



Cox

Leonardus

“Leo” Jacob

Leo Cox, Mabou N.S

With profound sadness we announce the passing of Leonardus (Leo) Jacob Cox. Leo passed away on February 14, 2021, at the age of 83 surrounded by loving family following complications from surgery.

Leo was born on December 20, 1937 in Meijel, Netherlands the eldest son of ten siblings of the late William and Marie (Snickers) Cox. Leo is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 57 years, Annie (Heukshorst) Cox, sons; Fred (Denise), Dartmouth, Jack (Stephanie), Scotsburn, William (Dianne), Mabou, and Rene (Barbara), Fall River and his grandchildren; Savannah, Autumn, Leo, Gillis, Glen, Amanda Lowe, Becky (Ben) Strehler, Hayley, Nathan, Lydia, Anneka, Olivia, and great grandson Kade. Leo is also survived by his brother, Peter (Debbie); and sisters, Joanne (Frank) McKenna, Mia (Bob) MacDonald, Lenie (Roger) MacAulay, Gasha (Lee) Connolly, Rietje Nicholson, and Melisha (Joey) Davis, and many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his brother, Jackie (Mabel) and sister and brother-in-law Mientje & George Campbell, brother-in-law Lee (Gasha) Connolly.

Born in Holland in 1937, Leo immigrated to Canada with his family at the age of 14. In 1963 Leo married Annie Heukshorst,(Mabou) and soon after began his career in agriculture extension in Truro and later as an Agricultural Representative for Inverness and Victoria Counties. Leo's leadership was well recognize in the agriculture community, demonstrated by his induction into the Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2014. Leo always encouraged youth involvement in agriculture and was a great ambassador of the 4-H program.

All of this was not to be overshadowed by his continued involvement and leadership on numerous community boards and associations for the enhancement of his community.

A seasoned public speaker, Leo often spoke at schools and Legion events surrounding Remembrance Day ceremonies about his family's experience surviving the Nazi occupation and subsequent liberation of the Netherlands during World War II. He was forever grateful to Canadian Veterans and their sacrifices in liberating his homeland.

In 1972 Leo and Annie moved to Mabou, home. There they purchased a farm on Mabou Ridge where they gardened and farmed sheep and beef cattle with their four sons. Later when the farm transition to his son, Leo became an ever present companion in the day to day life of the family farm. He loved farm life, and to share his love and knowledge of farming with his children and grand children. He was a true mentor to his offspring and used farming life to imbue them with the values of integrity, honesty, humility, humor, hard work and love. Leo was only too proud to show family and visitors around the farm.

Leo had a strong faith in Christ and this faith informed everything that he did. Church, family and community were the foundations of his world.

While agriculture may have been Leo's greatest passion, his greatest love was for his family and his wife Annie, who stood by him in everything he did as a constant support and companion. He always loved to get family together and would often go to great lengths to ensure that this would happen. He was always happiest when he was surrounded by his family or in the knowledge that family members were gathering to spend time together. The love and pride that he emulated will be remembered by all who knew him and live on forever through his children and grandchildren. Love never ends.

To Leo his greatest gift was that of his family. So, it is only too fitting that when he passed peacefully, he was surrounded by the love of his family and in the knowledge

that he would be at one with the Lord. “...God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in him.” 1 John 4:16

The family would like to thank the nurses and doctors at the Inverness Consolidated Hospital and the Halifax Infirmary 5.2 ICU and 7.3 IMCU.

Visitation for family and close friends will be held from 10am to 12pm, followed a funeral service at 1 pm, on Saturday, February 20 at St Mary's Catholic Church in Mabou. All COVID-19 regulations will be in effect and pre-registration is necessary for the mass to adhere to occupancy limits. Please call or text Dianne at **902-258-5149** with names and phone number. A live-stream of the funeral mass will be available through the “Mabou Facebook” page. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Inverness Hospital Foundation 902-258-2236, St. Mary's Church Building Fund, Mabou B0E 1X0, www.larchecapebreton.org or charity of choice. Online condolences: www.sunsetfuneralco-op.com