

## Here Are a Few Stories About Geoff Verigin

This is a story about my nephew Geoff Verigin (born March 17, 1966) who has succumbed to Metastatic Esophageal Carcinoma (Throat Cancer) on February 01, 2024. He was the fourth son to his father Russel and his mother Tillie (nee Cheveldave) Verigin. Geoff was a very private person and a limited number of people attended by his side during his demise at Talarico Place in Castlegar, B.C.



We formed a "Family Circle" with his brothers Allan and Dan, son Myles and partner Ericka. They then extended their hands to Uncle Elmer and Aunty Marilyn and first cousins, Nona, Lori, and Tamara while we blessed him on his final journey.

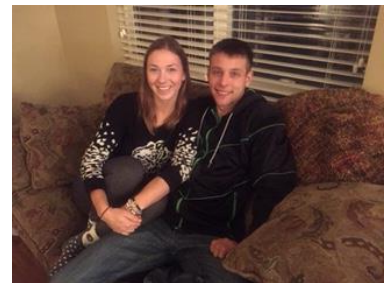
This photo, on the right, has Geoff excitedly preparing for his first Zipline experience that he enjoyed to the fullest.



Geoff married Lorrie Bacon from Trail, B.C. They were blessed with a son Myles on December 20, 1993.

Myles has earned a Red Seal as a Journeyman Electrician and currently employed by Salesforce, assisting companies to implement Carbon Accounting for 'net zero' emissions.

He is living with his partner Ericka Rankin-Freisen who is also a Journeywomen Electrician, took courses and is now working as a Masseur.



Geoff served his apprenticeship and received his interprovincial Certificate as a Red Seal Carpenter, following his father's trade.

His speciality became Finish Carpentry in which he excelled and was a tradesman of choice by Millwork Contractors. He was the preferred Finishing Tradesman in the Kootenays.



This is a dated family photo of the Russel Verigin family, is identified from left to right: Lorrie, Geoff, Max, Moe, Dan, Nickie, Tillie, Russel, George Cheveldave (Tillie's father) Brian, (Justin?) Lynn (Brian's 1<sup>st</sup> partner), Lori, Allan.

Geoff's brother Brian and his new wife Erin, travelled from Marquette, Michigan to visit the Verigin family in Castlegar. On July 09, 2023, the family was able to unite as in this photo. Left to Right are brother Allan, cousin Lori Woodhouse, brother Brian, cousin Kimball, Geoff (at the back), cousin Nona Kucher (at the front), cousin Tamara (Verigin-Burk), second Cousin Cory Hachey and brother Dan.



There were many photos taken with Geoff to record this occasion and now treasured by all.

On the right, included all that

attended the traditional Shishliki barb-b-q held at the Woodhouse residence. Again, from left to right we have in the back row, Cheryl Bann (Craig's partner), Nicky (Craig's son), Rick Woodhouse, Kimball, Brian, Garrett Kucher, Geoff, Tamara, Dan, Nigel Burk, Abby Verigin, Danielle (Nigel's partner), Dan Hachey. Middle row: Elmer, Craig (Allan's son), Lora (Kimball's wife), Allan, Lori, Erin (Brian's wife), Daxx (Kayla's son), Nona, Kayla (Nona's daughter) Heddle, Cory Hachey. Front row (standing) Marilyn, Di (Allan's wife). In Front row (on haunches) Myles (Geoff's son), Myle's partner Ericka, Xander sitting (Nigel's son), Zane (Kayla's son) standing, Kyle Burk, Sloane sitting (Kara's daughter), Solomon Burk, Ashton (Kara's son) sitting on Nate Heddle's knee, Sloane (Kara's son) sitting on Tyler Hlookoff's knee. Mossimo and Stowen Giradi (Cory's grandchildren) sitting on the grass.



This photo is of the four (4) brothers: Dan is the third born on the left next is Brian, the second born followed by Geoff, the youngest in the family. Allan is the oldest on the extreme right.

All the Verigin boys played hockey in the Castlegar Minor Hockey Program. Brian earned a Hockey scholarship from the University of Northern Michigan at Marquette, Michigan where he continues to reside.

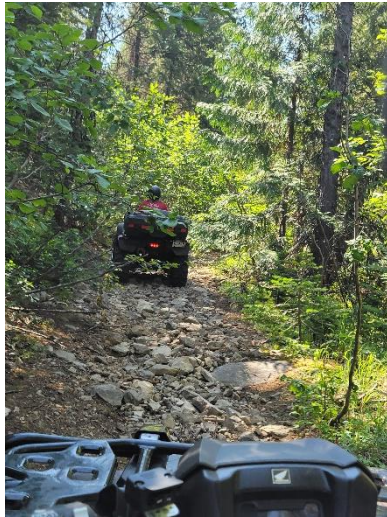
The rest of the family resides in Castlegar, British Columbia with Allan partially in Burnaby, a Red Seal Journeyman, and retired Construction Superintendent. Allan enjoys spending time in his home workshop creating furniture and wooden trinkets. Dan is a Red Seal Carpenter in his own business Status Construction Ltd.



