

Farmer, William Anthony Allen (Bill)



Age 85 years, of Amherstburg, passed away peacefully at home on May 25, 2021. Born January 4, 1936 on the family farm in Malden Township, he was the eldest son of the late Anthony and Mary (Moore) Farmer. Survived by his wife Ritva (Hautala), father to Karen VandenBrink (Rob), Susan McCallum (John), and Cindy Sinko. Grandpa to Joshua VandenBrink and Eathan McCallum. Brother of Mary, Betty, Shirlee, Liz and Nelson. Besides his parents, Bill was predeceased by his brothers Cecil and Harvey, and son-in-law Frederick Sinko.

Bill worked at Seagram's (Calvert's) for 42 years, starting in 1956 at the age of 20. Dad always liked to keep busy whether it was tinkering on his cars, going for drives in the country, watching Nascar/Formula 1, or the "hour of power", Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy. In his retirement, he could often be found in the kitchen cooking and making bread.

Visitation and a private family service were held at the James H. Sutton Funeral Home, 401 Sandwich St. S. on Thursday, May 27, 2021.

You may view his service, make a donation to Canadian Cancer Society, or leave condolences for his family online at www.jhsutton-funeral.ca.

Gaunt, Robert Gordon Sr.

May 9th 1925 - May 23rd 2021



With profound sadness, the family announces the passing of Robert Gaunt into God's arms. He was born in Middlesborough, England where he met and married Marie Johnson (1926-1980). Three of their five children were born there. During this time, he began training as an Instrument Mechanic and became Third Engineer on the ships in the Merchant Navy during WWII. Later in Canada, he qualified as a tool maker, stationary engineer, and studied to become an electronic technician. He came to Canada in November 1956 as a professional Work Study Estimator, to be joined by his young family the next year. They lived in the town of Bath near Kingston, then Hamilton before settling in Amherstburg. There, Bob worked at General Chemical in the H.F. plant where he was a well respected maintenance supervisor until he retired. In 1982, after Marie's passing, Bob married Audrey Wigle and they moved to Southampton, Ontario where they eventually bought a home on Miramichi Bay. While living there, Bob became a Rotarian for several years and also an avid fisherman and golfer. Bob and Audrey returned to Amherstburg in 2007 to be closer to family. Bob is predeceased by his wife, Marie (1980) and also by his second wife, Audrey (2020), his daughter Jennifer Ross (2005), his son David (2019), and his step daughter, Elizabeth Haughton (1995). Survived by and much loved by daughter Anne Bracken (Jim), Chris Gaunt (Maureen), Robert Gaunt (Charlene), daughter-in-law Sue Gaunt, and son-in-law David Ross. Proud Grandad to Westray (Bobbie Jo), Robert Reimneitz (Angela), Marc Reimneitz, Micheal Reimneitz (Victoria), Shawn Bracken (Carrie), Brian Bracken (Janine), Marie Smith (Ryan), Jamie McIntosh (Brad), Sean Ross (Cindy), Jennifer Torres (Anthony), Matthew Gaunt (Courtney), Meagan Gaunt (Alex Bondy), Robert and Cory Gaunt, and Jason Haughton. Very proud Great-Grandad to Josh Reimneitz (Gabriela), Connor and Lauren Reimneitz, Alexandra, Hayden, Cole and Brennan Reimneitz, Justin and Kennedy Reimneitz, Owen and Emily Bracken, Abbygale Bracken, Rylie and Cailyn Smith, Wynne and Vann McIntosh, Samantha, Phoenix, Avalon, Celebriene, Elyssia and Araelia Ross, Garrett, Jake and Merai Torres, Ethan, Oliver, and Finn Gaunt, Braiden, Alaina and Carson Gaunt-Bondy, Elizabeth and Jackson Haughton. If you so desire, donations to Windsor & Essex County Cancer Centre Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Face coverings and reservations are required for visitation on Thursday, May 27, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at Families First, Amherstburg, 585 Sandwich Street South, (519-969-5841). You may reserve a time for visiting by visiting familiesfirst.ca or by calling Families First directly. Share photos, memories or make a donation at www.familiesfirst.ca

Historic building gets facelift thanks to local investors

By Ron Giofu

The scaffolding is down on a Dalhousie St. building and the public is enjoying the new look.

