



Bob Green

December 8, 1922 - November 9, 2018

Dr. Robert (Bob) Allen Green, DVM

“I do not take credit for any of the many things that have produced my good fortune. I must say that I am fortunate beyond belief. My parents, grandparents and many generations before them contributed to what and who I am today.” So said the late Dr. Robert Allen Green.

Bob died peacefully on Friday afternoon, November 9, 2018, at the C.E.E. Hospital in Petrolia, just twenty-nine days shy of his 96th birthday.

He was born on the family homestead farm near Herronton, Alberta on December 8, 1922. Bob was the third of four children born to hard working settlers, Hildred (Fox), formerly of Washburn, Maine and Thomas Green, from Blenheim, Ontario.

“Our parents Tom and Hildred had an eighteen-year age difference. This meant that they were not very close in years, and neither were they very close in other ways. However, they got close enough to have four children. They were pioneers and they persevered.”

“Cowboy Bob”, as he was known by his children, loved to tell stories of his idyllic childhood, spent roaming the wide open, rolling grasslands by the Arrowwood Creek and working on the mixed grains and livestock farm that his parents lovingly established. His family often said that he rode horseback before he could walk. Bob’s relentless perseverance in the face of adversity was derived from the hardworking pioneers who raised him.

The Green farm was a 1280 acre mixed grain and livestock farm producing hay, wheat, oats, barley, rye, crested wheat grass and clover, along with livestock and poultry. The livestock included horses for draft, wagon and saddle work, including transporting, herding, cutting and roping. There were cattle for both beef and dairy, hogs, sheep for wool and “spring lamb” production along with several hundred poultry.

Like many of his teenage friends, he became enamoured with the war. Bob quit high school and joined the RCAF, training in Edmonton, Claresholm and High River, Alberta. Bob was sent to England via the troop ship, the Queen Elizabeth. The Queen Elizabeth (with one of its largest loads of nearly fourteen thousand troops) weaved, unescorted across the Atlantic at twenty-two knots an hour, changing course every few minutes. The ship reached Greenock, Scotland in five days with an uneventful passage. He was trained

as a gunner and transferred to the Gun Crew (Blue Watch) on the troop ship and Bob would always claim later that he was glad that the voyage was uneventful because they would have been in dire straits with him as the gunner.

After finishing his advanced flying training, he was posted to a Navigational Flying Training School in Llandwrog, Wales as a staff pilot. There he trained flight crews and navigators for the rest of the war. This had a profound effect on his life as the life expectancy of the young warriors he trained was only twenty missions. He served his last year in the service as a Warrant Officer, 2nd Class. Although he was rated as a High Average Pilot, he did not want a rank that would require administrative writing since he coped with severe dyslexia all his life.

After the war, he returned to Canada and was offered employment as a commercial pilot. He chose to finish his high school education and then attended the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph. It was there that he met his classmate and life-long friend, Dr. Blake Graham. Blake took Bob to his family's farm near Oil Springs for holidays. In 1951, shortly after graduation, Dr. Bob Green moved to Petrolia, where he opened his veterinary practice and married Blake's sister, Margaret. They raised their family of four children and worked together in the clinic for more than 43 years before retiring.

Like his wife, Bob was an active part of the social and political fabric of the community. Over the years, he served in many capacities as: an elder in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church; a councillor for the Town of Petrolia; a director on the board of C.E.E. Hospital and its committees; an advisor to the Dean of the Ontario Veterinary College; an advisor to the Progressive Conservative Parties of Ontario and Canada; a member of the Senate for the University of Guelph and as an officer of his beloved St. Andrew's Society of Petrolia.

In the 1960's and '70's he led the charge to save the unoccupied and condemned Victoria Playhouse building and the Victorian streetscape of downtown Petrolia. Through the 1970's, Bob was a member of the Solid Waste Management Board for Ontario. The Board was instrumental in developing the concepts for the programs of municipal composting and "Blue Box" recycling.

After retiring, Bob and Marg enjoyed travelling, especially to visit family in both Alberta and New Zealand. Marg suffered a devastating stroke in 1996 and Bob then assumed the all-encompassing role of compassionate caregiver until she died.