Another Russel Verigin family photo. From Left to Right: Allan, Brian, Dan (sitting) Tillie Russel and Geoff.



July was a special month for the four (4) brothers as they took advantage of Brian and his wife Erin visiting from Marquette.



Here Geoff leads the way into the many trails in the mountains around Castlegar.

Brian "...Just thinking again of my brother Geoff and the fantastic time Erin and I had with him in Castlegar this summer. This picture was taken on the top of Mt. Sentinel which we used his Quads to get to. This is an Inukshuk, Geoff built with his son [Myles Verigin](#). Again, memories that will last forever ... ~bv PS On the way up the mountain, which took about an hour, we were fortunate enough to have a black bear sighting..."



There was much laughter and appreciation of nature that abounds the area.

It was the first time in Canada for Erin. She was convinced they were coming again as soon as practical.



Geoff loved the outdoors and here he memorizes this scene into infamy.

Nature has its way to engulf us all and we realize just how much we are part of the whole that is everything.

Geoff associated with many friends that shared his passion for excellence.

These are some of the examples of their contribution to the beauty of Castlegar with their creations.

## 1) Item from Bing Search

“.....Geoff Verigin’s artwork was a testament to his **craftsmanship** and **attention to detail**. As a finishing carpenter, he transformed wood into exquisite pieces that blended both form and function.

Here are some aspects of his artwork:

1. **Furniture:** Geoff created stunning furniture pieces that graced homes and spaces. His tables, chairs, and cabinets were not mere functional items; they were expressions of beauty. Each joint, curve, and finish was meticulously crafted.
2. **Wood Carvings:** Geoff’s love for nature extended to his wood carvings. He would often incorporate natural motifs—leaves, animals, and landscapes—into his work. These carvings added an organic touch to his creations.
3. **Custom Designs:** Geoff didn’t follow templates or blueprints blindly. Instead, he collaborated with clients to understand their vision. Whether it was a bespoke bookshelf or a unique headboard, he brought those ideas to life.
4. **Attention to Grain:** The grain of the wood fascinated Geoff. He would select pieces with interesting patterns and incorporate them into his designs. The way light played on the grain became an integral part of the final piece.
5. **Finishing Touches:** Geoff’s finishing techniques were impeccable. Whether it was a glossy varnish or a rustic stain, he knew how to enhance the wood’s natural beauty. His pieces invited touch and admiration.
6. **Legacy:** Geoff’s legacy lives on through the furniture he created. Each piece carries a part of his soul—a blend of skill, passion, and reverence for the material.

In Geoff Verigin’s hands, wood ceased to be a mere building material; it became a canvas for artistry. His work reminds us that even functional objects can evoke wonder and inspire creativity.....”

## 2) Winner in Castlegar 2017 Sculpture Walk (Bing search)

“.....winner of the 2017 People's Choice Award is.....MAPLE RELEAF!!! A homegrown success story, by artists Pete Wulowka, Geoff Verigin, Mary MacNicol and Chris Perepolkin.

Their creation is shown here on the right.



Geoff and his friend Peter Wulowka are here on the left



Ericka on the left of Geoff with son Myles on the right enjoy “Maple Leaf” with Charie, Aunty Tamara and Uncle Kyle’s dog.



### 3) Peter Wulowka & Geoff Verigin, Castlegar, BC Enforcer of the Truth (Bing Search)

".....Upon a moon's shadow cries come blisters from the sky through clouds so very high were you born to live a lie...."

This was another sculpture that Geoff and Peter entered into Sculpture Walk



### 4) Walkway sculpture (Peter Wulowka and Geoff Verigin)



Comment from Myles "....I believe this was the piece of art that inspired my dad to start. His thoughts were something like "if this thing can get second, then I can probably make something better....."

Another entry into Sculpture Walk.

### 5) Igloo Construction (in Geoff's backyard)



Geoff became interested in the construction of igloos when he was a boy. This interest prevailed into his adult years.

He literally collected all the snow from his yard and that from what the city snowplows left along

the property line to construct these structures.



The local paper, Castlegar News, posted pictures of his masterpieces.





This was a yearly hobby. His desire was to construct one last Igloo in 2024 but he lacked the strength and nature did not provide an adequate snowfall.

Geoff leaves his family and friends who will remember his good nature and smile.

***We love you Geoff!***

*This article has been compiled with the assistance of son Myles, brother Brian, and brother Allan as well as Cousin Tamara in the search of City of Castlegar files.*

*First draught by Uncle Elmer Verigin February 20, 2024.*

*Second draught by Uncle Elmer February 26, 2024.*

*Corrections and additional information will be emended when available.*

