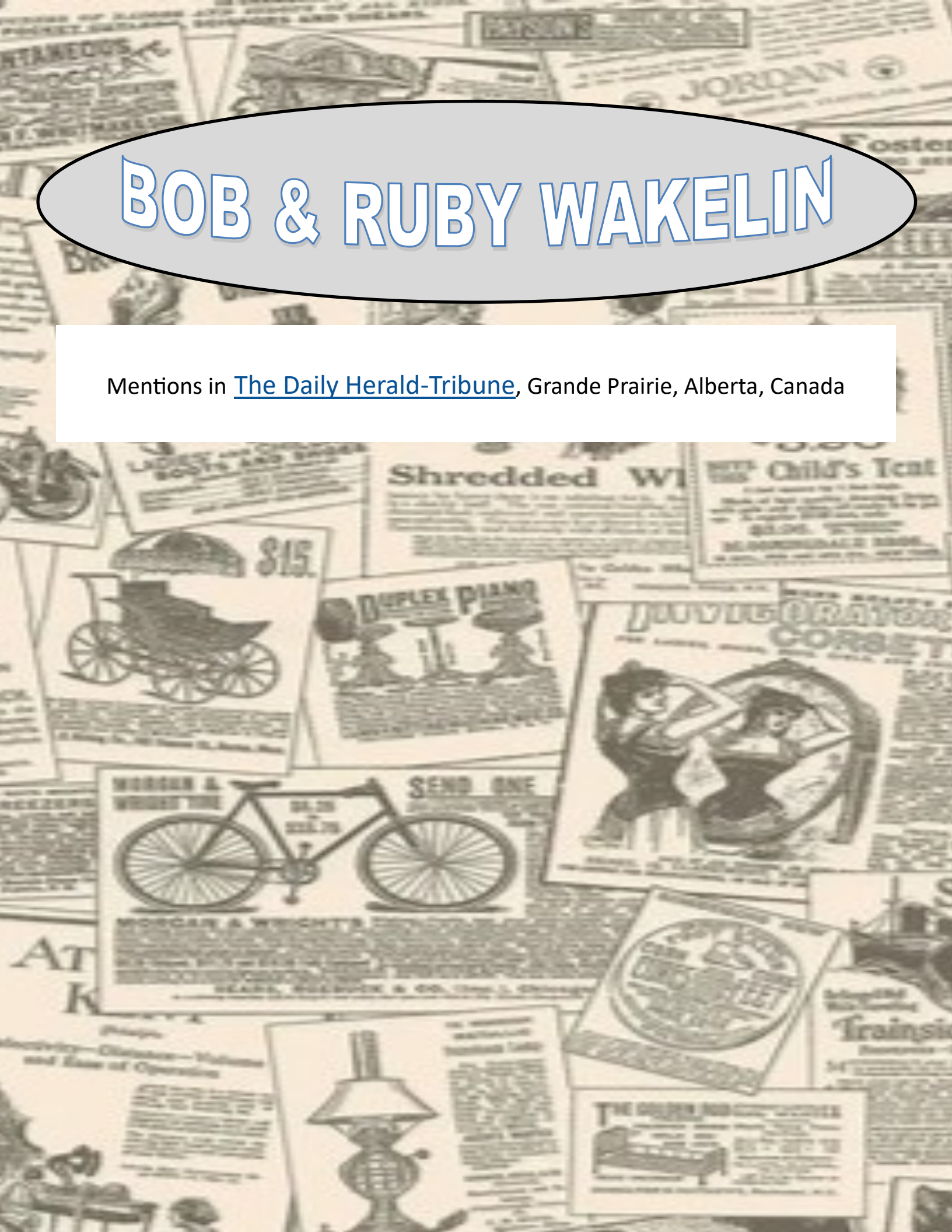


BOB & RUBY WAKELIN

Mentions in [The Daily Herald-Tribune](#), Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada



births

Recent births in the Grande Prairie Municipal Hospital:

BEATTIE — Born to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Beattie, Box 423, DeBolt, Aug. 30, a boy;

INNIS — Born to Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Innis, Box 327, Grande Prairie, Aug. 28, a girl;

KOZAK — Born to Mr. and Mrs. Ben Kozak, 10020-87 Ave., Aug. 27, a boy;

KWASNIEWSKI — Born to Mr. and Mrs. William Kwasniewski, 9807-108 Ave., Aug. 30, a girl;

LABOSSIERE — Born to Mr. and Mrs. Danny LaBossiere, 230 Vista Village, G.P., Aug. 29, a boy;

THORNE — Born to Mr. and Mrs. David Thorne, Box 16, Clairmont, Aug. 24, a boy;

VAN DOUZEE — Born to Mr. and Mrs. Berton Van Douzee, 10204-106 Ave., Aug. 25, a girl;

WAKELIN — Born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wakelin, RR 1, Grovedale, Aug. 27, a girl.



