



## Richard Devolder

August 9, 2025

On August 9th, 2025, the world became a little less bright when Richard “Rick” Andrew Devolder, aged 65, passed away after a courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by his loving family.

Born on October 19th, 1959, in Chatham, Ontario, Rick spent his entire life in Dover, where he was proud to be part of a close-knit farming community. A man of numbers, Rick dedicated 38 years to his investment, estate, and financial planning business—earning the respect and affection of clients and colleagues alike. His life was a testament to hard work, loyalty, and the power of family.

Rick was a devoted husband to his loving wife, Christa, for 10 beautiful years. Together, they travelled the world, danced in the kitchen, cast lines into quiet waters, and enjoyed peaceful days on the lake.

He was the proud father of eight remarkable daughters throughout his life, and the fun-loving Papa/Grandpa to sixteen adoring grandchildren. He was a beloved brother to three siblings, an uncle to many nieces and nephews, and best friend to his nephew, Jack. His circle of friends was wide and deep, filled with people who cherished his warmth, humour, and unwavering support.

Rick believed deeply in the family you choose as much as the one you are born into. His home was always a place of welcome—a space filled with

music, dancing, laughter, and love. His wisdom, guidance, and signature bear hugs will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

In 1999, Rick helped found the SWONT Conductive Education Program, a cause close to his heart. For over 26 years, the program has provided life-changing support for children with cerebral palsy and other neurological or mobility challenges, leaving an enduring legacy of compassion and hope. He's been a proud member of various Optimists clubs since the mid-90's.

Rick will be deeply missed and forever loved by his wife Christa; his daughters Maureen (Daniel) English, Jessica (Phil) Devolder, Syerra (Neil) Devolder, Tosha Kennedy, Laurie Kennedy, Jessie Kennedy, Kate (Steve) MacLaggan, and Kenysha (John) Manery; his siblings Mike (Laurie) Devolder, Bob (Diane) Devolder, and Janet (Kirk) Earley; and his brother-in-law, Eric (Trudy) Bilcke.

He was predeceased by his parents, Andrew (2011) and Molly (née Moon) Devolder (2024), his niece Becky Devolder (1988), and widower of wife, Sherry Kennedy (2006).

Family and friends are invited to gather for visitation at the Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home, 409 Nelson Street in Wallaceburg (519-627-3231) on Sunday, August 17, 2025 from 1-4 and 6-8pm. His memorial service will be held on Monday, August 18th at 11am in the Funeral Home Chapel with cremation to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations in Rick's memory may be made to the SWONT Conductive Education Program and/or the Chatham-Kent Hospice. A special thank you to Hospice for all of the compassion and unwavering support that was provided during Rick's time there. The family extends their heartfelt thanks for all expressions of love and support during this time.

Cherished stories and tributes may be left for the family at [www.CavanaghFun](http://www.CavanaghFun)

eralHome.ca

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 17. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

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

## Visitation

AUG 17. 6:00 PM - 8:00 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 Service

AUG 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard Devolder



Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home - August 14, 2025 at 11:01 AM



Beautiful tribute....filled with love, happiness and wonderful memories.  
❤️

Penny Cox - August 14, 2025 at 04:50 PM

NA

No words can express how Rick impacted me and my husband's life...a true friend to us both...my husband passed 2 weeks before Rick...they were friends since they were 15 and 16...the stories they told about the shenanigans they got into as teenagers are etched in my mind...I just know they are up in heaven continuing to get into mischief...you'll never be forgotten Rick...love you

Nancybagnall - August 14, 2025 at 05:00 PM

AH

What a beautiful momento of a wonderful person's life. Rick you will be missed by many. You touched so many people's hearts. Agnes and Ralph

agnes van haeren - August 15, 2025 at 08:36 AM

LI

What a great tribute to Rick.  
It incapulates what a great husband, father and friend he was. Love this! Lindi Inch

Lindi Inch - August 18, 2025 at 08:12 AM

SN

*Great video of great memories. My condolences to the family..Mo and J*

**Snippe** - August 18, 2025 at 08:45 AM

LH

*Beautiful tribute to Rick. So many beautiful memories and smiles in the photos We send our family's deepest condolences to all the family's Stuart and Lorrie Handsor and the Welch family's (long time family friends)*

**Lorrie Handsor** - August 18, 2025 at 10:13 PM

EL

*“ Christa my sympathy to you and Rick’s family I consider it a privilege to have known him. Till we meet again. Elaine Redden*

