



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Ray Swann

OBITUARY



Ray Clifford Swann, 69, passed away peacefully on the morning of September 30, 2026. Ray is survived by his beloved wife and best friend of 33 years, Tricia Swann. He leaves behind his stepchildren, Julianne Panteluk, and her husband, Rich, and Steven Clark and his wife, Andrea. He was a proud grandparent and fondly known as G-Ray to his grandchildren, William and Charlie Panteluk, and Russell Clark.

He will be dearly missed by his brother, Gord Swann (Carolyn); his nephew, Josh Marks; his niece, Brandi Marks, and her daughter, Quinn. He is also fondly remembered by his brothers- and sisters-in-law, Ian and Linda Fleming, Rick Fleming, and Kathy and David Wood. Ray was predeceased by his parents, Garnet and Julia Swann; his sister, Barb Marks; and his sister-in-law, Eileen Fleming.

Ray was an adventurous man who thrived on challenges. Lured by the mountains, he and Tricia came to Alberta from Burlington, Ontario in 2001. In the 25 years since this move Canmore, Kelowna, and eventually Calgary were called home.

Ray enjoyed a rich and varied career in technology and computer programming. In his early years with The Hamilton Spectator, he developed a custom statistical program and wrote a sports column based on its data—a dream assignment that gave him the privilege of meeting several sports celebrities. Years later, after moving to Alberta, Ray returned to school at age 50 and graduated from DeVry University in Calgary with a degree in Electronics Engineering Technology. Ray and Tricia then moved to British Columbia to pursue new opportunities. As well, they took on an added adventure: purchasing a partially built home where they lived for ten years while completing the interior design, structure, and beautiful outdoor landscaping, complete with a waterfall.

Ray was also an avid pool player who had a lifelong passion for the wilderness. He loved snowshoeing, canoeing, camping, and hiking, and he was known for bringing frogs and fish indoors to live alongside the family cats. Ray loved to drive, so road trips were a regular event. He and Tricia toured across Canada and the U.S. with the radio blaring their theme song, "Born to Be Wild" by Steppenwolf, stopping at nearly every stream and town along the way.

Among his numerous interests, Ray was passionate about computer programming. He developed numerous systems ranging from health to weather tracking. His absolute favorites were his NFL/CFL pool website and a complex football system containing over 30 years of statistics.

Nearly ten years ago, Ray was diagnosed with stage 4 renal cancer with brain and bone metastases. He embraced every moment and kept planning for future adventures. When outdoor sports became too difficult physically, he turned his enthusiasm to video games—especially Wii Sports, where he happily challenged his grandsons and anyone else brave enough to play.

When long-distance travel was no longer possible, Ray and Tricia found a sanctuary at William Watson Lodge in the Kananaskis Mountains. Over four years, they vacationed there through all four seasons, surrounded by lakes and mountains. The lodge's accessible cabins and paved paths allowed Ray to navigate in his wheelchair and enjoy nature freely. It truly became a home away from home, and we are grateful to the William Watson Lodge Society for providing such an extraordinary, barrier-free haven.

Thank you to everyone for your support over the years. We feel blessed to have experienced such love and care from so many friends and skilled medical professionals over these 10 years. Ray's illness was long and extensive. Thankfully he was able to work on computers up to his last day. His passing was quick, and he was immersed in music and surrounded by family that he loved so much.

Ray's wish was for his family to take a hike in the mountains in his memory, and for his friends to honor him by enjoying an activity that he loved so deeply.

In place of flowers, donations may be made in Ray's memory to the William Watson Lodge Society, a non-profit organization providing year-round barrier-free lodging and seasonal camping for persons with disabilities, seniors, and their families."

