JOHN CAROL POTTS

We share our condolences to the entire Potts family. We both had the privilege of having Mr. Potts as our teacher and those are memories we continue to share. He was a very special person who will be always remembered with the upmost respect. Hold the memories close and continue smiling, laughing and sharing, that would be what he would want.

Danny and Karen Ritchie

February 4, 2026

Me and my husband Robert want to send our heartfelt condolences to Marg and the whole family. Rest in peace Mr. John Potts you will certainly be missed by all that knew you.

Kim Ritchie

February 4, 2026

We send our sincere condolences to the family. We are so sorry for the loss of an absolute legend. We keep Leyla, Kera and their families in our thoughts at this time. Hugs and warmth. xo Love the Gaffoor Family

Melanie Gaffoor

February 4, 2026

Our condolences to the Potts family and all their loved ones. Ken and Lisa Stephens, Waterloo

Ken and Lisa Stephens

February 4, 2026

My most sincere condolences to the Potts family. Pillars of our beloved community of Elmvale, and inspiration to so many.

Kevin Kerr

February 4, 2026

I was sorry to hear of the passing of John. I always loved my chats with John. John always appreciated his community and family was his life, loved to let me know what everyone was up to. John was such a proud father and grandfather. My thoughts and prayers are with the Marg & the family at this time.

Denise Ritchie-McLean

February 4, 2026

Our heartfelt sympathy to Marg and family. He will be missed

Cheryl Webb

February 4, 2026

. This person did very good things for others. Was a kind and caring person and will be remembered as such. Everyone that knew him personally will hold onto and cherish those memories, and I'm sure that would make him happy.

Rick B

February 4, 2026

Sending my sincere condolences to the Potts family. Mr. Potts was an amazing gentleman.

Jill Rice

February 5, 2026

Sadly missed one of nices person we had the pleasure of meeting always a smile Terry and johanna

Terry Mckenzie

February 5, 2026

Deepest sympathies to everyone. May your memories help in your time of sorrow.

Sherree Buchanan

February 5, 2026

Our community has lost a truly kind and caring soul. John was someone who always greeted you with a smile, the kind of person whose presence simply made things feel better. He deeply loved his family and gave so much of himself to our village, always showing up with generosity, warmth, and heart. Potts family, please know that you are surrounded by love, support, and a community that is holding you close during this incredibly difficult time. John will be deeply missed, but his kindness and spirit will always be remembered. Sending our love and strength.

Matt Garwood

February 5, 2026

My thoughts are with you in this time of loss.

Janice Jordan

February 5, 2026

Morris and I had the privilege of knowing John through our daughter-in-law, Jenn. We enjoyed time during graduation celebrations and the Potts family picnic. We truly enjoyed the moments we shared together. He was a kind man, easy to talk with, and a pleasure to be around. He spoke with great pride about his granddaughter and always had such kind words for our son. He struck us as a very present, gentle soul, and we feel grateful to have known him. Our heartfelt condolences to the entire family.

Denise & Morris Pezzano

February 5, 2026

Mr. Potts turned Regent School around and improved the lives of hundreds of students through care, compassion, music, and healthy expectations. Thank you for all that you did and for setting such a great example of decency and respect.

Mike Lavin

February 5, 2026

Dear Jenn, I was so sorry to hear about your Papa's passing. I had the pleasure of meeting him at the graduation for you and Matthew, and I remember how kind and easy he was to talk to. We shared a lovely conversation during photos and the meal, and I'm grateful to have met him. Thinking of you and your family during this difficult time.

Donna Cook

February 5, 2026

Our sincere and heartfelt condolences to Margaret and the entire Potts family on the passing of a legend. John was my first cousin once removed. Eleven years ago, John visited Ireland and was delighted to spend time with his extended Irish family. In July 2016, my wife Eileen and our daughter, Kate, spend a wonderful afternoon in Elmvale with John, Margaret and many of the Potts family. John was a wonderful and kind man - he will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. May he rest in peace. RIP John.

Colm Moloney

February 5, 2026

Mrs. Potts and extended family, I am very sad to hear of John's passing. I got to know John when I worked at Elmvale IGA around 18 years ago, I always admired him for his community work but had no idea of John's background with his wife , family, and his jazz background what a wonderful man. Please except my condolences with the deepest respect for John The Man The Myth and the Legend.