**Elaine** - August 20, 2025 at 01:04 PM

DC

*“ Dear Christa and cousins,  
I’m so sorry to hear about Uncle Rick. I wish we could have been there for the funeral, but please know we’re thinking of you all and sending so much love. He’ll always be remembered with love in our hearts.*

*We are sending our love to you, Christa, and to all of my cousins.*

*With love,*

*Denise, Gerald, Olivia & Charlotte Chua*

**Denise Chua** - August 19, 2025 at 07:06 PM

RO

*“ Robin lit a candle in memory of Richard Devolder*



**Robin** - August 17, 2025 at 01:00 PM

RO

“ We were deeply saddened to hear of Rick’s passing, and we want to extend our heartfelt condolences to your family. You are in our thoughts during this difficult time.

*With sincere sympathy and gratitude, the Robin, Shawn, Ethan, Madison and Morgan.*

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**Robin** - August 17, 2025 at 12:56 PM

BH

“ Lieve Christa en familie, wij wensen jou veel kracht bij het verwerken van dit grote verlies.

*Veel liefs vanwege Frank en Brigitte Vanneste-Hoornaert.*

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**Brigitte Hoornaert** - August 17, 2025 at 12:10 PM

BH

“ Lieve Christa en familie, heel veel sterkte gewenst in deze moeilijke periode. Wij wensen jullie veel kracht bij het verwerken van dit groot verdriet. Veel liefs vanwege Frank en Brigitte Vanneste-Hoornaert.

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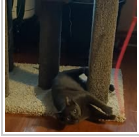
**Brigitte Hoornaert** - August 17, 2025 at 11:57 AM

BH

“ Lieve Christa en familie, heel veel sterkte in deze moeilijke periode, wij wensen jullie veel kracht bij het verwerken van dit verdriet. Veel liefs van Frank en Brigitte Vanneste-Hoornaert

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**Brigitte Hoornaert** - August 17, 2025 at 11:49 AM



“ *Vicky DeBruyne lit a candle in memory of Richard Devolder*



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**Vicky DeBruyne** - August 17, 2025 at 11:43 AM



“ *Tracy Verstraeten lit a candle in memory of Richard Devolder*



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**Tracy Verstraeten** - August 16, 2025 at 09:10 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy*



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**Kathleen Burke** - August 14, 2025 at 09:09 PM



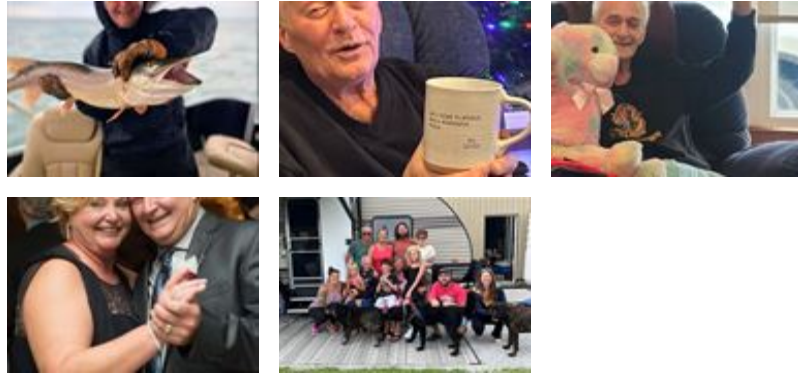
“ *Kate & Steve my thoughts go out to you, your girls and your entire family. Thinking of you during this difficult journey. ❤️*

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**Candice Trepanier** - August 14, 2025 at 05:03 PM



“ 96 files added to the album Life Tributes



Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home - August 14, 2025 at 10:58 AM



“ Marty and Cathy Van Bunderen lit a candle in memory of Richard Devolder



Marty and Cathy Van Bunderen - August 14, 2025 at 10:44 AM



“ PeterSeys lit a candle in memory of Richard Devolder



PeterSeys - August 14, 2025 at 07:30 AM

AV

“ Dear Christa,  
We want to let you know how deeply saddened we are by the loss of your husband. Our thoughts are with you during this difficult and painful time.  
We cherish the beautiful memories we shared with you. The moments we shared will remain forever etched in our hearts. We will never forget his warm presence, his spontaneous smile, his sincere friendship, and your love together.  
We wish you much strength, courage, and love.  
With all our love and condolences,  
Ann and Ronny

