



**Craig Slimmon D.V.M.**

Charles Craig Slimmon was born in Hamiota, Manitoba on April 26 1953 to Ina Grace Slimmon (nee Smith) and John Charles Slimmon. Craig is survived by his wife Caroline, three children Jessica, Katy, and Patrick, his mother, Ina Slimmon, and his siblings, Dianne, Wendy, Trevor, Tannis and Michael.

Craig was the third of the six children. His schooling started at Ryerson, a one-room schoolhouse a bicycle ride away from the family farm. From there he went on to Oak Lake and Virden Collegiate where he was valedictorian.

At an early age Craig knew he wanted to become a vet. He studied pre-vet at University of Manitoba and graduated from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon in 1978. He won many scholarships and, combined with work in the summers, graduated debt free.

Craig was an excellent sportsman and played soccer (captain of his team at University of Saskatchewan) and softball with particular passion. The Sioux Valley softball teams here in Canada and the Mashonaland team in

Zimbabwe benefited greatly from his sportsmanship.

Upon graduation, Craig began practicing in Souris, Manitoba and then in Winnipeg. In 1981 he took his skills to Harare, Zimbabwe where he did locums including one in Bulawayo before settling to practice in Harare. It was in Zimbabwe that Craig met his wife of 21 years, Caroline Wild who happened to have a rather ugly and slightly sick cat - both characteristics that Craig pointed out to her on her first visit.

Craig thoroughly enjoyed his work with the Zimbabwean farmers and travels through the region with Caroline. They left Zimbabwe in 1985 to take up work in England, Caroline's home country, where they were married. After a short time at a clinic in North Devon he and Caroline moved to Dorset where he practiced at a vet clinic in Dorchester. His speed and skill at doing caesarians, learned while on the job in Souris, was noted both in Zimbabwe and England. He was very well respected and remembered by professional colleagues around the world.

Daughter Jessica was born in Dorchester in 1987 and Craig slipped naturally and enthusiastically into his role as parent. In 1988 the young family moved to Brandon, Manitoba where he worked for two years with Brandon Hills vet clinic before branching out and starting the Grand Valley Animal Clinic in 1992. Katy was born in Brandon in 1988 and Patrick in 1992.

Craig also bought the family farm north of Oak Lake in 1988 and devoted a lot of time to farming with his father. He considered the time they spent together as his major accomplishment during this time.

In Brandon, Craig amused neighbourhood children by providing his family with an assortment of pets including a pony in the back yard, chickens in the basement, a calf and even ostriches. In 1998 Craig and Caroline moved to 'Gwenmar', their home north of Brandon.

The following year the new location for Grand Valley Animal Clinic was completed. At Grand Valley he was dedicated to large animal work and over the years built up a loyal clientele among the rural community and pet owners alike. Craig considered his staff part of his extended family and

appreciated their loyalty and devotion.

Craig was an accomplished musician and passed on his passion for music to his children, all of who live for music. With his love of music came a love of dancing. And, as a dancer and a musician he had the quickness and sense of timing that makes a great “funny man.” Like his father, Craig had a wonderful wit and dry sense of humour.

He lived his life large and touched all those around him with his charm and charisma. He loved to travel and took great interest in world affairs, always current on international events. He was touched by those less fortunate than himself and latterly organized visits to Cuba to donate veterinary supplies to those vets struggling to maintain their practices. He encouraged his children to be involved in this work and in 2006 took daughter Jessica to Madagascar on the trip of a lifetime, making contacts with the veterinary practitioners in that country.

Though his many accomplishments speak for themselves, he was often unable to see or accept them himself. Sadly, Craig's life was haunted by depression. As a result he had difficulty accepting advice from those who made efforts to help.

His passing is tragic but he leaves a legacy of a love of music, fearlessness, joy and devotion to his children - he will be sadly missed.

A memorial service was held in Oak Lake, on March 24, 2007. A bursary in Craig's name has been established at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan. The bursary will recognize and support a graduating student focused on rural large animal practice.

Donations can be sent to the Craig Slimmon Memorial Bursary, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, 52 Campus Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5B4 or by phone to 1-800-699-1907. Online forms are also available at [www.gvac.ca](http://www.gvac.ca).