April Blake

February 5, 2026

Rachel & Family, We are so very sorry to hear of the loss of your dad. Thinking of you and your family during this difficult time and sending you love and strength. May your memories bring you comfort in the days ahead. Fern & Cheryl

Fernanda Bianconi

February 5, 2026

So very sorry Margaret - my feeling of loss is very deep do yours must be impossibly deep. JOHN & I sang together + he visited me often in Orillia. The world is NOW different!

JOHN ASHE

February 5, 2026

I am so sad to hear of the passing of one of the most fun teachers ever! I loved his music class at Bayview elementary and I even took ukulele lessons from Mr. Potts- the only time I ever played a musical instrument. I loved his huge mop of curly hair, too. He always seemed to have kindness and humor in his eyes.

Jennifer Eden Sabolcik

February 5, 2026

My heartfelt condolences Marg, Sally, Ivan, Cal, Wendy, Rachel, Leyla and the entire Potts family. Mr. John Potts was a truly remarkable man whose warmth and positivity touched everyone around him. He had a gift for making people feel seen and valued, and I'll always remember the way he made me feel special and unique whenever our paths crossed. Losing a parent is one of life's deepest heartbreaks, and I hope you find comfort in the memories that will always stay close. The stories, the laughter, the small moments of kindness, those are the pieces of him that will continue to shine through each of you. Wendy, I'm sure glad you had your dad's music talents, especially during ENERGY FIT. Wishing you all comfort, strength and peace as you honor and celebrate a truly remarkable life. Hugs Kari Lou

Kari Simpson Adams

February 5, 2026

Sally and family so sorry to hear of John's passing. He was a gentleman who always had kind words for everyone. I remember the many meetings we had dealing with federation issues. He had the best interests of teachers always on his mind. His friendly and thoughtful manner will be remembered by all who knew him. Chuck and Sharon Penny

Chuck Penny

February 5, 2026

Sincere condolences to all of the Potts family. John was an amazing man who had a remarkable life. He will live on forever in your hearts.

Cathy Marley

February 5, 2026

Bob and I send our heartfelt condolences to Marg and the entire family. We have known John to be a caring, dedicated and kind man. He is an example for which we should all strive. We can all learn from his teaching. Let the music play on John! Marg and Bob Wickett

Marg and Bob Wickett

February 5, 2026

My thoughts and prayers go to all. I was lucky enough to have him as a music teacher at Bayview. With Mr. Potts you were learning without even knowing you were. I recall learning the song her comes the sun and it was winter time and every time we sung it the sun would appear. An amazing person and very caring he will definitely be missed may he rest in peace. Much love and strength to his family

Sheri Higgs_Williams

February 5, 2026

I was always delighted to chat with John whenever we passed each other walking around Elmvale. He helped me put up campaign signs whenever I ran for office provincially and federally for the NDP and for Springwater Council. I also loved his music. He will be remembered.

Katy Austin

February 5, 2026

Deepest sympathy to all of John's family. He will be missed.

Mae Clement

February 5, 2026

Sincere condolences to the entire Potts family. I have so many fond memories of Mr. Potts (John) . So thankful for the years I got to hear him tell stories of all the fabulous adventures in his life - told with a sense of humour like no other. My favourite story was about when John and Marg would go on road trips and Celine Dion always seemed to be on the radio. So thankful also for Mr. Potts introducing me to really cool music. What an incredible man who touched so many lives.

Kim Valiere

February 5, 2026

Please accept our deepest sympathy at this difficult time Joe and Linda Rowntree

Joe and Linda Rowntree

February 5, 2026

My sincere condolences to all of the family. John was a magnificent person always chatting and kind .He made sure to always pass a kind word on with a smile may he rest in eternal peace. And continue to watch over his beautiful family. Thank you for all of your kind words and support to the Village of Elmvale you will be missed beyond words can say. Rest in Peace

Kathy Patterson

February 5, 2026

Our sincere condolences to the Potts Family from the Bye Family ❤

Linda Bye

February 5, 2026

My sincere condolences to the entire family. John was such an inspiring person and teacher. He shared so much of himself for all of us and thanks for all the fond memories I have. He will be remembered!

