

# Al Tufford



TUFFORD, John Alexander, known as Al, died suddenly on June 30, 2016 at the Stratford General Hospital of aggressive cancer in his 62nd year. Son of the late Marion and Noble Tufford and beloved brother of Ruth Ann of Toronto (Bob Omidji), Janice of Toronto (John Ford), Karen of Brantford (Robert Brehn), Owen of St Thomas (Margaret, nee Grant) and Stanley of Dutton (Laura nee McIntyre). He is survived by his nieces and nephews Curtis and Cameron (Brehn), Adele, Frances and Alex (Tufford), Kirsten, Hillary and Derek (Tufford), Taryn, Mackenzie and Teagan (Tufford) as well as his maternal aunt Hazel Bonner of Kitchener-Waterloo and his paternal aunt Beth Vince (Stanley Vince) of London. Al was a resident of Stratford, employed for the past 17 years as a stationary engineer with the Stratford Festival. An independent spirit, he ventured off the beaten path in pursuit of a wide range of interests. Keenly interested in Native and early pioneer settlements, he walked the grounds of southwestern Ontario tracing lost histories. He explored different cultures around the world, travelling in over 50 countries, on all continents. He was fascinated by all things from the earth – artifacts, gems, old coins – and knew a great deal about them. He was knowledgeable about indigenous and heritage fruit trees, and planted many of them. He grew up on a farm outside of St Thomas, leaving the area after high school to work on lakers on the St. Lawrence Seaway. He completed apprenticeship training as a cook at Conestoga College and earned his stationary engineer's licence working first in Toronto then Stratford. Al lived life on his own terms as a strong, independent individual, comfortable in his own company. He will be sorely missed by his friends, his community on Kemp Crescent and his family. Cremation has taken place. A private service will follow at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society through the W.G. Young Funeral Home, 430 Huron Street, Stratford. 519.271.7411 [www.wgyoungfuneralhome.com](http://www.wgyoungfuneralhome.com)