 8, 2021

Allan Shaw

June 28, 1931 - February 2, 2021



With Allan was born June 28, 1931 on a farm in Holland Township Grey County Ontario. Allan famously recounts the story that it was a Sunday afternoon and his dad said he found him in the cornfield beside the house!

He grew up in and around Holland Centre, attending school at Holland Centre public school and Markdale High School. After completing Grade 13 he was accepted for a teaching position at Mono Township near Orangeville, Ontario. In the 1950s he commuted between his father's farm and Moggie School where he taught while attending summer courses at Toronto Normal school to obtain a first class teaching certificate.

As a young man, Allan would work the summers away from the farm to raise extra money. Allan also had other interesting jobs, including working the rail lines for CPR as a section hand and as a milkman with Scenic City Dairy, Owen Sound. Allan also drove taxis, and had many funny stories to tell of those adventures.

In the fall of 1952 Allan began studies for his B.A. at Victoria University Toronto. During his three years of study he was a weekend supply minister at the Temple Hill Pastoral Charge in Grey County, Ontario. It was during this time he met and fell for a young woman who would be his future wife, Joan Patricia Smith. Allan graduated in 1955 from Emmanuel College with a Bachelor of Divinity, and was ordained to the United Church ministry on June 1, 1958.

Allan's first assignment brought him to the Saskatchewan prairies where he took on the Pastoral Charge in Landis. Three years later he relocated to the Pastoral Charge in Unity. He and Joan were married in 1961 and began their married life in Unity, spending nine happy years, and where their three children, Judy, Jeff and Sandi were born.

Allan had an interest in flying and during his years in Unity he obtained a private pilot's license. He volunteered and was accepted for the Alert Bay Marine Mission in British Columbia. The young family moved to Alert Bay and Allan flew float planes. This ministry was fundamental to the culturally diverse remote communities.

In 1972 the family returned to Saskatchewan and he accepted a call to the Nipawin and Codette Pastoral charge where he remained active for twenty-five + years. Allan was appointed to the rank of Captain in Chaplain Services of the Canadian Armed Forces where he received training for two Citabria gliders. In 1983 Allan turned his energies into counseling and registered in a clinical pastoral education course at North Dakota State Mental Hospital in Jamestown and included three months of training at University Hospital, Saskatoon. Allan returned to Nipawin as the School community counsellor and began private counseling out of his home as well as being a supply minister for Ridgedale, Alysham and surrounding communities.

Allan loved music. He mentions that highlights of his career included directing the Intermediate Choir in Unity for seven years. They sang in a number of music festivals for several churches and communities. Allan wouldn't hesitate to stop and play a few tunes every time he passed a piano. After he retired, he played keyboards for the famous 'No Name' band.

Allan also enjoyed coaching a young lady's hockey team in Nipawin which he said was a genuine reward for him. Allan had many other interests and anything he pursued he did with a passion. He loved photography and formed the Photography Club of Nipawin. He was involved with the Boy Scouts and told many stories of his adventures. He also was involved with and led many youth groups. He loved watching sports, including skating, curling, and of course the Saskatchewan Roughriders. In the later years he relished traveling to Manitoba to watch his grandson play a variety of sports and attend every Christmas concert.

Allan drew much pleasure from his volunteering – it was an integral part of his sense of community and his desire to help others. Some of the groups he was involved with include the Lions Club, the Rotary Club, and the Legion. Allan was made an honorary member of the Rotary Club, and was bestowed the Nipawin's Citizen of the Year in 1984.

Allan has spent a lifetime in the service of his ministry and his community. In recognition of his achievements, in 2020 Allan was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from St. Andrew's College at the University of Saskatchewan.

Allan's family was the most important thing in his life. He showed great interest in the pursuits and endeavors of his children and grandson. He was always there to support, give guidance, extol his wisdom and share his love.

Allan will be lovingly remembered and sadly missed by his wife, Joan, his daughters Judy (Tim), Sandi (Dean), his son Jeff; his grandson Blair, his sister Noreen (Ken) as well as generations of nieces, nephews, and cousins. He is pre-deceased by his parents Thomas Farley Shaw and Mary Ann McMullen, his brother Stewart and his niece Lynn, Alonzo and Hawthorne Smith, Gordon and Eveline Lennox, Ted Smith, Barb Lennox, and Bill Lennox.

Allan touched the hearts of everyone he met, and will be sadly missed.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions a private family service will be held Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. The service can be viewed on Facebook Live. To go there, search 'Bridging Waters' in Facebook. It will stream as soon as the service commences.

For those without Facebook, the video of the service will be available on the church's website approximately an hour after the service finishes. The church's website is <http://www.bridgingwaters.ca/>

Arrangements entrusted to Coventry Funeral Services.