



John DeMars

December 29, 2025

July 13, 1950 – December 29, 2025

It is with heavy hearts and great sadness that we announce the passing of John Herbert DeMars of Port Lambton, who passed away peacefully at Bluewater Health on December 29, 2025, at the age of 75. He was surrounded by the love of his family in his final moments.

John was the beloved husband of Tina (nee Conn) and the proud father of David. He was the dear son of the late William and Dorothy (Roberts) DeMars. He is survived by his sisters Lois (Alan) Gray and Deb (Jo) Neff, and his sister-in-law Margaret DeMars. He now joins his late brother William and his sister Joan (Harvey) Carson in rest. "Unc" will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by his nieces and nephews: Elizabeth, Chris, Justin, Matt, Eileen, Jason, Jenna, and Ryan, and is reunited with his nephew Billy. He also leaves behind a legacy of laughter as a Great Uncle (Unc) to many great-nieces and great-nephews who will miss his presence dearly.

A Life of Service and Connection

John was a man who truly possessed the "gift of gab" and a rare ability to draw people to him. He had a genuine interest in others, always ready to share a story or, more importantly, to listen to one. This natural ability to connect served him well throughout his life and career. After graduating from the University of Western Ontario in 1972 with a degree in Economics, John

dedicated 38 years to municipal government, serving with integrity as the Deputy Clerk and then Clerk/CAO of Sombra Township, and later as the Clerk and Deputy CAO of St. Clair Township. Even in retirement, John remained a trusted voice, as people continued to seek out his vast expertise and advice on the workings of local government.

Faith and Community

John's deep faith in God was a guiding light of his life. A lifelong member of Sacred Heart Church in Port Lambton, he truly lived his values through his service. As an active member of the Knights of Columbus, John was a familiar, friendly face at the heart of the community. Whether he was serving up breakfast in the parish hall after Mass or volunteering at various community events, he was always there with a smile.

Family

Most importantly, John was a family man with an incredibly generous heart. John's greatest source of pride was Tina and David who he loved dearly. He always made himself available to help, no matter the circumstances. This same care and creativity shone through his legendary gift-giving; he was famous for his "inventive" Halloween and Christmas presents, which were always made better by the running commentaries that accompanied them. It was a perfect reflection of his playful heart, his love for a good story, and his deep love for family.

Hobbies

Beyond the office, John's passions were as vibrant as his personality. Whether he was scouring auctions for hidden gems, admiring antique cars, or meticulously refinishing furniture, he always saw the potential in things others might overlook. John took immense pride in his finds and always had a vision for each treasure— given enough time.

Gratitude and Remembrances

The family extends their heartfelt thanks to the staff at Bluewater Health, particularly the Intensive Care Unit, for their exceptional and compassionate care during John's final days.

In keeping with John's kind and giving spirit, the family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Bluewater Health Foundation.

Services

Family and friends are invited to gather for visitation at the Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home, 409 Nelson Street in Wallaceburg (519-627-3231) on Friday, January 9, 2026 from 4-7pm. His Funeral Mass will be held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church (Port Lambton) on Saturday, January 10, 2026 at 11am. Cherished stories and tributes may be left for the family at www.CavanaghFuneralHome.ca

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **9**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home
409 Nelson Street
Wallaceburg, ON N8A 4G9 (CA)
(519) 627-3231
contact@cavanaghfuneralhome.ca
<https://www.cavanaghfuneralhome.ca>

Funeral Mass

JAN **10**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
466 John St.
Port Lambton, ON N0P 2B0 (CA)

Tribute Wall



“ Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John DeMars



Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home - January 07 at 11:46 AM

JS

Sending our deepest condolences to Tina, Dave and family. So sorry for your loss.

John & Linda Salisbury - January 09 at 02:35 PM

CQ

We are sending our most deepest sympathy and prayers to David, and all the families. The memory of John will always make us smile.

Charlie and Stephanie Quenneville - January 09 at 03:18 PM

WM

“ John was my supervisor in my summer job as “the accounting punk” for three years at Sombra Township when I was in university. Every boss I had throughout my career was compared to him. No one met his humour, compassion and desire to be a mentor.
Truly one of a kind. Great man.
My condolences to his family.

Wendy Murru - January 26 at 10:46 AM

JM

“ My deepest sympathy goes out to Tina and David and family. John was very unique. He was always friendly. He was a client of ours for many years and he might let you know if he was legitimately upset about something, but he would always put a smile on your face before he left. The girls in the office especially liked dealing with him and listening to his many stories.

