



HOLT-JONES
IAN
EDWARD

Age 60, **IAN HOLT JONES** of 1453 Yankee Line Rd., Middle River. Born in Birkenhead, UK, passed away April 10, 2022 at home in Middle River after a long hard battle with esophagus cancer.

Ian Edward Holt-Jones (nee Jones) Affectionately known as ‘Haggis’ during his teenage school years. He was raised in the village of Irby, Wirral, UK and attended Pensby Secondary School for Boys.

Pre-deceased by both parents, Richard and Amy Jones, brother Richard ‘Dick’ (Marion, Martin and Pam), Survived by his loving wife and soul mate of 41 years, Lisa, sisters Yvonne (Mike, Dan and Jo) in the UK and Christine (Cliff) in Nova Scotia.

Ian met his lifelong sweetheart, Lisa, during secondary school. Lisa attended Pensby Secondary School for Girls and the parties they attended pushed them together! Ian proposed within a week of their ‘stepping out’, however it was 3 years before an engagement ring appeared and another 3 years before the big day – he said he didn’t like to rush things! They had a small wedding with close family in attendance, at Wrexham Registry Office on 14th March 1987. They decided to start a new dynasty by cobbling both last names together with a hyphen, but they had no children. Instead they were passionate about their pets. Numerous cats and dogs were to enrich their lives. Ian loved his dogs – especially his first liver flatcoat ‘Bob Jones’ and at the end of his life, his best dog ever ‘Stan Jones’ was a constant companion and comfort to him.

Ian started his career as a master butcher in Heswall, Wirral, training at Birkenhead Technical College and from there spent several years at various butcher shops in Wallasey, Telford, Shrewsbury and Llangollen.

He went on to experience factory work at Owens Corning, producing fiber glass products. Then smelting aluminium ore at a plant in Wrexham and then manufacturing army tanks at a plant in Shrewsbury before joining a customer service team at Nor System, traveling all over the North West, Wales and Midlands and occasionally up to Scotland or the East coast of the UK, repairing and servicing printing and pricing guns.

During this time Ian and Lisa renovated a stone barn into a beautiful home in Nantyr, Llangollen. Ian learnt many skills from Lisa's father Danny and enjoyed games of speed chess on their lunch breaks, before going back to plumbing, carpentry or electrical installations. They were great companions.

Ian was made redundant from Nor Systems and took a year out to learn more about another passion in his life, Bushcrafting – the use and practice of skills, knowledge and understanding in order to survive and thrive in a natural environment. How to source food, water, shelter building and firecraft. He attended a course hosted by TV Bushcrafter, Ray Mears and then took a year long course with Wood Craft School and John Ryder, whittling spoons, making knots and lashing, learning how to handle axes and knives and even making knives. He made many friends & had happy memories of this time in his life. One of his favourite TV shows was 'Forged in Fire'.

Ian loved to travel and Lisa is left with many happy memories of visits to Egypt, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Paris, Venice, Austria, Grenada, New York, Vancouver, Toronto, Scotland, Ireland & of course Nova Scotia.

In 2000 he first visited his sister in Nova Scotia, travelling up to the top end of the Province and discovered Cape Breton. He was smitten. All his passions and hobbies could be fulfilled here: fishing, bushcrafting, camping. The warm welcome from the locals, the beautiful scenery and slower pace of life sealed the deal. With Lisa, Bob Jones and Erik The Viking in 2008 they immigrated to Middle River, having renovated a family home there a few years earlier. With 200 acres it was the perfect spot for Ian to expand his love of Bushcraft and he sourced and planted several meadows of willow. He taught himself how to weave baskets and experimented with coloured willows and various basket designs, including the very popular willow dragonflies. However this didn't pay the bills! Ever the lucky guy, he was approached by a grizzly old Scottish guy who ran a pizza restaurant in Baddeck called Tom's Pizza: "Would he like to work for him?" The rest is history. Ian worked at Tom's for 12 years, making friends, having a laugh and enjoying his work. He contributed many innovative ideas to the restaurant,

helping to make it the thriving and buzzing workplace it is today. He referred to the team as his Pizza Family.

The day Ian passed he was wearing a comfortable, old 'Toms Pizza' T-Shirt – with him till the end.

Ian touched so many lives. He was a true gentleman, humble and hardworking, with a big heart. He was amazingly talented & knowledgeable. He loved his dogs, his willow weaving, bushcrafting, Liverpool FC, fishing with his good buddy Chuck Thompson, his pizza family and his family, friends and homes in Wales and Canada. He made many friends and had a wonderful sense of humor.

Lisa would like to thank Dr Ritter & Nurse Paulette, Dr French, Dr Saliba, Inverness Cancer Center & all his friends for their kindness & care during his illness.

A drop in Celebration of Life will take place on Saturday May 14th at Middle River Community Hall, 2pm -5pm, where a display of items handcrafted by Ian will be on display. If you have an item made by Ian we'd love to display it. Tea/Coffee and cake / cookies will be served. All will be welcome to reminisce & view his crafts.

Lisa suggests donations to the Hospice Society of Victoria County, Middle River Community Hall or the charity of your choice.

Cremation has already taken place and his ashes will be buried beneath two weeping willow trees on his property in Middle River at a later date to be announced on Facebook. Online condolences: www.sunsetfuneralco-op.com