

SCHMIDT – Darcy Robert

By

[Chris Ashfield](#)

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Darcy Robert Schmidt was born on Jan. 21, 1972, in Melville, SK, to Donna and Lawrence Schmidt. He was baptised at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and later confirmed on Sunday, June 7, 1987.

Darcy passed away due to complications from cancer in Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon, SK, on Friday, March 22, 2019, aged 47 years, with his family by his side.

Darcy leaves to mourn his passing: his beloved wife, Debra (nee Walker); and his adored children, Bronson and Matilda; his loved parents, Lawrence and Donna Schmidt; his sister's family, Karen and Bryan Sies and nephews, Colby and Dylan; his brother's family, Murray and Karen Schmidt and niece, Hannah; Godparents Joe and Rose Miller; Godson Jerald Kitsch; as well as numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Darcy was predeceased by his grandparents, Henry and Meta Schmidt and Sven and Minnie Pearson; his uncles and aunts, Harold and Joyce Schmidt, Stan Pearson, Laurence Pearson, Wib Widdis and Evelyn and Herman Gerger; and his nephew, Andrew Schmidt.

In his early years, Darcy was raised with his family on a farm two miles north of Melville until the family moved to town on his fifth birthday in 1977. He attended school in Melville where he graduated in 1990.

Darcy was a member of the Air Cadet League of Canada and graduated from the organization with the rank of Warrant Officer Second Class. He enjoyed attending summer camps and travelling. He received awards for discipline and presentation during that period.

Darcy was born to farm. He went to the University of Saskatchewan and graduated in 1994 with a diploma in agriculture. After graduation, he took up farming full-time. Darcy took great pride in the fact that he was the fourth-generation farmer and farmed some land of his ancestors in the Colmer area eight miles southwest of Melville; he was farming land that his Grandmother Pearson settled in 1912 on section 35 north of Melville.

Darcy desired order and simplicity in his work and was always looking for ways to improve

efficiency utilizing new technologies. He was dedicated to his calling and always worked extremely hard putting in many hours, especially in the spring and fall, filling the time listening to satellite radio and audio books. Darcy was looking forward to seeding the next crop this spring and seeing the fruits of his efforts at harvest in the fall.

Darcy met Debra in 1989 while she was on a six-month student exchange from Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. He had said that he sensed Debra would have a special place in his life. Darcy and Debra shared a love of movies and were smitten with each other, and this lit a flame that did not go out. Debra returned to Canada in 1995; however, the timing was not right. Debra again returned to Canada in April 2004 for a Kitsch family baptism, and their love rekindled. They were married on July 11, 2004, at Kings Beach, Caloundra, on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Australia, bringing a quick end to a 15-year "slow-mance." They set up their first homes at farms north of Melville.

Darcy was thrilled to become a father with the arrival of a son, Bronson Walker, on an extremely cold day in January 2007. The arrival of a daughter, Matilda Kathleen, in December 2008 would complete Darcy and Debra's family. The young family then moved to Melville to set up the family home on 12th Avenue.

Darcy adored his children and spent as much time with them as possible. He enjoyed taking them for rides on the tractor, swather or combine when he was away from home during those long seeding and harvest days. As well, Debra and Darcy instilled the love of entertainment and technology with numerous trips to the theatre.

Darcy enjoyed his down time with friends on fishing trips to Reindeer Lake, and holidays to Las Vegas, Texas, Florida, Dominican Republic and Cuba. One nostalgic trip was a visit to places where his maternal grandmother's family had lived in Plainview in the Texas Panhandle.

The family cherishes the memories from trips to Cuba and road trips to Vancouver, Calgary, Seattle, the Black Hills, Devil's Tower, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse and Denver, Colo., as well as southern Saskatchewan. Darcy was grateful his family was able to travel to Honolulu in February for a vacation that created many memories for Deb, Bronson and Matilda to cherish. Darcy was a very kind-hearted and good guy. He did not wish to cause any harm and looked out for people's safety and well-being. He was also a man of few words, generally quiet and kept things to himself, but when he spoke, you knew where he stood. Darcy best shared his ideas with those he loved in more quiet environments.

In August 2012, Darcy was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (DLBCL – stage 4). He received treatments through the Pasqua Hospital and Allan Blair Centre in Regina. Those treatments were considered successful. However, in June 2013, he became ill again, as the non-Hodgkin's lymphoma had relapsed. The next treatment option was a high-risk stem-cell transplant with his own cells (autologous).

Darcy received the chemotherapy treatments and transplant successfully through the Saskatoon Cancer Centre and Royal University Hospital (RUH) in October 2013. In March of 2016, Darcy was diagnosed with a second relapse of the non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. He received multiple chemotherapy treatments, total body irradiation (TBI) prior to a second stem-cell transplant that was performed on July 7, 2016.

His sister, Karen, generously volunteered to serve as donor for an allogeneic stem cell transplant, again at the RUH in Saskatoon. This was his most dangerous procedure to date, with a lengthy recovery that required he spend an extended period of time in Saskatoon to remain closer to his medical team.

On Feb. 27, 2019, Darcy was admitted to the RUH; he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma and commenced treatment. The further diagnosis of a complication called HLH would change everything. Darcy was determined to do "whatever it takes" to fight for his health and return to his family; he fought so very hard until the end. With Debra, Bronson, Matilda, Karen, Murray and Karen, Lawrence and Donna by his side, he passed away on Friday, March 22, 2019.

Darcy's funeral service was held on Saturday, March 30, 2019, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Melville, SK, officiated by Pastor Doug Schmirler. Interment followed in the Melville City Cemetery.

Darcy faced his treatments with strength, bravery and determination over the last almost seven years. He was willing to do any treatments the doctors recommended so he could return home to his family (and farming). Words cannot express the extraordinary care, love and compassion that Darcy received

while undergoing treatment. Sincerest gratitude to all the doctors, nurses and staff who provided his care: Dr. Eshawesh, Dr. van Zyl, nurses Christy and Wendy and the staff of St. Peter's Hospital in Melville; Dr. Torri, Dr. Salim and Dr. Aslam, nurses Helen, Val and Donna at the Allan Blair Centre and Pasqua Hospital in Regina; Dr. Julie Stakiw, Dr. Mark Bosch, nurses Stephanie, Tamara, Kim and Amanda, and social workers Martie and Tracie at the Saskatoon Cancer Centre; Dr. Assem "Awesome" Al-sayed, nurses Alfeo, Brad, Brett, Brian, Brittany C, Brittany M, Carol, Christine, Crystal, Doreen, Holly, Juanita, Jen B, Katelyn, Katie, Kira, Melanie, Melissa, Sheri, Stephen, Tam and Jen G, Maria, Reagan, Beth and Raine, and other staff in Oncology 6100 of the Royal University Hospital.

We have faith that Darcy is now with God. We are heartbroken that he is no longer with us, but we are thankful for his life and cherish the time we had together. His family and friends are left to mourn his passing but also celebrate the life of this strong, wonderful, hard-working and loving man and to share with his children memories of his life and remind them of how much he loved and was proud of them.

You may no longer be with us, but the memories we have will remain.

Arrangements were entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Melville.