John would often ask me about Aunt Marguerite. We shared the same aunt, me through marriage. Many years ago I would speak to his mom who worked at the Wellington Clinic, pretty much in our backyard. She was also very pleasant, I didn't know his father but believe John must have taken after his Mother.

John will be missed by all who knew him.

Jim Myers - January 21 at 08:16 PM

FJ

“ Sending Tina and David for our heartfelt sympathy and prayers..



Frank and Cathy Johnston - January 11 at 03:01 PM

JA

“ Sending condolences to you and family Dave. Thinking of you at this difficult time.

Jaysilyn and Joel Gagnier

Jaysilyn - January 10 at 10:16 AM

MD

“ Our deepest condolences and know you are all in our prayers. John was always smiling and talking when he would pop in at Towell's wondering how his car would get fixed, but heck he was always smiling no matter where I saw him.

Mike and Dorothy deBakker



mike debakker - January 09 at 06:11 PM

WN

“ Wayne & Nancy Negrave lit a candle in memory of John DeMars



Wayne & Nancy Negrave - January 09 at 01:42 PM

EB

“ I am saddened by the passing of John he was my supervisor at the township, and I could always go to him with questions or advice regarding bylaw enforcement issues

He gave me the nickname Roscoe I guess I reminded him of the character Roscoe on the Dukes of Hazzard.

We used to run into each in Wallaceburg and he always had a kind word to say. He will be deeply missed.

Eric Bezanson

Eric Bezanson - January 09 at 11:22 AM

JB

“ Tina and Dave,

I was overcome with sadness when I learned of John's passing so I cannot imagine what you're both going through, and I am so sorry. John was always a man of so many (often witty) words, I could use his advice right now as I can't seem to come up with any that describe how wonderful a man he was. To suggest he was a mentor to me would be underselling it. People often refer to influential people in their lives, but John was more than that to me. He is responsible for me finding my footing in my municipal career and simply put, I would not be here professionally or personally if not for my relationship with John. John had the ability to recognize potential in me and provided me with an opportunity others may not have, and for that I will be forever grateful.

What made John extraordinary was his ability to bring happiness to literally everyone he encountered. His unbridled devotion to his family, his municipal career, and his friends is something I will forever long to achieve for my own life.

I am so incredibly grateful for having John in my life. Often said, but never been more true: the world is a better place as a result of John's influence. He will be forever missed.

Jeff Baranek.

Jeff Baranek - January 09 at 10:41 AM

DC

“ Devin Cousins lit a candle in memory of John DeMars



Devin Cousins - January 08 at 10:03 PM

SL

“ John, you will be missed as a Board member at the Sombra Museum. Your guidance, advise, word smith and storytelling especially. I enjoyed working with you over the years as Curator and your assistance when I needed advise. You will be missed!! Prayers to your family on this loss. Shelley

Shelley Lucier - January 08 at 01:10 PM



“ Heidi Johnston-Welsh lit a candle in memory of John DeMars



Heidi Johnston-Welsh - January 08 at 12:03 PM

CC

“ Deepest sympathy to the family



Colette Clarke - January 08 at 11:50 AM

JD

“ To Tina & David Our sympathy to you. Got to know John shortly after moving to Sombra township in 1973. Even served one term on Sombra council with him. Always enjoyed our chats with John over the years and will have many good memories of John. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Jim & Anne Duffy

Jim & Anne Duffy - January 08 at 08:50 AM



“ 100 files added to the album LifeTributes



Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home - January 07 at 11:41 AM



“ RIP John, I will miss our chats at the dental office, my deepest sympathies to his family.



Joni Trembley - January 05 at 06:19 PM



“ I am going to miss John, a lot. I met him in Grade 9 on the school bus, He was the Grade 13 guy, who entertained most of us to and from school each day. I used to say that he was holding court and made the trips to school fun. After his great municipal career where he provided advice and assistance to so many, I jokingly invited him to become an interactive Sombra Township Museum artefact. Instead of that he joined the museum board and continued to make valuable contributions to the community. His was a life very well spent.