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**Ann Vanneste** - August 14, 2025 at 03:43 AM

KM

“ Kim MacDonald lit a candle in memory of  
Richard Devolder



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**Kim MacDonald** - August 13, 2025 at 10:03 PM

SF

“ On behave of the Parrish family, we are sending our condolences to the Devolder family. Our parents were very close friends with Molly and Andy and I, Shirley Parrish, babysat the boys when they were young whisper snappers. My brother Wayne said he baby sat you guys also. So very sorry to hear of his passing and sending love and blessings to the Devolder family

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**Shirley Parrish Faubert** - August 13, 2025 at 03:34 PM

JD

“ *My deepest condolences to the entire Devolder Family. Sending prayers to you all at thia difficult time.*

Jennifer Dunlop-Vandeborn - August 13, 2025 at 03:14 PM

BS

“ *Our condolences Mike, Laurie and family.*



Bill & Lynda Scholtens - August 13, 2025 at 10:27 AM

BH

“ *Bill Henderson lit a candle in memory of Richard Devolder*



Bill Henderson - August 13, 2025 at 10:02 AM

S(

“ *Susan Miles Cartier (Marchand) lit a candle in memory of Richard Devolder*



Susan Miles Cartier (Marchand) - August 13, 2025 at 09:46 AM

HH

“ *To the Devolder Family please accept our Condolences*

Harvey Handsor - August 12, 2025 at 05:10 PM

JM

“ *Jane McGill lit a candle in memory of Richard Devolder*



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**Jane McGill** - August 12, 2025 at 03:54 PM

JK

“ *Rick was a kind soul that we met years ago through the SW Conductive Education Program with the Optimist Club. So sorry to hear of his passing. Deepest sympathy to Christa and all of his children and grandchildren. May you find comfort in memories and laughter in sharing stories of this great man! Thinking of you all.*

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**Julie Khoury** - August 12, 2025 at 03:07 PM

SJ

“ I have so many cherished memories with Rick. Growing up, I spent my summers on the Devolder farm, and Rick and I were inseparable. We always found an adventure — and often a little trouble. We’d ride the pigs, pour water on the bangers meant to scare the crows away and then bury them so no one would find out. We once buried money in a jar by the barn — probably still there today.

We’d climb the apple trees and use eavestroughs to guide the apples into baskets, go spear fishing in the drainage ditches, play hide-and-seek, climb the rafters in the barn, and spend hours playing in the haymound. Boredom was never part of our vocabulary.

As we grew older, our fun didn’t stop. When disco arrived, we learned the moves together and danced like no one was watching.

Rick was generous, kind, and always ready to help others. His family was his pride, and he welcomed everyone with open arms.

Rick will be deeply missed but forever loved. He will live on in our hearts and memories. My heartfelt condolences to the Devolder family — you are in my thoughts and prayers.

With Love and sympathy,  
Sally & Chris Jenkins



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Sally Jenkins - August 12, 2025 at 02:40 PM

MC

“ *Deepest sympathy from Mari Cole & Stan Jackson*



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**Mari Cole** - August 12, 2025 at 11:58 AM

TB

“ *Dear Christa, Katie, and families:*

*We are saddened to learn of Rick's passing.  
We extend our condolences to you at this difficult time.  
Take comfort in knowing that the heartfelt memories you have will  
bring you peace and comfort in the days ahead.*

*With sincere sympathies.....  
Tony & Susan Brenner*

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**Tony Brenner** - August 12, 2025 at 11:37 AM



“ *Tracy Verstraeten lit a candle in memory of Richard Devolder*



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**Tracy Verstraeten** - August 12, 2025 at 09:12 AM



“ *Our deepest condolences to the Devolder family.*

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**Sue Anderson** - August 12, 2025 at 08:31 AM

DO

“ *Dennis Owen lit a candle in memory of Richard Devolder*



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**Dennis Owen** - August 12, 2025 at 08:19 AM

WB

“ *So very sorry to hear about Rick. Prayers to the entire family.*

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**Wayne and Colleen Bowen** - August 12, 2025 at 08:01 AM

SK

“ *So sorry to hear of Rick's passing. We went to elementary, middle, & high school together all those years ago. Rick was always a friendly face when we encountered each other as adults. I stopped and talked with Rick last May after his mothers funeral as he was feeling better through the ups & downs of his illness. He had a very positive attitude he made me feel more positive after our short visit. Condolences to Christa, all his daughters & grand children, & all the rest of the Devolder family*