Bus drivers awards

Two school bus drivers will represent the Grande Prairie area at provincial school bus drivers' competitions June 5-6 in Red Deer. Ruby Wakelin (left) driving for the County of Grande Prairie and Frances Sunderman of Swan Buses

will represent the area at the first annual school bus road-e-o sponsored by the Alberta Safety Council. Third in a field of 26 contestants was George Lowen of the county. Driver Wakelin has been operating a bus for four years while Sunderman has been driving for two years. The drivers had to complete a written exam, personal interview and vehicle inspection, and complete nine tasks with a school bus.

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Driving bus good way to meet folk

By BRIAN GIEBELHAUS
Herald-Tribune staff

Driving a bus is like being a hairdresser or a bartender, people confide all kinds of things to you.

Grande Prairie Transit bus driver Ruby Wakelin likes driving buses because of the people she meets every day on her route.

"I like to help people," says Wakelin, a born-again Christian. "The bus is a good place to do that."

Wakelin started her driving career 10 years ago, with the help of Anne Trarback, driving school buses in the Grovedale area.

"There was one other woman bus driver in the area that I admired," says Wakelin. "So I got her to teach me how to drive."

It only took Wakelin two tries to get her driver's license.

"The first time my back-up was not right."

During the test the prospective driver has to show he can back a bus up around both a left and right 90-degree turn.

Difficulties with backing up have continued to haunt Wakelin while competing in bus rodeos.

"I have to show these male bus drivers that I can drive just as good as they can," says Wakelin. "I get so nervous up that I can't do it."

"Fortunately we don't have to back up transit buses."

The scariest thing that ever happened to Wakelin on her school bus involved an eight-year-old girl with long blonde hair.

"She was standing too close to the fan on the dashboard when her hair got caught in the fan," exclaims Wakelin. "I had to cut part of her hair off to free her. She was too scared to worry about her hair."

Wakelin made the transformation from school bus driver to transit bus driver four-and-a-half years ago.

"I was part of the second wave of bus drivers that got hired on six months after Grande Prairie first started using transit buses."

It took some time for Grande Prairie drivers to get used to their new transit system that first winter.

"When we stopped at the railroad tracks to check for trains, drivers would run into the back of the buses. It took people awhile to get used to having the buses on the street."

That is not the only external problem Wakelin and her fellow bus drivers have to deal with in the winter time.

"One winter I got stuck while trying to drive over a pile of snow left by a snow removal grader."

With luck, the driver of the grader had seen what happened and pulled the bus free.

For bus drivers as well as other drivers there is a difference between winter and summer driving.

"Winter slows the buses down a lot," says Wakelin. "We have to take it a lot easier and leave more stopping room."

"Driving a bus in the city all the time gives you a chance to exercise your patience. Many people don't know or just don't obey traffic rules. I wish everyone in Grande Prairie would take a defensive driving course."

Each day you will find Wakelin driving the afternoon shift.

"I drive bus on the afternoon shift so I can have my morning free for my stuff."

Each week Wakelin spends time as a volunteer for Odyssey House, Grande Prairie's women's shelter.

"I do counselling and help the women attempt to set up their own lives."

Sunday morning you will find Wakelin teaching Sunday school at the Grovedale Baptist Church.

With all of these activities and being mother to five children ages 14 to 26, having five grandchildren and a foster parent to a 17-year-old girl, Wakelin keeps busy.



Bus driver Ruby Wakelin

"Whenever I have time I like to fit in some swimming and aerobic classes."

Within the next five years or so, Wakelin would like to get a motorhome and travel all over Canada with her husband.

"I would like to see both the east and west coasts."

In the 15 years she has lived in Alberta she has never been to the west coast. And she never made it to the east coast even though she lived in Ontario before moving to Alberta.

And who will do all of the driving during these future travels?

"We will have to share."

Transit operators honored...



The City of Grande Prairie next week salutes the 13 men and women who keep Grande Prairie on the move with **Transit in Motion Week**, an event to honor all of the city's transit operators. Next Wednesday is **Transit Operators Appreciation Day**, so if you're on the bus that day, take a moment to say thank-you to the driver. Transit in Motion Week is also good for the

public because next Tuesday is "free day" when anyone can ride the buses anywhere without charge. The mayor and members of city council will also be riding around that day, handing out free books of transit tickets to some lucky riders. And the city holds a luncheon for the transit operators on Sunday, Nov. 6. It's the city's way of saying thanks for a job well done.