Debbie Kennedy

February 5, 2026

Words cannot fully express our feelings at the loss of dear John and the sorrow of Margaret and their family. We only had the last few years in which to know John, a quiet, soft spoken, caring man with the most wonderful smile and positive demeanour. We will miss him and regret we have lost the chance to know him better. Margaret your family will surround you with much needed love and support but please don’t forget we are always here for you when you need us Our sincerest condolences Laura and Michael

Laura and Michael Orr

February 5, 2026

Dear family, l was so sorry to hear about (John's) Mr. Pott's passing. I will always remember fondly the times he would come to Huronia Centennial on Rememrance Day and play The Last Post and Revele for the school. My thoughts and prsyers are with you all during this sad season. God Bless

Trish Marrable

February 5, 2026

Our family sends our sincere condolences in the loss of John .Although it is many years since we all saw your family, we have wonderful memories of our times with you Margaret and your whole family.

Nancy Knight

February 5, 2026

I have not seen Mr Potts in many years, but do have many good memories of him as a teacher and as a gentleman. He was an amazing teacher and even years later always took the time to chat and always had a smile on his face. You will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to Margaret and the family.

Alita Horzempa

February 5, 2026

Wendy, Condolences to your family on the loss of your father. We will miss another pillar of our community.

Darrin Robertson

February 6, 2026

Pottsie was a revered figure in the Armstrong house in Midland. Bob Armstrong was a teacher who had the amazingly good fortune to work with Pottsie in elementary education. Bob always said that Pottsie was that rare breed of Principal who understood how to let teachers do what they did best to really help students succeed and flourish. Perhaps it was Pottsie's musical training, or perhaps it was his finely tuned humanity, but either way, Pottsie was able to really hear what students and staff were saying, needing, or presenting. Pottsie further cemented his importance to our family when he played at our wedding, and spoke fondly in commemoration of Bob for his celebration of life. Our thoughts and cherished memories are with you and your family. Sincerely, Monique Armstrong and Gavin Barringer

Monique Armstrong and Gavin Barringer

February 6, 2026

To the entire Potts family. We are confident the memories and love Mr. Potts has brought into your lives and hearts will always give you strength and surround you with the love that you need. How fortunate was Elmvale to be chosen by Mr. & Mrs. Potts to raise their family and live here. Charlie & Tanya King

Charlie & Tanya King

February 6, 2026

My deepest of condolences to Mr. Potts family and friends. I went to Bayview Elementary in Midland. Mr. Potts was my music teacher. At recess, he would just walk around and I would catch up to him and hold his hand. He always had a special place in my heart because when you looked into his eyes, you could tell he cared so much. Always smiling with that crazy hair and beard. I will never forget you. Rest in Peace □□□□□□□□’”

Laureen Berry

February 6, 2026

Our sincere condolences to Marg and her Family on the passing of their husband and father. John was such a special person in so many ways. Jim and Helen Handley

Jim and Helen Handley

February 6, 2026

Deepest sympathies to the Potts family. When I reflect on my years at HCES I always remember Mr Potts with the fondest of memories. His humour, kindness and his respect for all around him. He is one of those souls that if he crossed your path you will always remember him. I hope your memories will help to ease the burden of grief. Kathy Anderson

Kathy Anderson

February 6, 2026

Marg and family , we are so sorry to hear of John’s passing. A positive influence at HCES and the Elmvale community. Our condolences to you. Pat & Barry Navarra

Pat & Barry Navarra

February 6, 2026

I had the privilege of meeting John a few times, most recently in November at the British Club. He was always so pleasant and glad to spend a few minutes reminiscing on how I knew him. I heard the Jazz band play on many occasions and still have a couple of the CDs. I knew Geoff Mulholland through Rochelle and they always had wonderful things to say about John. Rachel and I went to school together many years ago and Margaret and I have connected on many occasions. He was a wonderfully talented, giving, good man whose legacy will live on with his children, grandchildren, students and anyone who had the pleasure of knowing him. My condolences go out to all of you.

Cathy Webster

February 6, 2026

Dear Marg and family, I am so sorry to learn of John's passing. May all your memories help to ease your sorrow as you move forward. My sincere condolences to each of you as he will be missed. Thinking of you and sending hugs. Gwen Maguire-Loverock

Gwen Maguire-Loverock

February 6, 2026

John was my Grade 7 teacher, not long after he and Margaret first arrived in Elmvale . He radiated energy and humour, and nurtured creativity. I have forgotten much of my of my elementary schooling, but that year is clear and detailed in my memory. A special teacher. A special man. We were lucky to know him.