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**Steve & Louisa Kearns** - August 12, 2025 at 07:35 AM

HZ

“ *Dear Christa and Family,*

*I am so sorry for your loss, my prayers are with you 🕯️*



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**Hàri Zsuzsanna** - August 12, 2025 at 01:32 AM

LP

“ *Lola Pamer sent a virtual gift in memory of Richard Devolder*



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**Lola Pamer** - August 11, 2025 at 09:27 PM

SC

“ *We are so sorry to hear about Rick, our thoughts are with all of you.*

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**Sherry & Dave Crowe** - August 11, 2025 at 09:24 PM



“ *Mike and Laurie sincere condolences.* 🙏

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**Margaret Aarsen** - August 11, 2025 at 07:34 PM

KD

“ *Kelly DeBruyne lit a candle in memory of Richard Devolder*



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**Kelly DeBruyne** - August 11, 2025 at 06:20 PM

TH

“ Dear Crista and family I have known Rick for years and everyone that was able to meet him. Talk to him did business with him. And simply knowing him. our sincerely blessed. Rick always had a listening ear if you just wanted to vent. he is a very kind, loving soul, and I am proud to have been able to be friends with him.



Trisha handsor - August 11, 2025 at 06:05 PM

HA

“ I am so sorry for your loss. My heart is with you; thinking of you in this hard time.

Haidy - August 11, 2025 at 05:04 PM

RM

“ Ruth lit a candle in memory of Rick Devolder. Last time I saw Rick was at Wambo volunteering. First time I saw Rick was 1974. He was a classmate of mine. We both graduated from Wallaceburg High school in class of 1978. My sincere condolences to his entire family and many friends. Fond memories of Rick I will carry with me today and always.



Ruth Mahood - August 11, 2025 at 04:01 PM

TS

“ Todd @Nancy Sharrow lit a candle in memory of Richard Devolder



Todd @Nancy Sharrow - August 11, 2025 at 03:10 PM

LP

“ I have so many fond memories of Rick from helping him start the remodel of his house and helping build his pool to working with him with dover optimist for R.O.C.K ride not to forget the wonderful conversations we had around the bonfire with a few beers ...Rick is the prime example of what it is to be a good human being .He has touched so many peoples lives and I am definitely a better man for knowing him .. You will be forever loved and missed ...xoxoxo love you uncle rick

Lance pilon - August 11, 2025 at 01:15 PM

LP

Ya i just want to add in he was an amazing individual that his heart was always in the right place he was one of the funniest guys I've ever had the pleasure of knowing love ya uncle Rick ❤️ and miss ya always rip

Lee Pilon - August 12, 2025 at 03:11 PM

LO

“ Dear Crista and Family, May all your wonderful memories carry you through this sad time and may they carry you for ever.

Loretta O'Brien - August 11, 2025 at 12:56 PM

NA

Rick was a beautiful human and he always made us feel welcome and important...rest assured he is flying high watching over his family

Nancybagnall - August 11, 2025 at 03:15 PM

MF

Rick and Gord spent time together at the cottage by the river and Gord helped in the rebuilding of the house and putting the pool in. He will be missed. Our condolences to Christa and the families.

Marg Dunlop and family - August 11, 2025 at 04:00 PM

LS

*Christa,  
We never had the pleasure of meeting Rick, we know he made you very happy. We were so sorry to hear of his passing, you're in our thoughts Christa....*

*Lise and Ernie Shaw*

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**Lise Shaw** - August 11, 2025 at 04:07 PM

LS

*Christa It was always so beautiful to see the obvious admiration you and Rick had for each other. My condolences to you and your family.  
Liz and Zoey Smith*

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**Liz Smith** - August 12, 2025 at 12:47 PM

JJ

*Heartfelt sympathies to the entire family - we knew Rick well during our Dover Optimist days. Rest in peace Rick!*

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**Jim and Anita Johnston** - August 15, 2025 at 06:28 PM



*Dear Christa, I am sorry to hear about the passing of your husband Rick. I can't imagine the depth of your sorrow, especially having to endure such a loss again. Please know that my thoughts are with you, and I am sending you strength and comfort during this incredibly difficult time.*

*Marina Mak*

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**Marina Mak** - August 18, 2025 at 12:52 PM