Darrell Randell - January 05 at 11:30 AM

RC

“ *Ron and Nelly Cartier lit a candle in memory of John DeMars*



Ron and Nelly Cartier - January 05 at 09:45 AM

SA

“ *Dear Tina and David.....my deepest condolences on the passing of John....its been over 40 years since I got to know him in a more personal way through Council....he was a wonderful mentor and a great friend...I have always appreciated his wisdom over the years.....we shared lots of laughs and even though we also experienced many tough times....we knew that we would always make things work well for the people and the Municipality we both loved so much.....I will always be grateful for you sharing him with the rest of us and your undying support in our quest to make our community strong....love always Steve Arnold*

STEVE ARNOLD - January 05 at 08:52 AM

PB

“ *Our sincere condolences to the family. John was always a great person who made us feel welcome with his wit and humour. May your many happy memories sustain you and live in your hearts forever. Sincerely, Pat & Cindy Brown*

Pat & Cindy Brown - January 05 at 08:10 AM

JW

“ We received the news of Johns death with heavy hearts. Always enjoyed our conversations with John. He was a great fellow and his wisdom was always appreciated. One of the last one was the unbelievable count of how many people didn't believe the road closed sign when the bridge was out and were messing up his drive way turning around. So sorry to his family and to all St. Clair township for this loss of John



Janis and Allan wadsworth - January 04 at 12:28 PM

MC

“ Maureen & Colleen Clancy lit a candle in memory of John DeMars



Maureen & Colleen Clancy - January 03 at 11:14 PM

PL

“ Pat&Gail Lucier lit a candle in memory of John DeMars



Pat&Gail Lucier - January 03 at 08:40 PM

HK

“ *Dear Tina
I was sorry to hear about John's passing. Please accept my heartfelt condolences to you and your family. I hope you are able to find peace and comfort with the many memories you shared together
Warmly,
Helen Jablecki Knott*

Helen Knott - January 03 at 01:21 PM

EL

“ *Sorry for your loss*



Edith & Reg Lucier - January 02 at 05:34 PM

AB

“ *Sincere condolences Tina and David. I worked with John for many years, always cheerful, a great story teller and gentleman. He always made time for a chat whenever we met after my retirement. The obituary write up was exactly as I will always remember him. He will be greatly missed. Arlene and Grant*

Arlene Barclay - January 02 at 04:21 PM

GS

“ We are all granted a certain amount of time here and John used his well. He had the ability to make everyone feel good, have a laugh or just pass the time with them. Friendship was so special to him as he had more friends than anyone I know. Storytelling was his speciality he was the best ever. I could go on, but anyone who knew him usually felt the same. Tina and David my heart aches for you , he was just a common man in so many ways but a giant in others.

Gary & Sharon Smith - January 02 at 03:36 PM

GD

I have many good memories of chats we had as my brother-in-law. You always made me laugh. Story telling was definitely your gift. Tina and David I feel your pain. I will surely miss John even though I did not see him often recently. He was one of a kind.
Grace Daub

Grace Daub - January 02 at 10:07 PM

LN

“ Tina my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in these difficult times I for one will allways treasure our lunches and visits and the many memories we shared John was a true gentleman and a great friend Lonny

Lonny Napper - January 02 at 03:30 PM

BS

“ Our condolences to the DeMars family Johns was one of the good guys. First met John when the Whitebread School transferred students to SS # 15 Weber. New him through high school and played football with John at WDSS. He was always very helpfull both in Sombra and St Clair Township over the years. He will be missed!
Bill and Lynda Scholtens

Bill & Lynda Scholtens - January 02 at 11:26 AM

MV

“ Tina and David, I am so sorry for your loss, you have described him perfectly in the obituary notice. When I worked in Port Lambton, he always made our day with his big smile and stories that made us all laugh. He was a great asset to our community. Many got great service and advice from him. He will be greatly missed. You are in our thoughts and prayers.



Mary VanDamme - January 02 at 10:34 AM

DC

“ John and I became best friends in high school, doing everything together with our other friend, Gord. I smile when I remember when we went camping at the Pinery in the summer of '69, just before John and I were going to go to Western. We wound up in a camp site right next to three pretty girls from London, Mary, Becky and Tina. Well, after that, all he could talk about was Tina...Tina this, Tina that, "do you think I should ask her out?" Yada yada yada. Haha, well, we know how that turned out. Life took us in different directions and we never saw each other much over the years but John remained a true friend in my heart and I always loved him for his kindness, his humour and his humanity. The world has lost a wonderful guy. Tina, my heart breaks for you and your family during this time of sorrow. John, rest in peace, my friend.

Don Christopher (aka Fred)

Don Christopher - January 02 at 08:56 AM

LG

“ Tina and David,
We're so sad to hear of John's passing. He really was the best clerk/CAO that Sombra ever had, efficient, forward-thinking, humorous, helpful, knowledgeable and always putting the needs of the people first. He'll really be missed.
Sending our heartfelt condolences to you at this very sad time.