The building was originally known as the "Hough Block" and later known as the "Hall Block" and is now owned by Amherstburg residents Mark and Kirsten Kurzuk. They added that building, located in the 200 block of Dalhousie St. backing onto Navy Yard Park, in 2015.

"We added that to our portfolio of buildings both in town and Windsor as well," Kirsten commented. "The building was occupied but we already had plans for the building."

Concept drawings for the building were created last year and the Rosati Group was hired to complete the renovations to the front of the building. Construction began last fall and recently wrapped up, with that construction including renovations to the downstairs commercial units along Dalhousie St.

"We enjoy bringing back the buildings to what they used to look like," said Kirsten. "We were totally overwhelmed with the support and positive feedback from people. We're totally overwhelmed."

Research was done with the help of the Marsh Historical Collection as to what the building originally looked like and Kirsten said they based the drawings off of that. She noted commercial tenants were apprised of what the building would look like while the upstairs tenants – the two apartments in the front of the building and two in the rear – were also kept updated.

While the tenants were impacted, she believes the end result was worth it.

"Any construction impacts everyone involved," she said. "You can't make an omelette without breaking an egg."

Kirsten said they initially considered sandblasting the front of the building but ended up replacing the bricks instead when sandblasting was shown not to be the best option.

"We took each brick down to give (the building) a very sound front," she said. "We replaced them with new bricks to make it very similar to what it used to look like."

The windows took more time than anticipated to replace, she added, as they wanted the windows to be as close to what the originals would have looked like as possible. Mouldings along the front were manufactured specifically for the historic building and made to ensure long-term durability. She added the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic also extended timelines.

"It was very, very time consuming," Kirsten stated.

The sides of the building, currently grey, will be painted to match the front of the building and murals are also possible, she indicated. The hope is to get that completed this year.

"We have plans for the back, too," she added. Those plans are still in the concept phase.

Kirsten noted the building was originally constructed in 1903 with an addition to the south end of the building put on in 1907. She said it has been suggested to them that the building now be called the "Kurzuk Block" but added they are taking a "wait and see" approach with that idea.

The tenant on the south side, Terra Green, has a wall where burn marks are seen, with Kirsten explaining that was left there by design as that was caused by the Lakeview Hotel fire, the former hotel that was next to the building but was gutted by fire in 1976.

Other tenants include Lavender Hair Lounge and Pure Massage.

The building was originally built by Franklin A. Hough. According to Hough's obituary, printed by The Amherstburg Echo Jan. 27, 1944 and supplied by the Marsh



The building originally known as the "Hough Block" is now owned by Kirsten and Mark Kurzuk and the front is now restored. The owners have plans for the back and sides of the building as well.

RTT Photos by Ron Giofu



Kirsten Kurzuk waters the plants on the building that was restored by herself and husband Mark using a tool made for her by her father-in-law Morris. The historic building once known as the "Hough Block" was originally built in 1903 with an addition in 1907.

Historical Collection, "Franklin A. Hough was mayor of Amherstburg in 1907, 1908 and 1909. He practised law for over 50 years in the Amherstburg area. Born at Cobourg, Ontario, Hough came to Amherstburg in 1891 as a junior partner in the law firm of Reade & Kirkland. In 1903 he built the large recently refurbished two-storey brick building on the west side of Dalhousie St. In 1918 he purchased the Park & Borrowman lumberyard property (part of the lands previously owned by the Malden Lunatic Asylum). One of the two-storey barracks erected there after the 1837 Rebellion was dismantled by Hough and reassembled as three large residences which are still standing and occupied on the east side of Laird Avenue - Nos. 37, 41 and 43. He transformed the large brick bakery/laundry storehouse asylum building into his own impressive residence. Known locally as the 'Hough House,' this structure has been owned since the late 1930s by Fort Malden National Historic Site. By the time of his death in January 1944, Hough had substantial property interests in Amherstburg."

Among the Kurzuk's other Amherstburg properties are the building at 239 Dalhousie St., originally known as Kirsten's Fashion Boutique which is now being transformed into the Pepper Cat restaurant, and the building at 238 Dalhousie St., formerly the Amherstburg Echo building. The latter now counts Caffeine & Co., Riccardo's Italian Restaurant and a private apartment among its tenants.