Peter Ritchie.

February 6, 2026

Sending our condolences to Marg & the entire Potts family. Mr Potts was a true Gentleman & a pillar in our Community in all aspects. He will be missed by many. Cherish your wonderful memories & hold them close.

Jane Lees & Family

February 7, 2026

Thinking of you today as you celebrate the life of your father Ivan, Our deepest condolences to you, Shelley and your family. Bruce and Nancy

Bruce and Nancy MacLean

February 7, 2026

To Marg & family So sorry to hear of John's passing I played a few gigs with John and not only was he a great musician, he was a real entertainer, and it was a real pleasure to play with him. Our deepest sympathies & condolences.

AL & lila Beardsall

February 7, 2026

John was a ray of sunshine on a cloudy day! He will forever be in our hearts. Sending all the Potts family our deepest condolences. Love Kevin/Shannon/Jacob/Darcy/Garrett Fay

Shannon Fay

February 7, 2026

Our sincere condolences goes to the Potts family. Mr Potts was a generous, kind man. He helpied me learn how to play the guitar back in my public school days. Im remain greatly thankful for that. Rest in peace Mr. Potts.

Jeff and Kelly Archer

February 7, 2026

Dear Potts family, We were so saddened to hear of Johns passing. He was definitely a ray of sunshine . We were so fortunate to enjoy his & Margs companionship as neighbours for a few years . John always greeted you with a smile and proudly talked of his family. Brian was also fortunate to have John as a teacher in public school. Cherish your memories, hold them close to your heart and they will help you through the difficult days ahead. Sending hugs to your all, Brian & Kim

Brian & Kim Nelson

February 7, 2026

So sorry to hear this news. What a kind man. John was instrumental in launching my teaching career as my first principal at Parkview PS back in the early 90s. I remain grateful for his encouragement and unwavering support toward this young teacher navigating her ‘baptism by fire year’ with a Grade 8 class. He helped me believe in myself. I had hoped to run into him someday to let him know I made it to retirement too ;) Thank you Mr Potts! My thoughts are with his loving family during this fragile time.

Myrna Fortin Law

February 7, 2026

A life well lived. A life remembered with gratitude.

Lois Lyons

February 7, 2026

Hi Pottses all. We read about John literally 10 minutes after your visitation had ended or else we would have come in person. So sorry to miss it, but much more sorry for your loss. I (Baron) have known John since the early 1970s at the OTF camp. He was very easy to like, and we always felt welcome when we would drop in at the house in Elmvale, usually unannounced, sometimes bringing some of our weird friends and relatives with us. We still have a copy of his 'Dog's Dinner of Pottsiana' in our music library, and, every time I look at it, it is obvious that it was a labour of love, just like so many things in his life. All our love and big hugs. Baron and Linda.

Baron and Linda Watson

February 7, 2026

I am so saddened to hear of the passing of John. Going away back to my elementary years John was one of my teachers. When I was running for Trustee, John and his family supported me greatly and I’m very appreciative of everything they have done. Wishing we were home to be there today.

Peter Beacock

February 7, 2026

With sincere sympathy Marg and family. You are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. May your cherished memories keep John ever near.

Lois & Art Parnell

February 7, 2026

Pottsie was a wonderful, kind colleague and my kids' principal at Parkview. I loved his sense of humour and practical solutions to admin. problems. Too much paperwork from Board office? No problem, throw it in a box under the desk and if no one asks for it, you're saved some work! My late husband Grant and John shared a love of music. May that legacy Pottsie left live on. Nancy Tully-Peever Kelowna, B.C.

Nancy Tully-Peever

February 7, 2026

Hi Sally, Ivan and all the Potts family. Although I did not know your father very well and have not seen him in some years what few interactions I had with him were enough to know that he was a remarkable man. He obviously made an impression on me as only last week I was teaching my son to play Elton John's "Daniel" on guitar and it reminded me of John singing that song with your mother in the living room of your Elmvale home many years ago. My condolences to your whole family,

Kevin Watson

February 7, 2026

With love and sympathy, We wish rest for John and peace for everyone in the Potts family.