Bob was a man of simple pleasures. He loved spending time on the land and hunting. He enjoyed gardening, tinkering with equipment, fine tuning his inventions and being at home with his family. He appreciated good food and a glass of wine. When his nieces and nephews visited, he liked to bring out a bottle of sambuca, also known on Chestnut Street as "truth serum", and the stories would commence.

Bob's wife of sixty years, Margaret (Graham) died in 2012. She and Bob are survived by their children: Cheryl (David) of London; Annie of Petrolia; Janice (Moy) of Port Alberni,

BC and Tom (Mary) of Corunna. He is the cherished grandpa of Alayna, Kelan, Jessica, Geoffrey, Moy Jr., Powa, Kaitlyn and Robyn as well as the loving great grandfather of Taten, Liam, Roan, Aidan, Johnson (late Sharon), Adam, Mianna and Elias. As well, he is the great, great grandfather of Alexis and Cataleya. Bob is also survived by many loving nephews and nieces and their families. He was predeceased by his sister Margaret (William) Donald, his brother John (Mabel) Green, his sister Doris (Richard) Percifield. He was also predeceased by Marg's brothers and their wives: Donald Graham; Blake (Barbara) Graham DVM; Bill (Mary) Graham.

Cremation has taken place and interment will be a private family service. A public celebration of Bob's life will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers, donations to the C.E.E. Hospital Foundation or the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated. Thanks to the staff of the C.E.E. Hospital for their care and to Dr. Danny Li for his years of T.L.C. Special thanks to Annie for all her years of care giving that made the last decade of being "as frisky as a fox" possible.

Godspeed "Cowboy Bob" on your journey home.

Comments



“ Cheryl, Annie, Jan, Tom and families.

We are so sorry to hear about your loss. Uncle Bob will be greatly missed. We always enjoyed his visits to the farm. Whether it was asking for his advice with the cows or sitting and listening to his stories he was forever entertaining. We really appreciate the visits he made with Annie the last few years. I know they meant a great deal to Mom and all of us.
Please know we are thinking of you and your entire family.

Love Rick and Leanne Percifield



Rick Percifield - November 20, 2018 at 11:22 PM



“ Vicky Pasut lit a candle in memory of Bob Green



vicky pasut - November 18, 2018 at 11:35 AM



“ Our Sincere Condolences to Dr.Green's family., His presence in our community will be missed.

Mayor McCharles, Council & Staff

Town of Petrolia - November 16, 2018 at 11:07 AM



“ Anne & Family:

I am so sorry for your loss. Dr. Green was so good to us, when we rented the Walnut Street house. I still think of him when I here a snow blower very early in the morning. All our thoughts, prayers and love.

Dave & Tiffanie Vancoillie - November 16, 2018 at 08:40 AM



“ Tom - I'm so sorry for your loss. My thoughts are with you and your family.

Nick Robichaud - November 14, 2018 at 09:02 PM



“ Dear Cheryl, Annie, Janice and Tom
What a truly inspirational man your father was. Your memories, and some of the tributes that have already been posted on this site should give you some comfort in time to come.
Trust you can all find some time to share a Sambuca together.
Love to all of you
Irene and Graham Mummery
Queensland

Irene Mummery - November 14, 2018 at 08:31 PM



“ Sincere sympathy to the entire green family. Dr. Green was a remarkable man. Hoping that all of your wonderful memories of him help ease the pain of your loss.
Kathy Mogk

Kathy Mogk - November 14, 2018 at 01:57 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the family. First met Bob when doing homecare for Marg. Both true down to earth loving people. I remember the day when Bob asked me if I would like to take some parsnips home with me.....I paused for a moment and said I've never had parsnips before. He replies "now hold on a minute I have some that I need to dig up and you take them home and cook them up, you won't be disappointed." To this day I have continued on with cooking them up. Every time when prepping them to cook or eating them I remember that day :) thank you. R.I.P Bob. Susan



Susan Maw - November 14, 2018 at 01:31 PM



“ We were so sorry to hear of your sad loss, and send our sympathies to all the family.
Nick & Dori (Lumley) Cotter