In photo above are the 13 members of the Grande Prairie Transit service, six of whom have been with the operation since it began in 1981: (l-r, front row) **Bob Thew, Floyd Graham, Tony Klassen, John Remple and Kay**

Gilliss, and (l-r, standing) Stan Seclore, Myrna Hannah, Albert Hannah, Joe Sempowich, Darcy Schalin, Ruby Wakelin and Vic Edey. Not present when photo was taken is **Andy Konderski.**

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Women meet to share about needs

- Place: Peace Mennonite Church
9324-108 Ave.
Grande Prairie
- Time: Monday nights at 7:30 p.m.

We are a support and prayer group. Our group is interdenominational. Please feel free to come and join us regardless of the Christian denomination you may belong to.

When we meet together we share about our needs. We study God's word and pray for one another.

When our group first began we each took our turn having the meetings in our homes. As our group grew larger we decided to fellowship together at the Peace Mennonite Church.

When we started, there were four to five ladies, and now we have about 10 to 12 ladies who attend regularly.

If you feel lonely and think no one cares, remember that God cares and so do we. We all have problems and hurt in some area of our lives, and in our group you can feel free to share if you wish.

Sometimes we cry and let the Lord Jesus care and guide us through our pain. The sharing that we have amongst our group is confidential, therefore what is said at our meetings stays there.

If you feel you would like to fellowship with us, please feel free to come and join us on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. Children are more than welcome.



Coffee is served during our fellowship together.

If you would like more information about our group, please feel free to call any of the ladies listed below:

Ruby Wakelin: 538-1617
Celeste Wiseman: 538-0973
Fern Dubeck: 539-9139
Irene Bisson: 532-7037
Shelly Ranson: 539-0839
Bev Slinger: 539-4518
Deb De Souza: 539-7123
Joanne, Linda and Rosemary are also

members of our group.

We hope to see you soon. May God

bless you during this Christmas season and always.

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The Peace Wapiti School Board No. 33



Would like to thank the people that volunteered to work with the bus transportation during the Canada Winter Games. Special thanks to those pictured above for their long hours in organizing, scheduling and dispatching. Left to right Joanne Peter, Roland LaCroix, Maurice Powell and Ron Andres. Thanks also to all the volunteers listed below. These people helped to make the Canada Winter Games a success.

Don Ames	Russell Ames	Trudy Andres	Laurent Aubin
Sheila Aubin	Ron Aujala	Brad Balderson	Susan Beck
Doreen Bezovie	Ed Blaszcak	May Blew	Gladys Bolin
Tony Bonise	Laurie Bowen	Sharri Bowen	Doreen Boyd
Bev Brace	Louise Braumberger	George Brown	Courtez Coney
Betty-May Court	Laura Crowell	Darlene Dautel	Gordon Dick
Norma Dombrova	Darrek Dorscheid	Charlotte Eady	Gloria Edgar
Steve Ewert	Bennie Fedchuk	Gwen Fedchuk	Bruce Fenton
Helen Fenton	Shelley Foley	James Fraser	Michelle Gardinier
Conrad Gerk	Elaine Giesbrecht	Murray Gillespie	Brenda Glenn
Ted Gobin	Jack Gould	Jack Goy	Wendy Grendys
Al Hallick	Hector Hamel	Donna Hansen	Ron Hansen
Tyler Hansen	Ike Hartman	Brad Haukedal	Jean Haukedal
Phil Haukedal	Gordon Heasler	Ed Holland	Margaret Hommy
Gilbert Huber	Tony Heuther	Norman Isley	Helen Kellogg
Jim Kellogg	Bob Kennedy	John Kirby	Brent Larsen
Janet Laverick	Joy Lawton	Irene Lee	Bob Leech
Ginny Lieverse	Kelly Lightfoot	Art Link	Cindy Littleton
Harold Ljuden	Marg Ljuden	Gloria Lock	Linda Lock
Merle Logan	Isabelle Longmore	Ruth Lowen	Lori Lubeck
Ray Marcoux	Marie Martin	Marge McAusland	Wayne McBean
Alice McKay	Tom McKay	Rose Mellon	Sandy Metcalf
Colleen Napper	Lori Nellis	Cecil Nichol	Rebecca Ottahal
Doreen Parker	Brenda Patterson	Cheryl Patterson	Cindy Patterson
Craig Patterson	Danny Patterson	Lannie Patterson	David Peters
Keith Peters	Vanessa Peters	William Peters	Gordon Pfau
Hugh Powell	Sharon Preston	Mary Ranestad	Art Rigby
Penny Robinson	Valerie Rowney	Doug Russell	Evelyn Rycroft
Doreen Sandboe	Marg Scarrow	Cam Smith	Chester Sorgaard
Tom Sorken	Judy Souther	Diane Spiers	James Stearns
Francis Sunderman	Mary Sutherland	Misty Sutherland	Ruth Sylvester
Jim Thompson	Doreen Thomsen	Ann Trarback	Mike Turner
Darlene VanNieuwkerk	Gayle Waayenberg	Lana Wagner	Ruby Wakelin
Charolette Waldorf	Betty Weegar	Carly Weissenborn	Nancy Weissenborn
Fern White	Jean Wilson	Cliff Yanishewski	Louise Young
Hilda Zylstra			