Ryan McKenzie

February 7, 2026

Very sorry to hear this news. Sincere condolences to Margaret, to Wendy and Ivan, to the whole Potts clan. As a teenager I hung around the Potts house a fair bit, a place of great warmth, laughter and music. In fact, John Potts generously shared the basics of guitar with a few of us at that time, which sparked one of my lifelong passions. I was grateful for his patience and wry humour. And, if you were lucky enough to experience the Fig Leafs live, swinging up-tempo on “Sweet Georgia Brown” with the dance floor packed and Pottsie ripping a

ragged solo to send it over the top… well, you know he seemed to embody the pure joy of a musical life.

Ian MacKenzie, Montreal

February 8, 2026

Marg and the entire Potts family. My deepest condolences on Johns passing. I had John as a teacher at Hces and recently have had the pleasure of working with him at the food bank. Such a wonderful and caring person with always a kind word. May all your memories give you comfort at this difficult time.

Jane Kenney

February 10, 2026

Ivan I’m so sorry for your loss. Thinking of you all.

Jessie Gillingham

February 10, 2026

I am so sorry for your loss. It is a loss to all of us who had the privilege of knowing John. As someone who worked with John I was grateful for the compassion and sensitivity he always gave to the staff and students .To this day when I write a note on my hand I think of John. He was always moving and if you wanted to talk with him you had to run along beside him as he wrote notes on his hand. He will be remembered by so many whose lives he touched. My sincerest sympathy to your family.

Dawna Woodliffe

February 10, 2026

Very sorry to hear this news. Mr. Potts was hands down my favourite teacher at Bayview, both for music and my grade 6 class. He had the most zest for life of anyone I knew and was a true gentleman. Rest in peace, sir.

Lisa McBride

February 19, 2026

To Sally and Geoff We were very sorry to learn of John's passing. Please accept our most sincere condolences John and Ruth Gammell

John and Ruth Gammell

February 25, 2026

My deepest condolences to the Potts family. I just finished balling my eyes out so please entertain a long story about this superb soul. This man must have changed so manty lives. He changed mine, though he probably didn't know it. Please let me share a beautiful memory and magic outcome. We sang iconic folk songs for music class at Bayview Public School and I only came to realise how lucky I was until later in life. At the time ;however, Mr. Potts and I never agreed on hard rock records I brought in to play in class for musical show and tell. I loved his class but was an average student at best and never told him how much I loved his music class, As it is, I went on to play drums and came back once to Bayview Public school in Midland with the Midland High School Band. I never learned to read music well or quickly but my High School teacher and leader of the band knew I was faking it but gave me leeway and even decided to do the unthinkable and encouraged me to do a drum solo. I don't remember what I played but I will always remember how Mr Potts came from out of nowhere was so kind and genuine and was complimenting me. I will never forget how he validated all my hard work up until then and it was one of the happiest moments of my life. From that second on, I made up my mind, money or no money to persist and be a drummer my whole life and I fell in love with music, and that surely saved me from a very uncertain future. I am sure his spirit

was a gift from the universe to the rest of us as much as his music. Thank you John and rest in peace my musical brother.

Darren Atkinson

March 2, 2026

Our sincere condolences on your loss of John. It has been quite the year for your family. I had John for a teacher in GR 8. I think that was the 1st year you were in Canada and the year H.C.E.S. opened. What a lovely man. My brothers went to school with a couple of your children. May God give you His peace and comfort in the coming days. Our deepest sympathies from the Springs, Janice, Owen and Kevin

Janice Spring Besner

March 11, 2026

I am saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. Potts. I was a student of his at Bayview in the 70s. My love of music I owe to Mr. Potts " as well as an affinity for a certain slant of Northern humour. Some forty years removed from that elementary school classroom I experienced one of the greatest unexpected joys of my life, sitting with my mom at the Sara Vista nursing home in Elmvale while Mr. Potts sang and played his guitar, and cracked asides like, "just last week I saw Elvis Presley at Timmy's buying a cruller." My heartfelt condolences to the family. Love, Bruce

Bruce Lynn

May 10, 2026

He was a fun teacher.. kind&funny. I remember him well

Lana turner-graham

June 13, 2026

John was one of those educators that truly impacted students. His passion for music impacted me. I cannot think of Bayview without thinking of John. A music class with John was fun. Mr. Potts will be missed.

David Haig

June 17, 2026

He was a great music teacher in the 70s at Bayview PS. I think I was in gr 3 when Mr Potts introduced us to The Beatles, Simon and Garfunkel and Bob Dylan. Rest in peace sir

Christopher Carruthers

July 15, 2026