Dori Cotter - November 14, 2018 at 02:09 AM



“ Annie - My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. I was so pleased to have met your Dad and also your Mom years ago looking after her in the community. Your Dad was a trooper and nothing slowed him down
Take Care and always treasure those moments you had with him

Cynthia McNeil

Cynthia MacNeil - November 13, 2018 at 08:48 PM



“ Anne, I am so sorry to here that your dad has passed away. I enjoyed many conversations over the years when he was on the CEEH Board. He will be missed by many. You had wonderful parents. You and your family are in my prayers.
Sincerely,
Debbie Freeman

Debbie Freeman - November 13, 2018 at 07:09 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the family of Bob. He was a wonderful man, a great vet and Cherished member of the community. He will be sadly missed
Nancy Monteith

Nancy Monteith - November 13, 2018 at 06:34 PM



“ So sorry to hear about the Doc Anne. Many was the time I saw him hanging from his motorized chair at an extreme angle weeding the rental gardens and doing other chores. He still always called me 'Little Marty' What a great Guy! His middle name was relentless!

Martin Dillon - November 13, 2018 at 05:25 PM



“ Haha atleast he wasn't hanging out of a tree or off the roof Marty!!!

Annie - November 13, 2018 at 06:28 PM



“ Annie - so sorry to hear about your Dad. I always enjoyed waiting on him in the drugstore - he was such an easy-going kind man who never complained and insisted on his independence. You have been such an important part of your Dad keeping his independence and being able to live at home. May all your fond memories bring you comfort and peace at this difficult time!
Christine Maniuk Piggott

Christine Maniuk Piggott - November 13, 2018 at 05:02 PM



“ Thx Christine ... He was always "Frisky as a Fox" on Wednesdays meeting up with you gals ;)

Annie - November 13, 2018 at 07:29 PM



“ Dave and I r so sorry to hear about your father. He was a great vet. I have loads of memories. Our thoughts r with the family.

Dave & Pauline Mitchell - November 13, 2018 at 04:14 PM



“ Sincerest Sympathy to the entire family. I was very honored to have worked for Dr Green and Mrs Green, after I graduated from College. I learned so much during my 8 years there, as he was such an intelligent Veterinarian. I often credit Dr Green when I fix something, as Dr Green was a fellow that could fix anything, with anything. :) I often referred to his talents as a "MacGyvor" action , like the TV show in the 80s, where the lead actor could fix anything. I felt like a part of the family when I worked there, and consider myself blessed to have been apart of Dr Green's Veterinarian Office. My Condolences to the Entire Green Family. Linda

Linda Concannon - November 13, 2018 at 01:39 PM



“ Linda to him you were Family!

Annie - November 13, 2018 at 03:52 PM



“ My love and condolences with you all praying that you find yourselves surrounded with love, and support and feel the strength you each carry
yaa?akuks siiwá
(Love you all)
May he rest in power

Grace-Anne Thunder - November 13, 2018 at 12:37 PM



“ Thank you for your words Grace-Anne He is off on his New Journey now !

Annie - November 13, 2018 at 07:32 PM



“ To Annie, Jeff and Jessica,

So sorry to hear of your loss. He was a great veterinarian and person all round!
Thinking of you all at this difficult time.

Judy and Doug Kralk - November 13, 2018 at 12:13 PM



“ Ann we are so sorry for the loss of your Dad. You have earned a gold star for all you have done over the years. Condolences to all of the family. May the memories help you through your sorrow. Thinking of you . Nancy Hibbert and Ace Plaine

Nancy Hibbert - November 13, 2018 at 11:28 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Cowboy Bob



Annie Green - November 13, 2018 at 10:02 AM



“ You know this is my favorite photo of your Dad, it never fails to give me a smile. His smile says he is planning something fun. A fellow needs to always have his broomstick and plastic bags on hand. Just in case! Thanks for sharing this photo with us Annie! Have a safe and peaceful journey Dr. Bob.

Rhonda Brandon - November 13, 2018 at 05:15 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Cowboy Bob



Annie Green - November 13, 2018 at 09:59 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Cowboy Bob



Annie Green - November 13, 2018 at 09:54 AM



“ 3 files added to the album Cowboy Bob



Annie Green - November 13, 2018 at 09:52 AM