



John Balfour Boland Jr.

May 17, 1950 - January 15, 2022

John Balfour “Sonny” Boland, Jr., age 71 of Bad Axe, left on his never-ending hunt on January 15, 2022 from the comfort of his home, in the presence of his family.

John was born on May 17, 1950 in Weston, Ontario, Canada, to John Balfour and Annie Irene (Williams) Boland I. He met Patti Near, the love of his life, at the age of 14 and began a two-year courtship in 1968. The young Canadian drove over the border every other weekend to see Patti, until he won her heart. They were married in Ubly, MI on October 17, 1970.

An avid hunter, John enjoyed hunting coyote, fox, raccoon and bear with his hounds, often regaling family and friends with tales of exciting pursuits. One of his most thrilling adventures was tracking and sighting an elusive wolverine in 2004, warranting state-wide newspaper coverage. The state mascot had not been sighted in many years.

John and Patti raised award-winning palomino quarter horses and Halfingers. They enjoyed competing with the Indian Trails Riding Club in area horse shows, rodeos, fairs, and eventing meets, gathering many ribbons, trophies, and awards. In 1980 he rode across the state of Michigan on horseback. Conversation with John was always flavored with his love for his homeland of Canada and the exploits of his favorite hockey teams and players. His

reputation for hard work in factories and farm fields made him a much sought-after employee. He was well known for his sense of humor, and willingness to offer assistance to anyone in need; he was considered a trusted and reliable friend throughout the county.

John is survived by his wife of 51 years, Patti (Near) Boland, Bad Axe; sons, John Balfour Boland III (girlfriend Santana Mosack and her children Kayden, Jake and Annabell), Bad Axe and Brian Boland, Florence, KY; granddaughter, Nicole Boland, New York; sister Beverley West, New Brunswick, Canada; special relatives, Iain & Shelly Gunn, Bay City, MI; Kim (Chris) Summersett, New York; many cousins, nieces, nephews, and dear friends; and his beloved collie, Abby.

John was preceded in death by his parents, John Balfour and Irene Boland I.

At his request, there will be no services or visitation. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the church or charity of your choice.

Tribute Wall



“ *John Balfour Boland Jr.*

January 28, 2023 at 01:32 PM



“ *We were very sorry and sad to hear of John's passing.. We enjoyed in the past riding and showing horses with John and Patti. Our deepest sympathies and prayers go to the family he leaves behind. John always had a good story to tell.. we miss those days.. Dale and Nancy Wolfe*

Nancy Wolfe - January 25, 2022 at 10:00 AM



“ *Patti I'm so sorry to hear that Mr. Fantastic has passed. I always loved to see him and tease him for all these decades. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Kathy Carriveau*

Kathy Carriveau - January 19, 2022 at 11:11 AM



“ *Patti, I am so sorry to read of John's passing. My condolences to you and your family. I remember the trail rides, horse shows, etc. John was a good man. May he rest in peace.*

Marlene (Corl) Carlson - January 19, 2022 at 07:43 AM



“ *John was a good friend to me, always happy and in a great mood, funny, hard-working, and very kind. I am so sorry for your loss, very very sorry.*

Mary Pickering - January 18, 2022 at 06:19 PM

MK

“ My Mom (Angie), and sisters, (Cindy, Sheila, Kim) and I were shocked and saddened to learn of John's passing. What a great guy and his love for Patti and his family was very special. Mary McKnight Kittle (Ray McKnight Family)

Mary McKnight Kittle - January 16, 2022 at 07:17 PM

CC

“ Patti And family I am deeply saddened to see Johns passing. Praying you can find peace and comfort during this difficult time.



Cora and Nathan Carr - January 16, 2022 at 06:48 PM

CP

“ Cheri Plumb lit a candle in memory of John Balfour Boland Jr.



Cheri Plumb - January 16, 2022 at 02:48 PM