"Thank you everyone - The Board is proud of you"



Ruby Alice Wakelin 58, of Grande Prairie



Ruby Alice Wakelin, longtime resident of Grande Prairie passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 23 2000 at the age of 58 years.

Ruby lived in the Grovedale and Grande Prairie area for 30 years and drove school bus for many years then city transit buses, and then as a driver examiner before she was forced to retire due to her illness in 1997.

During her life Ruby was a wonderful, giving friend to everyone she knew as well as a loving wife, mother and grandmother.

Ruby was born October 29, 1941 in Port Perry, Ontario to Elgin and Jeanette Hutchinson.

Left to cherish her life and memory are husband Robert "Bob" Wakelin of Grande Prairie, her children Marie Laking (Jim Shewchuk) of Grande Prairie, Suzanne Quinn (Bert Picard) of Grande Prairie, Bonnie (Kirk) Quick of Sexsmith, Tom Wakelin of Grande Prairie, and Cathy (Layne) Delaney of Grande Prairie, her grandchildren; Clayton, Michelle, Tyler, Sayre, Jeslene, Cammi, Lise, Kyle, Raymond, Lance, Alex and Mackenzie, as well as her sister Elenore Bradley of Smithfalls, Ontario and very close friend Dorothy Thompson.

Ruby was predeceased by her parents, she leaves behind many nieces and nephews, as well as numerous friends and neighbors who will remember her.

Donations in Ruby's memory can be made to the Kidney foundation.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, January 27, 2000 at 1:30 p.m. from Oliver's Grande Prairie Funeral Chapel (10005-107 ave) Grande Prairie with Rev. Vern Begalke officiating.

**OLIVER'S GRANDE PRAIRIE
FUNERAL CHAPEL
& CREMATORIUM**
10005-107 Ave., Grande Prairie
Telephone 532-2929

Robert (Bob) Wakelin 62, of Grande Prairie



On Friday January 12, 2001, Bob Wakelin longtime resident of Grovedale and Grande Prairie area, passed away peacefully surrounded by his

family at his bedside at the Q.E. II Hospital, Grande Prairie at the age of 62 years. He was born February 14, 1938 at Toronto, Ontario and moved to the Grande Prairie area with his family in 1970.

Bob has done many things over the years, he was a heavy equipment operator, logger and a crane operator. He had also owned his own sawmill in Grovedale. Bob has operated Cranes in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.

Left to cherish his life are his children; Marie Laking (Les Crummy) Of Grande Prairie, Suzanne Quinn (Bert Picard) of Rocky Mountain House, Bonnie (Kirk) Quick of Sexsmith, Tom Wakelin of Grande Prairie and Cathy (Layne) Delaney of Grande Prairie. His grandchildren; Clayton, Michelle, Tyler, Sayre, Jeslene, Cammi, Lise, Kyle, Raymond, Lance, Alex and MacKenzie. His mother Olive Snoddon, two sisters Eileen (Ken) Mark, Joyce Horn and one brother Brian (Bell) Wakelin.

Bob is predeceased by his wife Ruby, Stepfather Tom Snoddon and his father Benjamin Wakelin.

By Robert's request, there will be no formal public funeral service held.

If friends so desire, memorial donations can be made to the Canadian Cancer Society and would be greatly appreciated by the family.

**OLIVER'S GRANDE PRAIRIE
FUNERAL CHAPEL
& CREMATORIUM**
10005-107 Ave., Grande Prairie
Telephone 532-2929