Lorna & Paul Graham - January 01 at 09:06 PM

SB

“ Sally Brewer lit a candle in memory of John DeMars



Sally Brewer - January 01 at 03:49 PM

MJ

“ John always enjoyed teasing me and my sister Janice! I will miss that interaction we had!! RIP



MaryK Johnston - January 01 at 03:20 PM

TM

“ Sending sincere condolences to you, Dave and Tina during this very difficult time. With deepest sympathy, Terry & Edna

Terry&Edna Miller - January 01 at 03:19 PM

TM

“ Terry & Edna Miller lit a candle in memory of John DeMars



Terry & Edna Miller - January 01 at 03:12 PM

BM

“ So sorry to hear of John's passing,
I met John at the car auctions and he was a super guy. Condolences
to family and friends.
Rip

Barb and Jamie Mcdougall - January 01 at 01:56 PM

KL

“ Sorry for the loss of your brother Lois.
Thinking of you, Alan and your family.



Kay Lozon - January 01 at 11:57 AM

DL

“ Don & Kris Lee lit a candle in memory of John DeMars



Don & Kris Lee - January 01 at 10:15 AM

JS

“ *Joanne & Brad Stanlick lit a candle in memory of John DeMars*



Joanne & Brad Stanlick - January 01 at 09:49 AM

JC

“ *John Clark lit a candle in memory of John DeMars*



John Clark - January 01 at 08:27 AM



George McGaffey

“ *George McGaffey lit a candle in memory of John DeMars*



George McGaffey - January 01 at 08:23 AM

WB

“ *Worked with John for many years at Sombra and St Clair townships. Whether going to a football game or just having a talk he was full of joy and stories he will be greatly missed.*

Wayne Bradburn - December 31, 2025 at 09:26 PM

EU

“ *I will greatly his Spirit, sympathy to his family;*

Eugene Falconer

Eugene - December 31, 2025 at 08:27 PM

BI

“ *Condolences to John's family-he was one of a kind-always smiling and had a "little" joke and never passed my bake table at a Craft Sale without picking up a pie*



Betty & Bill Innis - December 31, 2025 at 06:36 PM

PK

“ *Sending our deepest sympathy to Tina and David. Barb enjoyed being on the museum committee with John. He always had a joke to make the meetings fun. He will be sorely missed.*



Pat and Barb Kerwin - December 31, 2025 at 06:29 PM

GR

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you Tina and David with the loss of cousin John We have lost a legend, friend and mentor John has given us so many precious memories
Rest in peace John*

George H Roberts - December 31, 2025 at 06:11 PM

OD

“ I first met John while working at the RBC in Port Lambton..... Friday nights just before closing. He always had a story to tell. It was that connection that led me to apply for a position in the tax department of Sombra Township. He encouraged me to apply and also interviewed me, which was more of a gab session. I have many good memories of John working both in the Sombra office and the Mooretown office. I'd see him occasionally in Canadian Tire, which I think was his favourite store; he always had time to chat. John, you were a great guy and I'm thankful for the privilege of knowing and working with you.

Olga

Tina and Dave... Our deepest condolences to you. Bill and Olga DePooter

Olga DePooter - December 31, 2025 at 05:24 PM

JM

“ John was a joy to work with. He was a consummate professional who took his work seriously, but not himself. Even when we disagreed, there was always a light hearted comment at the end of our discussion and never a harsh word. He truly wanted to “get things done” for the Township, and he bent over backwards to be helpful. May he rest in peace, and his memory be a blessing to his family.

John Mathany

John Mathany - December 31, 2025 at 04:39 PM

CF

“ Our heartfelt sympathies and prayers are with John's family

Clarence and Cindy Feddes - December 31, 2025 at 04:27 PM

RB

“ *Deepest Sympathy, Tina and Dave. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. Johnny will be greatly missed by many. He was always a joy to run into, we enjoyed visiting with him.*



Randy/Robin Benedict - December 31, 2025 at 04:24 PM

RT

“ *To Tina and David and family. Sorry for your loss . My condolences to you all , from Roxanne young Thomson*



Roxanne Thomson - December 31, 2025 at 03:38 PM

ZV

“ *ZENIA VANRUYMBEKE lit a candle in memory of John DeMars*



ZENIA VANRUYMBEKE - December 31, 2025 at 03:22 PM

JA

“ *Dear Tina and David: Jeff and I send our heartfelt sympathies to you both. John was a great friend to us and will always hold a special place in our hearts. Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers. Jeff and Sue Agar*

Jeff and Sue Agar - December 31, 2025 at 03:03 PM