

John Latimer passed away after this issue of the Gull Rock Gazette had already been sent to print. John's obituary, which ran in newspapers across the country, follows:

JOHN ROBERT LATIMER 'CHIEF'



After 72 years of living life to its fullest, 'Chief' has passed away peacefully following a short battle with cancer at the Princess Margaret Hospital on Tuesday, April 22, 2003. Dearly beloved husband of 42 years to Peggy Macdonald. One of a kind father to David (Beth), Jeffrey (Larry) and Michael (Kelly). Enthusiastic (and patient) Gramps to Tori, Thomas, T.J. and Charlie. John was the son of Larry Latimer and Zetta (Greenwood) Latimer who predeceased him as did his only sister Marney Thomas. John saw a wonderful dream come true this year in co-founding Greenwood College School. Previously he was the Headmaster of Royal St. Georges College, acting chief of Protocol for the province of Ontario, very active in several political campaigns as well as a published author. In his dedication to young people, he served on many school boards, camping associations and youth charities. John's love and passion, in addition to his family, was Kilcoo Camp, the magical place where he grew up as a boy. The Chief and his partner and best friend Mrs. Chief owned and directed Kilcoo Camp for over 40 years. Visitations with the Latimer family began years ago and we hope will continue for many years to come. A celebration of John's life will take place at St. James Cathedral, 65 Church Street (at King Street), on Friday, April 25, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. As expressions of kindness, donations can be made to AMICI Camping Charity or Greenwood College School. (Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Newediuk Funeral Home, Kipling Chapel, 2104 Kipling Avenue (416) 745-7555).

We take great comfort in knowing 'He did it'.

Thanks for the day comrades.

The morning of April 25th was perfect - not a cloud in the sky. Close to 2,000 people squeezed into every pew, lined the side aisles, and stood shoulder to shoulder in every nook and cranny of St. James Cathedral to help celebrate the life of John Latimer as he would have wanted it: with an overpowering sense of community. So many turned out that more than 200 were unable to get inside the cathedral. What a beautiful and uplifting celebration it was! The pipe organ reverberated, the Royal St. George's College choir filled the cathedral with exquisite voice, and the attendees joined in hymn and prayer. Jeffrey Latimer welcomed those gathered. Michael Latimer spoke of all-important Latimer family traditions. Both spoke marvelously. Clive Chamberlain, Jay Haddad and John Kennedy each eloquently shared memories of Chief. The rafters of the cathedral were elevated by a powerful rendition of "When You Walk Through a Storm", beautifully soloed by Tim Magwood, and then joined the second time through by hundreds of rising voices. David Latimer spoke, as always, with equal proportions of insight, humour and emotion. "Maker of Men" closed what was a service befitting the man: grand, warm, funny, passionate, indelible.